

ICRC SAYS OMAN ATTACHES GREAT INTEREST TO HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has affirmed that the Sultanate attaches great interest to humanitarian issues within the context of its political and diplomatic endeavours to come up with peaceful solutions for regional conflicts and disputes. **>A5**



NIZWA'S UNIQUE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Falaj Daris and Falaj Al Khatmayn are two popular falajs in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate which are also on the UN World Heritage List. While Falaj Daris is considered one of the largest falajs in Oman, Falaj Al Khatmayn is a 2,450 metre-long falaj that is located in Barkat Al Mouz, Nizwa. **>A4**



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UNIFIED AGREEMENT ON VAT



His Majesty issues two Royal Decrees

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

Royal Decree No. (50/2021) on the ratification of the GCC Unified Agreement on the Value Added Tax (VAT), signed on 27 November 2016.

Article (1) ratifies the GCC Unified VAT Agreement in accordance with the version attached to this Decree.

Article (2) instructs the departments concerned to deposit the document of ratifying the aforesaid agreement in accordance with its provisions. **>A6**

COMMENTARY

Are you ready for COVID-XX part 2?

MOHAMED ISSA AL ZADJALI
*Chairman
Muscat Media Group*

On July 14, 2020, if you remember I wrote COVID-19 isn't going away.

A year after, with the announcement of extended lockdown timings during the second half of this month, and a complete ban on movement and commercial activities during Eid Al Adha, we find ourselves in a position very similar to last year.

I am sure all of us had made plans for this Eid, but they will need to be put on hold for a while.

At least until our country is able to overcome the dangers of COVID-19.

The decisions recently announced by the Supreme Committee have surely made many of us more than a bit concerned.

But we cannot blame our problems on the decisions taken by the Supreme Committee – they are doing right now, what they feel is best to protect our lives. Understand that we need to shoulder some of the blame on ourselves.

The only way we can protect

ourselves right now is to lead a healthy life. Over the last 15 or so months, since the start of the pandemic, many of us have seen and heard of close friends and relatives affected by the COVID-19.

I too have seen many friends infected by the disease: some were mildly affected, others had more severe forms of infection, and a few had to be admitted to the hospital. It is most unfortunate that some of the people we know have also passed away due to the pandemic.

At such times, it is only natural to wonder why some people have survived the disease, while others succumbed to it. All of this boils down to our health. Doctors say that if a person has a good immune system, then they will only suffer mild symptoms.

The Supreme Committee has taken the decision to lockdown to keep us all safe, but that does not mean the virus is going to go away. Many countries know their people are fed up with the constant lockdowns at what it does to daily life,

If you haven't been vaccinated yet, stay home for now if you are afraid of infection, but keep your spirits up. That is one of the best ways to protect yourself against infection.



so they have vaccinated their people and told them to take care and follow the precautions required.

A case in example is Singapore, which has decided to live with the virus and treat it like the flu, once enough people have been vaccinated against it. This, they consider to be their new normal.

Unfortunately, many of us have lost many friends – young and old – but we cannot jeopardise the whole country for a few weeks of lockdown. Life, after all, has to continue. The cycle of locking down will have a huge impact on our economy, our lifestyle, and the wellbeing of our people. It will devastate our way of life, and the longer we resort to acts such as partial and complete lockdowns, the longer we will take to recover from such actions. What's more is that only if all of us work together, we will be actually able to recover. **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Are COVID cases in Oman dropping?

1 Indicators used to measure infection rates in the Sultanate show that the number of COVID-19 patients in the country is falling, according to Dr Zaid Al Hina'ai, an infectious disease consultant at the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital in Muscat. **>A4**

WORLD

President of Haiti assassinated

2 Haiti president Jovenel Moise, 53, was shot dead in his private residence, interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph announced. The president's residence also put out a statement saying the attack occurred around 1 a.m. and that first lady Martine Moise was also wounded in the attack. **>A7**

MARKET

Maximising mineral resources returns

3 The challenges of investing in natural minerals and maximising returns from them to increase the sector's contribution to Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) were discussed and identified at a key event held on Wednesday. **>B1**



The Urban Strategy is the main engine for all development sectors and a road map to guide urban growth over the next 20 years

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Seven strategies to plan Oman's cities, build better communities, and design a sustainable country have been drawn up by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

The creation of flexible and liveable cities and communities,

preservation of Omani identity, climate change response and mitigation, protecting and monitoring the environment, achieving food security and efficient water resource management, finding alternative and sustainable means of transportation, and economic diversification and growth in each governorate based on sustainable

resource use, harnessing renewable sources of energy, and efficient water and waste management are the seven objectives listed under the Urban Strategy.

Dr Hanan Amer Al Jabri, the Director General of Urban Planning at the ministry, said, "The Urban Strategy is the main engine for all development sectors and a road map to guide urban growth over the next twenty years. This is based on sustainable urban planning characterised by flexibility and set to deal with the national and global variables and developments, to achieve a balance concerning the dimensions of sustainable social, economic and environmental development."

"It primarily seeks to achieve

balanced urban development in all governorates, by providing guidance to growth through a series of gateways and centres identified by the strategy," she said. "These population centres will help achieve and guide economic growth in each governorate, contribute to the availability of employment opportunities, and provide services and facilities to reduce internal migration."

Major part

A major part of the strategy is the setting up of 'greater cities' that will help provide employment opportunities and infrastructure in alignment with the expected economic and population growth in these cities. These will then

integrate with their neighbouring communities.

As a result of this plan, cities such as Greater Muscat, Greater Salalah, Greater Sohar, and Greater Nizwa have been planned for. Meanwhile, Duqm shall continue to develop in accordance with the rate of its expansion.

While major regional towns such as Khasab, Rustaq, Buraimi, Ibri, Sur and Haima will work as administrative centres for governorates, creating job opportunities in their respective regions. Along with the required facilities, areas such as Barka and Suwaiq are to be designated regional economic centres, with important functions, owing to their strategic locations. **>A6**

KHAREEF SEASON

Dhofar ready to receive vaccinated tourists



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Magical, misty and green Dhofar is ready to receive vaccinated tourists, following the directives of the Supreme Committee.

Upon the advent of the Khareef season in the Governorate of Dhofar, the Supreme Committee had decided that citizens and residents in the Sultanate who have taken at least one dose of approved vaccines are allowed to visit the southern governorate of Dhofar.

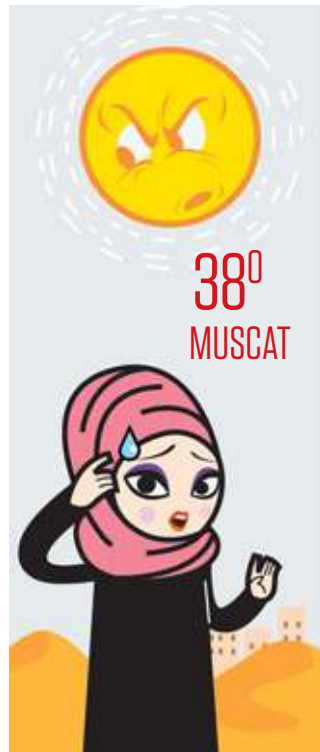
Also, travellers from abroad who have been given two doses of vaccines will be allowed to enter Dhofar, starting from 5 pm on Friday, July 9, 2021. Speaking to the *Times of Oman*, Martin Persson,

General Manager of Alila Hinu Bay, said, "It is great news that measures are in place to ensure everyone is safe in Oman's southernmost region."

Alila experience

He also said, "Following such a successful and exciting opening we had last month, we are even more excited to welcome guests this Khareef season to indulge in the Alila experience."

"With it being such a difficult time to travel, we want to offer Oman's residents a safe and pleasurable escape without having to go too far," he added. "Alila Hinu Bay offers the best of both worlds, with its untouched marine life and nature reserves. **>A5**



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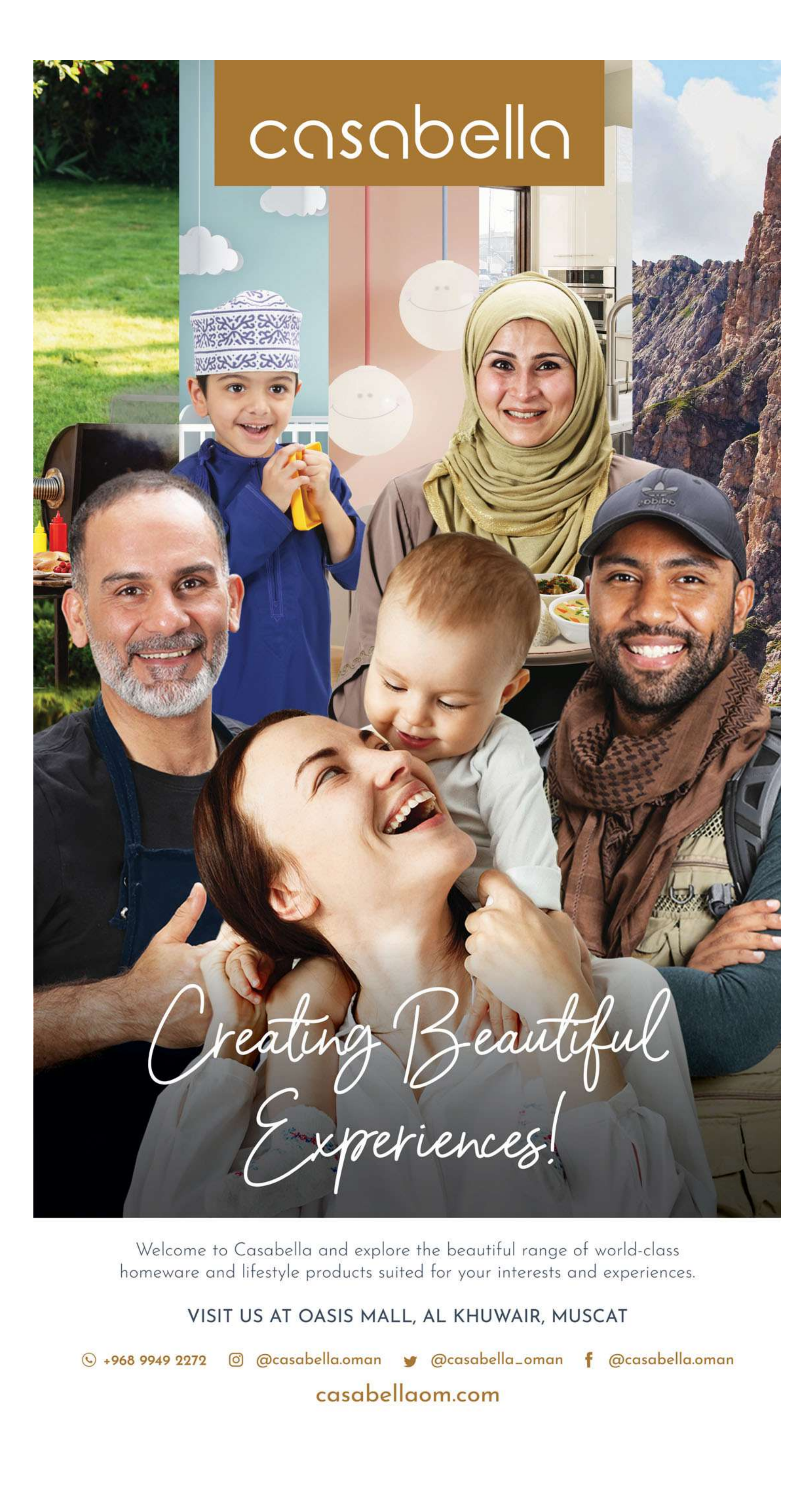
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Isha.....8:24pm

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OMAN





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CHALLENGING TIMES

<FROM A1 Are you ready for COVID-XX part 2?

Yes, lockdown orders today might call for us all to make sacrifices, but there is also a cost associated with undoing its impact later. Many companies – especially in the private sector – might not be able to survive during the recovery process. This will be a burden on the nation.

If we need to emerge from a situation where the virus continues to cause us untold damage, then it is up to all of us to be healthy. Eat the right food, exercise, go out to take some fresh air – do not be so afraid of catching the virus that you become paranoid and refuse to go outside. When you are sad, worried, or anxious, your immunity is after all automatically lowered: this might only increase your chances of getting the virus. Health is, after all, holistic. Search the net, and consult with a dietitian or health coach on how to boost your immune system, especially with the new Epsilon strain of COVID-19 found to be

more resistant to vaccines.

If you haven't been vaccinated yet, stay at home for now if you are afraid of infection, but keep your spirits up.

That is one of the best ways to protect yourself against infection.

At the same time, I hope better steps are taken to sustain the economy. Otherwise, I am afraid we might suffer until the middle of next year. It takes two weeks for us to rid ourselves of the virus. Undoing the effects of the lockdown, however, takes a lot longer.

I hope, therefore, that there are solutions to people who have their own businesses and/or are working in the private sector. Otherwise, it might negatively affect our economy. Many private businesses, for example, have taken loans to grow their businesses. But since they are badly affected now, a lot of owners cannot afford to repay them.

If we cannot repay our loans, we will be prosecuted according

to the law. This could most definitely affect every other aspect of our lives. These rules, which have been made by the decision makers, strongly affect our businesses during these tough times.

Sadly, it is not possible for us to follow some of the rules related to our businesses right now, because of the current circumstances. When this happens, we are severely punished.

I ask the government now to please help us people because of the challenges we're facing right now and later. Please make decisions that assist us at present and in the future. A lockdown strongly hurts the economy, so there also needs to be solutions that help restore the business sentiments in the country.

In the meantime, let us all do our best to keep the virus at bay, and as hard as it may be, look towards the future with confidence and optimism. It is the best way to succeed.

INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Oman-Saudi economic and bilateral trade to get a boost

MUSCAT: Over the next few days, the Sultanate and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) will enter into a new stage of economic, commercial and investment partnership that gains the support of the two countries' political leaderships and their keenness to foster ties of cooperation aimed at realising their common interests.

This partnership stems from ambitious goals set by Oman Vision 2040 and Saudi Vision 2030.

The two visions encompass a huge volume of investment opportunities that collectively constitute a springboard for economic diversification. This approach envisages the creation of favourable conditions for the private sector and investors so that they could play a greater role in the future in generating employment opportunities for the national manpower and stimulating economic growth based on innovation.

Within the context of Oman Vision 2040, the Sultanate strives to build solid grounds of economic diversification informed by technology, knowledge and innovation. It will be a type of economy based on consolidating frontline connections and rear-side support with the purpose of expanding a production-export base, in addition to

achieving diversity of commercial partners. The trend will deepen investment in high added value sectors and enhance the contribution of non-oil sectors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms that its investment capabilities constitute a propeller of economic diversification. "Programme of Development of National Industry and Logistic Services", which is seen within the context of Saudi Vision 2030, boosts the infrastructure of basic sectors. Saudi Vision 2030 forms one of the core pillars for promoting the Kingdom's competitiveness and its attractiveness as an ideal investment hub.

This is in addition to the Kingdom's ideal use of resources, the improvement of commercial balance, the creation of cutting-edge local industry that competes in global markets and the realisation of other sustainable advantages based on innovation and stimulation of investments.

Over the past few days, a number of government officials and private sector representatives joined hands in formulating a vision that enables the two sides to identify areas of economic cooperation and joint investment.

They presented proposals to activate trade ties between the Sultanate and Saudi Arabia, augment commercial exchange and increase investment opportunities, with emphasis on non-oil fields (logistic and tourism) and in areas of food security, mining, industry, health and education. They also formed a joint public-private sector committee at the level of ministers and under-secretaries to follow up and enhance cooperation.

The two sides affirmed that the speeding up of the Oman-Saudi direct carriageway will help cut down the cost of transport and import-export freighting and facilitate the movement of merchants and investors. They pointed out that the road will power the sectors of logistics and tourism and greatly enhance the setting up of joint ventures. It will also benefit from the ports of Sohar and Duqm.

Once the Omani-Saudi highway is opened and, in case a railway route is added, the two sides can easily set up joint investments at Sohar Industrial Estate and at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (considered one of the most important private investment hubs in the Sultanate). – ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

BILATERAL TIES

Oman, Sri Lanka sign agreement to increase commercial relations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), has been signed between the Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), and President of the National Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka.

"On the sidelines of the Oman-Sri Lanka Business Forum, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed a MoU with the National Chamber of Commerce in the Republic of Sri Lanka with the

aim of contributing to enhancing the volume of commercial cooperation and developing the network of communication between business owners in the two countries,"

the OCCI said in a statement.

The OCCI added that the MoU was signed by Ridha Al Saleh, Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors, representing the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Nandika Budhipala, President of the National Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka, representing the Sri Lankan Chamber, and in the presence of Omar Libby, Amir Ajwad, the Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka accredited to Oman.



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PANDEMIC

COVID-19 numbers falling in Oman, confirms expert

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indicators used to measure infection rates in Oman show that COVID-19 numbers in the country are falling, according to Dr Zaid Al Hina'ai, an infectious disease consultant at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.

"If we look at the extent of new infections, through processes such as diagnosis of new infections through nasal swabs, which takes place early when patients begin showing symptoms, then we can see that case numbers have dropped over a week," he said.

Al Hina'ai was speaking to Shabiba FM, the radio station of *Al Shabiba*, the Arabic publication of the *Times of Oman*, when he added that it is still too early to map out whether the ongoing night movement ban has had an impact on infection numbers.

"In terms of real indicators, if there is a decrease in infection numbers, a week later, we will see



a drop in hospitalisation numbers, and subsequently, a fall in the number of deaths," he added. "This will show to us that there has indeed been a decline in the spread of the virus."

Although patient infection rates do appear to be falling, the doctor pointed out that hospitals continue to grapple with large numbers of inpatients, the number of people admitted to intensive care is also high, and the

number of new cases continues to remain a cause for concern.

Oman recorded 1,675 new infections of COVID-19 on Wednesday, July 7. This takes the number of people still sick with the disease to 28,728. A total of 280,235 people have so far tested positive for the disease, and nearly a quarter of a million people have recovered from it. Sadly, however, 3,356 people have lost their lives to COVID-19.

There are also 493 people in intensive care, out of the 1,491 people in hospital for COVID-19. 156 of them were admitted in the last 24 hours. With the Eid Al Adha holiday coming up, Dr Zaid Al Hina'ai asked people to stay safe, especially since there had been a surge in infection rates after the Eid Al Fitr holidays earlier this year.

"Please maintain precautions, avoid gatherings, wear a mask, and turn up for the vaccination when you are eligible," he said. "We are afraid that people may

meet in large numbers during Eid Al Adha. We don't want the scenario of Eid Al Fitr repeated this time – let us stay healthy during this Eid."

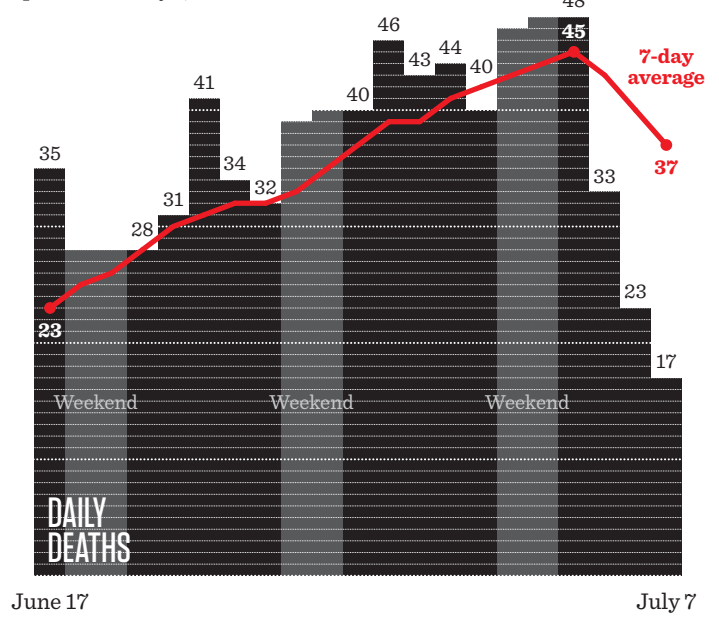
The doctor explained that to get out of the situation created by the pandemic required everyone to work together. As long as vaccination rates remain low, people are required to continue to follow COVID precautions.

"These are rather simple: stop large-scale gatherings, wear a mask, wash your hands regularly, and maintain social distancing," he said. "The other thing that will really help is an expedited vaccination process. I once again ask everyone to vaccinate themselves. From scientific evidence and the experiences of other countries, we can see that there is great reason for optimism in about two or three months from now."

"However, how we act in the meantime is very important – only then will our futures be brighter," said Al Hina'ai.

COVID-19 IN OMAN: DEATHS

Updated on July 7, 2021



June 17

July 7

Source: Ministry of Health

novagram

NIZWA'S UNIQUE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Falaj Daris and Falaj Al Khatmayn

are two popular falajs in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate and they are also on the UN World Heritage List.

While Falaj Daris is considered one of the largest falaj in Oman that helps in irrigation of many farms in Nizwa, Falaj Al Khatmayn is a 2,450 metre-long falaj that is located in Barkat Al Mouz, Nizwa, and is famous for having a unique water distribution system and continuity of flow throughout the year. Falaj Daris stretches out to about 7,990 metres and is known to cover large green areas, especially during the rains.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Falaj Daris is a Dawoodi Falaj and it consists of two branches: The "Big Branch" running for a length of 1,700 metres, and the "Small Branch" with a length of 1,900 metres. Falaj Daris stems from Wadi Al Abyad (White Valley)." People living here depend on Falaj Daris to water their crops that extend from Shariat Al Falaj in Daris to the market area.



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Campaign to promote Omani products to begin on Sunday

KHALED ORABI

MUSCAT: The awareness campaign for industrialists will kick off on Sunday as part of the Frankincense Project (the Road to Expo 2020 Dubai) for promoting and marketing Omani products, worldwide.

The campaign will be held as one of the initiatives supported by the General Commission of the Sultanate of Oman in Expo 2020 Dubai in cooperation with a number of government and private entities. These include the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the Ministry of Social Development, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SMEs Development Authority and Taiseer (Oman Trading Platform) the Project Manager.

Mohsin bin Khamis Al Balushi, Advisor of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment and the Sultanate's Commissioner General for Expo 2020 Dubai said, "The campaign would kick off from July to October 2021 and includes a number of workshops and lectures to be delivered by a number of experts in the fields related to products such as methods of marketing and promoting products, innovation, manufacturing, production and commercial and crafts marketing."

The campaign is aimed to educate industrialists, craftsmen and other entrepreneurs in various business sectors and to enable their products access the regional and international markets, he

The campaign is one of the initiatives supported by the General Commission of Oman in Expo 2020 Dubai in cooperation with other government and private entities



said. The campaign also aims to facilitate the participation of Omani products in Expo 2020 Dubai and to increase the level of commercial and industrial awareness and knowledge of entrepreneurs, industrialist and producers, which would reflect on the quality of their products and enable them to export their products, he added.

He said, "The campaign is one of the successful and creative solutions addressing the main challenges the industrialists and producers face in the Sultanate. The campaign includes a number of workshops and seminars to be held via video conferencing, attending in person or field visits."

The campaign also comes with the keenness of the General Commission of the Sultanate in

Expo 2020 Dubai, in cooperation with its partners, on development of local industries and boosting the quality of such industries to the level that respond to the needs of local and international consumers.

It is also aimed to upgrade and qualify minor industrialists and to familiarise them with the processes of production, manufacturing, marketing and export of products in a professional manner.

It is worth mentioning that the campaign is managed by Taiseer (Oman Trading Platform) the Project Manager in cooperation with the Industrial Innovation Centre, Al Muheet Administrative Training Institute, with the Muscat Media Group as media sponsor.

TOURIST SEASON

< FROM A1 There is much to explore for visitors during Khareef season

"Located in the quaint town of Mirbat and tucked away between Jabal Samhan and the Arabian Sea, the resort is one of Dhofar's hidden gems. With a whirlwind of discovery, where the seas and mountains hug, there is much to explore this season. Guests can escape the heat and hide away in their very own private slice of paradise, just steps away from the Arabian Sea. The one-bedroom pool villa provides a spacious living room, luxurious outdoor bathtub and private pool, along with a complimentary a la carte breakfast at SeaSalt, all starting from just OMR157," said Martin Persson, the GM of Alila Hinu Bay.

Another hotelier said, "Vaccinated tourists will help everyone remain safe, including our hotel staff. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors during the Khareef, which is always the most popular tourist season here."

During the summer months, when most of the Arabian Peninsula experiences soaring temperatures, Dhofar ushers in the monsoon season, bringing with it lush greenery, cooling rains and pleasant temperatures.

Locally known as Khareef, this special season runs from late June to early September.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ICRC says Oman attaches great interest to humanitarian issues

MUSCAT: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has affirmed that the Sultanate attaches great interest to humanitarian issues within the context of its political and diplomatic endeavours to come up with peaceful solutions for regional conflicts and disputes.

In a press statement, Peter Maurer, President of ICRC said that his meetings with Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign

Minister and Mohammed Hamoud Al Thehli, CEO of Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO) aimed at discussing matters of common interest and means of enhancing cooperation in the humanitarian arena.

He added that the ICRC managed in the last six years to form a vital logistical supply chain which served civilians affected from the conflict in Yemen.

— ONA

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Local Tenders Announcement

The University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tenders shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Document's Price	Place to purchase and submit tender documents	Last date for bid submission
01/2021	Supply and installation of furniture for the English language building of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology)	RO 25/-	(Administrative and Financial Affairs Department) at Ibri College of Technology	Tuesday 27/07/2021 At 10 am
01/2021	Providing and installing security cameras in the classrooms of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Shinas College of Technology)	RO 25/-	(Financial Affairs Department) at Shinas College of Technology	Tuesday 27/07/2021 At 10 am

- Establishments specialized in the above-mentioned works can obtain tender documents starting from Thursday 08/07/2021.
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered.
- Bids shall be submitted, signed and stamped on the form prepared for this purpose and on the accompanying category table, in closed envelopes sealed with red wax, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, bearing the tender number and subject with no indication to the name of the bidder.
- Bids must be placed in the sub-tender box in the department referred to above before 10 am of the day specified in the table above. Bids submitted after this date will not be considered, regardless of the reasons for the delay. Preference will be given to companies or institutions whose bids include the biggest Omanisation and biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.

The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BURIALS IN SUMAIL

The latest survey conducted by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism unearthed an archaeological site in Al Khobar town, the Wilayat of Sumail, A'Dakhiliyah Governorate.

— ONA

ANNOUNCEMENT

< FROM A1 Royal Decrees

Article (3) says that this Decree shall be published in the official gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (51/2021) on the ratification of the GCC Unified Agreement on the Excise Tax, signed on 27 November 2016.

Article (1) ratifies the GCC Unified Agreement on the Excise

Tax in accordance with the version attached to this Decree.

Article (2) instructs the departments concerned to deposit the document of ratifying the aforesaid agreement in accordance with its provisions.

Article (3) says that this Decree shall be published in the official gazette and enforced on its date of issue. — ONA



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Minister briefed on progress of completed phases of Muscat Bay

The Minister of Housing & Urban Planning visits Muscat Bay, as the CEO presents the journey from vision to reality



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Khalfan bin Said Al Shueili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning visited Muscat Bay, Oman's luxury resort living destination.

The visit by the Minister along with Deputy Minister of Urban Planning and a senior delegation of officials is part of partnership between the public and the private sectors on the development of various urban and tourism related projects that form the pillars of Oman Vision 2040.

Dr Al Shueili was received by Sheikh Hamood bin Sultan Al Hosni, CEO, Muscat Bay, and the senior management team, at the 'Experience Centre' of Muscat Bay.

The Minister and the accompanying delegation were given an update on the progress of handover of the completed phases of development, and the ongoing efforts to capture the interest of both Omani and regional customers and investors, who have expressed interest in the remaining units and in being part of Muscat Bay.

The delegation was then presented with a tour of the completed and ready properties within the

project, which included the Zaha zone, comprising villas, apartments, parkland and swimming pools and sports amenities; Namer zone comprising 33 exquisite villas; Wajd zone with its 22 prestigious hilltop villas overlooking Oman sea; and Village Square, a commercial area with restaurants, cafes, supermarket, gym and other facilities. The delegation also toured the upcoming Jumeirah Muscat Bay Hotel, and the exclusive staff accommodation.

Summarising his visit, Dr Al Shueili said, "The Muscat Bay project is a bespoke development nestled in unique natural surround-

ings and we were pleased with what we saw. As a project, Muscat Bay embodies the essence of our future strategy, to develop tourism and enhance its contribution to the economic diversification plan towards Oman Vision 2040."

Commenting on the delivery of the project, Sheikh Hamood Al Hosni said, "We are grateful to His Excellency Dr Khalfan bin Said Al Shueili and the senior delegation for their visit, and to witness the delivery of our vision of creating an exotic living destination in one of the most serene surroundings anywhere in the world."

"Oman is a land of breathtaking

beauty, and Muscat Bay epitomises this reality with a landmark that is attracting attention both within Oman and in the region. In spite of the challenging economic situation, work has continued with caution and compliance to regulations, and we are glad to report the success of our efforts," he added.

Soon, the integrated tourism complex will see the opening of the Jumeirah Muscat Bay Resort Hotel, the first Jumeirah hotel in Oman which underlines the luxury identity of Muscat Bay whilst significantly raising the bar in terms of what Oman's tourism industry will have to offer.

The delivery of the residential units, the commercial village square: Parkland along with the hotel completes yet another successful phase of development of the envisioned project.

"With the new realities of living, our residents and potential clients appreciate the space and privacy that come with their homes at Muscat Bay. Each residence is a tranquil space for peaceful and harmonious living amongst natural beauty that comes with resort-like calm and pace, whilst proximity and approach bring convenience to everyday life," Sheikh Hamood added.

URBAN STRATEGY

< FROM A1 Free zones will improve country's competitiveness



They too will offer a variety of employment opportunities and administrative services for communities located within their jurisdiction. The strategy, explained Al Jabri, is based on assuming Oman's population reaches between 7.1 and 7.5 million people by 2040, alongside a GDP growth of three to five per cent.

This increased GDP will be achieved through economic zones. Five free zones in the country will improve the country's competitiveness, attract foreign direct investment, increase the efficiency of the business environment, improve economic performance, increase the contribution of GDP to 10 per cent, and expand the presence of skilled workers in the private sector.

"Achieving economic growth and prosperity revolves around non-oil sectors in the governorates and the efforts to strengthen and develop them based on the potentials of each governorate, namely education, innovation, tourism and manufacturing industries, in addition to logistics, finance and services," said Al Jabri.

"The Urban Strategy pays attention to the potential impacts of climate change and has put in place precautionary measures to

reduce expected losses, adapt to necessary changes that may occur during the preparation and implementation of plans and projects, and assess all necessary strategies and plans in terms of impact on sustainability, in terms of its various social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions," she added.

Sustainable economy

A major part of a sustainable, circular economy involves efforts to reduce material and energy waste through their reuse and recycling, instead of dumping. This shall reduce waste, gas emissions and raw material depletion by 70 per cent, contribute to the creation of economic and investment opportunities, focus on renewables as a main source of energy, through projects that will contribute to 62 per cent of the required amount of clean energy.

An important component of the Urban Strategy is to preserve Oman's natural and cultural heritage, and make sure the country's diverse flora and fauna are conserved for future generations, said Dr Thuraiya Saeed Khamis Al Sariri, the Assistant Director for Nature Conservation at the Environment Authority.

"This is to be achieved through the establishment of a network of natural reserves, the provision of infrastructure and teams necessary to preserve the natural heritage outside protected areas, and the identification and classification of important environmental and heritage resources," she further added.

"These must be integrated into the urban development process, while possibilities of economic investment must be looked at, all the while continuing to preserve them for future generations," she added.

Areas of natural beauty that also have economic and cultural value as well as important natural resources will be designated special areas of nature. Those who set up businesses linked to these areas will need to make sure they follow the policies laid down for their conservation.

So far, five terrestrial zones, spanning a total of 75,000 sq.km of Oman's land have been planned: Musandam, Al Hajar Mountains, Sharqiyah Sands, Jiddat Al Harasis, and Al Haqf. Coastal areas that occupy about 40,000 sq.km include Musandam, Muscat, Sharqiyah, Wusta, Masirah, and East and West Dhofar.

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EURO CUP

Penalty heartbreak as Italy beat Spain to reach Euro final

Gautam Viswanathan

LONDON: Italy needed penalties to beat Spain 5-3 and secure their place at the finals of UEFA Euro 2020. After a goalless first half in which both goalkeepers were rarely tested, the second half began with significantly more excitement.

Spain captain Sergio Busquets, who had been snapping at the heels of the Italians in a midfield battle that consumed much of the first 45 minutes, was shown a yellow card for a painful tackle on striker Ciro Immobile, before he then threatened Gianluigi Donnarumma's goal with a shot that went narrowly over the bar after Dani Olmo's layoff.

Between the Barcelona midfielder's two actions, Italy fired at Unai Simon's goal, but the shot was one he could easily smother.

The second half was far more end to end than the first, Ferran Torres jinking past the Italians to try and plant a shot goalwards on the counterattack, but the Italian defence reacted in time to close him down. It was Oyarzabal who threatened immediately after, his shot also unable to beat the giant Donnarumma in goal.



IN THE FINAL: After a goalless first half in which both goalkeepers were rarely tested, the second half began with significantly more excitement.

But despite all of Spain's attacking threat, it was Federico Chiesa who opened the scoring around the 60th minute mark after good play from Immobile and Lorenzo Insigne. He grabbed onto a loose ball in the box, took a touch, and curled the ball into the far post past Unai Simon to give Italy a 1-0 lead. After his wondergoal against Austria in the Round of 16, this

was another amazing goal from the Juventus winger. A few seconds later, both sides threw on strikers: Domenico Berardi came on for Immobile, while Torres was replaced by Alvaro Morata to spark his team back into life. The Spanish missed a glaring opportunity to equalise in the 65th minute, when Koke failed to connect with Oyarzabal's cross when

he was just a few inches in front of goal. At the other end, Simon had to save from Berardi when he shot from a tight angle to keep Spain in the game. Spain boss Luis Enrique brought on Rodri for Koke to bring some more stability into midfield, while his opposite number Roberto Mancini introduced Matteo Pessina for Marco Verratti, and Rafael Toloi for Emerson to keep his team

fresh and prevent them from making the sort of mistake that could allow La Roja back into the game. Berardi had a chance to put Italy 2-0 up, but a smart save from Unai Simon kept Spain in the game... his team's next move would make sure they stayed in it. A slick move through the middle saw Morata exchange passes with Olmo before slipping the ball past Donnarumma to equalise with 10 minutes to spare. With the clock ticking down, Marcos Llorente came on for Spain to make sure they were able to maintain parity, while Italy sent on another striker in Andrea Bellotti. Extra time was more like the first half of the game than the second - understandable in many ways, given the high-tempo, physically and mentally draining football both teams had played so far. To make sure his team remained lively, Enrique brought on Thiago Alcantara for the final 15 minutes of the game, while Mancini readied Federico Bernardeschi. As he had done throughout the game, Dani Olmo continued to torment the Italian defenders, who simply could not deal with him without either hacking or pulling him down. The result was a

number of free kicks in the Spanish half. None of them threatened, though, and the game was another of those at these Euros to be decided on penalties. There was plenty of sporting camaraderie between the two sides as Italy's Manuel Locatelli stepped up to take the first spot kick. He was denied by Simon. Dani Olmo, so influential throughout, took Spain's first, only to miss the target. Andrea Belotti opened Italy's account when he was able to smash the ball past the outstretched fingers of Simon, a task that Gerard Moreno accomplished for the Spanish to keep both sides level. Leonardo Bonucci, playing his 108th match for his country, sent Simon the wrong way, as did Thiago, who rolled the ball past Donnarumma, who had committed to diving the other way. Late sub Bernardeschi was next and he hammered it past the Spanish goalie to give the Italians a lead, at least for a short while. Alvaro Morata, no stranger to Wembley, went next, and was denied by Donnarumma, leaving the Italians just one spot kick away from victory. Jorginho duly delivered, putting his side into the finals of Euro 2020.

Enrique compares Pedri to Iniesta after stellar act against Italy

Azzurri booked their berth in the Euro 2020 final after seeing a lead wiped out but defeating Spain on penalty shoot-out



EURO CUP: For FC Barcelona midfielder, Pedri Euro 2020 has been a breakthrough tournament in Spain's outfit

esta. It's crazy," Goal quoted Luis Enrique after the match. For FC Barcelona midfielder, Pedri Euro 2020 has been a breakthrough tournament in Spain's outfit. In the clash against Italy, the teenager became the youngest player to ever start a match at this point in the competition and completed all 55 of his pass attempts in regular

time. Pedri has also been selected to compete in the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Earlier in the semi-final at Wembley, Azzurri led through Federico Chiesa on the hour but substitute Alvaro Morata forced extra time for Spain. It went to a shoot-out and after Morata himself was denied, Jorginho rolled in the clincher for Roberto Man-

cini's team. Both teams were in a record sixth Euro shoot-out; it was Italy's third such success and Spain's second reverse, as per UEFA. With this win, Italy are into their fourth European Championship final, behind only Germany on six. Italy will now either clash with Denmark or England in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley on Sunday. **ANI**

EURO 2020

Christian Eriksen and wife invited to Euro 2020 final

COPENHAGEN: Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen, and his wife have been invited to the final of Euro 2020, set to be played at the Wembley Stadium on Sunday. The invitation was sent out by UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin. "Christian Eriksen and his wife have been invited by the UEFA President but we do not know if they will come or prefer to rest," a UEFA spokesperson told ANI. As per a report on Goal.com, half-dozen medical staff who attended to him following his cardiac arrest during Euro 2020 group stage game against Finland have also been invited to the final of the tournament. Eriksen had collapsed during the first half of the Group B game against Finland and he had to be rushed to the hospital after being resuscitated on the field at Parken Stadium. Currently, the midfielder is recovering in Denmark so it is unknown whether he would make the trip to Wembley Stadium. Later on Wednesday, Denmark will lock horns against England in the semi-final. Earlier, England captain Harry Kane had revealed that his team would make a special presentation for Eriksen ahead of the semi-final clash against Denmark. "I am good friends with Chris and it will be sad not to see him



here. He is a big part of their success over the years. It was a terrible thing to happen to him. The main thing is that he is recovering well. He will be rooting for Denmark more than he is for me. There will be a presentation from all of us here at England to show our support. It is a shame he will not be there with his team. After it happened I texted him and wished him well. I look forward to seeing him and texting him and catching up with him. I hope to see him when England is in the final," Goal.com quoted Kane as saying. Italy will now either clash with Denmark or England in the Euro 2020 final on Sunday. **ANI**

COPA AMERICA

Argentina sees off Colombia in penalties, set summit clash with Brazil

BRASILIA: Emiliano Martinez's heroic performance took Argentina to the final of Copa America as Lionel Scaloni's men edged past Colombia in penalties here at the Estadio Nacional do Brasilia Mane Garrincha on Tuesday (local time). The match ended 1-1 in regular time between both the teams and they went straight to the shootout. The Aston Villa goalkeeper, Lionel Scaloni emerged as an unlikely hero in the penalty shootout as he saved three of the five penalties he faced and booked Argentina's ticket for the final against Brazil. The first half was pure back and forth between both sides but it was Argentina who got off the block first in the crucial semi-final. In just six minutes, Lionel Messi earned his fifth assist of the tournament with a pass to Lautaro Martinez, who put the ball in the right corner past Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina. As the minutes went by, Colombia threw bodies ahead and managed to produce some brilliant saves from Emiliano Martinez, who had two key interventions to maintain the result for Argentina.



After an hour in the game, Colombia's continuous persistence paid off as they leveled with Luis Diaz's strike, who received the ball on the left of Argentina's box and finished from a tight angle to beat Martinez. The semi-final then went to the penalty spot where Emiliano Martinez became a giant as he saved the penalties of Sanchez, Mina, and Cardona thus, Argentina obtained their berth to the final. This was Argentina and Colombia's third meeting in the Copa America semi-final. The first time was in 1993 (Argentina won on penalties and finished champions)

and then in 2004 (Argentina won but lost in the final against Brazil). Argentina are yet to be beaten in this year's competition. Lionel Scaloni's side finished top of their group with 3 wins and a draw against Chile. In the quarterfinal, they won 3-0 against Ecuador to progress to the final 4. La Albiceleste have reached the final in 4 of the last 6 editions but have not lifted the trophy in almost 30 years; they will hope to put an end to that run in 2021 when they face Brazil in the epic final at Maracana. **ANI**

TOKYO OLYMPICS



Tokyo Olympics likely to be held without spectators

TOKYO: Tokyo Olympics are likely to be held without spectators due to a sudden spike in coronavirus cases, a government official said on Wednesday. As per Kyodo News, Japan can declare another Covid-19 state of emergency for Tokyo, possibly until August 22. The athletes' village for the Tokyo Olympics pre-opened on Wednesday, mainly for officials of team delegations. The officials that are eligible to enter

the village are those in charge of making preparations to welcome their team athletes at the Games. Earlier, the organisers of the Tokyo Olympics were leaning towards cutting the number of spectators to a maximum of 5,000. As per Kyodo News, Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Wednesday did not say whether the spectator capacity would be cut short and he said that it was an issue to be addressed by the five

organizing bodies of the Summer Games, including the International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo metropolitan government. On Wednesday, the Tokyo metropolitan government had reported 920 new virus cases, marking the highest daily figure since mid-May. Tokyo Olympics will be held from July 23 to August 8 this year. The event was slated to go ahead last year, but it had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2021 reaching \$73.42, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.67 from the price of Tuesday, which was at \$76.09. **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,109.89 points, down 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index remained unchanged at 0.00 per cent at 597.05 points. Al Hassan Engineering, up 93.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 3.53 per cent, was the top loser.

Investment opportunities in minerals sector highlighted

Industrial Innovation Centre organised two workshops on utilising the natural mineral resources in Oman to enhance opportunities for the sustainable use of these important minerals and to identify investment challenges in the sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The challenges of investing in natural minerals and maximising returns from them to increase the sector's contribution to Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) were discussed and identified at a key event held on Wednesday.

The Industrial Innovation Centre had organised two workshops on utilising the natural mineral resources in Oman. At the workshops, experts shed light on four natural minerals, namely silica, limestone, copper and chromium.

The workshops were held to enhance opportunities for the sustainable use of these important minerals and to identify investment challenges in the sector. The event comes within the framework of the centre's efforts to develop

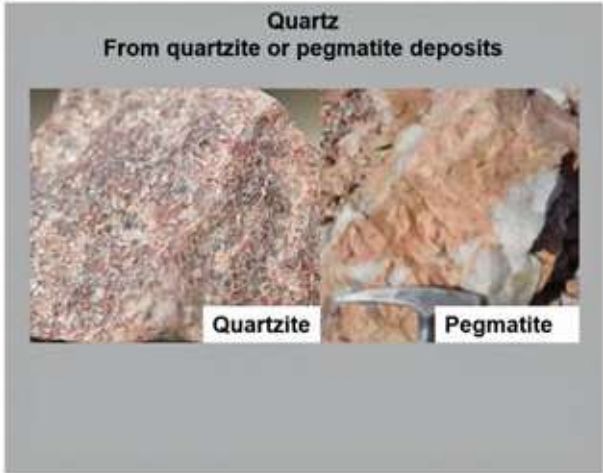
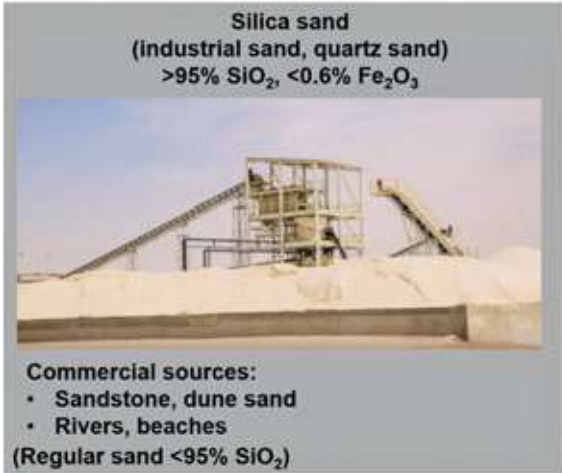
the industrial sector and maximise the economic returns of the mining resources in Oman.

The workshops also shed light on the efforts made by the centre to develop products in the mining sector and to open up opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for self-employment.

Experts and specialists in the field of minerals from several local and international organisations participated in the workshops. It was also attended by a large number of participants from government and private institutions dealing with the mining sector in Oman, via video communication technology.

A set of basic information about the mining sector in the Sultanate, its importance and challenges, and the potential opportunities to benefit from these minerals were

Oman is rich in sandstone deposits and also has quartz formations



BIG BOOST FOR SMES: The workshops also shed light on the efforts made by the centre to develop products in the mining sector and to open up opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for self-employment. - Supplied picture

reviewed at the workshops.

"The centre's objectives include diversifying sources of income for the Omani economy and to enhance the innovative performance of various sectors, including the mining sector, which we hope will expand its contribution to the

country's gross domestic product (GDP)," Dr Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Centre, said.

Silica is used in many industrial uses, like the glass and chemical industries. The limestone is used in cement, building materials and

other industries. Calcium is used in cosmetics, in water purification filters and other related uses, he said.

As for copper and chromium, the Sultanate has been famous since ancient times for mining and exporting copper, which is used in

many vital industries, including the manufacture of conductors, electrical cables and others.

The Sultanate has also increased its interest in extracting chromium, the production sites of which are distributed in many regions of the Sultanate.

PARTNERSHIP

Asyad Express and Vodafone Oman sign pact for express delivery solutions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Express, logistics service provider for the Asyad Group, signed an agreement with Vodafone Oman for the provision of end-to-end fulfilment and express delivery services.

Managed from its new state-of-the-art fulfilment centre, this is the latest partnership for Asyad Express as it continues to position itself as a regional fulfilment and distribution hub for e-commerce and integrated logistics services.

Nasser bin Ahmed Al Sharji, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Oman Post and Asyad Express, said, "As our business accelerates, we continue to evolve to drive the growth and modernisation of the logistics sector in the Sultanate. Our new partnership with Vodafone Oman will allow us to maximise this growth, and deliver a great service for our customers. It is among a rising number of businesses who are showing their confidence and trust in our unique services and capabilities as we contribute to the streamlining of eCommerce across the country."

Lujaina Saif Al Kharusi, Head of Regulatory & Corporate Affairs at Vodafone, said, "Fulfilment



INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SERVICES: Managed from its new state-of-the-art fulfilment centre, this is the latest partnership for Asyad Express as it continues to position itself as a regional fulfilment and distribution hub for e-commerce and integrated logistics services. - Supplied picture

services are growing in popularity and offer many advantages that make them a cost-effective choice. Especially as we are just entering the market in Oman, we are glad to draw on Asyad Express' experience and established network. The partnership will enable us to streamline our entire delivery

process, and ultimately offer our distributors and customers a more improved service."

Located on Sultan Qaboos Highway in Muscat, the state-of-the-art fulfilment centre is part of the 3,000 m2 Asyad Express hub and offers a comprehensive service that includes the storage of products,

the pick, pack and dispatch of on-line orders for last-mile domestic and international delivery, and the handling of returns. Near Muscat International Airport, the facility is equipped to serve local and international retailers of all sizes, offering them an easier, quicker and more efficient way to do business.

UBS SURVEY

Inflation, COVID-19 and debt top central bank worries

LONDON: Inflation has emerged as one of the top concerns for central bank reserve managers, alongside a failure to end the COVID-19 crisis and soaring debt levels, showed the results of a UBS survey released on Wednesday.

Fears about inflation and uncontrolled rises in long-term yields, a risk not flagged by participants at all in last year's Annual Reserve Manager Survey, were raised by 57 per cent of respondents this year as a main risk to the global economy, according to Reuters.

Failure to end the pandemic was cited as a worry by 79 per cent of respondents, with 71 per cent flagging government debt levels.

Reflecting angst about the gravity of COVID-19, half of the participants in the survey believe the virus will be over only after 2022.

Reserve managers from close to 30 global central banks responded to the survey, conducted



MAIN RISK: Fears about inflation and uncontrolled rises in long-term yields were raised by 57 per cent of respondents this year as a main risk to the global economy. - BNA

during April and June.

"Inflation is back at the top of concerns for central bankers," Massimiliano Castelli, UBS's head of strategy and advice, global

sovereign markets, said.

"The majority is saying they expect a rise, but not sort of moving to very high levels of inflation. So it seems there is a sort of view among

the central banking community that the current rising inflation that we are experiencing is transitory."

In terms of risks specifically related to the investment of FX reserves, the top concern, cited by 86 per cent of respondents, remained lower and negative yields within fixed income.

More than two-thirds of participants expect the US Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in 2023, while 30 per cent expect the Fed to do so in 2022.

In contrast, participants expect a later hiking cycle for the European Central Bank, with 33 per cent expecting the first interest rate increase in 2023, 41 per cent in 2024 and only 26 per cent later than 2024. Asked how far leading central banks might go to support markets and the economy if needed, 58 per cent of respondents think the Fed could turn to yield curve control. - BNA

RISE IN CARGO VOLUMES



Middle East May air cargo up 14.1% above pre-COVID levels: IATA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern carriers posted a 14.1 per cent rise in international cargo volumes in May 2021 compared to May 2019, according to the latest data from IATA.

"This was a slight decrease compared to the previous month (15.6 per cent) while seasonally adjusted volumes remain on a robust upward trend," the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Wednesday while releasing the May 2021 data for global air cargo markets.

"International capacity in May was down 6.1 per cent compared to the same month in 2019, a robust improvement from the 10.1 per cent drop in April," the IATA added.

As comparisons between 2021 and 2020 monthly results are distorted by the extraordinary impact of COVID-19, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons to follow are to May 2019 which followed a normal demand pattern.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), was up 9.4 per cent compared to May 2019. Seasonally adjusted demand rose by 0.4 per cent month-on-month in May, the 13th consecutive month of improvement.

The pace of growth slowed slightly in May compared to April which saw demand increase 11.3 per cent against pre-COVID-19 levels (April 2019). Notwithstanding, air cargo outperformed global goods trade for the fifth consecutive month.

North American carriers contributed 4.6 percentage points to the 9.4 per cent growth rate in

May. Airlines in all other regions except for Latin America also supported the growth.

Capacity remains constrained at 9.7 per cent below pre-COVID-19 levels (May 2019) due to the ongoing grounding of passenger aircraft. Seasonally adjusted capacity rose 0.8 per cent month-on-month in May, the fourth consecutive month of improvement indicating that the capacity crunch is slowly unwinding.

Underlying economic conditions and favourable supply chain dynamics remain supportive for air cargo:

Global trade rose 0.5 per cent in April.

The Purchasing Managers Indices - leading indicators of air cargo demand - show that business confidence, manufacturing output and new export orders are growing at a rapid pace in most economies.

The cost-competitiveness of air cargo relative to that of container shipping has improved. Pre-crisis, the average price of air cargo was 12 times more expensive than sea shipping. In May 2021 it was six times more expensive.

"Propelled by strong economic growth in trade and manufacturing, demand for air cargo is 9.4 per cent above pre-crisis levels. As economies unlock, we can expect a shift in consumption from goods to services. This could slow growth for cargo in general, but improved competitiveness compared to sea shipping should continue to make air cargo a bright spot for airlines while passenger demand struggles with continued border closures and travel restrictions," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director-General.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Hassan Engineering, up 93.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 3.53 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,109.89 points, down 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index remained unchanged at 0.00 per cent at 597.05 points.

Al Hassan Engineering, up 93.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 3.53 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Global Investment Holding were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Investment & Financials was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 793 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.5 million, with more than 19 million shares changing hands. Out of 56 traded stocks, 13 advanced, 22 declined and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR82,000 while local investors

were net buyers for OMR76,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR6,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,554.80 points, down 0.10 per cent. Oman Arab Bank, Oman & Qatar Insurance, Ominvest, Vision Insurance and Oman United Insurance were up 3.23 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 1.88 per cent, 1.14 per cent and 0.96 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Investment, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Holding, Bank Dhofar and Al Sharqia Investment were down 3.42 per cent, 3.28 per cent, 2.63 per cent, 2.33 per cent and 1.87 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,008.82 points, down 0.05 per cent. Al Hassan Engineering, Oman Flour Mills and Oman Cables Industry were up 93.33 per cent, 1.51 per cent and 1.32 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.16 per cent before closing at 1,765.46 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	P&A VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKETING	29,742	23,199	6	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.756	0.024	3.175	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.00	53,820.000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE INSUR.	288,300	115,978	16	0.428	0.432	0.428	0.432	0.424	0.008	1.887	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.00	102,120.000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	65,000	21,190	4	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.320	0.006	1.875	0.326	0.318	0.328	0.00	263,333.779
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	48,895	39,476	4	0.812	0.820	0.800	0.808	0.796	0.012	1.508	0.800	0.800	0.820	0.00	127,260.000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	69,200	79,480	18	1.150	1.150	1.150	1.135	1.135	0.015	1.322	1.150	1.145	1.150	0.00	103,155.000
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	823,295	73,578	56	0.089	0.091	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.138	0.089	0.089	0.093	0.00	8,900.000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	75,000	31,500	3	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.416	0.004	0.982	0.420	0.398	0.420	0.00	42,000.000
OM0000002210	AHLI BANK	1,462,000	166,434	23	0.114	0.114	0.112	0.114	0.113	0.001	0.885	0.112	0.112	0.114	0.00	222,290.651
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	182,722	45,842	13	0.250	0.254	0.250	0.251	0.251	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.249	0.250	0.00	83,048.050
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	456,202	218,159	32	0.478	0.482	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.000	0.000	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.00	105,106.000
OM0000003388	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,090,182	102,846	10	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.00	238,147.153
OM0000003968	QOEDOO	13,685	5,669	3	0.430	0.430	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.000	0.000	0.414	0.414	0.430	0.00	289,480.911
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	105,649	83,251	11	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.792	-0.004	-0.505	0.788	0.788	0.792	0.00	581,000.000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	386,550	131,910	25	0.370	0.374	0.368	0.370	0.372	-0.002	-0.538	0.368	0.355	0.380	0.00	20,550.000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	72,727	11,134	6	0.155	0.155	0.153	0.153	0.154	-0.001	-0.649	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.00	13,005.000
OM0000001418	RATSUT CEMENT	67,840	19,953	4	0.296	0.296	0.292	0.294	0.296	-0.002	-0.676	0.292	0.292	0.296	0.00	58,800.000
OM0000001077	AL OMANIA FINS	90,000	6,250	4	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.126	-0.001	-0.794	0.125	0.124	0.128	0.00	36,461.886
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	2,045,842	258,803	91	0.125	0.128	0.125	0.127	0.128	-0.002	-1.550	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.00	30,099.000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	451,226	29,047	27	0.063	0.063	0.061	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.387	0.061	0.061	0.062	0.00	19,043.072
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	97,459	244,657	22	0.432	0.432	0.428	0.430	0.438	-0.008	-1.829	0.430	0.430	0.432	0.00	1,457,024.161
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	491,200	51,805	27	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.107	0.107	-0.002	-1.869	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.00	9,450.000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	315,000	35,457	19	0.114	0.114	0.112	0.113	0.117	-0.004	-3.419	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.00	22,600.000
Total		9,078,676	1,794,458	494												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	20,000	18,800	4	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.908	0.032	3.524	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.00	57,598.500
OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	11,400	3,189	2	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.186	0.006	3.226	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.00	320,528.720
OM0000004879	OMAN QATAR INSUR	520,130	90,120	25	0.154	0.155	0.154	0.154	0.150	0.004	2.867	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.00	15,400.000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	30,987	5,666	6	0.183	0.184	0.182	0.183	0.182	0.001	0.549	0.184	0.182	0.184	0.00	5,490.000
OM0000001517	HISBC BANK OMAN	5,000	510	3	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.00	204,031.905
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	430,500	10,322	7	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.023	0.025	0.00	4,971.633
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	1,000	240	2	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.251	0.251	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.240	0.00	10,442.923
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKT	30,000	28,520	5	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.000	0.000	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.00	91,280.000
OM0000003141	ACHA POWER BARKA	1,800	536	4	0.478	0.478	0.477	0.478	0.479	0.000	0.000	0.477	0.477	0.478	0.00	79,680.000
OM0000003661	VOLITAMP ENERGY	10,527	1,547	4	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.000	0.147	0.00	11,966.204
OM0000003071	SOHAR POWER	450	21	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.044	0.046	0.00	10,387.470
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	3,433	286	3	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.082	0.085	0.00	81,138.616
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,889,209	199,976	75	0.106	0.107	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.107	0.00	18,550.000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	30,000	3,010	2	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.00	10,000.000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	13,003	717	5	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.00	37,118.809
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	10,300	577	3	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.00	40,006.755
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS	519	67	3	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.000	0.130	0.00	13,252.612
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	67,800	8,746	6	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.128	0.129	0.00	28,668.960
OM0000001569	DHOFAH INT.	7,039	1,675	1	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.239	-0.001	-0.418	0.238	0.238	0.239	0.00	97,400.623
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALIN	16,297	1,951	3	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.121	-0.001	-0.828	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.00	11,726.259
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	10,000	990	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.00	148,500.000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	30,000	2,540	5	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.084	0.083	0.089	0.00	21,555.150
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	22,567	28,988	26	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.00	17,050.861
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	2,677,423	187,200	70	0.071	0.072	0.069	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.069	0.069	0.071	0.00	14,000.000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	193,582	32,361	20	0.170	0.170	0.168	0.167	0.170	-0.003	-1.765	0.167	0.167	0.167	0.00	5,606.432
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	828,878	40,946	19	0.051	0.051	0.049	0.049	0.050	-0.001	-2.000	0.050	0.049	0.053	0.00	73,667.472
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	100,000	12,600	3	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.129	-0.003	-2.326	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.00	377,540.281
OM0000001581	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	50,000	47,200	9	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.076	0.076	-0.002	-2.632	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.00	9,018.750
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	37,401	28,104	26	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.061	0.061	-0.002	-3.279	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.00	20,599.520
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	10,844	889	3	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.085	-0.003	-3.529	0.082	0.081	0.084	0.00	10,250.000
Total		8,244,749	735,633	342												
30																

30-YEAR AGREEMENT

Lease agreement signed to develop chemical terminal in Jebel Ali Port

DUBAI: DP World, UAE Region, the leading smart trade enabler, and Petrochem Middle East, the largest chemical distributor in the Middle East and Africa, have signed a 30-year lease agreement that expands its business in the region.

Petrochem Middle East will invest between \$80 million to \$90 million in developing a chemical terminal on Quay 7, adjacent to the dedicated chemical handling berth within Jebel Ali Port. The agreement was signed by

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World and Yogesh Mehta, CEO, Petrochem Middle East, in the presence of Abdulla Bin Damithan, CEO & Managing Director, DP World - UAE Region and Jafza. -**WAM**

COVID-INDUCED DEMAND

India's pharmaceutical market reports 14% growth in June

MUMBAI: India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has said the 14.1 per cent y-o-y (Year-Over-Year) growth in the pharmaceutical market during June was led by normalisation of demand post high growth months of April (51.5 per cent) and May (47.8 per cent).

This was because of the lower base effect and COVID-induced demand during the second wave. Ind-Ra expects the normalisation of demand to continue if the pace of vaccination remains strong which can reduce instances of disruptions in activities during future COVID waves if any.

The agency expects pharmaceutical market growth of over 10 per cent y-o-y for FY22. During 1Q FY22, the market reported growth of 37.2 per cent aided by lower base effect during 1Q FY21 which was impacted due to the nationwide lockdown.

During June, volumes grew 4 per cent y-o-y, price growth was 5.7

The agency expects pharmaceutical market growth of over 10 per cent y-o-y for FY22. During 1Q FY22, the market reported growth of 37.2 per cent aided by lower base effect during 1Q FY21

per cent and new products launches were at 4.4 per cent attributed to acute therapy products.

Acute therapies such as anti-infectives, analgesics and vitamins witnessed sales growth of 37.7 per cent, 17.1 per cent and 17.3 per cent respectively while gastro grew 18.2 per cent during June.

Respiratory therapy growth rebounded to 23.3 per cent, led by normalisation of sales which was earlier impacted due to COVID, said Ind-Ra.

Growth under-performance was observed in chronic therapies during the month with cardiac and anti-diabetic growing 8.2 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

Cipla, Glenmark and Emcure significantly outperformed the market with y-o-y growth of 19.9 per cent, 38.8 per cent and 24.9 per cent respectively.

This was led by higher sales of COVID-19 related products and continued outperformance of chronic therapies. -<

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian, MBA Finance with 14 + years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 99510161
 Email: vinodpanchaman@gmail.com

Female ACCA qualified member, 4+ years work experience in Oman, driving license, NOC available, looking to join a finance team.
 Contact 95785272

Professional part time accountant. Eve & Weekend. Contact 91190552

Accountant with 3 years Oman experience (6 years total Experience), MBA Finance, well versed in VAT, NOC Available. Contact 97874226

Srilanakan with 5 yrs experience & have completed BBA in Accounting looking for an Accountant job. Contact: 98981998, 9388825

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

B.Des 22 years Indian Female looking for suitable placement in Interior Design with valid Omani D/L. Contact 98277032

MEP - Civil Designer/Draftsman 14 years GCC experience. (Full time - Freelance). Contact 90518123

ADMIN/HR

Indian male having 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Hr/ Admin. Contact 95425764

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Admin / Hr / - Contact 95425764

Indian Male, Smart, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience. Contact 99283938

BM, with 26 yrs exp of large FMCG distribution looking for better prospect. Contact 90925520

DRIVER

Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience in Oman. Languages known - Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact 97002240

Looking for a L/D job 3 years experience in building materials outdoor salesman. Can speak English, Arabic & Hindi, NOC available. Contact 91550548

IT

Indian Female, Master Degree in Computer Science. Seeking for suitable jobs. Currently available in Oman (Sohar). Contact 79566592..

ENGINEER

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

An Egyptian construction engineer with 11 years experience in government projects and another with great experience in reviewing the designs of all types of constructions and following up and completing the project to the fullest.
 Contact 96965100

Looking for a paid internship in the Electronics, Telecom or Cyber security field. Fresh Graduate in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering with fluency in English. Please call 97061970

Sales Engineer, Sudanese, BSc Mechanical Engineering, 7years Experience in Oman. D/L, NOC. Contact 79027138

Sudanese Mechanical Engineer, Projects 7 years experience in Oman. DL, NOC. Contact 99329938

Facility engineer (BE) 12 years experience in electrical or maintenance engineer field. Valid Oman D/L. Seeking facility or maintenance engineer job. Contact 93396338 or syamsk2255@gmail.com

MEP Engineer, 16yrs experience in Building construction in MEP works seeks new opportunity. Contact 94556412.
 Email ID: prabhathm82@gmail.com

Project Manager/Engineer (Electrical) with 10 Years Experience in Oman at (Primary & Distribution Substations and OHL) Tendering ,Estimation and Execution, Oman D/L & NOC Available. Contact 9909 2164.
 Email Awiloooo18@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

FINANCE
Female, MBA Finance, 3 years experience (1.5 years in a Big Four as Tax Consultant), immediately available for Finance/Accounts job.
Contact +968-93213813

Project Director / Contracts Administrator
Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer, Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
Please contact - 78022980

Accounts & Finance
Indian Male with more than 25 years experience in Accounts and Finance field, holding Omani driving license, NOC available, seeking challenging opportunity.
Contact on Tel : 95803522

Indian Chartered Accountant
With 6 years of experience (Oman) in Accounts, Audit, Taxation, VAT, Investment, Budgeting seek suitable placement.
Contact 79848875

SALES MANAGER
Indian National, Mechanical Engineer having 14 years of experience including more than 8 years in Oman as Sales & Purchase Manager for Scaffolding; having good knowledge & experience in Fasteners & Steel wires as well.
Valid Oman D/L & release available for immediate recruitment.
Contact: 96497864
Email: taranrajpal@gmail.com

Accounts, Audit & Finance
Indian male, B.Com, MBA Finance, 23 years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance (last 14 years in Oman) looking for a suitable placement. D/L & NOC available.
Contact 93231040
Email: trp270172@gmail.com

HSE Manager/Sr. HSE Eng
Having Nebosh Diploma with Diploma in Civil Engineering, 21 years experience in various field, looking for Job. NOC available.
Contact 94549278

GROUP FINANCE MANAGER
with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement
Contact 93288251
Email: suhasdkini@gmail.com

HR / Admin
Female with 13yrs of experience in HR/Admin field is looking for job opportunities. Available to start immediately.
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CONTACT 99283938

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Male, Master's degree, worked as Software Engineer seeking IT job. Visa status - Employment, NOC available.
Contact 79830312

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Please contact imrankelani@gmail.com
95785529

Indian Chartered Accountant
Indian Female CA with 8 years' experience in Audit, Accounts, Finance, Investment, Consultancy looking for suitable assignments.
Contact: +968 9914 7922

MANAGER
20Yrs experienced Indian commerce graduate, 4 Years of Fleet management in FMCG sector, 7 years of Contracts, Transportation at Oil & Gas sector in Oman, and 10years of Administration in India. D/L & NOC available.
Call/Whatsapp 94777651

Omani Mechanical Engineer
Bachelors degree in Mechanical Eng. from the United States of America & Nebosh Holder. 3 yrs of experience (Machinaries, Hydraulic, MEP, Tending & Documentation) - 2 yrs in Oil & Gas.
Contact: 95070748
Email: siyabi1430@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO
Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.
Contact 97264447

HR / ADMIN.
Certified HR Pro, MBA with 14 yrs. of Oman exp. in the field of HR / Admin. (Bldg. Const.). Office Mgt., Operations, Communication, Induction. Pakistani Male with NOC & Immediately available.
GSM: 96409439
Email: farhansiddiqi2014@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER
Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finace & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.
Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

HR & Administration Professional
With Executive Assistant Exposure, Well Experienced With Oman Labour Law, Well Versed In Office Management, New Office Induction & Administration, Indian Male, With Valid Oman Driving License, NOC Available, Seeks Suitable Placements.
GSM: 94 94 86 76

ACCOUNTANT
Indian female having MBA with 15yrs exp as Accountant and Accounts Officer looking for suitable placement. Having Valid Visa, NOC.
Contact: 98783111
Email: anjubinus@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer
Indian B.E., (Mechanical) with 19 years Oman Experience in MEP system Design, Supervision, Execution & Maintenance of Comm./Res. Buildings, hotels, Hospitals, HyperMarkets, PDO & Govt. Palace and RGO is looking for suitable Opening. Valid D/L, NOC available.
Contact: 92672761
email: tnrajan76@gmail.com

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL
INDIAN MALE, M.Com, PGDSCM, WITH +20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN PURCHASE, SALES & DISTRIBUTION, INVENTORY & CREDIT CONTROL SEEKS PLACEMENT.
CONTACT 94619442
vineeth33@yahoo.com

Diploma Engineer Civil
Experience 10 years Oman, 6 Pakistan. Multi stories Buildings, Ministry of education & Sports. ROP Fahud Road and Building work. TELECOM, ROP Green & roof top sites. PDO applicant licence & driving licence.
Contact 98921022
akhfarmahmood3137@gmail.com

Business Administrator
Having a strong interpersonal, communication skills (verbal, written), can speak both Arabic & English languages, having basic knowledge of Microsoft Office application, ability to work on team, a very fast learner.
Contact 94887879
Email: amani.alhaj94@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL

HSE Officer with valid Oman D/L. 7 years experience in Oman. Contact 94743007 (Oman), +917902565053 (Indian). Email: ajeesh4god@yahoo.com

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TRAVEL/TOUR

Ticketing agent / travel co-ordinator with total 16 years of experience. 8 years in Oman looking for openings. Contact 91377630 Email: maheshkv83@gmail.com

PURCHASE

Inventory, Purchase & Accounts: Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B, Operations and various other skills. NOC available. Contact 96219904 Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

18 years Readmix & Cement products Oman experienced professional. Looking for a senior business development position. Contact: 94871660

Experienced female sales person from Philippines looking for a job in the retail sector. Contact 90997928

Experienced in Outdoor Sales & Marketing or any outdoor works. Having own vehicle & visa, seeks suitable placement to work in Capital area. Contact 99343542, Whatsapp 968 96419126 Email aburazantrad@gmail.com

Indian Sales executive, B.Com with D/L looking for job. Has Visa. Contact 78040248

26, Indian male born in Oman, with 3years of experience, having valid D/L, looking for suitable placement in Engineering Sales/Marketing Field Holder of Bachelors in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering. Contact 98914229

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ROUND-UP

With 3,584 Omani staff, Bank Muscat has Omanisation ratio of over 95%

The bank has recruited over 120 Omani nationals since the beginning of 2021

MUSCAT: In line with its pioneering role in the development of Omani human resources, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has appointed over 120 Omani nationals in its different departments at the head office and branches across the country, from the beginning of the year till date taking the total number of Omanis working in the bank to 3,584.

The bank, which has an Omanisation ratio of over 95 per cent, will be continuing its recruitment drive and recruiting more talented Omani youth in the coming months. It must be mentioned in this regard that the bank recruited 184 Omani nationals in 2020.

With its positive work culture, common values, fostering of in-



novation, employee engagement activities, and sound HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) practices, Bank Muscat is a dream employer for many job seekers in the Sultanate, particularly those who are interested in the banking and financial services sector. The bank recognises that employees are its core strength and the primary reason for its success and accomplishments. It constantly invests resources and time to further develop their skills and help them reach their peak potential. From the moment of joining the

bank, suitable training and development opportunities are provided to make employees skilled with work-related processes and procedures such that they can deliver to the best of their abilities. It is responsive to employee feedback and strives to ensure a professional work environment that is based on fair and equal opportunities to all employees, cutting-edge technology and global financial best practices. It is notable in this regard that Bank Muscat has excellent gender equality. About 49% of its employees are women,

who work across different departments and at all levels including the bank's management. The bank recruits Omani talent through its strong relationships with leading higher educational institutions, career fairs and through posts on its official social media accounts.

Speaking about the many successes and achievements by the bank over the last four decades, Said Salim Al Aufi, Group Deputy General Manager - Human Resources, Bank Muscat, said, "The bank is moving forward in close alignment to its strategic plan

of developing Omani human resources in the best manner possible. It takes into account the need to develop Omani human resources across different specialities and disciplines for all-round development. To ensure success in its mission to develop the Sultanate's human resources, the bank works in close partnership with many government organisations and higher education institutions. This ensures that Bank Muscat is a much sought after employer and is able to attract and retain the best and most talented Omani nationals."

Said Salim Al Aufi added, "Bank Muscat is currently working on plans to provide more jobs to Omani youth in the future and will be making further announcements regarding this in the coming months. The bank is closely supporting efforts for further development of youth through specialised programmes and courses to realise national development goals. We also take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of higher education institutions in the country and thank them for successfully implementing strategic education and skill development plans, which are helping our young people to develop the necessary skill-sets to take on important roles across different sectors and businesses."

As part of the crucial skills development of its workforce, the bank's Jadara Academy organised 211 training programmes with a total of 3,435 participants in the first five months of this year. Earlier in 2020, it conducted 380 programmes that offered a total of 19,868 training seats to bank employees. In the post-pandemic phase, training programmes are being offered online to maintain social distancing norms and the health and safety of all involved.

Bank Muscat has been greatly encouraged by the results of its continuous investments in human resources. As a result of its strong HR processes and abundant learning and development opportunities for employees, most of its senior and middle management today has been promoted from within the bank's ranks.

It must also be noted in this regard that as part of its strategic plan, the bank continually creates a pipeline of leaders not just for the bank, but also to contribute to the overall growth and development of the nation. Driven by its vision of serving the people of Oman better every day, Bank Muscat continues to actively nurture and support Omani youth to play its part in the progressive march of the nation across all realms.

NEW STORE

TYREPLUS inaugurates its 7th outlet in Oman

MUSCAT: TYREPLUS an independent professional network of tyre retail stores and a global retail concept developed by Michelin recently inaugurated its store in Azaiba, Muscat, making it the 7th store in Oman.

The TYREPLUS store in Azaiba will provide customers with a variety of services including tyre replacement, fitting and balancing, batteries, air conditioning, nitrogen inflation, alignment, brakes, tuning geometry, tyre repair and oil changes.

Commenting on the opening of the new store, Naser Shashaa, Regional Director - Michelin Middle East Cluster said "We are very happy to have opened this new store in Oman, in turn expanding our footprint in the region. Since the introduction of the TYREPLUS concept in the region, our stores have served as one-stop-shop solutions, catering to a variety of automotive needs and requirements of our customers. Distribution and retail is a critical lever for the growth of our partners, and Michelin has been a leader over the years and



now we are complementing this focus with our support to reach consumers directly to assist them and provide them with a seamless online to offline journey."

"MHD ACERE is glad to expand the operations for our tyres and batteries department through the opening of this latest store. We are increasingly focusing on those distributors that deliver long-term benefits to the brand prospects

through comprehensive brand strategies, rather than constantly trying to capitalize on short-term advantages. At affordable prices, we endeavour to deliver the best of service through our highly trained technicians, making these outlets very valuable to our customers," said Mohsin Hani Al-Bahrani, CEO, MHD ACERE.

TYREPLUS was established in 2002 and is currently present in 20

countries today such as Australia, Brazil, China, Russia, Thailand, Taiwan, Oman and the Gulf countries.

Open daily from 8 am - 8 pm, the store is strategically located in Azaiba, behind the Jaguar and Land Rover showroom with proximity to Sultan Qaboos Road and 18 November Street. The location of the store would help a wide array of customers, who would be travelling from the other locations towards the city.

OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB announces winners of its Hasaad Savings Scheme for May

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently announced the names of the winners of its Hasaad Savings Scheme for May. The draw saw 101 customers winning prizes of OMR 500 each. As for Elite account holders, two customers won OMR 10,000 each from the Bausher and Corporate branches.

Commenting on the results of the draw, Rashad Al Shaikh, Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "The Hasaad Savings Scheme not only enables our customers to be financially secure but also encourages prudent saving habits and rewards them for the efforts."

"We look forward to seeing a growth in the number of customers who continue to save and have

several exciting prizes in store for them until the end of the year."

The Hasaad Savings Scheme 2021 will see 101 lucky winners each month from the 53 branches winning OMR 500 each. This is in addition to a Big Prize draw which will see two winners of OMR 10,000 each, every quarter.

The Elite Draws will see two winners every month of OMR 10,000 each.

This is replaced by an Elite grand prize draw conducted every three months with one lucky winner of OMR 25,000.

"On behalf of Oman Arab Bank, I extend my warmest congratulations to all the May winners. I wish everyone the best of luck and to continue saving for the upcoming draws," Rashad added.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Finland Oman School briefs important academic and research developments



MUSCAT: Finland Oman School was visited by Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, Dr Ali Al Shukailli, Director General of the General Directorate of Private School, other ministry officials. They were welcomed by Dr Hussain Al-Salmi, CEO of Oman Educational Services (owners of Finland Oman School and German University of Technology).

He was accompanied by Dr Al-Khattab Al-Hinai, Deputy Chairman of the State Council as well as senior management members of the OES group.

The CEO of the EduCluster Finland University of Jyväskylä Group, Finland Oman School's educational and quality assurance partners spoke about the successful implementation of the Finnish education system in Qatar and shared ideas



for such success in Oman.

They were briefed on the school's most important academic and research developments and were pleased with the vision and

progress as well as future developments of Finland Oman School the potential mechanisms for improving the quality of education in Oman.

EASE AND CONVENIENCE

Majan Electricity urges customers to pay their bills using e-payment channels

MUSCAT: Majan Electricity Company, a leading electricity provider in Oman, has advised customers to use its e-payments platforms to pay bills for the ease and convenience it offers.

Majan Electricity offers several smart, hassle-free and interactive options to pay the bills. Customers can pay their bills online from anywhere by accessing their accounts through Majan Electricity's e-channels.

The customers can use various banking channels linked to the system such as Nama Group portal www.electricity.com.om, mobile applications, online banking and corporate banking.

For corporate customers and government Majan offers a direct transfer of key subscribers to the company's designated local bank accounts.

Majan customers can pay their electricity bills through mobile applications of companies such as Nama app, <https://oss.nama.om/ar-om/login.aspx>, Bill & Pay Mobile Application- (ONEIC), Khedmah Service mobile application (OIFC), Tasdeed portal <https://www.tasdeed.om/EF-portal/WhereToPay>, for safe and easy payment.

In addition, they can also pay through Omantel's electronic payment machines available in Omantel's Customer Service Outlets, commercial centres and some fuel filling stations or direct debiting from the sub-



scriber's bank account to the company's account following a tripartite agreement.

On the other hand, Customers can pay electricity bills by visiting the branches of the collection agents: Oman National Engineering and Investment Company (ONEIC) and Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC), which have branches all over the Sultanate of Oman. These payment agents accept cash payments, cheques and payments through direct debit cards or credit cards via Point of Sale (POS) machines.

Khalid Abdulrahman Al Tai, Senior Manager Collection and Debtors Management stated, "Over the last two years payment via E-Channels transactions has increased to more than 74 per cent of the total transactions which reflects the awareness of subscribers and the reliability of those electronic channels."

To avoid any impact of COVID-19, Majan Electricity has been implementing several effective measures. The company offers perfectly designed electronic services that ensure no direct contact with people or surfaces. It is a safe, advanced and convenient service.

By encouraging to switch to virtual payment methods, Majan Electricity says it will keep users safe and help them observe social responsibility. Majan has requested its customers to update their data and provide the company with their latest email addresses and mobile numbers to receive their monthly bills electronically without any delay. Majan Electricity said encouraging customers to pay their bills regularly using the above-mentioned payment channels in a safe and reliable environment.

Through the company's website, customers can pay and monitor their consumptions. Customers can also call the call centre on the toll-free number 80078000 to find out more information and provide assistance.

ROUND-UP

Crossover Nissan Kicks available on low EMI

Nissan Kicks, which offers to encompass stance, alluring lines, appealing exterior styling, polished interior, superior connectivity, is available at the starting price of OMR119

MUSCAT: Offering an extraordinary assortment of features along with chic and modern design, Nissan Kicks has established a 'preferred' status among the youth in Oman. The crossover commands attention for its vibrant styling and impressive performance. In addition, the Nissan Intelligent Mobility attribute guarantees flawless connectivity and advanced driver



assistance features. Nissan Kicks, which offers to encompass stance, alluring lines, appealing exterior styling, polished interior, superior connectivity, is available at the starting price of OMR 119. EMIs are calculated based on a 2.99% rate of Interest, 20% down payment, six-year loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals. A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), says, "The stunning Nissan Kicks blends emotion and practicality by combining established Nissan

design signatures with remarkable modern themes. From a spacious interior that augments the room with a flat floor design, to the high degree of craftsmanship obvious in every design element, Nissan Kicks gives youth the perfect excuse to stay out and have fun. We are happy to offer affordable EMI rate on Nissan Kicks." Nissan Kicks has been impressing the youth with its excellent mileage, unique styling, roominess, personal technology, smart functionality, and advanced safety features. It is a vehicle perfect

for people located in urban areas and looking for a vehicle that provides technology, best-in-class fuel economy, and an overall great value proposition. Nissan Kicks is easily accessible and highly flexible. From a 60/40 split rear seat to a liftgate that opens high enough for customers to stand under, it's never been easier to make the most of every day. Nissan Kicks continues to be popular since its introduction due to its stylish design and "Excellent" Rated GSO Fuel efficiency of 17.8Km/litre.

NEW INITIATIVE

Omantel Innovation Labs to push innovation in Omani tech startups

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading telecommunications company in Oman and a key role-player in Mena, is excited to announce the launch of the Omantel Innovation Labs, which will contribute to Oman's Vision 2040 and promote innovation and entrepreneurship in new and emerging technologies. Under this new initiative, Omantel will leverage its expertise, partnerships, reach, and access to technology to build a tech-based startup ecosystem.

Key focus

The key focus of Omantel Innovation Labs is to cultivate entrepreneurial skills among the youth and accelerate the growth of relevant Oman-based technology startups across five technological verticals: 5G, internet of things, cybersecurity, customer experience technology, and big data.

Located in a 1100m2 facility at Omantel headquarters in Muscat, the Innovation Labs will organise, participate in, and host multiple activities to support the Company's internal innovation agenda by providing systematic spaces, approaches, events and activities that can accelerate product conceptualisation, prototyping, testing and deployment of solutions to Oman and Omantel-centric challenges.

"We want to support and tap into new ideas and technologies, stay ahead of the curve and drive local innovation. For this, we need to optimally deploy our resources and create an environment wherein calibre and opportunities match national digital transformation goals. Omantel Innovations Labs have been conceptualised and designed to fit perfectly into this ecosystem and aim to put the company at the heart of Oman's emerging culture of entrepreneurial growth, knowledge sharing, collaboration and economic development through digitisation," said Talal Said Al Mamari, Chief Executive Officer of Omantel.

Omantel has been showcasing innovation possibilities with

The key focus of Omantel Innovation Labs is to cultivate entrepreneurial skills among the youth and accelerate the growth of relevant Oman-based technology startups across five technological verticals: 5G, internet of things, cybersecurity, customer experience technology, and big data

frontier technologies through numerous recent projects that add efficiency to operations and excitement to everyday activities. Omantel has piloted two major 5G projects in Oman's transport and logistics sector that offer showcase the use of 5G infrastructure beyond network speed and efficiency but also brings more accountability and streamlining to port operations.

IoT-powered store

Omantel is enabling the Middle East's first Artificial Intelligence and IoT-powered store. Soon, shopping at the Ahlain Store in Oman Oil's filling station at Omantel's headquarters in Madinat Al Irfan will be a queue-free, cashless, grab and go experience.

Omantel has also successfully conducted a 5G test using the mmWave, paving the way for enhanced user experience especially in crowded spaces such as during festivals and events. The trial has demonstrated Omantel's ability to deliver multi-gigabit speeds with eight-cell carrier aggregation functionalities and used a carrier bandwidth of 800MHz at 26GHz.

Keeping such developments in mind, the Innovation Labs aim to build a platform that can generate use cases for prioritised technologies and facilitate an ecosystem that complements Omantel's differentiating activities.

Registrations open for Omantel Accelerator

An off-shoot of this initiative is the Omantel Accelerator programme, designed in collaboration with the UK Oman Digital Hub. It will be delivered in partnership with Oman-based regional accelerator OTF (Oman Technology Fund) and the global venture accelerator and ecosystem developer, Brinc.

The six-month programme intends to de-risk innovative startups across multiple stages of their lifecycle. Startups will be guided through the myriad challenges in the highly competitive tech industry through mentorship, networking, and fundraising support.

Mohammed Al Rasbi, the managing director at OTF Accelerator, has expressed his enthusiasm for the project. "We are very excited about this partnership with Omantel. After accelerating over 100 companies in Oman, the Middle East, and North Arica, we have found that corporate partnerships are vital in increasing the growth rate of our portfolio companies."

Al Rasbi stressed the importance of having a carefully curated cohort of companies for the Omantel acceleration programme. "OTF Accelerator will be assisting Omantel in selecting Oman's next top startups. We believe that having great founders is at the core of having a successful start-up. With our wide regional selection

expertise, we are now eager to see that Oman's best entrepreneurial minds will be part of Omantel's Innovation Labs, and Omantel Accelerator specifically.

"The global pandemic has underscored the value of innovation, technology and connectivity to business continuity and economic growth, making collaboration a core requirement to accelerating their pace," said Yasin Aboudaoud, Managing Partner and CDO at Brinc. "Wherever we go, there are tech game-changers that require guidance to support their journeys, de-risk their ventures and ensure that they continue to play an active role in solving local, regional and global challenges. Whether students, employees, or early-stage startups, we ensure that they acquire the necessary tools to succeed. We are thrilled to collaborate with Omantel to transform the region into one of the leading tech telecommunication startup hubs."

The programme is tailored to meet the needs of each participating startup to ensure that they commercialise, multiply, and scale effectively while providing the technical feasibility, market desirability, and financial viability of their products and operations.

The startup companies joining the program will be eligible for perks worth over \$250,000 in cloud computing, legal services, accounting and other areas and the potential to gain up to \$50,000 in investment from OTF. The programme will also provide the startups with free desk space at the Omantel Innovation Labs, and access to a network of over 100,000 investors, corporates and mentors.

To be considered for this opportunity, startups should demonstrate that they are developing proprietary technology that directly corresponds to or is dependent on one or more of the five programme focus areas, that they are posted MVP stage and are ready to scale. Earlier stage companies and technology startups in other industry verticals will be considered.

FLEET PACKAGES



Volkswagen corporate offer with exclusive benefit to fleet customers

MUSCAT: Volkswagen corporate and fleet range offers fleet packages across its leading products, including the region's most popular seven-seater SUV, the Volkswagen Teramont, Passat and the recently released stylish compact SUV, the T-Roc.

Volkswagen's corporate and fleet segment works towards ensuring that customers receive enhanced sales and service privileges. It extends preferential rates for corporate customers, trade-in and buy-back offers, special rates on service, parts and extended warranty, finance and insurance solutions, courtesy vehicle service, and replacement.

Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors Oman, said, "At Premium Motors, we offer the right vehicles that meet professional requirements and can be perfectly customised to specific work requirements. Volkswagen cars are innovative,

affordable, fun to drive, safe, fuel-efficient, and distinctly German-engineered. Our mission is to provide you with a unique and innovative automotive experience by offering a wide range of products and services that deliver superior value and satisfaction."

He added, "At Volkswagen corporate and fleet segment, our mission is to make the buying and ownership experience as smooth, convenient and cost-effective as possible. We do this through our commitment to unparalleled service, customised solutions, and world-class vehicles that raise the standard in their respective classes."

Volkswagen wants to exceed expectations and open up new possibilities. It reflects its goal to lead the corporate fleet industry through customer-focused services and solutions, creating lasting relationships with fleet decision-makers.

INFINITI OMAN



INFINITI Courtesy Vehicle offers service convenience to customers

MUSCAT: Conceived to provide seamless mobility during car service, INFINITI Courtesy Vehicle (ICV) from INFINITI Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles has been offering customers convenience while adhering to all the safety protocols related to COVID-19.

The objective of the exclusive concept titled INFINITI Courtesy Vehicle (ICV) is to offer convenience for service customers and provide existing customers with the opportunity to experience other/new models with the latest technology.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, "The courtesy vehicles offered as part of the programme will be free of charge to our customers. ICVs are dedicated units kept only for offering them as replacement vehicles to service customers. All custom-

ers/ jobs are eligible for ICV except for internal, B&P and waiting customers for quick services. We are happy to offer customers easy mobility during car service and provide a chance to try our newer INFINITI models."

He added, "Our protocol and guidelines guarantee the utmost hygiene, sanitization, and safety for all. Besides, our staff is trained to make the processes very secure, with the highest focus on hygiene and safety."

This service is based on the availability of ICV cars during the time of car service. Terms and conditions apply. INFINITI Oman strives to offer an excellent retail and customer service experience to every INFINITI owner. A crucial point of differentiation for the brand amongst competitors is the top level of customer service it delivers.

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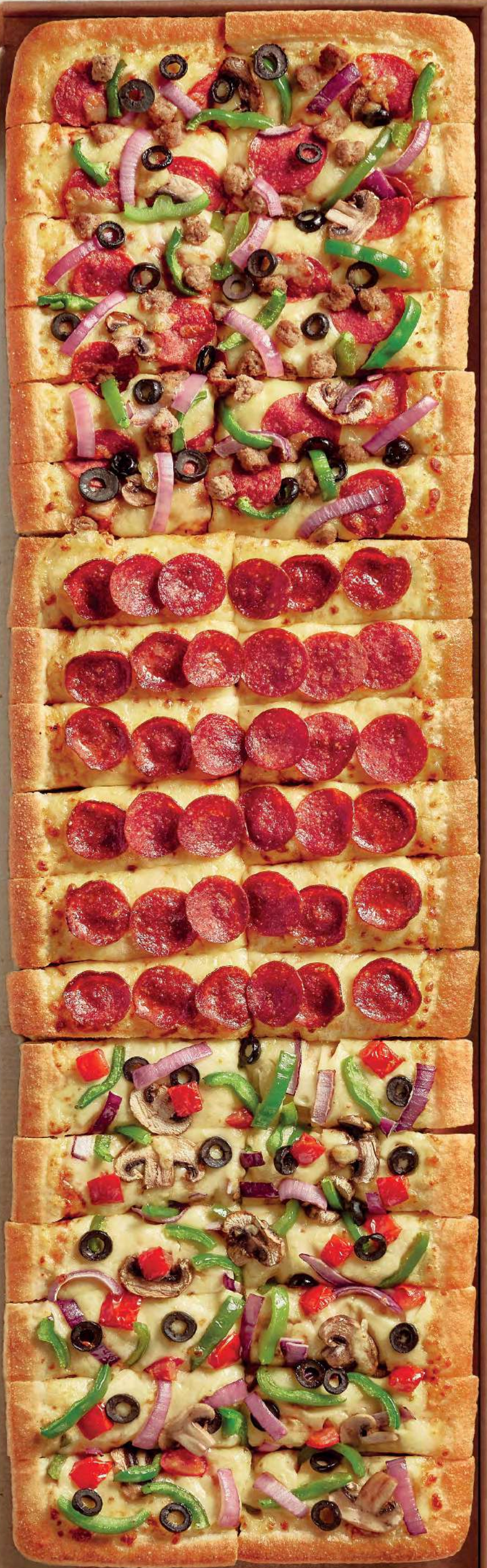
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