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**AL NU'MANI, US COMMANDER
REVIEW HISTORIC TIES**

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, Commander of the United States Central Command and his accompanying delegation in his office on Sunday. **>A5**



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**HM THE SULTAN GREETES GOVERNOR
GENERAL OF SAINT LUCIA**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Emmanuel Neville Cenac, Governor General of Saint Lucia on the occasion of his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes to the Governor General of Saint Lucia and his country's friendly people. **-ONA**



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SAFETY PLANS DRAWN UP FOR WADI KABIR INDUSTRIAL AREA



Times News Service

Majlis Al Shura and Municipal Council of Muscat came up with ideas to improve safety standards for establishments operating in the area

MUSCAT: Plans to make Wadi Kabir Industrial Area safer for businesses and the surrounding residents are being drawn up.

To make sure fires like the massive blaze which spread through large parts of the area do not take place again, members of the Majlis Al Shura and Municipal Council of Muscat came up with ideas to improve safety standards in establishments operating in the area.

Meanwhile, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) has also decided to un-

dertake a study to devise ways to prevent such fires in the future, and make sure they can be contained before they cause more damage by spreading to nearby residential areas.

Safer location

"Oman is not the country it was 20 years ago," said Hamoud Al Yahya'ai, the Chairman of the Services and Social Development Committee of the Majlis Al Shura, who is in favour of relocating the facilities there to a safer location, away from highly populated areas. "In light of the increase in popu-

lation, urban expansion, and the growth in commercial and industrial activities, permanent plans must be drawn up for cities and regions, not temporary ones.

"This is particularly true when considering urban planning in residential neighbourhoods," he added. "We must make sure factories, industrial facilities, and tall buildings are kept away from these areas, so as to preserve the privacy and environment of those living in residential homes. Plans must also be accordingly made to properly distribute public services such as streets, water supply,

sewerage, and electricity."

Plan of action

Al Yahya'ai's committee will discuss this on February 24, with its recommendations on safer industrial areas then put to the Shura Council, which will discuss these suggestions with all the members at a later date. This will help provide permanent, sustainable solutions that benefit both the country's economy and its people.

"We will work hard to find a suitable plan, in response to citizens' concerns over such issues," he said. **>A4**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

'Don't travel unless absolutely necessary'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health has urged citizens and residents to avoid travelling abroad during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, unless absolutely necessary so that they avoid contact with the new, emerging strains of the virus. The ministry has also asked people to continue to adopt the precautionary measures required to stop the spread of the virus in the country.

Currently, all arrivals in the country are required to undergo mandatory quarantine. The country's borders are also closed to those who live outside the country, until further notice.

"All arrivals to the Sultanate, through the country's land, air or sea borders are subject to mandatory institutional quarantine at their own expense," said a government advisory. **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN COVID-19 guidelines

1 Restaurants, cafes and shopping centres have been told to follow COVID-19 precautionary measures. **>A3**

WORLD Myanmar slammed

2 UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke out against the "deadly violence in Myanmar." **>A7**

MARKET PPI inflation declines

3 Oman's producer price index (PPI) inflation fell 22.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020, over the same period of the previous year. **>B1**



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Maghrib.....	6:11pm
Isha.....	7:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.18am

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

be'ah launches campaign over unsafe disposal of masks

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the aim to highlight the health risks of random throwing of used masks in public places that negatively affect human life and health, wild and marine life, the Oman Environmental Services Holding Company “be'ah” has launched an awareness campaign.

The drive has been launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization office in the Sultanate.

Dr. Jan Jabbour, the Representative of the World Health Organization in the Sultanate, explained the importance of adhering to the preventive measures and procedures and following the instructions

and guidelines established for protection from COVID-19. In this context, the organisation has developed a global and comprehensive guidance document on the use of masks and the best practices to dispose them in a safe manner.

Jassim Al-Wahaibi, Head of the Healthcare Waste Department at be'ah said, “There is an increasing concern about polluted single-use masks, which pose a threat to public health and negatively affect wild and marine life when disposed in the wrong way, and we are happy with this cooperation to tackle this global phenomenon, which could lead to the transmission of infection among the community.”

The Supreme Committee in



CAMPAIGN: The drive has been launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization office in the Sultanate. -ONA

charge of examining the mechanism for dealing with developments resulting from the spread of coronavirus (COVID 19) had previously issued decisions, obligating everyone to wear masks in public places and considers not wearing a mask a violation estimated at OMR100. This greatly increased the daily consumption of masks.

In addition, the United Nations Trade Authority “UNCTAD” estimated global sales of masks at \$166bn by the end of 2020, compared to about \$800mn in 2019.

According to a report issued by “OceansAsia”, 1.56 billion masks ended up in the oceans resulting in between 4,680 and 6,240 metric tons of plastic.

Single-use contaminated masks contain many viruses, and cleaning workers are among the first victims who face the risk of infection, in addition to their environmental effects.

“Most-single-use masks are made of plastic materials such as polypropylene, polyethylene and vinyl-a material that takes up to 450 years to degrade-which makes it all the time a source of micro plastics and negatively affects wild and marine life and ecosystems, according to a report released by Oceans Asia.

be'ah has been cooperating with the Ministry of Health and a number of entities in the campaigns previously organised by the Municipalities.

INVITATION TO TENDER



Sohar Aluminium LLC (SA), PO Box 80, PC- 327, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman hereby invites qualified Suppliers/Contractors for the following tender:

Tender No. :	RFP 21/005
Tender Title :	Provision of Skilled Manpower
Scope :	Sohar Aluminium has a requirement for various types skilled experienced manpower to work in Reduction area. The detail category of manpower required will be shared in the RFQ. Vendors who have readily available manpower in Oman under their direct sponsorship and who can mobilize them in short notice will be given preference.
Tender No. :	RFP 21/006
Tender Title :	SPL segregation preparation and crushing
Scope :	Sohar Aluminium Co. LLC (SA), as part of its industrial process, generates Spent Pot Lining (SPL) materials. The hazardous recyclable SPL materials are no longer required by SA and hence, they have to be disposed of appropriately. As part of environmental improvement and recycling plan, SA has identified potential users who can recycle these materials safely. SA has to deliver these materials in a defined composition as agreed with the customer and this requires to be done within SA. SA invites suppliers who have the ability to supply equipment, manpower and services to manage this activity.

Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com
For list of active tenders visit: <https://www.sohar-aluminium.com/en/content/tender-listing>

AL BATINAH NAVAL SITE

RNO conducts Sharp Dagger naval drill

MUSCAT: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) on Sunday began a naval drill “Sharp Dagger” at Al Batinah Naval site with the participation of friendly countries’

navies and help from the RAFO jets. It will continue till 25 February. The drill, conducted as per precautionary measures of COVID-19, comes within the the

RNO’s annual training plans, besides exchanging experience with friendly countries for readiness of the RNO fleet and personnel of various marine disciplines. -ONA

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Over a hundred cars and 45 garages were burned down in a massive fire in Wadi Kabir.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM

About This Website

What caused the Wadi Kabir fire?



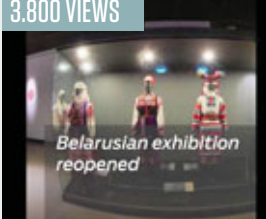
Story on what caused the Wadi Kabir fire

A story on what caused the Wadi Kabir fire reached 55,189 people and had 11,487 engagements on Facebook.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

3,800 VIEWS





Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video got 3,800 views and reached 14,200 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,467 LIKES





Story on the fire at Wadi Kabir

A photo story on the fire at Wadi Kabir industrial area had 1,467 likes on Instagram.

COVID-19

<FROM A1

Isolation exemption for kids and aged people

Exemptions to the quarantine rule are provided to people aged 60 and above, as well as children under 15. Travellers with health problems or those who have undergone medical treatment are also not needed to undergo quarantine.

This is, however, provided they procure a medical certificate that confirms their current medical condition.

Measures have also been drawn up for workers to undergo quarantine at facilities organised by their companies. For companies to convert their quarters into quarantine zones, however, a number of conditions must be met.

These include setting up a separate reception area for workers undergoing quarantine, and installing thermal cameras on the premises, to check their temperatures.

Before these areas can be designated quarantine facilities, companies must "submit a request for approval to the Director-General of Social Development in the governorate, and the supervisor of the relief and shelter sector in order to use a health isolation site belonging to the company," said the Government Communications Centre.

Royal Oman Police

"Approval must be obtained from the technical teams represented by the Royal Oman Police, the medical response units, public health authorities, and the relief and shelter sector, which will only be provided after a field visit," added the centre.

"These facilities must be monitored to ensure people isolated within do not break quarantine, and for this purpose, surveillance cameras must be installed at the entrances."

Guidelines issued for eateries, cafes, malls

Entry of consumers in batches, wearing masks, two-metre distance between shoppers, sterilisation of shopping carts are to be ensured, said the ministry



coronavirus (COVID-19).

The ministry confirmed that the procedures include organising the process of entry of consumers in batches, wearing masks, maintaining a safe distance (two metres) between one consumer and another at the accounting corner, sterilising shopping carts and roofs, and providing sterilisers to consumers.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion indicated for the safety of consumers, these measures must be adhered to limit the transmission of infection, and to avoid shopping during the peak hours, which is usually between 7pm and 10 pm.

The Ministry also called on consumers to take advantage of the online shopping options provided

by many of the shops and restaurants, stressing that in light of the spread of the "COVID-19" virus all over the world, many resort to using home delivery, to avoid mixing in places crowded with shoppers.

The Ministry also calls on the owners of the commercial centres and restaurants to ensure that workers in the field of home delivery service should follow the necessary preventive measures in order to ensure their safety and the safety of homeowners.

MoCIIP affirmed that all workers must, while providing the service, maintain the cleanliness of the general appearance and fully adhere to the health rules in personal hygiene and hand washing, in addition to that, commitment to wearing a mask and using gloves.

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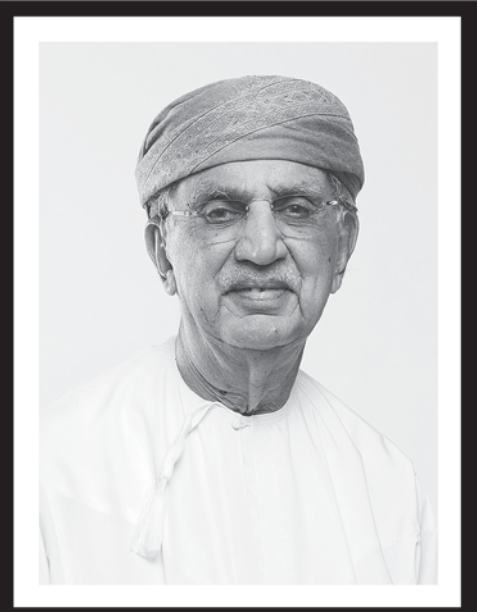


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CONDOLENCES



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DISNEY CONSERVATION FUND

ESO awarded grant to protect Oman's Vultures

MUSCAT: The Environment Society of Oman (ESO) has been awarded a grant by the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) for its work to protect Oman's Vultures.

During its 25th anniversary year, the Disney Conservation Fund is proud to continue providing critical support to community-led conservation efforts globally. The fund has been supporting local efforts around the world aimed at saving wildlife, inspiring action and protecting the planet with more than \$100 million distributed to non-profit organisations since 1995.

The Sultanate is a stronghold for a number of raptor species whose declining populations are a cause for concern, including the Egyptian Vulture, the Steppe Eagle and the Lappet-faced Vulture. The fund will support field efforts to survey and monitor the breeding of both Egyptian and Lappet-face vultures, but also include assessing their numbers



at dumpsites, electrocution risk assessment and tracking via satellite. In addition, the project will also undertake advocacy, education, and outreach campaigns about raptors, specifically vultures, in Oman. Initial field work

will commence in February 2021 in Muscat and surrounding areas, as well as the Island of Masirah.

Maia Sarrouf Willson, Research & Conservation Manager at the Environment Society of Oman, said, "Vultures often suf-

fer from negative perceptions yet they play an extremely valuable role in our ecosystem as nature's waste managers. With support from the Disney Conservation Fund we will be able to understand these endangered species better, share our findings with the conservation community and the wider public, and help us raise awareness of the true value of these species, not just to Oman, but all over the world."

DCF grant recipients are selected based on their efforts to implement comprehensive community wildlife conservation programmes, stabilise and increase populations of at-risk animals and engage communities in conservation in critical ecosystems around the world.

For information on Disney's commitment to conserve nature and a complete list of grant recipients, visit www.disney.com/conservation.

PRAISES OMAN

Oman an important partner: McKenzie



MUSCAT: Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, Commander of the United States Central Command lauded efforts of the Sultanate's government under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to upgrade the military sector.

In an interview with Oman News Agency (ONA), the US military official affirmed that that Sultanate is a strategically important partner for his country to maintain regional security.

Gen. Kenneth McKenzie explained that the Omani-US relationship is one of the oldest as it goes back hundreds of years, reaffirming his country's keenness to promote this relationship in various areas.

He added that during his visit, he toured Khasab Air Base and Musandam Naval Base, in addition to meeting with many defence officials in the Sultanate to discuss different military topics of common concern. -ONA

WADI KABIR INDUSTRIAL AREA

< FROM A1 Authorities must work together to monitor industrial zones

Meanwhile, Salim Al Ghamari, a Municipal Council Member for the Wilayat of Muttrah, of which Wadi Kabir is a part, said industrial areas need to be properly planned, in terms of how operations set up within impact the people and environment in the surrounding areas.

With Wadi Kabir Industrial Area home to a number of workshops such as automobile repair shops, carpenters, steel fabrication units and plastic factories that deal with a number of hazardous, toxic and flammable materials, such enterprises must only be

allowed to open under the strictest supervision, ensuring all safety measures to prevent accidents are taken. "Each party is responsible for the recent fire...no one can evade their responsibilities here," he said. "Serious and diligent work is required from all parties involved to come up with a proper plan that can be implemented on-ground. Some storage areas and workshops, such as those that use oils, incendiary materials and hazardous items must be moved."

"The competent authorities, such as the Environment Author-

ity, Muscat Municipality, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance, and the Capital Markets Authority must all work together to monitor industrial zones, which each body responsible for carrying out its area of specialisation," he added.

Al Ghamari went on to say that the workshops within had been arranged in a haphazard manner, with little consideration given to the safe use, storage and transportation of flammable goods. Scrap

metal and other items allocated for repurposing are also stored improperly, he added, and this needs to change.

He added: "I don't, however, encourage moving the entire industrial zone to another area, because every place needs a small industrial area to meet the needs of its residents, when it comes to day-to-day matters such as changing car tyres, repairing vehicles, ordering goods from a carpenter, maintenance and repair of tools, but all of these need to be tightly organised by the relevant authori-

ties, who need to supervise such areas in a proper manner, making sure the workers within comply with health, technical, legal, and safety requirements."

"All of the parties involved in operating and running these facilities must be part of a thorough study to properly organise industrial planning," Al Ghamari said. "What happened in Wadi Kabir last Thursday was because of poor planning, organisation, and negligence over safety requirements and standards."

"Now that this has happened, all

establishments in industrial zones in Muscat and the other governorates must be insured against disasters and fires, and workers must receive compulsory insurance from the Capital Market Authority," he said.

"For the last nine years, we have also asked for the transfer of metal workshops in Muttrah Souq and other residential areas, to Wadi Kabir Industrial Area, so that fires and other accidents that begin there, do not affect the people who live in these places," Al Ghamari further said.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COVID cases 139,362

MUSCAT: The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Sultanate reached 139,362 while the number of recoveries stood at 130,653, comprising 94 percent. Meanwhile, the total num-

ber of COVID-19 related death cases stood at 1,552, the Ministry of Health said. The Ministry also pointed out that 20 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours. -ONA



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**OMAN
CRICKET
CLUB (OCC)**

**Invitation to attend the General Body
Meeting of the Club for the years
2020 & 2021.**

The Board of Management of the Oman Cricket Club (OCC) wish to inform that Annual General Meeting of the Club for the years 2020 & 2021 scheduled on 28th February 2021 is postponed and now it will be held on Tuesday 30th March 2021 at Al Falaj Hotel, commencing at 7:00 pm. All Members wishing to attend this meeting and whose membership may have expired are requested to proceed with renewal of the membership with effect from the date of this announcement. The last date for renewal of membership is Wednesday 24th March 2021 before 5:00 pm.

As per Article No. 29 of the Statute of the Sports Clubs No.124/2008, the meeting will be considered valid in the presence of an absolute majority of members of the club who are entitled to attend (half + one). If the required number of members are unavailable at 7:30 pm the meeting could be postponed to another date within 15 days from the date of the first meeting, or be held on the same day at 8:00 pm.

The second meeting held on the same day will be considered valid in the presence of (quarter) of working members. Agenda will be available at OCC office before 7 days of scheduled meeting.

**Secretary of the Club
Chairman of the Board of Directors**



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EXCHANGE VIEWS

Al Nu'mani meets top US commander, reviews historic ties



MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohamed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, Commander of the United States Central Command and his accompanying delegation in his office on Sunday.

The guest expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Sultanate for promoting the existing cooperation with the friendly United States of America (USA).

The two sides reviewed the strong historic relations binding the two friendly countries in various spheres to achieve the joint interests. They also reviewed a range of current regional and international issues. The two sides also touched on matters of common concern.

Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence received in

Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, Commander of the United States Central Command and his accompanying delegation.

They reviewed a range of views on several topics of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the US Ambassador to the Sultanate and the Military Attaché at the US Embassy in Muscat. Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al

Ra'eisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces also met Gen. Kenneth McKenzie. The two sides exchanged views and discussed matters of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Manthri, Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning, the US Ambassador to the Sultanate and the Military Attaché of the US Embassy in Muscat. -ONA

SKYTRAX

Muscat Airport awarded for COVID-19 safety measures

MUSCAT: Muscat International Airport has received 4 star rating by Skytrax in implementing health and safety measures to curb the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the airport environment.

It ranked high among Middle East and Asia airports. The accomplishments caps concerted efforts exerted by Muscat International Airport since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The announcement sums up a rigorous review through which Skytrax assessed the effectiveness and firmness of safety and sterilisation measures applied by world airports, right from the point where a passenger is registered upon arrival to the moment of departure.



Oman Airports

The accomplishment reflects the efforts undertaken by Oman Airports Company to provide the best safety services to passengers, thanks to the company's long standing history of applying top standards of health and safety in airports in line with national efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Saud Nassir Al-Hubeishi, Deputy CEO of Muscat International Airport, expressed his delight at the airport's realising such a high rating.

He pointed out that, besides commitment to professional

procedures in implementing COVID-19 control policies, the achievement also reflects the level of cooperation with the departments concerned amid circumstances posed by the pandemic.

Skytrax evaluation is based on testing the standards of personal

protection equipment among department staff and their commitment to the procedures.

This is in addition to applying temperature measurement, wearing of face masks, general hygiene and sanitation in all airport lounges. -ONA

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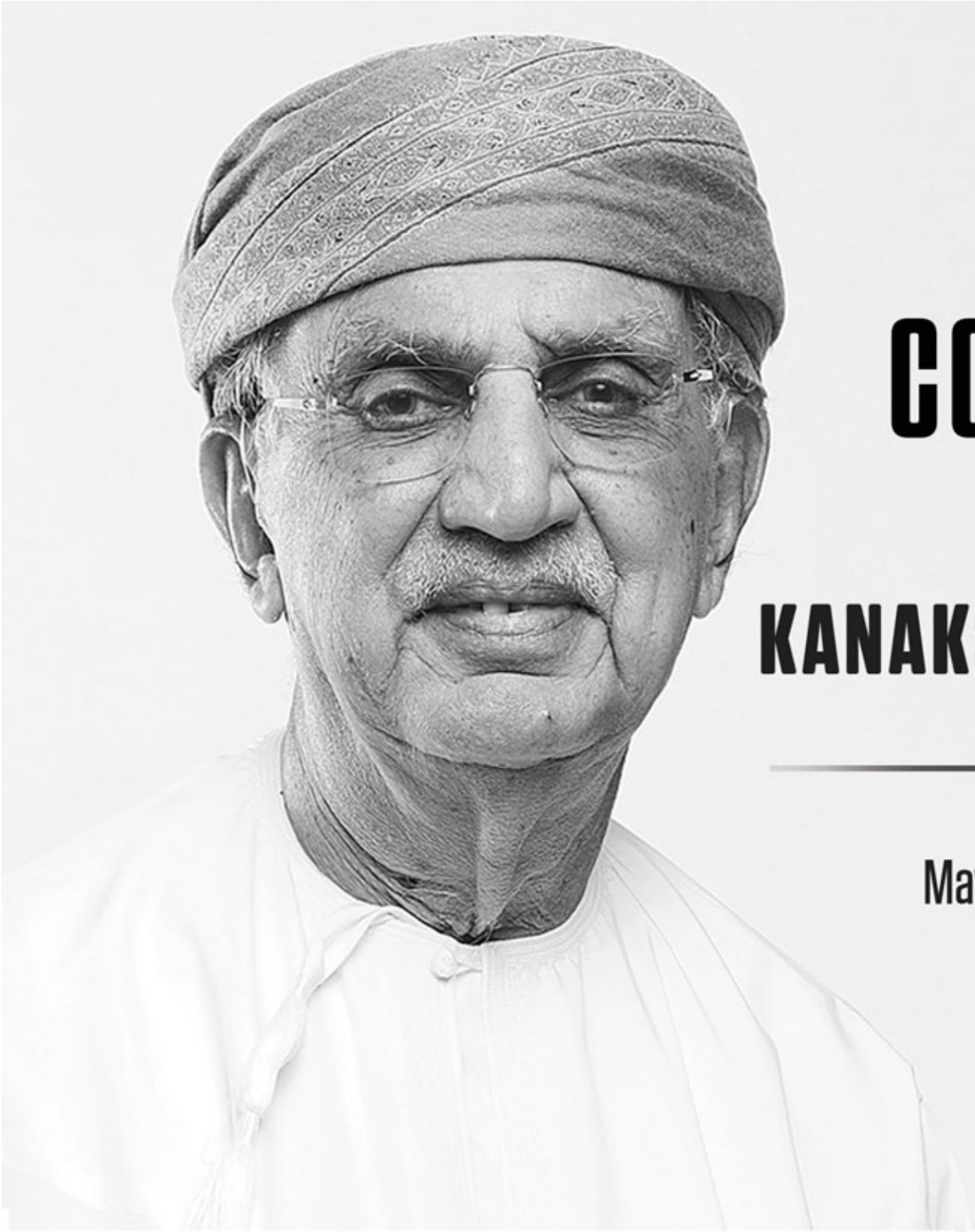
**Ministry of Defence**

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY OF LUMBER AND PLYWOOD FOR ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN	06/2021	02/03/2021	09/03/2021	142 RO
MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FOR LIFE RAFTS FOR ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN	07/2021	02/03/2021	09/03/2021	150 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.



CONDOLENCES

KANAKSI GOKALDAS KHIMJI

1936-2021

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CONDOLENCES

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DEPORTED

US deports 95-year-old former Nazi concentration camp guard



WASHINGTON: A 95-year-old Tennessee resident, who worked as a guard at a Nazi concentration camp during World War II, has been deported back to Germany, the US Justice Department.

CNN quoted the Justice Department as saying on Friday that Friedrich Karl Berger, a 95-year-old German citizen, was ordered removed from the US in February 2020, when a US immigration judge determined his “willing service” as a guard of concentration camp prisoners “constituted assistance in Nazi-sponsored persecution”. The court further said, “In February 2020, Friedrich Karl Berger, 95, was ordered removed from the US-based on his participation in Nazi-sponsored persecution while serving in Nazi Germany in 1945 as an armed guard of concentration camp prisoners in the Neuengamme Concentration Camp system (Neuengamme).”

He has been removed from the US under the Holtzman Amendment that prohibits people who participated in the Nazi persecution from living in the US. CNN reported that Berger’s trial found he had worked as an armed guard at a Neuengamme sub-camp near Meppen, Germany, in 1945.

The court further found, and Berger admitted, that he guarded prisoners to prevent them from escaping. **ANI**



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EMERGENCY LANDING

United Airlines jet debris rains on US suburb

WASHINGTON: Debris from a United Airlines passenger plane fell onto a suburb of US city Denver, during an emergency landing Saturday.

The Boeing 777-200 was carrying 231 passengers and 10 crew when its right engine experienced failure shortly after take-off, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

The plane made it back to Denver International Airport while scattering debris across Broomfield, a residential neighborhood about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of the city.



The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will investigate what happened on Flight 328 that was en route to Honolulu.

Not a freak accident

Meanwhile, a similar incident, also involving a Boeing plane, took place on Saturday in the Netherlands. Shortly after take-off from Maastricht Aachen Airport, a fire broke out in one of the plane’s four engines, again causing debris to fall from the sky.

Several pieces of metal fell to the ground over Meerssen, a district in the north of Dutch city Maastricht.

Two people were injured: An elderly woman was hit in the head and had to be treated in hospital, police said. A child was also reportedly slightly injured and suffered burns. **nw**

Where the debris fell

The Broomfield Police Department posted photos on Twitter showing large, circular pieces of debris leaning against a house in the suburb. The images also showed debris scattered across sports field Commons Park.

“If you find debris PLEASE don’t touch it or move it. The @NTSB wants all debris to remain in place for investigation,” the Broomfield police department said on Twitter.

“We are beyond grateful that no one was injured,” added the police force.



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The management and members of Havas Muscat would like to extend our deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to the family of

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1936 – 2021

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WORLD



ANTI-COUP PROTESTS

UN chief Guterres slams 'deadly violence' in Myanmar

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke out against the “use of deadly violence in Myanmar,” in a tweet early on Sunday. He commented after security forces in Myanmar fired live rounds, tear gas and rubber bullets at anti-coup protesters in the country’s second-largest city, Mandalay.

At least two people were killed, emergency workers said.

The country has seen over two weeks of protests after the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1.

"The use of lethal force, intimidation and harassment against peaceful demonstrators is unacceptable. Everyone has a right to peaceful assembly," the UN chief said. "I call on all parties to respect election results and return to civilian rule," Guterres added.



What happened in Myanmar on Saturday

More than 1,000 people joined Saturday's protest in Mandalay.

They marched to commemorate a 20-year-old woman who died after being shot by police at a demonstration on February 9 in Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw.

About 30 others were injured in the violence near a shipyard, Hlaing Min Oo, the head of a Manda-

lay-based volunteer emergency rescue team said. Around half of them were shot with live rounds.

The protesters in Mandalay and Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, carried flowers and banners with photos of Mya Thwet Thwet Khine, who was confirmed dead on Friday after spending a week on life support in a hospital.

Some other protesters on Saturday held signs that read "CDM,"

in reference to the civil disobedience movement which workers in several industries have recently joined.

Police crack down on protests

Security forces around Myanmar have used tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets to disperse protesters since the anti-coup rallies began earlier this month. **DW**

CONDOLANCES

WE DEEPLY MOURN THE SAD DEMISE OF



KANAKSI GOKALDAS KHMJI

We convey our heartfelt condolences to
the family and pray to the Almighty to bestow strength
& courage to bear this irreparable loss



GULABSINH MULJI JESRANI & FAMILY
HEMANT & TUSHAR

Our Deepest Condolences

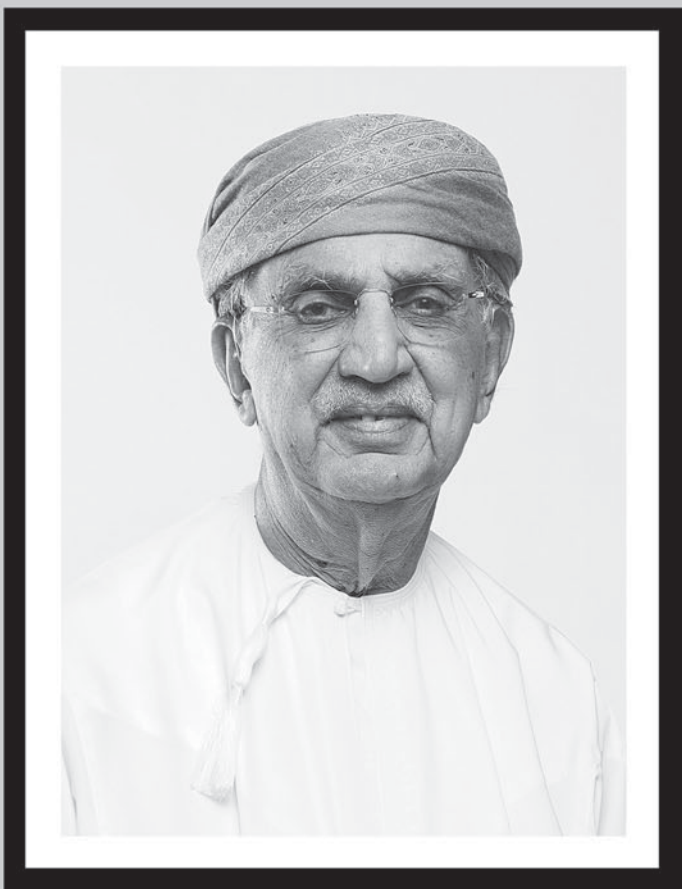


Dar Al Atta'a mourns the loss of Kanaksi Khimji

We extend our deepest
condolences to his family
Praying that the Lord Almighty
rests his soul in peace
and aid his family in this
challenging time



CONDOLENCES



**Management and the Staff offer their
Condolences
on the sad demise of**

SHRI KANAKSI GOKALDAS KHIMJI

**We express our deepest, heartfelt
condolences to
the bereaved family on this sad loss.**

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace

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ASIAN LE MANS SERIES

Ahmad Al Harthy misses ALMS podium in season finale

Times News Service

ABU DHABI: Excellent pace, first class race-craft and an all-round great performance ensured Ahmad Al Harthy and Oman Racing wrapped-up the 2021 Asian Le Mans Series with a season-best fourth place GT Class finish during an exciting final race of the campaign in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, February 20.

As during Friday's third round at Yas Marina Circuit, Al Harthy and team-mates Tom Canning and Jonny Adam were in contention for a dream podium result and ultimately just missed out, after four hours of incredible action, by a mere 3.5 seconds.

Even so, the top four result was a fantastic way for Oman Racing to conclude its maiden campaign in the ultra-competitive Asian Le Mans Series and gives Al Harthy a major boost at the beginning of the 2021 motor racing year.

"We really tried to capitalise on everything possible and we knew everyone was on different strat-



MISSING OUT: During Friday's third round at Yas Marina Circuit, Al Harthy and team-mates Tom Canning and Jonny Adam were in contention for a dream podium result and ultimately just missed out.

egies, P4 was the maximum we could get out of the car and we're happy with it", said Oman's number one racing driver, "It's great to end the series with our strongest

drives, both in Friday's race and the finale on Saturday.

"My stint was very good again. I had a good amount of clean, uninterrupted racing which was great

for me and we pushed as hard as we could. It's great for us to have been so very close to the podium in the final ALMS race and it's always an honour and pleasure for

me to represent Oman in these big international championships. We look forward to continuing to do that!"

Starting the season finale from eighth on the GT class grid, Canning took the first stint of the race and maintained position early on before moving up into seventh place. Into the top six with around 10 minutes elapsed, the Safety Car then appeared moments later due to an incident.

Racing resumed after another 10 minutes or so, with Canning holding sixth, but at the half-hour mark the Safety Car was required again after a heavy accident involving two cars.

Teams took the opportunity to serve pit-stops during the lengthy second cautionary period and when all had shaken out, Canning was up into third in class and the outright top 10.

Just after the end of the opening hour the competitors were unleashed again and Canning climbed into second in GT ahead of a Full Course Yellow period 80

minutes into the race. The young Briton then pitted shortly after to hand over the No.97 Aston Martin Vantage GT3 to Al Harthy.

Running fifth in class when everything settled, the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, National Bank of Oman, Omantel and Barr Al Jissah supported driver took fourth around 25 minutes into his stint and then moved into the podium placings a couple of laps later.

Driving faultlessly as the race reached the halfway point and dusk began to set-in, Al Harthy was still third and running brilliantly. Soon climbing into second in GT, Al Harthy took the class lead with one hour and 45 minutes to go when the McLaren 720S ahead pitted.

Circulating a couple of seconds clear of the No.99 Porsche 911, the Omani reeled off lap after lap without putting a wheel wrong and with just 90 minutes to run he was still inside the overall top 10 and well over 40 seconds clear of his closest class rival.

Djokovic defeats Medvedev to win 9th Australian Open title

Djokovic came out all guns blazing and it seemed as if he did not want to waste time in winning



MELBOURNE: World-number one Novak Djokovic on Sunday defeated Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in the finals of the Australian Open 2021 at the Rod

Laver Arena to clinch his 9th Australian title.

This is the 18th Grand Slam win for the Serbian player. The Serbian Djokovic came out all guns

blazing and it seemed as if he did not want to waste time in winning his 18th Grand Slam, but Medvedev eventually came back and the set was tied at 5-5. However, in the

end, Djokovic showed his class to win the first set 7-5 in about 42 minutes.

The 33-year-old Djokovic made light work of Medvedev in the second set and the Serbian won the second set with ease and as a result, he was just one more set away from winning his ninth Australian Open title.

Djokovic had no trouble in winning the third set as well and with this, the Serbian ended up winning the match in straight sets.

Earlier, Djokovic had defeated Aslan Karatsev in the semi-finals while Medvedev had out-classed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semi-finals.

-ANI

FOOTBALL

Everton beat Liverpool to register first win at Anfield in 22 years

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's dismal run in the Premier League continued as they suffered a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Everton here on Saturday.

It was Everton's first Premier League win at Anfield since 1999 and the victory powered them to go level on points with the Jurgen Klopp's side. Whereas, it was Liverpool's fourth consecutive defeat in the Premier League.

During the match, Richarlison put Everton ahead after just three minutes, latching on to James Rodriguez's through-ball before firing past Alisson.

Jordan Henderson's volley forced a fingertip save from Jordan Pickford before Alisson denied Seamus Coleman's header. Henderson then limped off to deepen Liverpool's injury woes in defence.

Liverpool started the second half brightly but Pickford thwarted



Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah's efforts. In the 83rd minute, Gylfi Sigurdsson converted a penalty after fellow substitute Dominic-Calvert Lewin had been fouled by Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Everton are seventh on the Premier League table with 40 points, below Liverpool on goal difference but having played a match fewer. ANI

T20I SERIES

Suryakumar, Ishan, Tewatia earn maiden call-up for T20Is

MUMBAI: Flamboyant batters Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan along with all-rounder Rahul Tewatia have earned maiden call-ups for India for the upcoming T20I series against England.

The All-India Senior Selection Committee met on Saturday to pick the squad for the upcoming five-match T20I series against England to be played at the Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera in Ahmedabad. The trio have been benefitted from their performances in the latest edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Kishan topped the chart for Mumbai Indians by accumulating 516 runs in 14 games including four fifties while Yadav scored 480 runs in 16 games for the champion side.

While all-rounder Tewatia amassed 255 runs and scalped 10 wickets in 14 games for Rajasthan Royals.

Earlier in the day, Kishan's 173-run knock helped Jharkhand to post the highest team score in the history of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The side achieved the feat in the match against Madhya Pradesh in Indore. Kishan-led Jharkhand posted a total of 422/9 in the allotted fifty overs.

Kishan put on a sensational batting performance against Madhya Pradesh, smashing 173 runs in just 94 balls studded with 11 sixes in the Elite Group B match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Ishan whacked five sixes and 12 fours to bring up 102 runs in just 74 balls before unleashing the beast within himself. ANI

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BITCOIN'S MARKET VALUE

The total number of cryptocurrency bitcoin trading is now collectively worth more than one trillion dollars (about Rs 72.73 lakh crore). CNN reports that the price of a bitcoin hit a number of new all-time highs on Friday.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,565.96 points, up 0.010 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.49 per cent at 539.28 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cable down 4.19 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's 4th quarter 2020 inflation falls



NCSI REPORT: Among the oil and gas group, the price index of crude oil and natural gas declined by 29.9 per cent, refined oil products fell by 18.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to the same period of 2019. - File picture

The price index of oil and gas products dropped by 28.3 per cent whereas those of non-oil products rose by 4.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's producer price index (PPI) based inflation fell by 22.9 per cent in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2020, compared to the same period of the previous year due to a fall in oil and gas prices, according to the latest statistics released by the

National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The price index of oil and gas products dropped by 28.3 per cent whereas those of non-oil products rose by 4.3 per cent in the 4th quarter of 2020, compared to the same period of 2019.

Among the oil and gas group, the price index of crude oil and natural gas declined by 29.9 per cent, refined oil products fell by 18.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to the same period of 2019.

In the non-oil group, the price index of the manufacturing group rose by 4.3 per cent.

Among different sub-groups in the manufacturing sector, the price index of most of the product groups fell at varying degrees.

The PPI of metal products, machinery and equipment declined by 0.9 per cent whereas those of transportable goods rose by 10.2 per cent and the food, beverages and textiles products group rose by 4.6 per cent as well.

In those of food, beverages and

textiles products group, the price index of fish, fruits, vegetables and oils increased by 9.0 per cent, beverages by 13.4 per cent and clothing, textiles and footwear by 4.4 per cent, the NCSI report added.

The price index of paints and pharmaceutical products fell by 2.5 per cent, wood and paper by 0.6 per cent, furniture products, jewellery and anti-melted metal waste by 0.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, the prices of chemical products rose by 28.5 per cent, glass, cement and marble products by 0.7 per cent.

The price index of metal products, machinery and equipment in the fourth quarter of 2020 declined by 0.9 per cent, compared to the same period of 2019. - ONA

ATTRACTING NEW INVESTMENTS

Effects of cost-reflective electricity tariff on local industries discussed



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The effects of applying cost-reflective electricity tariff on local industries and to find a mechanism to attract new investments to the industrial sector in Oman were discussed at a major workshop on Sunday.

The meeting came out with a number of recommendations to look into factories that consume more electricity, measure the damage to them and to create an incentive mechanism for them to continue. A working group will be formed with all parties concerned for the implementation of the said recommendations as the industrial sector is one of the most important sectors that promote economic diversification in Oman according to Oman 2040 Vision.

Besides, the working group will be inviting industrialists and businessmen to discuss their challenges with direct officials in the electricity sector.

The Public Services Regulatory Authority will consider lowering the consumption ceiling for factories to which the tariff-reversal is applied from 150MW to 100MW, to reduce the number of factories to which the new cost is applied, Engineer Sami bin Salem Al-Saheb, Director General of Industry at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion, said.

He further said that the Working Group will comprise of officials from the Director-General of Industry at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Investment Promotion, the CEO of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), the CEO of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the General Director of Sub-

scriber Affairs of the General Services Regulatory Authority.

The joint team will look into the previously mentioned recommendations and studying them to come up with a common vision within the next few months.

The key workshop was held to discuss the challenges facing the industrial sector in the Sultanate.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry and Investment Promotion seeks to build on the outputs of the Industrial Strategy 2040 within the tenth five-year plan 2021-2025, with a special focus on improving the energy efficiency of local industries so that they can compete in regional and international markets.

The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Investment Promotion in cooperation with the Public Services Regulatory Authority, the Omani Industrialists Association and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

It should be noted that the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion continues to support and support the existing industrial establishments by facilitating the process of purchasing their products in cooperation with the relevant authorities, according to specific criteria, the most important of which is their conformity with the specifications of the authorities concerned and the availability of the required quality.

In addition, the ministry is studying new industrial investment opportunities and attracting investors to enable these opportunities to become a tangible reality, as the manufacturing industries play an important role in providing long-term jobs for the national workforce.

GULFOOD 2021

Madayn to identify new markets at Dubai trade show

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn began its participation at one of the world's largest annual food and beverage trade shows - Gulfood 2021, which kicked off on Sunday at Dubai World Trade Centre in the United Arab Emirates.

The five-day event is witnessing the participation of 2,500 companies representing the food and beverage industry from various countries worldwide.

Hamood bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director of Omani Products Department at Madayn commented that Madayn is participating at Gulfood for the ninth consecutive year given the significance of being present at such a global platform to promote Omani products and explore new markets for these products.

"Gulfood presents an ideal opportunity for the Omani food industries to feature their high-quality products to visitors from different countries. Madayn aims through the exhibition to disseminate awareness on the objectives of 'Made in Oman' campaign outside the Sultanate, identify new markets and business opportunities, and attract new consumers

regionally and internationally," Al Balushi pointed out.

Various Omani companies and factories are taking part at Gulfood 2021 under Madayn's umbrella, which includes Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, Oman Foodstuff Factory, Omani Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, Al Joudah Food Tech Lab, Dhofar Poultry Company, Pragati Glass, and Industrial Innovation Centre.

Through Gulfood 2021, the Omani companies aim at enhancing the presence of their products in various markets and get familiarised with the latest products, trends and technologies in the food and beverage industry.

The participating companies also look forward to exploring new business deals to expand their businesses overseas.

It should be noted that Gulfood 2021 is being held while adhering to all rules and regulations in coordination with the Dubai Health Authority and Dubai Municipality to ensure the health and safety of the visitors and participants. According to the organisers, the event is being delivered with strict standards of health and safety precautionary measures including social distancing, contactless transactions and hygiene protocols at all times.

BANKING PARTNER

Bank Nizwa's Wholesale Banking posts remarkable double-digit growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: R. Narasimhan the General Manager - Wholesale Banking of Bank Nizwa speaks about the bank's significant role in developing and growing the banking industry and its wholesale banking division.

How was the year 2020 for the wholesale banking division? What key things stood out in terms of business opportunities?

Bank Nizwa has always strived to be the financial partner of choice for the people and enterprises of Oman. Our values of being driven, principled, innovative and helpful are the pillars of our approach in providing a diverse set of products and services.

Performing this consistently is a proud achievement and thanks to our customers and stakeholders, our impressive financial results rightfully manifest our leading and most trusted position within Oman's Islamic banking sector. Ever since inception, we have been committed to providing Sharia-compliant innovative financial solutions, to offer customers a unique banking experience in line with their evolving needs.

Despite a multitude of challenges, including those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Wholesale Banking recorded a remarkable double-digit growth



R. Narasimhan, the General Manager - Wholesale Banking of Bank Nizwa — Supplied picture

during the year in volume weather assets, deposits and trade finance as well as contributed significantly to the income and bottom line of the bank.

Key attribution to this was the tireless efforts put in by our staff in upholding our clients' trust, delivering the right Sharia-compliant products and services. We structured our business segments early to align with key markets and adopted a universal banking approach with close coordination and interactions with many sec-

tions of the bank.

Diversification into various industries with a focus on important economic sectors and moving away from sensitive sectors such as real estate, stock market and commodities was also a key part of the growth achievement.

The growing, multi-industry portfolio is a testament to the trust clients place in our Sharia-compliant products and services.

Noteworthy involvements in the economy were made including closing several landmark deals

Diversification into various industries with a focus on important economic sectors and moving away from sensitive sectors such as real estate, stock market and commodities was also a key part of the growth achievement

with key clients. Going forward, harnessing the strength and resources of all stakeholders, internally and externally, towards a unified focus in enhancing market share, client experience and service quality shall be the main drivers. The Wholesale Banking Group endeavours to continue redefining the way we do business by enhancing capabilities and focus to meet diverse business needs towards national Vision 2040 aspirations.

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Sharqiyah Desalination, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cable down 4.19 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,565.96 points, up 0.010 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.49 per cent at 539.28 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cable down 4.19 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while also was most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 407 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.6 million, with more than 8.72 million shares changing hands.

Out of 36 traded stocks, 7 advanced, 12 declined and 17 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR599,000 while foreign

investors were net buyers for OMR395,000 followed by local investors for OMR203,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,335.34 points, up by 0.06 per cent. Madina Takaful was up by 1.16 per cent. Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank, and Bank Muscat were down by 1.33 per cent, 1.32 per cent, and 0.5 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,621.63 points, down 0.28 per cent. Raysut Cement was up by 3.33 per cent. Oman Cable, Galfar Engineering, Aluminium Product, Jazeera Steel and Oman Cement were down by 4.19 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.33 per cent, 0.47 per cent and 0.36 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.11 per cent before closing at 1,556.59 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM000000418..... RAYSUT CEMENT	142,060	43,998	27	0.308	0.312	0.308	0.310	0.300	0.010	3.333	0.308	0.306	0.312	0.100	62,000,000
OM0000001087..... OMAN UNITED INSUR.	16,000	6,316	2	0.396	0.396	0.394	0.394	0.384	0.010	2.604	0.394	0.384	0.420	0.100	39,400,000
OM0000003026..... OMAN TELECOM	19,900	15,171	8	0.752	0.764	0.752	0.764	0.756	0.008	1.058	0.764	0.764	0.764	0.100	573,000,000
OM0000001533..... OMNIVEST	50,256	16,942	4	0.324	0.324	0.320	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.324	0.320	0.320	0.100	261,718,235
OM0000001772..... ALANWAR INVESTMENT	21,250	1,403	3	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.062	0.066	0.100	13,200,000
OM0000002077..... AL OMANIYA FIN.	10,000	700	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	20,435,462
OM0000003968..... OOREDOO	1,000	398	2	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.402	0.402	0.000	0.000	0.398	0.398	0.400	0.100	261,679,580
OM0000001749..... OMAN CEMENT	10,000	2,740	1	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.275	-0.001	-0.364	0.274	0.267	0.275	0.100	90,659,123
OM0000002176..... JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	18,300	3,873	6	0.212	0.213	0.211	0.212	0.213	-0.001	-0.469	0.211	0.208	0.212	0.100	26,478,368
OM0000002796..... BANK MUSCAT	1,513,499	602,373	59	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.400	-0.002	-0.500	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.100	1,293,309,971
OM0000001160..... NATIONAL GAS	10,100	1,404	2	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.140	-0.001	-0.714	0.139	0.132	0.139	0.100	11,615,000
OM0000003398..... SOHAR INT. BANK	131,012	9,840	6	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.816	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	182,588,005
OM0000002440..... AL SHARQIA INV.	239,500	17,767	8	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.333	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000001525..... OMAN INVST&FIN.	98,118	7,948	8	0.080	0.084	0.080	0.081	0.083	-0.002	-2.410	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	16,200,000
Total.....	2,280,995	730,172	137												
Parallel Market															
OM0000004669..... SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	158,000	22,185	19	0.137	0.145	0.137	0.140	0.135	0.005	3.704	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.100	13,692,302
OM0000002226..... ALJAZEERA SERVICES	346,900	110,778	24	0.310	0.320	0.310	0.320	0.310	0.010	3.228	0.316	0.316	0.328	0.100	19,585,367
OM0000004925..... ALBATINAH POWER	759,400	37,970	29	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.047	0.051	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000004788..... MADINA TAKAFUL	753,000	65,472	15	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.086	0.086	0.089	0.100	15,225,000
OM0000001400..... OMAN FLOUR MILLS	11,500	7,990	3	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.000	0.000	0.690	0.648	0.690	0.100	103,950,000
OM0000001483..... NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,000	290	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.131	0.131	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.100	212,998,973
OM0000001517..... HSBC BANK OMAN	53,000	4,349	3	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.085	0.082	0.100	164,025,649
OM0000002168..... AL ANWAR CERAMIC	484,348	152,085	10	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.000	0.000	0.314	0.314	0.328	0.100	93,011,096
OM0000002200..... AHLI BANK	4,583	467	3	0.103	0.103	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	166,615,404
OM0000002275..... SHELL OMAN MRK	160	137	4	0.860	0.860	0.856	0.860	0.860	0.000	0.000	0.856	0.856	0.860	0.100	81,700,000
OM0000002374..... UNITED FINANCE	19,706	729	2	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.038	0.038	0.100	12,919,343
OM0000002549..... BANK DHOFAR	98,000	10,094	2	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.100	0.105	0.100	308,624,198
OM0000003000..... AL MAHA MARKTING	640	375	4	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.000	0.000	0.586	0.576	0.586	0.100	40,434,000
OM0000004420..... BANK NIZWA	547,637	53,668	13	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	147,000,000
OM0000004933..... AL SUWADI POWER	687,336	35,054	21	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000007043..... NATIONAL LIFE INS	51,500	20,085	5	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.402	0.100	103,350,000
OM0000007084..... MCT DESALINATE	200	18	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.085	0.090	0.100	13,996,000
OM0000001319..... ALUMINIUM PROD.	321,227	25,653	36	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.255	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	2,685,716
OM0000003821..... GALFAR ENGINEER	470,000	22,610	28	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	13,919,071
OM0000004248..... SMN POWER HOLDING	5,500	347	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.065	-0.002	-3.077	0.063	0.063	0.065	0.100	12,577,043
OM0000005963..... PHOENIX POWER	1,054,487	49,581	40	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.049	-0.002	-4.082	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.100	68,742,269
OM0000001707..... OMAN CABLES INDSTR	612,000	252,144	6	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.430	-0.018	-4.186	0.412	0.410	0.424	0.100	36,956,400
Total.....	6,441,124	871,651	270												

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

IATA's Chief Economist Brian Pearce to retire

GENEVA: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said that its Chief Economist Brian Pearce will retire from the organisation in July 2021.

A recruitment process has been launched to find a successor in time for a smooth transition.

Pearce joined IATA in 2004. Since then, he has built IATA's evidence-based economic analysis capabilities into the most authoritative source of insight on

aviation's global performance. He also serves on the association's strategic leadership team.

Powerful tools

"Brian has been an amazing asset for IATA and the entire industry. His team's research and analysis have been powerful tools impacting how governments develop policies to realise the economic and social benefits of a successful aviation sector," said Alexandre

de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO.

Pearce is also a visiting professor at Cranfield University's department of air transport and has been on panels of expert advisers for the UK Airports Commission, the UK Department for Transport and the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

IATA represents some 290 airlines comprising 82 per cent of global air traffic. —ANI

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Bitcoin's market value tops \$1 trillion

NEW YORK: The total number of cryptocurrency bitcoin trading is now collectively worth more than one trillion dollars (about Rs 72.73 lakh crore).

CNN reports that the price of a bitcoin hit a number of new all-time highs. One bitcoin currently costs around \$55,000 and there are about 18.6 million bitcoins in circulation, according to Coinbase.

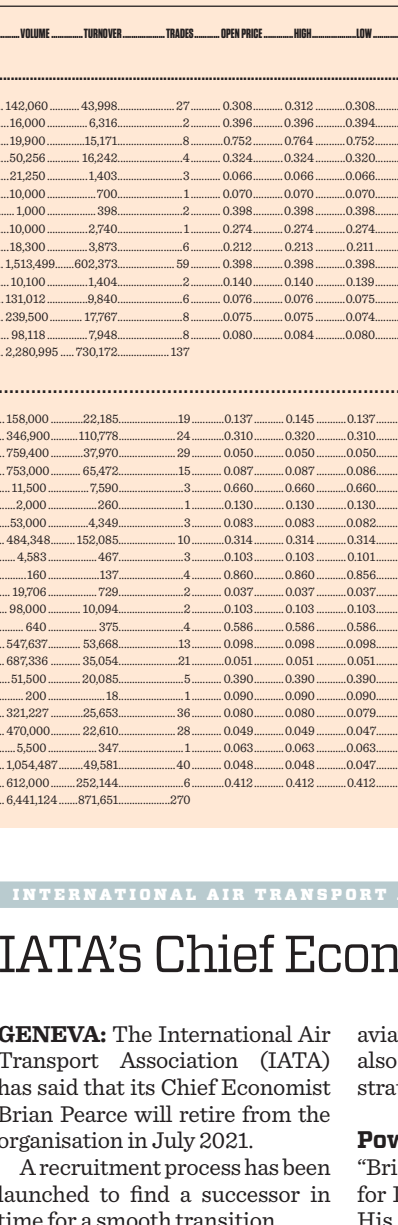
Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency created in 2009 by an unknown person using the alias Satoshi Nakamoto. Transactions are anonymous and are made with no brokers or intermediaries.

One cannot physically use bitcoin as it is a digital currency. And it is decentralised, meaning that it is not controlled by a bank or government. CNN said bitcoin prices have surged more than 80 per cent so far this year, and investors are enthusiastically scooping up other cryptocurrencies as well. Ethereum, the world's second-largest cryptocurrency with a total value of 220 billion dollars, has more than doubled this year. According to CNN, corporate America is validating bitcoin. Payments giants Square and PayPal let their users buy and sell it. Credit card processing behemoths Visa and Mastercard are also embracing cryptocurrencies. —ANI



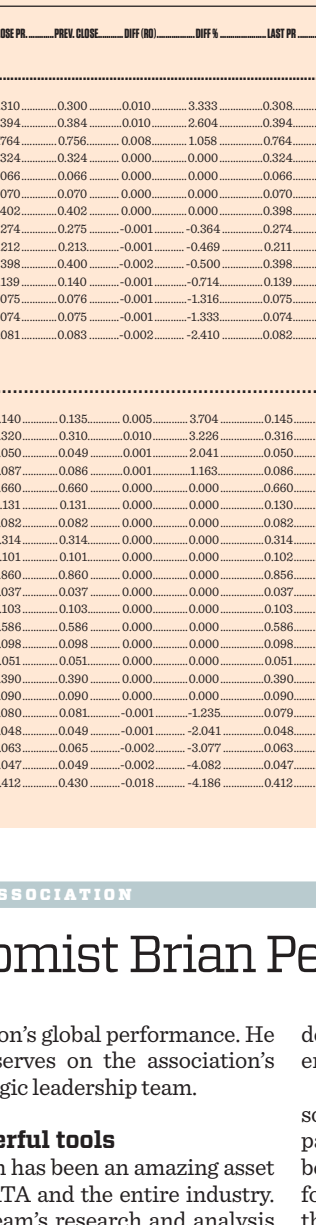
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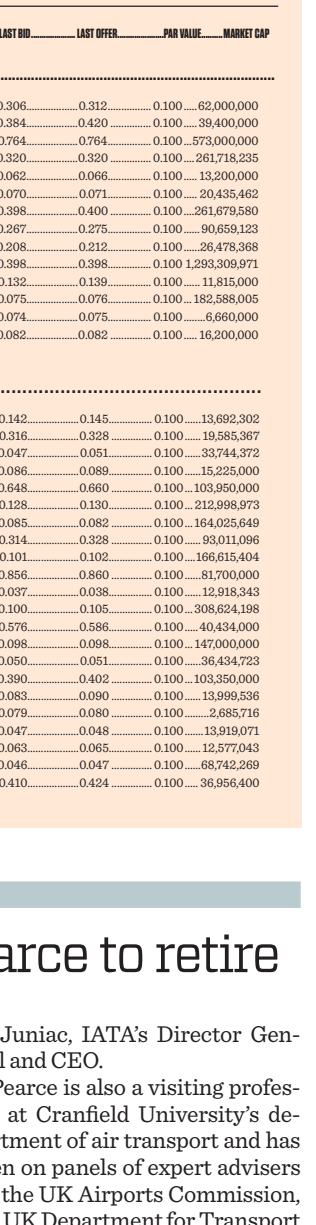


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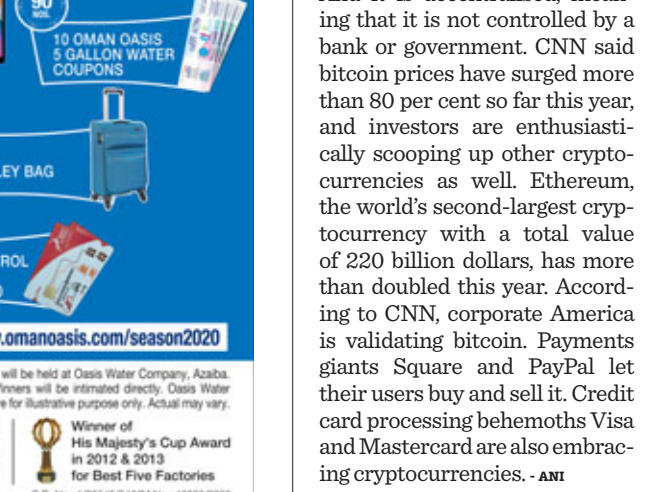
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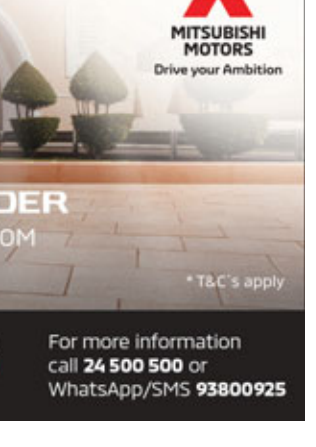
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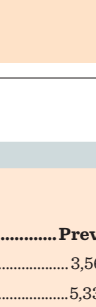


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BE civil Engineer with 15 years of experience in Oman. Construction of Residential Commercial buildings, Hotels, Resorts, and industrial buildings. With valid visa & D/L.Contact 92779334, 95056144.
Email anisubash12@gmail.com

Electrical engineer, having 4 years experience in motors maintains, electrical control, distribution panel and VFD, fluency in English and Arabic mother tongue, have resident in Oman. Contact 96434550

Civil Engineer with 10 years experience in construction and water pipeline works GRB water tanks. Contact 94334788

Scada Engineer with 06 yrs experience in Substation Control centre in oman with DL & NOC. # 94924976. Email: zeezee45ec@gmail.com

Civil engineer with 9years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

Electrical Engineer with 4 years experience in Africa and Oman , LV system, TX maintenance, water transmission line , motors control , with valid visa and driving license, Contact 91936392

Omani is looking for job. UK graduate since 1991. B.Engg+MBA, experience PDO, Diwan, AbuDhabi, group of companies as GM. Contact/Whatsapp 94174443

CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator

Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. 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

Indian male B Com, ICWA intermediate with 20 years of Oman middle management experience in handling MIS, project finance management, managing banks, budgeting, forecasting, finalization of accounts and year end audits, seeks proper placement. NOC / DL available.

Please contact 94839479, sureshswaminathan2311@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian Male 32yrs (CMA, MBA-Fin.) with 10 Yrs (8yrs in GCC Manufacturing & SAOG) experience currently working as Asst. Finance Manager expertise in MIS reporting, Accounting upto finalization, Budgeting, Financial modeling, Business Analysis, IFRS, ERP & Advance Excel, seeking similar position in the Finance department.

Contact 99250104, Email: hyder065@gmail.com

PROJECT ADMIN/CEO OFFICE MNGMT/HR/OPS CORPORATE & MKTG. COMMUNICATIONS/ADMIN

Indian, Masters, excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp in Airports Project, Hospital, Media in Project Coordination, Corporate & Mktg. Communication, CEO & Chairman Office Mngmt, Operations, Admin, HR. Immediate. NOC.

CONTACT 99283938

EGYPTIAN CIVIL ENGINEER

2 yrs experience in Site & Design with Driving License seeks job

Contact 97500522
Email: mohamdelgeziry@gmail.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

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

Contact: +96871180492 allirod1975@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer

Indian Post graduate civil engineer with 37 years of professional experience in Oman in property development and construction management seeks senior management opportunities in similar field.

Contact 96504377 jobsearchzac@gmail.com

Indian male chief accountant 21yrs experience in financial accounting, budgeting and finalisation. Oman D/L familiar with Sap, customised ERP and Tally. On visit

Contact 78073734
Email sajeevsmi2005@gmail.com

FINANCE / ADMIN

Female with 8 years experience in Admin & Accounts looking for a suitable post.

Telephone: 96303874

FINANCE

Male with 7 years experience in accounts & admin looking for a suitable post.

Telephone: 97711584

Architect/ Interior Designer

36 yrs old, 12 yrs working in Design, Consultancy & project execution. Experience working in commercial, Institutional/Educational, residential construction, Hospitality, Interior design/ fit-out work. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/Tendering/ Estimation & execution. Ready to join immediately with D/L and NOC available

Contact: 78371040

ELECTRICAL MANAGER

Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.

Contact: 968-94029112
Email: sakthiveljothi@gmail.com

Indian female (M.Sc. chemistry), 2 years experience as a quality control officer seeking a suitable opportunity in any chemical industry/food industry /lab assistant.

Contact +968 71548622 cleetadsu7259@gmail.com

Facility Manager / Operation (Project-Civil) Manager

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

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

Omani Mechanical Engineer

Omani, looking for a job, Bachelor in Mechanical Engg from the United States of America, +2 yrs of experience in Oil & Gas. + NEBOSH certification Holder.

Contact: 95070748
Email: siyabi430@gmail.com

Senior MEP Manager

Indian Male: Btech, having 23 years GCC experience with valid Oman driving licence seeks suitable placement.

Contact GSM: 79880377
Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

Accountant Indian Male MBA Finance 2 years experience in india with good knowledge in tally seeks placement.

9539 1786

GIS Engineer

Indian Male, Age 24, B.E. Computer Engineering and Masters of Science in GIS (Geographic Information System's) from U.K. Seeking suitable placement in GIS field. Having Oman Driving License. Resident of Oman. Ready to join immediately.

Contact: 99738614, deepitkotian14@gmail.com

MBA, seeking job, 27 yrs experience in capable managerial candidature with rich experience in Business operations, Vendor development, Procurement and HR generalist. Can join immediately.

Whatsapp: 7730012111
Mobile: 94268870
Email: mvssmgbr@gmail.com

Finance Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman (Currently available in Oman). Experience in Engineering / Construction/Structural Steel Projects, Manufacturing & Trading Concern. With administrative skills with D/L & NOC. Looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 78039935

FINANCE

Indian, Female, MCOM with B.Ed. Having 2 Years' experience in Office accounts (Inventory Checking, Book keeping, Payroll) and training experience (ICT teaching, Lecture methods-Accounting) in schools. Looking for suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin / Teacher jobs. Currently on Visit visa, Residing in Wadi kabir, Muscat.

Contact 97131091, Email: gokulsbg@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer

Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.

Please contact me on 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

11+ Yrs of experience (10 Yrs Oman experience)

- On Engineer Visa (Expiry - Feb 2022). Can get release also.

- Experience in Building and Factory projects with Ministry & Private Clients. Looking for fulltime/part time job. Having Omani DL.

GSM: 94125368 ; premjithpremanathan@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Indian Bachelor, B.Com, 4 yrs experience as ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT seeks suitable placement.

D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 96324484

FOOD AND QUALITY

A Post Graduate in Food science and Technology, with certification in Food Safety Level 4 and HACCP Level 3, actively looking for a job in food industry.Ability to handle in-Process quality and Food Technology related activities. Excellent communication and Interpersonal skills.

Contact +968 78359939
Mail id: vargheseroy98@gmail.com

HR Manager

17 years' experience in Finance & HR (10 Yrs), Indian Male, MBA & M.Com. NOC Available.

Contact: 96332608

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.

Contact: 92999419
d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

Junior Architect with 3-years Oman experience in designing, proficiency in AutoCAD, Sketchup, Lumion Vray & Photoshop. Has worked in quantity estimations. Looking for suitable placement in Muscat.

Contact 95972625

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

PLANNING ENGINEER/MANAGER

Planning Engineer/manager 20 yrs experience in Mechanical, civil, pipeline 7 MEP projects using Primavera with NOC & D/L seeks suitable position.

Contact 92651105
Email reji_mathai@hotmail.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Srilankan Senior Accountant looking for a suitable opportunity. 7 years experience in Oman & capable of handling accounts up to finalization. On hand experience in Tally, Spur, QB etc. Having D/L.

CONTACT: 92821932

ADMINISTRATION

More than 22 years of experience, Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree seeking suitable placement, having experience in Administration/ Document Control/IT, HR, and Finance Support, with valid Oman Driving Licence. NOC available.

Contact No. 99757759
Email: bijucbacko85@gmail.com

Senior Software Test Engineer

Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.

Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.

GSM: 78259755

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.

Contact whatsapp: 99477009
Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male, 41 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (13 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager,Internal Auditor and statutory auditor. currently working as Accounts Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.

Contact: 99169501

Finance Manager / CFO

Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 99884291 / 99741875
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM



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Email: media@nexusnovel.com

JOB WANTED

ARCHITECT

9 years experienced Female Architect with Urban planning experience seeking for a job. Contact 96146645

COOK

Indian cook with 8 yrs experience, looking for job. Now on visit visa. Contact 79850765

Cook seeks job. Contact 79508817

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

B.Sc Indian lady fashion designer, 8 yrs experience looking for related job. Contact 96919159, 94004019. Email fassionpassion.trupti@gmail.com

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian Female, Msc Biotechnology graduate currently in Muscat looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 94687398 Email gayathrisprem21@gmail.com

Indian lady teacher [Bsc BioTech; currently pursuing B.Ed (8th sem)] with 6 years of experience handling secular and Islamic studies looking for suitable opportunities. 96950115, sahil.nms89@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. 9 yrs. Contact 93191575

Driver with 8 yrs experience looking job. Contact 79352646

3 yrs experience in driving, looking job. Contact 98763258

Experienced Driver With Car Available: +968 96091082

Looking for Driving job. # 93985092

15 yrs experience in driving, looking job. # 97984912, 94242480

MANAGER

Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experienced ,worked with reputed groups ,expert in cashflow & Credit management ,arranging loans, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact : 98803439

Project manager searching for job of managing projects for client company for construction.Presently working with high profile client,handling all the projects. Contact 99116074

Male having 10 years Experience (Oman), working as a "Fleet Manager" looking for a suitable position. Contact 93363316

IT

Indian female MCA, 4 yrs experience in TCS as a software testing engineer seeking suitable position. Contact 95249883 Email rejaaramdas@gmail.com

Female, B.Tech (CS) digital marketing, 5 yrs of project development exp & managing end to end project development activities. # 94403029 Email anna.shaju3@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE, professional having 20+ yrs of experience in HSE field in building,airport construction & oil & gas. Contact 90125179

Indian male civil supervisor, 25 yrs experience in galfar Oman.Client approved permit holder OETC scaffolding tag inspector, reservior, HDPE, DI pipeline, earth works shuttering, reinforcement, concrete. Contact 97680142 Email awadhesh37@gmail.com

22 years experience in modular kitchen. Working as a project co-ordinator/Designer/Sales co-ordinator Contact 99757846 email: baiju.zukait@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Indian male experience in logistics sales looking for job opportunity. Contact 79964123 Email: raheelrahman123@gmail.com

Indian Male, Logistics Executive- 2+ years' Experience(MCT), MBA(UK), Valid Oman D/L, Seeks suitable opportunities, Contact 79221551 / shamfza3@gmail.com

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.

Mob: 95073054
Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience, Admin/Operations/Purchase/Stores, etc. NOC,D/L. # 78363835

Procurement & Logistics Head with 17+ yrs exp, Indian # 99224623

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Store Incharge, Sales associate, customer service, retail, warehouse logistics and merchandiser with driving license. Contact 95042624

TOUR / TRAVEL

Seeking job in Travel & Tourism, 12 years experience, Graduate (B.Sc) IATA Certified professional presently available in Oman. Contact 968 92477622, 79842322 Email: thahaspm@gmail.com

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168. e-mail: anwarjalil51@gmail.com

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SALES / MARKETING

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

Indian Male 15 years Experience (MBA) looking for job in Sales & Marketing, Currently in Oman with Valid Driving License and Valid Visa. Contact 91127809

Indian Male, Graduate having 8 yr Oman & 7yr India experience in Marketing and Sales field looking for suitable placement. Contact 79584458, 92369044. Email: rkumarkotian21@gmail.com

Indiam male MBA post graduate, 9 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing, Oman DL holder. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 71537034

B.Tech MBA, Indian 10 yrs experience, sales,marketing IT. Contact 90725202

Sales, Business development manager, construction, FMCG,UPVC 7 years GCC experience Oman D/L. Contact 95842228

Indian male 27 yrs MBA graduate with specialized degree in Management seeking suitable placement. valid Oman DL available. # 91209360. Email amirasadc@gmail.com

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

Indian male with Oman D/L, looking for job in Sales. Having experience in sales in a very well reputed FMCG company in Oman. Contact 90625165, Email: farookshamas@gmail.com

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**WHOLESALE BANKING GROUP**

<FROM B1 Bank Nizwa continues to be financial partner of choice

What were the key projects signed in 2020?

In the face of economic headwinds, Bank Nizwa has remained steadfast and continued to play a meaningful role in the Sultanate's economic growth and social development, while aiming to be the financial partner of choice for corporate and institutions.

To that effect, Bank Nizwa's Wholesale Banking team have strongly and dedicatedly supported the government's diversification plan and continues to take part in playing a crucial role in Oman's 2040 vision. Several landmark deals were signed in 2020 including a strategic Musharaka financing deal, with Nakheel Oman Development Company, for the date processing plant in the Sultanate. The financing deal supports the state-of-the-art processing plant to be built in the wilayat Nizwa. Notably, also a financing agreement worth OMR20 million was signed with Oman National Engineering & Investment Company (ONEIC) to establish Sahalnoot sanitation network for Salalah Sanitary Drainage Services Co (SSDC).

The sanitation network project, valued at OMR45 million, is one of the identified key projects that will support overall development in the Dhofar region and follows the national direction of encouraging more Public-Private Partnership in the country's infrastructure development.

Recently, a new campus project under the Arab Gulf Programme for Development with Arab Open University was signed to support education enrichment in the Sultanate, to mention a few. Our bank also participated in unique Shar'a-compliant large financing structures with nationally important state-owned enterprises like Oman Air, OQ and Oman Food Investment Holding Company.

What has been your contribution to promoting the SME sector?

Bank Nizwa is a keen supporter and offers tailor-made solutions to SMEs in the Sultanate. The trust



R. Narasimhan, General Manager - Wholesale Banking, Bank Nizwa

placed in our Sharia-compliant products and services is evident through a notable increase in our SME customer-base and business volume. The SME business continues to expand coverage in key interior cities other than Muscat. As we concentrate on industrial areas such as Madayn, more tie-ups with promotion associated with major corporations and oil majors are undertaken. Additionally, the affiliations with larger corporate enterprise vendors as supply chain solution towards supporting SMEs remains our mainstay contribution. A dedicated SME brochure was made to highlight Shar'i com-

pliant products and services available to SMEs. Additionally, a revamp SME policy was carried out and approved to provide quicker turnaround time and response.

Despite numerous challenges, SME business recorded satisfactory growth along with increasing products adopted. The bank shall continue growing the SME business by increasing focus, utilising various available channels and provide further support with Shari'a-compliant products and services to SME business expansion.

Additionally, Bank Nizwa provided relief to the customers including SME by allowing de-

ferment of instalments as permitted by the Central Bank of Oman pandemic relief measures. The deferrals were given to customers whose businesses were directly impacted by current economic challenges. Further, several transactional fees were waived to further relieve the customers from a monetary burden. We believe that these initiatives will aid the customers from the impact of the pandemic and place them in a good position to recover after the pandemic is over.

What were the main challenges faced in the WBG in 2020?

The effect of COVID-19 and the consequent lockdowns to contain the pandemic, and other economic challenges, including depressed oil prices, have acutely impacted economic activities around the world. According to the IMF recent World Economic Outlook, it is estimated that the global economy shrunk by 3.5 per cent in 2020 and has described the decline as the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Nevertheless, banks globally have shown resilience with high capital and liquidity position pre-pandemic in addition to unprecedented policy support from central banks. However, the banking industry's profitability was severely hit and remains a challenge coupled with concerns of rising non-performing financing.

The Omani economy is not spared from challenges due to COVID -19 pandemic and low oil price environment. Similarly seen in the global banking industry, Omani banks profitability was also affected, clearly reflected in the recent disclosures of 2020 overall results. Even so, Omani banks remained resilient and robust.

Across the GCC, governments and central banks have announced various economic support measures. The Central Bank of Oman has taken swift action to address concerns, and implement relief measures including an extension of its stimulus package until the end of March 2021, which is highly commendable.

The Omani banking sector has a firm foundation and remains sound with strong capital buffers, ample liquidity coverage ratio and sound asset quality. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Oman is swift in providing regulatory support to the banking system whenever required as seen in recent OMR 8 billion extra liquidity through regulatory policy measures and announcing economic stimulus financial incentives. Despite recent multifaceted shocks impacting all economic sectors, the Omani banking sector showed resilience and continued to support the economy with uninterrupted service. The commitments of Omani banks remain robust. During FY 2020, our bank not only met its commitments but also, disbursed several big value financing to 'blue-chip' companies highlighting the strong liquidity management abilities in turbulent times.

What has been set forth for 2021? What expectations do you have from the market this year?

As we begin the new financial year 2021, the outlook remains uncertain, and risks abound. Nevertheless, there are signs of a rebound with COVID-19 vaccinations being carried out all around the world and oil prices seen stabilising at around \$60 per barrel recently.

Despite the challenges, Oman is set to embark upon a development programme to shift to a diversified economy by developing small and medium-sized enterprises, public-private partnerships (PPPs) and improving the investment climate. The government is establishing programmes that will grant numerous opportunities to broaden the country's economic base, both vertical expansion of the sectors dependent on oil and the development of non-oil sectors such as manufacturing, fisheries, transportation & logistics, tourism and mining. The economic and structural reforms will improve multiple fronts, including financial and social objectives.

Amidst all this, the growth of

Islamic Banking in the Sultanate is most encouraging and has become significant in a short space of time through various support and policy measures adopted by the Central Bank of Oman. As we progress, standardised liquidity management frameworks and instruments, diversified financing portfolios and innovative Islamic finance products will play a crucial role in developing this sector. With the introduction of new products, especially for corporate customers and SMEs, and Sharia-compliant liquidity management tools, Islamic Banking will continue to grow steadily and achieve all potential opportunities.

As the largest and fastest-growing full-fledged Islamic bank in the Sultanate, Bank Nizwa has been playing a significant role in developing and growing the industry. The bank is leading the sector's growth on multiple fronts including in corporate banking, international banking, trade finance and treasury among others. Through strategic partnerships, Bank Nizwa is well-positioned to spearhead the growth of Islamic finance and solidify its leadership in the sector. The bank will continue to expand its client franchise organically by deepening client relationships, train and retain talents, and invest in the right products and services. We continue to strive to be the financial partner of choice for the people and enterprises of Oman.

We will continue to invest in projects that not only promise great returns but also positively impact the communities we operate in. We believe that our contribution through the business of both intermediation and participation will lead to the economic, social and ethical wellbeing of society.

Bank Nizwa will continue to play a significant role in supporting the government's diversification plan as well as towards Oman Vision 2040. Looking at the future, we are confident of setting new industry benchmarks and place Oman higher on the Islamic banking landscape globally.



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ROUND-UP

Be bold and different with MG HS

From the iconic MG badge found front with the star rider grille, right the way through to the rear combination taillights, every inch of the new MG HS is as eye-catching and impressive as can be

MUSCAT: Derived from MG's hugely impressive concept X-Motion, the MG HS sets the adrenaline racing, with its intuitive arrangement tailored to provide a truly rewarding drive. What's more is that the HS is now available under the brand's fantabulous new 'save with MG' offer, with prices starting from just OMR7,799.

Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of Mohsin Haider Darwish's ACERE division, who are the distributors of the MG brand in Oman averred, "The all-new 2021 HS is the most radical rethink of the iconic nameplate yet. Not only is it forward-looking in its technology, but it also delivers a spell-binding driving experience. Thereby enhancing the appeal of the HS badge while answering an increasing need for futuristic motoring. We are confident the model will carry the legacy of the HS nameplate even further."

From the iconic MG badge found front with the star rider grille, right the way through to the rear combination taillights, every inch of the new MG HS is as eye-catching and impressive as can be. This is a muscular and athletic SUV in every sense of the word, with the slick craftsmanship and impressive proportions ensuring you are driving a model that has been carefully



designed and lovingly detailed. It comes equipped with two-tone LED headlights - embedded with nine crystal LEDs - for exceptional visibility, LED Daytime Running Light and sequential tail lights, 18-inch alloy wheels, red sports brake disc callipers, electric folding door mirrors, power tailgate and much more. The result is an attractive but capable model that conveys a sense of constant motion and reassurance out on the road.

In terms of technology, MG HS features a 12.3-inch virtual instrument panel - the largest in the segment - you will be able to access key performance data in a contemporary presentation. Not only that, but this instrument

panel interacts with the 10.1-inch colour touchscreen that is the hub of activity.

Featuring a high-performance dual-core processor, this fast and responsive system connects effortlessly to your smartphone with Apple Carplay and Android Auto, GPS, Navigation and much more to provide access to all the necessary infotainment measures you demand. Further technology features include a premium Audio system and an innovative MG Trophy Dream Air Quality Management System which purifies the air of the vehicle in just three minutes, further adding to the comfortable environment.

The sporty looks and luxurious

comfort aren't the only appealing measures to be found in the new MG HS. Powered by a responsive 2.0L High-Efficiency Turbo Engine, the MG HS is capable of producing a thrilling 231PS and maximum torque of 360 Nm. Available in Front Wheel Drive on the comfort trim and an Intelligent All-Wheel Drive (AWD) system on the luxury trim, the model provides a top speed of 210km/h and combines with a six-speed dual-clutch transmission gearbox for seamless transitions through the gears.

The result is a level of performance that will set the heart racing and get the adrenaline flowing. The MG HS is equipped with Eco, Normal, Comfort and Sports mode

for your convenient driving style. To add an extra punch, the MG HS luxury trim is equipped with a supersport response system that releases maximum torque for the best acceleration.

Safety features

When it comes to safety, you can be assured of MG HS with 5 Star Euro NCAP safety standards. Comparing to its aggressive and dynamic styling the MG HS is built with a high tensile grade steel cage body. Safety measures such as Side and Curtain Airbags, Cruise Control, Engine Start-Stop, Auto Hold, Hill-Start Assist Control and an Electric Parking Brake, Blind Spot Detection, Rear parking sensors

and Rear-View Camera are all fitted, enabling you to take the road effortlessly and with confidence. With plenty of reassurance guaranteed, you can rest assured that the new MG HS has you covered with a 6 Years/200,000 km manufacturer's warranty.

MG Motor Oman has an e-commerce platform to help enhance its customers' purchase experience from the comfort and safety of their home. The platform <https://mg-om.com/buy-online/> allows customers to select vehicles from the available stock, to reserve vehicles, to conduct online payments and to schedule home delivery of cars. Additionally, customers can also book home test drives.

EQUIPPING OMANI YOUTH

BP Oman, Outward Bound Oman launch Discovery Course



MUSCAT: In partnership with BP Oman, Outward Bound Oman, a not-for-profit educational training provider, has launched the 'Discovery Course' programme which is a series of challenging one-day courses that will take place at Outward Bound Oman's new Muscat Training Centre in Al Khoudh.

The programme aims to equip 320 Omanis from the ages of 11 to 15 with skills in communication, teamwork, confidence, critical thinking and creativity using sports and adventure exercises.

Shamsa Al-Rawahiya, BP Oman Social Investment Manager, commented, "We believe that our youth hold exceptional talents, and

it is our responsibility to enable them to unleash their full potential to become inspirational contributors in our society.

"The Discovery Course is an example of BP Oman's efforts in enhancing youth skills by engaging them in exciting challenges and stimulating environments."

Mark Evans, General Manager of Outward Bound Oman, further added, "Since our establishment, BP Oman has recognised the importance of investing in youth, and as such has been a tremendous supporter of Outward Bound Oman. Our partnership with them has already seen several hundred talented young Omani's undergo

challenging, life-changing courses. The Discovery Course extends the impact of Outward Bound Oman to younger age-groups and helps ensure that the next generation is well prepared for the future challenges that they may face."

Outward Bound Oman was first established in the UK in 1941 and now operates in 33 countries around the world with Oman being the first Arabic speaking nation to set up an Outward-Bound operation. Since its establishment in 2009, it has delivered training for more than 16,000 individuals, helping them become more confident and capable individuals in society.

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION



SciArtsRUs organises online cross-culture concert series

MUSCAT: "Music is the universal language of mankind" was published in the leading journal Science in November of 2019, by a group of scientists from Harvard University, as part of a comprehensive study performed over five years. In this day and age of unrest as well as a raging pandemic, there is a need to bring people together globally in harmony and peace-to encourage collaboration, camaraderie, and inclusivity.

SciArtsRUs, California, USA based non-profit organisation, whose mission is to make science, arts and music accessible to all globally, has conducted several initiatives in science for children to embrace science as a career, a visual and performing art platform, Artabilities 4 All, in collaboration with IBAT in India, where they provide an exclusive art platform for the disabled. Besides, they also have a concert series for promoting music from around the world in their Shastrakala Sang-eeth - SciArtic Tunes Series.

In an attempt to bring artists from various nations together, and embrace each other's arts and culture, SciArtsRUs organised an online cross-culture concert series, from their YouTube channel and Facebook pages, featuring musicians and dancers from around the world pursuing cross-cultural music. Dr Ranjini Ramachander Kaushik, PhD who is the Founder and President of

SciArtsRUs says, "This cross-cultural concert and dance series seeks to disseminate the positive message from artistes to the audience and to other aspiring musicians about the rewards of learning the music of another culture and hopes to send the message of blurring boundaries within all of us by celebrating our differences and embracing diversity amongst all through the arts."

Dr Ranjini Ramachander Kaushik, PhD is Founder and President of non-profit SciArtsRUs, based in Los Angeles, CA and Organiser and Curator of the Cross-Culture Concerts

Cross-culture concerts were globally inaugurated digitally on January 23, 2021, by Mayor Keith Mashburn from California, USA and attended by dignitaries specialising in different forms of music of the world such as Gregg Kofi Brown (Osibisa UK), Balu Balasubramanian (Wesleyan University, USA), Ron Wasserman (Los Angeles, USA) and Abhiman Kaushal (Los Angeles, USA). Franki Raden, a prominent Indonesian composer, music critic, ethnomusicologist and festival organiser from Ubud, Bali was also one of the guests of honour. The guests spoke about various perspectives on the importance of embracing the music of all cultures and also the importance of introducing children to world music at a young age. This was followed by

a couple of cross-cultural performances by Franki Raden's Indonesian Orchestra and Sai Sister's Carnatic-Western fusion.

Ranjini says, "I grew up in India, but I was exposed to music ranging from Indian classical to western popular to music from the Middle East. Growing up with an ear to appreciate the music of all kinds provides the kind of experience akin to travelling and meeting people of the world." She adds, "We hope this concert series will open our hearts and minds of the listeners and also encourage schools to adopt cross-cultural music in their curriculum."

This series features artists from Indonesia, United States, Japan, India, Mexico, Israel, Italy and Canada, performing cross-cultural music on instruments such as santoor, sitar, sarod, slide guitar, cello, veena and other indigenous instruments from around the world in addition to cross-cultural dance performances. Ranjini adds, "We will be having a series of Japanese artists who will be performing various Indian dance forms in our platform." She hopes to have artistes from Muscat, Oman be an integral part of this initiative. The series continues for the foreseeable future.

Mayor Mashburn also awarded SciArtsRUs with recognition for the excellent work and also have invited them to organise a live event post-pandemic inviting artists from the world over.



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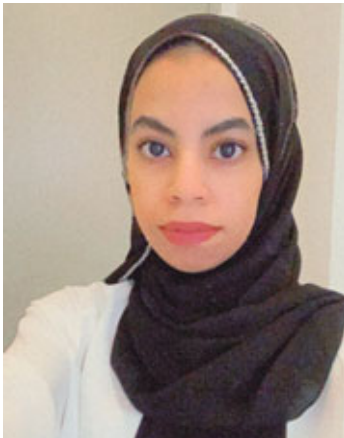


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ACCA students continue excellent performance

The participants, supported by the Bank Muscat, have achieved remarkable results with many of them ranking among the highest globally and in the GCC region



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced that the Omani youth supported by the bank in completing the Chartered Certified Accountant course by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is continuing to make good progress in their course. Earlier the bank had joined hands with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to provide scholarships for a number of Bachelor's degree holders to complete this internationally-recognised accountancy course.

The ACCA course prepares entry and mid-level professionals to work in any aspect of finance or management. The Omani youth in the programme have shown great enthusiasm and passion for their studies and in developing their skills, which will contribute to the better qualification and skills enhancement of human resources in the banking and financial sector in the Sultanate.

The participants supported by the bank have achieved remarkable results with many of them ranking among the highest globally and the GCC region. The group performance in all the examina-

tions of ACCA subjects has surpassed global benchmarks.

Speaking about the excellent progress made by the students, Fajr Ahmed Salim Al Akhazmi, who scored high marks in different subjects, said, "The ACCA programme is one of the most important courses in finance and accounting. Bank Muscat is supporting so many students to complete this course and helping us acquire specialised skills and knowledge. We are grateful to the bank for getting this excellent opportunity and hope that we will be able to gain this well-recognised certification with the highest grades possible. Completing this programme will have a major impact and help us advance in our professional careers."

Zulekha Shamis Al Kiyumi, another achiever from the programme, said: "Bank Muscat has always accorded top priority for human resources development and I am grateful for this support from the bank to do my ACCA certification. Through my ACCA studies, I have been able to gain a lot of valuable insights and skills. I am confident that this certification will be of great help in my career, and for the development of Omani human resources in the country."

Nusaiba Yaqoob Al Manji, who achieved excellent results in the

programme, said: "Through the ACCA programme, Bank Muscat has helped us to enhance our knowledge in accounting and finance. This will positively improve our professional performance as we have learnt many examples, rules and regulations as well as procedures in finance and accountancy. The experience of continuing our studies on modern banking and finance through an online platform has been a wonderful experience and we promise to exert more efforts to graduate with the best results and continue our success at the leading financial services provider in Oman."

Speaking about her good progress in the ACCA programme, Aisha Moosa Abdul Rahman Al Moosa said: "The training programme is running in an excellent manner despite all the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a unique and enjoyable learning experience. I am grateful to Bank Muscat for organising this training and supporting me in my dream of becoming an ACCA-certified professional. This will greatly help me in the future and I see this training as an important step in my future career."

Bank Muscat's HR practices focus on creating, nurturing and supporting people to meet the am-



bitious growth plans of the bank, through a wide variety of initiatives that covers all stages of the employee life cycle. The bank has always accorded top priority for human resources development and earmarks substantial funding every year for the training and development of its employees across all job functions and roles. The bank's Jadara Academy provides a comprehensive platform and framework for all staff learning and development programmes. Bank Muscat has also adopted innovative strategies to equip Omani employees to take up leadership positions in tandem with future challenges.

Continuous investments are being made to build human capacity in an effort to derive maximum mileage out of its HR processes.

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NEW MODEL



Maserati staff share very first images of Grecale SUV prototype

MODENA: A prototype of the new Grecale SUV has been photographed outside the historic Maserati plant on Viale Ciro Menotti in Modena. The employees were the first to diffuse these images on social networks.

Innovative by nature, Maserati decided to share the photos of the new model exclusively with the Maserati family.

The prototype cars are current-

ly undergoing a period of intensive road, circuit and off-road tests, in various conditions of use, to acquire vital data for the preparation of the new SUV's final setup.

The Grecale will be built in Cassino (Italy), where an investment of about 800 million Euros is planned.

The Maserati Grecale will receive its World Premiere before the end of 2021.

ART CONTEST

Z-Corp launches 'I am talented' contest in collaboration with Al Wafa Centre

MUSCAT: To encourage children with disabilities and special needs, The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp) recently launched an art contest "I am talented".

The art contest is being organised by the 'collaboration team' of Z-Corp in association with Al Wafa Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children. The 'collaboration team' comprises a group of employees of Z-Corp who participate in community initiatives that are planned and executed by them.

The aim is to develop the artistic gifts, creative ideas and talent of the disabled and special needs children. The contest provides an exciting opportunity for children with disabilities and special needs from around North and South Al Batinah governorates to display their talent.

The contest aims to encourage children with disabilities and special needs to participate and showcase their skill.

Entries will be evaluated based on creativity and the inspiration behind the artwork by a panel of judges. The photos will be sent via WhatsApp to the jury consisting of artists Muhammad Al-Shukaili, Ahmed Al-Balushi, Samsa Al-Esawi and Maryam Al-Balushi. Z-Corp will be represented by Faisal Al Mandhari, director of social communication at Z-Corp.

The art contest is being organised as part of Z-Corp's corporate



social responsibility to builds its programmes around factors such as employee engagement, community involvement and corporate giving. The objective of organising such events is to touch and improve upon the lives of the communities they live in.

The Zubair Corporation handed over several sets of crayons and art paper which will be distributed at eight centres of Al Wafa Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children in North and South Al Batinah governorates. Each centre will pick the best paintings, out of which 10 will be selected for the final contest.

Faisal Al Mandhari said, "This art contest is an important pro-

ject that our team has announced. These children have their exclusive vision and understanding of the world that surrounds them and we hope that through this art contest they find new ways to create and depict their ideas. Studies have shown that while art is important for all children, it's vital for children with special needs and disabilities.

"Art activities strengthen self-confidence, social skills and verbal capabilities. We believe that embracing these special children's work and honouring their creations will give them a sense of pride and accomplishment, and enhance feelings of self-worth. We will be recognising the talent

of these children in North and South Al Batinah governorates and most importantly integrating them into society."

The winners of the contest will be announced at a later stage.

A member of the 'collaboration team' said, "We feel a complete sense of satisfaction in organising events that make a difference in the lives of these gifted children. We want to take up similar projects that enrich the life's of the people in the community we live in."

The Zubair Corporation's strategy to bring focus to its continued and evolving socially relevant work as a responsible corporate house with the intent to make a positive difference in society.

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