



50 GOLDEN YEARS

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HM SENDS CONDOLENCES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on the death of Prince Khalid bin Faisal bin Saad I bin Abdulrahman Al Saud. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant his family patience. **-ONA**



ROP DAY

HM greeted on Police Day by Inspector General



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik yesterday received a cable of greetings from Lt. Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shraiqi, Inspector-General of Police and Customs, on the occasion of Royal Oman Police Day, the 5th of January, reading as follows:

Your Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, peace be upon you.

I am honoured, and so are personnel of the Royal Oman Police, to express our most heartfelt greetings to Your Majesty on the occasion of the 5th of January, Royal Oman Police Day, wishing Your Majesty good health and happiness, and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

Your Majesty,

Royal Oman Police (ROP) celebrates its annual day this year at a time the decade-old comprehensive plan of development of different sectors of ROP approaches its final phase. The stage is set for full upgrading and empowerment of the police force with state-of-the-art tech-

nologies, modern systems and mechanisms of work devised in accordance with public service requirements that meet the expectations of society. The ROP thereby keeps abreast of the steady progress made by our country's renewed renaissance under Your Majesty's wise leadership.

Your Majesty,

The new generations, personnel of the ROP, value the well-studied development witnessed by Your Majesty's police. They respond to this accomplishment in high spirits and they utilize it to serve Oman and its noble people. They have thus earned the constant appreciation of the people and their commendation of the lofty standards of professionalism through which different police tasks are implemented in light of Your Majesty's noble directives and prudent visions.

May the Almighty Allah protect Your Majesty and bestow His divine bounties on you. Happy Police Day, Your Majesty! **-ONA**

SAUDI ARABIA

On behalf of HM, Sayyid Fahd to take part in GCC Summit

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers will leave today for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to lead the Sultanate's delegation at the 41st Summit of GCC Leaders.

The summit is scheduled to be held today. The Sultanate spares no efforts to support the GCC

march, as well as all endeavours aiming at serving Arab and Islamic issues and enhancing ties of cooperation and understanding with friendly countries.

HH Sayyid Fahd will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs and government officials. **-ONA**

BULLION

Gold prices in Sultanate remain steady

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Gold prices in Oman have remained steady and shown only minor fluctuations in prices.

Gold vendors in the country added they had seen good business at their outlets before the temporary closure of the borders, and expect more customers to buy from them in the new year.

"Gold is always considered to be a safe haven asset, even amidst crises," said Najeeb K, regional head - Oman, for Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

"Hence, any economic uncertainty would lead to an increased investor preference for the yellow metal. The discovery of a new strain of coronavirus and a second phase of lockdown announced by most of the European countries might be among the multiple factors that have led to this increase in gold prices.

"However, price has not been the only factor determining consumer demand, though it is critical," he added. "There is a long-term view from most consumers



when it comes to buying gold as an asset and adornment. One of the intrinsic reasons for people buying gold jewellery is the fact that it is a reliable investment that also doubles up as an adornment.

"Value-appreciation and the ease to liquidate the metal for cash without losing value even during

crises add to the benefits of investing in the metal," Najeeb explained.

Adding to this, a spokesman for Joy Alukkas Jewellery said: "the prices of gold have remained steady for a while now, moving either up and down by only about 250 to 500 baisas a day. Much of a change has not been recorded in Oman.

The rating highlights a commitment to keeping the country free from terrorism

Times News Service

report was first issued in 2012.

MUSCAT: Oman has achieved a zero terrorism rating among all of the countries of the world, for the eighth time in a row, the Royal Oman Police has said, on the occasion of the ROP Day, which falls on January 5 every year.

The rating was issued by the Institute for Economics and Peace, and highlights the country's commitment to keeping Oman free from acts of terror. Oman has received a zero rating ever since this

Good values of society

The achievement is due to the good values of Omani society, and the historical and cultural legacy of the Sultanate that rejects intolerance and hatred. This has made it possible for the Royal Oman Police and other military and security agencies to maintain safety and security in the Sultanate, in addition to the support provided to these organisations by the government.

"The Royal Oman Police is keen to provide security coverage and police presence across all locations, through police stations spread throughout the Sultanate, and to provide traffic, passport, residence and civil status services through service centres in various wilayats," said the ROP report.

"Support units of the Special Mission Police enjoy the highest level of training and efficiency to face any kind of emergency, and have been provided advanced equipment to help all elements of the ROP where required," it added.

To strengthen these efforts, the Royal Oman Police is keen to cooperate with various government and private sectors and coordinate with civil society institutions, and the media, to spread awareness among the various groups of society.

Through successes that have come due to hard work, the Royal Oman Police does not hesitate to do more to provide the right services to citizens, residents of the country as well as visitors.

These principles are the ones on which the ROP can build a sustainable mode of operating that will help in the formation of a modern integrated police force that works in harmony with civil society.

These achievements could not have been achieved without elaborate training and correct procedures, which aim at respecting the human element across all responsibilities carried out by the ROP.

The Police General Command has directed its attention towards preparing and qualifying its employees in line with the nature of their tasks and the challenges they are likely to face. **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Illegal possessions to be removed

1 With more than 122 illegal possessions found in Muscat in 2020, the Muscat Municipality has opened a file to make the community familiar with this issue and its dimensions and societal impacts. Until the end of November 2020, the number of illegal possessions registered in Seeb was 22, as compared to 18 during 2019. **>A3**



WORLD Trump heard asking official to 'find' votes

2 In recorded comments, US President Donald Trump urged Georgia's secretary of state, Republican Brad Raffensperger, to find enough votes from the US presidential election to deny the state to President-elect Joe Biden. The conversation was published by *Washington Post* on Sunday. **>A7**

SPORTS Oman to host Tests, ODIs and T20I

3 Oman's cricket facilities have met International Cricket Council's highest approval and the country is now an accredited Test, One-day International (ODI) and T20 International venue. Afghanistan has chosen to play its home Test, ODI and T20I series at OCA Ground 1. **>A8**

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Saud Al Mehrezi
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Occupational Safety First

The water sector is one of the essential sectors in development and one of the services that have to be provided in complete sustainability without interruption because it is simply known that water is the lifeline. Therefore, it is imperative to apply the best practices and systems to ensure the availability of the service. This can only be done with very careful follow-up of the technical details in the field of project implementation and operation of assets and managing them properly according to the principles of quality and safety.

Hence, the importance of the role that Diam assumes for the field of health and safety is evident to us through the systems on which it operates. Such systems include road safety management system, vehicle tracking and emergency systems for vehicles in addition to site safety systems and continuous follow-up of the application of safety principles at work sites and ensuring the availability of all requirements for emergency situation and qualify workers to deal with them.

The concern for occupational health and safety is a global approach. April 28 every year has been designated as the International Day for Safety and Health in the Work Environment. According to the United Nations website, "Occupational safety and health aims, in its essence, to manage occupational risks." The Occupational Safety and Health Management System is a preventive approach that aims to implement safety and health measures in four steps and includes the principle of permanent improvement. Its principles are based on the plan cycle, plan development and implementation, evaluation of results and making improvements.

In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Management System seeks to build a comprehensive and organized mechanism for joint work between workers and management in implementing safety and health measures. The systems approach also contributes to assessing the improvement of performance in the application of prevention and control measures. Occupational safety and health management systems are an effective tool in managing risks for a particular type of industry, process or organization. They can be adapted to different situations of the needs of small companies to the various needs of complex and dangerous industries such as mining, chemical industry and construction.

On the other hand, paying attention to this aspect contributes to enhancing the job loyalty of those who belong to the organization because it guarantees them a safe and professional work environment away from the concerns that some workers may have as a result of not applying safety requirements, especially in construction and project implementation sites that are most vulnerable to work injuries.

APPLYING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN QUALITY, HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

ENG. AHMED AL-KHAMISI: "WE INAUGURATED THE LEAN METHODOLOGY AS ONE OF THE STRATEGIC PROJECTS."



Eng. Ahmed bin Rashid Al-Khamisi, Senior Manager of the Department of Risk and Change Management and Quality, Health, Safety and Business Continuity Management in Diam, said that Diam has adopted an integrated management system policy in all its operational and administrative processes. This policy includes management of risk, change, quality, business continuity, health, safety and environment. All this is in accordance with Diam's vision, which is to be a leading service institution that applies the best international practices to achieve the sustainable development of the Sultanate, as part of its efforts to reach professionalism in performance, and to enhance its efforts to adopt the best international practices and standards in order to achieve the values on which Diam's business is based.

Integrated management system in operational and administrative processes

Al-Khamisi said that Diam has effectively implemented international standards, which included Management of Quality, Health, Safety, Environment, Risk, Business Continuity, ISO14001 - ISO45001 - ISO9001-ISO31000-ISO17025 - ISO22301, in all its works and has implemented best practices and systems for continuous improvement and development to achieve better performance indicators aligned with strategic plans and goals.

There is also a plan underway that has come a long way in adopting and implementing other administrative systems in Diam, such as: Energy ISO 50001 - ISO 55001 Asset Management - Information System ISO 27001.

The implementation of the integrated management system policy is a strategic direction that aims to support Diam's vision in order to achieve its distinction as a world-class organization. An integrated quality management system can be defined as an independent, documented and planned process for an integrated management system in Diam in order to ensure that the implementation of operations conforms to the policies and requirements of the management systems of quality, risk, change, business continuity, health, safety and environment, and includes auditing standards in the integrated audit system, policy and objectives of the organization.

The integrated management system is implemented by complying with all the requirements in force in the integrated management system policy and by meeting the needs and expectations of other stakeholders, as well as by establishing a customer service-oriented institution to enhance customers' satisfaction and reduce complaints by relying on an operational and thinking approach based on studying risks and building business continuity capabilities in the organization's activities.





The integrated management system policy is also based on providing a safe and healthy work environment to prevent work-related accidents and ill health by defining these risks and developing appropriate solutions for them to mitigate their various risks and impacts. The integrated management system policy is also based on protecting the environment by reducing the harmful environmental impacts of Diam's activities, preventing pollution, adopting an environmental sustainability approach and committing to all local and international requirements to contribute to preserving the environment.

Lean Methodology

Al-Khamisi said that Diam has recently launched Lean Methodology and it was included as one of the strategic projects in Diam. It is an administrative methodology to facilitate and shorten business procedures and gradually improve them according to their timeframe by reducing and organizing some unnecessary procedures, which contributes to the speed of completion.

Eng. Ahmed Al-Khamisi added that during the current economic situation, adopting Lean Methodology can enhance the current success rates which require institutions to be more efficient, flexible and responsive to the market. Our implementation of Lean Methodology will improve customer experience and contribute to being a global entity in light of rapid technological changes, increasing expectations from stakeholders and the need for standardized processes to obtain the required outputs continuously.

Risk and change management in Diam

About the risk and change management system in Diam, Eng. Ahmed Al-Khamisi said: "We work hard to assess the various internal and external risks that arise during various stages of work, such as financial, executive, administrative, construction, operational, competitive, legal, technical and other risks that may affect the stakeholders and the ability of the institution to achieve the objectives. This is in order to develop and manage optimal solutions and reduce the implications of these risks as much as possible to ensure the implementation of programs and plans in the best way and to provide the best services to citizens and residents of this country by applying the best programs and best practices in this aspect and continuous improvement of the risk management process based on the ISO 31000 standard. The risk management in Diam aims to improve the ability to provide the best results to all stakeholders through managing potential risks and enhancing opportunities to achieve the set strategy."

Site security management

Al-Khamisi talked about the security management of the different Diam's sites, saying: "The number of Diam's operational and administrative sites has reached more than two thousand sites, and it is constantly increasing due to the development projects in the water sector. Diam has started using the best technical or smart systems in the security guards sector. These systems are characterized by low operational cost and efficiency compared to the previously applied system in addition to higher quality and accuracy of service, comprehensive security coverage and fulfillment of work requirements. The governorates of Muscat, Al Dakhiliyah, South and North Al Batinah have been connected to these systems through optical fibers as a first stage and work is going on to connect all governorates during the coming years in order to manage all Diam's assets from a unified center for monitoring from Muscat governorate and sub-monitoring centers in each governorate. The new systems for security management are modern monitoring and alarm systems working around the clock, smart entry and identification systems, smart permit systems, and others."

Road safety management system

Al-Khamisi added that Diam works to implement a road safety management system in accordance with the best local and international practices in this field in order to contribute to achieving the goals set in the field of traffic safety as well as achieving traffic awareness for Diam employees in addition to reducing the damage resulting from road accidents.

"From this standpoint, Diam has activated a number of systems to achieve safety on the road. Among these systems is the IVMSI vehicle monitoring and control system since 2013, which is one of the most important applied systems and is concerned with the safety of employees while driving Diam's vehicles. Diam is considered one of the first governmental institutions to implement this system, which guarantees the safety of passengers and vehicles. The system can monitor the vehicles belonging to Diam directly during their movement in various sites by connecting the device to satellites in order to achieve the highest levels of safety for the vehicle driver, reduce costs and improve the level of customer service," he added.

The language of numbers

The Senior Manager of Quality, Safety and Risk Management spoke in the language of numbers about the most prominent statistics of this year, saying: "Let's talk in the language of numbers about Diam's experience in managing transportation through the road safety management system. Among the most prominent numerical facts in 2020 is that Diam's vehicles, as employees and contractors, have traveled a total distance of approximately 5,172,766.70 kilometers on the roads in various locations in the governorates of the Sultanate. Diam works on qualifying and training its employees to achieve traffic safety and safe driving in the field of road safety. Diam uses a variety of vehicles of approximately 18 types of vehicles, ranging from light and heavy vehicles, four-wheel drive vehicles, cranes, heavy equipment, and units used in the Authority's work, such as the leak detection unit, the chemical transport unit, and the mobile maintenance unit."

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- الشرطة / البلديات في حالة العمل في الأماكن العامة
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DABA AL BAYAH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Archaeology, tourism promotion project in Musandam completed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Embassy of Italy in Oman have completed an archaeology training and tourist promotion project in Musandam.

The project for the conservation and promotion of the Daba Al Bayah archaeological site in Musandam Governorate is a joint effort of the Italian Embassy and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

An Italian archaeological team

led by Dr. Francesco Genchi of La Sapienza University of Rome has been excavating the site since 2013 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. The activity, which was recently concluded, involved provided a training course for 10 Ministry of Heritage and Tourism officials for enhanced preservation of the site and to support the development of its museum as a tourism destination.

A multilingual guide of the site

will allow visitors to learn about the historical importance of the settlement of Daba.

A museum of the site will feature panels describing the various aspects of the archaeological complex. It also included a training for local tourist guides from Musandam who will accompany the visitors in the tours of the site.

The initiative comes in the framework of the long collaboration between Italy and Oman in the archaeological sector, with

more than 40 years of scientific and academic exchanges.

Although the restrictions to the excavations due to the precautionary measures related to COVID-19 did not allow in-the-field activities, the cooperation between the two countries continued also this year through virtual programmes.

The project contributed to develop capacities to highlight the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Oman and to promote sustainable tourism within the economic

diversification program.

Of great importance

Daba is a burial complex of great importance formed by numerous large collective graves containing hundreds of individuals each, accompanied by thousands of valuable goods. Daba is located on the east coast of Musandam Peninsula and is surrounded by several Iron Age sites including both settlements and burial complex, giving the idea of a wealthy society that

was living in the area.

Daba is at present among the richest sites of Eastern Arabia. The metal objects recovered represent a unique assemblage for wealth and quality: a milestone for the understanding of Early Arabian Civilisation that for a decade will engage scholars from all over the world. As a result of the importance and the good conservation of the site, the potential for tourism development in the area is extremely high.

TERRORISM-FREE

<FROM **A1** Forces receive latest training



Police cadets, who receive training at the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences, the Officer Training Institute, and the training departments of the various Royal Oman Police units, sharpen their skills using the latest training and educational programmes and their practical applications, which provide them with the necessary skills to deal with various aspects of their job.

“The relationship between the police and society is one of partnership and complementarity in order to establish the foundations of citizenship and the law,” added the report.

“The most important aspect of this is to support society so as to correctly guide the behaviour of its members. The ROP is the embodiment of the society to maintain order and security, in the form of the laws set to benefit its citizens and residents.

“The first priority among these laws is to protect human rights and stop trafficking,” added the report. “Oman’s society is clearly aware of the partnership between itself and the ROP to establish the foundations of safety and security in the country. Oman’s citizens have contributed towards the success of the police, because they understand the importance of our goals. Our people are our true partners towards achieving our desired objectives.”

The ROP will continue to work to achieve its goals, according to a clear-cut vision towards continuing to provide successes in the form of security and stability in the country. The vision of the Royal Oman Police is based on building a modern police capable of providing good service, and able to perform the duties assigned to everyone on the force.

Efficiency and the ability to preserve the progress the nation has made, creating broader horizons to help comprehensive development of all, and expanding the availability of its various services throughout the country using advanced technologies are the key priorities of the ROP.

“The achievements of the Royal Oman Police were not earned overnight, but rather were preceded by deliberate and

systematic plans and strategies, and continuous tireless efforts towards their success,” the ROP report said. “Those who follow the history of the Royal Oman Police are aware of the level of development and modernisation that the police have witnessed in various fields, which was done to extend the umbrella of security and safety throughout Oman.

“This includes making police services available to all through integrated electronic systems, and the simplification and improvement of police services,” the ROP added.

“Royal Oman Police personnel have proven highly efficient in dealing with all of the developments that have taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic, and have adopted modern technologies to provide the best police services. This is in addition to the efforts made in the areas of crime prevention, traffic and customs.”

The ROPs successes are part of the continuation of the blessed and renewed renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

To make sure Oman’s coasts are always safe, Coast Guard police boats patrol Omani territorial waters, performing their security and humanitarian roles in cooperation with other military and security agencies.

In addition to search and rescue operations, Coast Guard police carry out the tasks of combating smuggling, piracy and infiltration, and maintaining security and order in ports and marine facilities as well protecting important facilities located on the beaches, and coordinating with the competent agencies in combating marine pollution.

The Coast Guard Police Command in the area of Sidab in Muscat Governorate includes a marina supported by a floating dock with facilities for mooring boats of various sizes, as well as an operations department equipped with the latest means of communication, technology and maritime navigation.

Its Maritime Rescue Department provides assistance to seagoers through rescue teams ready to intervene in cases of drowning and various marine accidents.

Illegal possessions in Muscat to be removed

The Muscat Municipality has taken the decision to remove random possessions



DEMOLITION DRIVE: The Muscat Municipality has decided to remove illegal possessions.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With more than 122 illegal possessions found in Muscat in 2020, the Muscat Municipality has opened a file to make the community familiar with this issue and its dimensions and societal impacts, in terms of health and other aspects related to security and safety.

Until the end of November 2020, the number of illegal possessions registered in Seeb was 22, as compared to 18 during 2019. Al Amerat registered about 28 random possessions, and 21 in Quriyat, and 31 in Muttrah. The Directorate General

of Muscat Municipality in Bausher registered 22 possessions in 2019 and 20 in 2020.

Illegal possessions can happen in many forms; either by construction of random rooms inside houses or farms, or fencing a land plot outside the original plot limits, or construction of mobile houses (caravans) illegally, or putting bricks indicating a boundary of a plot or planting trees. Even additions made to houses using unstable materials is also a form of illegal possession, as well as cutting parts of a mountain or digging wells on government land

illegally. Despite the awareness efforts and supportive role of laws and legislations meant to address this issue, the problem is still continuing. The municipal regulations and decisions classifies the technical violations committed against local order No. 23/92 according to the gravity of the infraction. Construction, drilling in public land or making home additions exceeding 100 sqm on an existing building or under construction without licences and without extracting approved modification maps are all classified as violations.

Dealing with these violations varies, as some of them are directed to the violator with some awareness and guidance to remove the violation. In the event the violator fails to comply with this, the principle of immediate removal of these occupancies shall be dealt with in accordance with the regulations followed in this regard, or referring the issue to the competent authorities to remove those violations.

The Muscat Municipality has decided to remove random possessions after verifying that there are no documents proving the legality of the plot, and for those possessions made by an unknown person. A board is placed on the site urging the person to appear before the Municipality with his documents proving the ownership.

In case the violator fails to appear, contact is made with the sheikh of the region to find out the owner. If not available, a violation is filed against an unknown person for the follow-up department of the competent directorate, and the rest of the procedures are completed and referred to the public prosecution to issue a ruling for removal.



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

29 COVID-19-infected patients in the ICU

MUSCAT: The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Sultanate reached 129,584, while the number of recoveries stood at 122,372, comprising 94.4 percent. Meanwhile, the total number of COVID-19 related death cases stood at 1,502, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry said that 4 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, adding that the total number of hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 67, of them 29 are in ICU. -ONA



HOSPITALISATION: The Ministry of Health said that four cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours.

MEETING

Sayyid Badr meets chairman of EXIM Bank, reviews ties

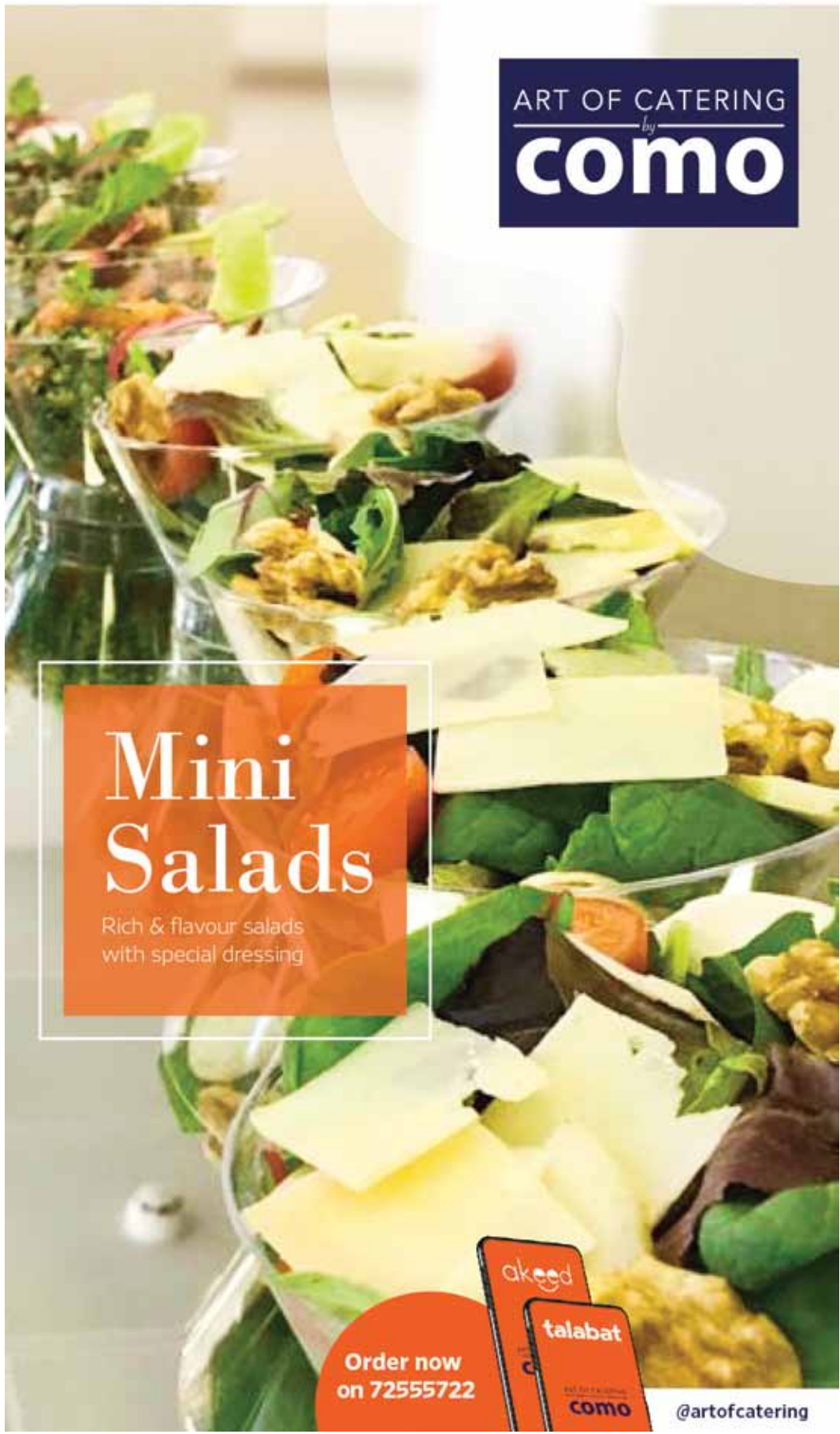


REVIEW FRIENDSHIP: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister yesterday received Kimberly Reed, President and Chairman of Export-Import Bank of the United States of America. -ONA

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister yesterday received Kimberly Reed, President and Chairman of Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of the United States of America (USA). The meeting reviewed friendship and cooperation between the Sultanate and the USA.

The meeting also explored means of promoting financial and banking cooperation and enhancing trade and investment partnership between the two friendly countries, within the framework of the Sultanate-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA), as well as the existing strategic relations.

The two sides reiterated keenness to support areas of science and technology transfer and entrepreneurship as per the agreement signed on this regard. They also explored means of polishing youth skills to achieve the prospective goals sought by the two countries. -ONA



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HUMANITARIAN SERVICES



RAFO conducts evacuation, supplies foodstuff to needy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman has airlifted a citizen who was suffering from a critical health condition.

A statement issued by Oman News Agency (ONA) said, "A helicopter of the Royal Air Force of Oman airlifted a female citizen suffering from a critical health condition. She was transferred from Kumzar Health Centre to Khasab Hospital in Musandam Governorate for receiving the necessary specialised treatment."

"This comes within the framework of the humanitarian services and national efforts that the Sultan's Armed Forces and other departments of the Ministry of Defence provide to citizens and residents on the homeland with the rest of other government in-



stitutions," the statement added.

Meanwhile, the RAFO also delivered food items and other materials to the needy citizens in the Wilayat of Quriyat in the Governorate of Muscat with support from the Royal Army of Oman.

The villages are not easily ac-

cessible by road so the transport of commodities becomes difficult.

The villagers have expressed thanks and appreciated the efforts of the Royal Army of Oman and the Royal Air Force of Oman in providing their services to the citizens of the region.

BEST SHORT FILM DOCUMENTARY AWARD

Award for 'Omani Nairooz'

TEHRAN: The short documentary 'Omani Nairooz' directed by Hussein Al Balushi, won the Best Short Film Documentary Award at the International Moving Film festival in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The documentary talks about the bullfighting sport that is popular in the Governorates of North and South Al-Batinah.

"Omani Nairooz" has recently won the Excellence Award in Japan, in addition to the Bronze



Award at the 10th Muscat International Festival and the Audience Award at the Zagora International Festival in Morocco. -ONA

					
	Vision Al Khair GCC Fund	Vision Real Economy GCC Fund	Vision Emerging GCC Fund	Vision Emerging Oman Fund	Vision Focused Fund
NAV Date	31-12-2020	31-12-2020	31-12-2020	31-12-2020	31-12-2020
NAV Per Unit	1.028	1.174	0.961	0.897	0.838
Adjusted NAV Since Inception **	1.151	1.865	2.228	1.099	0.838
Inception Date	16-05-2013	14-04-2010	19-05-2005	06-08-2007	14-12-2016
Dividend paid till date	7%	61%	43%	24.50%	-
Bonus Shares till date	5%	-	60%	-	-

**Adjusted for bonus & dividends, assuming dividends are reinvested

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ANNUAL FESTIVAL FOR CAMEL RACING TO START TOMORROW

The sixth race of Annual Festival for Camel Racing of the eighteenth season (2020/2021) organised by the Royal Cavalry at the Royal Court Affairs will kick off on Wednesday at the camel race ground in Sohar, Governorate of North Al Batinah. The two-day race includes 45 rounds for the various categories. Day one of the race comprises 30 rounds for both the morning and evening race periods and the second day of the race comprises 15 rounds in the morning period only. —ONA



MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Mawaleh Central Market reopens today

SEEB: Muscat Municipality in Seeb, represented by the Central Market of Vegetables and Fruits Administration, decided to reopen the market starting from Tuesday, after a five-month closure.

Eng. Badr bin Ali Al Bahri, Director General of Muscat Municipality in Seeb said that the decision comes in line with the instructions of the COVID-19 Supreme Committee and in accordance with the precautionary measures and health guidelines.

He added in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the municipality has carried out works to improve all the internal and external service facilities in the market, such as paving market's external areas that accommodate more than 800 parking spaces.

Al Bahri said that the market will be open from 1pm to 6pm for retail consumers, and from 5am to 11am for wholesalers to transport vegetables and fruits to different markets in the Sultanate. — ONA



POLICE DAY



Minister congratulates Royal Oman Police

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has congratulated the Royal Oman Police on the occasion of the Royal Oman Police Day which falls on January 5 every year.

“On behalf of myself and on behalf of my brothers, employees of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, I am honoured to extend my best congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, and to all Royal Oman Police employees on the occasion of the Royal Oman Police Day, which falls on the fifth of January of every year.” “I also extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to them for their apparent efforts and appreciat sacrifices, as they are a cause of pride in this dear country,” he added.

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.	: 2020-ENG-SOW-0086
Tender Title	: SA Parking Area Expansion
Scope	: Survey, Design, Supply and Construction of two full parking bays to replace the existing gravel parking at Sohar Aluminium along with initial and final civil defence approval as per scope of work.

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>



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Tender Announcement

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel invites interested Companies to quote for following sealed Bid Tender.

Description	Last Date of tender submission	Tender Fee
1. Upgrading shower controller of the bathroom	January 17, 2021	25/- per Document

Companies of excellent grade having proven track record in this area may obtain detailed Scope of Work from Finance Department by Paying the Tender Fee and collect documents from January 5, 2021 onwards between 10:00 – 14:00 hours.

For site visit, please contact Mr. Ehab Zaki, Director of Engineering @ 9808 9037, the site visit is scheduled on Sunday, 10.01.2021 @ 11.00AM

Tender must be submitted in a sealed Envelope along with companies Trade License, Liability Insurance copies and certificates addressed to:

**Coordinator of the office to General Manager,
Al Bustan palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel
On or before January 17, 2021 before 2 pm.
SUB: Upgrading shower controller of the bathroom**

Note: Al Bustan palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is not obliged to accept the tenders with least prices or any other tenders.



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

On the occasion of ROP Annual Day (5th of January), Royal Oman Police – Directorate of Public Relations – announces to all citizens and residents that Thursday 07/01/2021 shall be observed as an official holiday for ROP formations that follow the official-working-hours system.

As for police stations, they will be practicing their regular duties and providing all services entrusted to them around the clock.

Best wishes for all

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Britain rolls out Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

Brian Pinker, an 82-year-old dialysis patient, was the first person to receive the vaccine

LONDON: The UK began vaccinating citizens with the Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus jab amid a surge in cases.

Brian Pinker, an 82-year-old dialysis patient, was the first person to receive the vaccine at a hospital a few hundred metres away from where it was developed.

"I am so pleased to be getting the vaccine today and I'm really proud that it is one that was invented in Oxford," he said. "The nurses, doctors and staff today have all been brilliant and I can now really look forward to celebrating my 48th wedding anniversary with my wife Shirley later this year."

A 'pivotal' moment

As many as half a million doses are ready to be administered over the next 24 hours, the British government said.

The vaccine costs just 3 pounds (\$4.10, €3.35) per shot. It also can be stored in regular refrigerators, making it easier for GPs and healthcare workers to distribute.

British Health Secretary Matt Hancock said in an interview with broadcaster Sky News on Monday that it was "a triumph for British science" and "a pivotal moment" in fighting COVID-19.



VACCINE ROLLOUT: As many as half a million doses are ready to be administered over the next 24 hours, the British government said.

Germany's BioNTech, along with its US partner Pfizer, was the first company in the world to develop an effective vaccine against the virus.

But it is five times more expensive and must be kept at -70 degrees Celsius (-112°F).

Hundreds of thousands of Britons have already had their first shot of the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine.

England lockdown calls mount

On Sunday, the UK recorded more than 50,000 new coronavirus infections for the sixth day running.

Keir Starmer, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to impose a third nationwide lockdown in England to curb the rise in cases.

The UK has seen an uptick in infections after authorities announced they had discovered a new variant of the virus that appears to be more contagious.

"It is a very difficult situation in terms of the growth of the virus," Hancock said.

Asked whether the government was considering imposing a new national lockdown, he answered: "We don't rule anything out."

The other parts of the United Kingdom are responsible for their own health policies.

Northern Ireland and Wales are already under lockdown. The Scottish government is currently reviewing what to do next. **bw**



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
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LOCKDOWN EXTENDED

Germany to extend COVID-19 lockdown by three weeks

BERLIN: The German government and the 16 federal states have agreed to extend the lockdown until January 31 to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, German newspaper Bild reported on Monday without citing a source.

"All except two states support the end of January," news agency Reuters reported, citing the negotiations team.

The 16 state premiers and Chancellor Angela Merkel are set to meet on Tuesday to discuss the current lockdown.

Tight restrictions, in place since December 16, 2020 are due to end on January 10. But they have had little effect.

Last week, Germany reported a record number of daily deaths, over 1,000, as well as ballooning infection rates.

State premiers split over lockdown

State premiers reportedly agreed that the current lockdown should be extended during a video conference on Saturday, according to reports in Ger-

many's Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper.

But they were said to be split on the length of the extension. Premiers of the hardest-hit states were allegedly arguing for a three-weeks, while premiers of less-impacted states maintained a two week extension was long enough.

Current restrictions not working

The current lockdown has seen nonessential shops, beauty salons and cultural and nightlife venues shut; school holidays extended and private meet-ups limited.

But this has had little impact on curbing infection rates.

The seven-day incidence, which measures how many people have been infected per 100,000, is 139.6, according to Germany's public health body, the Robert Koch Institute.

This is far above the figure of 50 infections per 100,000 that the government has set for the possible lifting of restrictions. **bw**





















































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Trump heard on tape telling state official to ‘find’ him votes

The claims of ballot rigging have been widely rejected by state and federal election officials and by courts

WASHINGTON: In recorded comments, US President Donald Trump urged Georgia’s secretary of state, Republican Brad Raffensperger, to find enough votes from the US presidential election to deny the state to President-elect Joe Biden.

The conversation, published by a newspaper on Sunday, was the latest in Trump’s two-month effort to claim that his loss to Biden in the November 3 election was the result of voter fraud.

According to a newspaper, Trump alternately berated Raffensperger and other officials, tried to flatter him, pleaded with



US ELECTIONS: Trump berated Raffensperger and other officials, tried to flatter him, pleaded with him to act, and appeared to threaten “vague criminal consequences”.

him to act, and appeared to threaten “vague criminal consequences.”

Throughout the call, Raffensperger and his lawyer explain to Trump that his arguments are based on debunked conspiracy theories.

They tell him the 11,779 margin of victory for Biden was fair and accurate, but Trump is not satisfied. “The people of Georgia are angry, the people in the country are angry,” the president says. “And there’s nothing wrong with

saying, you know, um, that you’ve miscalculated.” “All I want to do is this. I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have. Because we won the state.”

The claims of ballot rigging have been widely rejected by state and federal election officials and by courts in numerous cases.

A news agency cited Biden senior adviser Bob Bauer as saying the recording was “irrefutable proof” of Trump pressuring and

threatening an official in his own party to “rescind a state’s lawful, certified vote count and fabricate another in its place.”

The former vice president’s narrow win in Georgia was the first by a Democratic presidential candidate in a generation. It has raised hopes among Democrats that they could win two Senate runoffs in the state on Tuesday. That result would give their party control of Congress. **DW**

REJECTED



UK judge blocks Julian Assange extradition to US

LONDON: A British judge on Monday rejected the United States request to extradite WikiLeaks founder and whistleblower Julian Assange.

UK District Judge Vanessa Baraitser indicated that extradition would have a harmful effect on Assange’s mental health and said she ruled against the US request due to fears that the whistleblower has a high risk of committing suicide as a result, Sputnik reported. Assange is wanted in the US on the charges of conspiring with Chelsea Manning, an American activist and whistleblower, to commit computer intrusion into the Department of Defence network to steal classified documents, namely Afghan and Iraq war logs and secret Department of State cables.

Assange is also facing 17 charges under the US espionage Act 1975 in connection with his release of the logs and cables. If proven guilty on all counts, Assange would face a sentence of up to 175 years.

Several witnesses indicated that Assange’s prison conditions put him at high risk for depression and suicide.

Psychiatrist Michael Kopelman, who also testified in court, claimed that a razor blade was found hidden in Assange’s cell, adding that his patient was engaged in thinking about ways of ending his own life.

Assange was taken to prison in April 2019 after being dragged out of the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he had lived for years. **ANI**

HIGHEST RECOVERIES

With 19,557 new COVID-19 recoveries, India tops global chart

NEW DELHI: With 19,557 fresh recoveries in the last 24 hours, India clocked the highest number of COVID-19 recoveries in the world, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed here on Monday.

A total of 9.94 million patients have recovered from the coronavirus in the country. As many as 16,504 new COVID-19 cases were reported from the country in the last 24 hours continuing its streak of reporting low daily cases and high recoveries.

As per a statement, the active caseload in the country has now fallen to 243,953, just 2.36 per cent of the cumulative caseload (10,340,470).

India’s total cumulative tests now stand at 175,635,761 including 735,978 tests conducted in the last 24 hours.

About 76.76 per cent of the new recovered cases were reported from 10 states and Union Territories (UT) while about 83.90 per cent of the new cases are concentrated in 10 states and UTs.

The highest number of cases was reported from Kerala, 4,600 in the last 24 hours. About 10 states/UTs account for 77.57 per cent of the 214 case fatalities reported in the past 24 hours. **ANI**

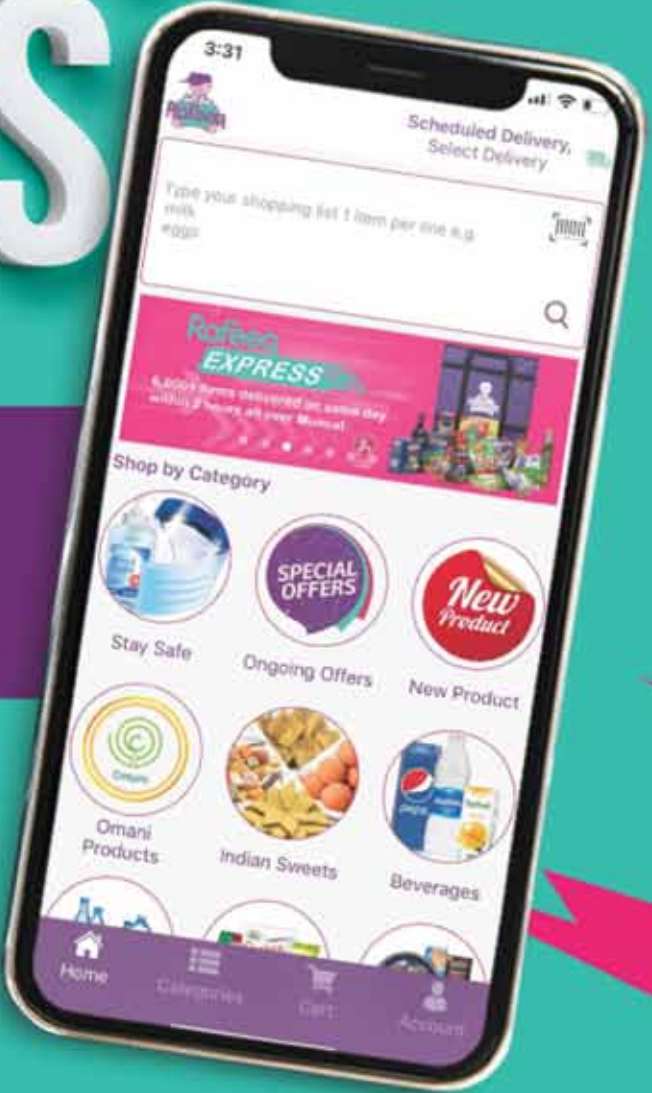
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LONG-AWAITED

Al Harthy gears up for Asian Le Mans Series in Abu Dhabi

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Racing's Ahmad Al Harthy is little more than four weeks away from beginning his long-awaited first season in the prestigious and hotly-contested Asian Le Mans Series, with the added bonus of all four rounds taking place on Middle Eastern soil in the United Arab Emirates.

As a result of the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest – the organising body behind the ALMS – made the decision during the latter part of 2020 to put in place a new calendar and location for the entire championship due to travel restrictions in South East Asia.

Scheduled to start in January in Thailand before moving on to Malaysia, the revised four-race series will now begin on Thursday, 4th February, at Yas Marina Circuit with the whole championship packed in to a busy 17-day period at the Abu Dhabi venue.

Following round one on Friday,



ASIAN LE MANS SERIES: Scheduled to start in January in Thailand before moving on to Malaysia, the revised four-race series will now begin on Thursday, February 4, at the Abu Dhabi venue.

5th February, the second four-hour race will be contested the next day on Saturday, 6th February, with round three on Friday, 19th February, and round four ending the season

on Saturday, 20th February.

To provide as much variety as possible for drivers and teams, the races – all four hours long – will be run on two different track configurations at Yas Marina and the quartet of encounters will combine day, twilight and night racing.

Al Harthy, who is supported by long-term partners Oman

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, National Bank of Oman, Omantel and Barr Al Jissah, will be partnered for his maiden ALMS campaign by Aston Martin factory driver Jonny Adam and AMR Driver Academy racer Tom Canning.

Delighted the Asian Le Mans Series will be contested in the Middle East, and especially at a track he knows well, Al Harthy has a glowing record at Yas Marina with many successes stretching back over the last 10 years.

Taking a lights-to-flag victory in the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East F1 support race in 2011, the Omani went on to secure pole position and a podium finish in the Gulf 12 Hours in 2015 partnering Adam and Darren Turner. Another podium was achieved in the same race in 2017 with Tom Jackson and Euan McKay while, in 2018, Al Harthy finished in fourth place.

"I can't wait for the championship to begin, especially now it's being held at Yas Marina Circuit",

said the double Blancpain Endurance Cup Pro-Am Champion, "Obviously it's the closest track we have to Oman, so this going to be fantastic for all of us at Oman Racing. I have great memories from there with some great results so, for sure, we can't wait to be there and get started.

"We have a very strong line-up with Jonny [Adam] and Tom [Canning] and with the TF Sport guys always preparing an amazing car for us, our confidence is very high. The competition is going to be incredibly strong, but we are determined to have a very successful championship."

Having been on the racing sidelines for the bulk of 2020 due to the travel restrictions imposed because of COVID-19, Al Harthy and Canning only made their first competitive appearance together at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium in October. Unsurprisingly, the duo starred in the No.97 Aston Martin Vantage GT3 by winning the Pro-Am class on their debut in the International GT Open.

Oman to host Tests, ODIs and T20I series

Afghanistan have chosen to play their home Test, ODI and T20I series at Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) Ground 1

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's wonderful cricket facilities have met International Cricket Council's (ICC) highest approval and the country is now an accredited Test, One-day International (ODI) their home Test, ODI and T20I series at Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) Ground 1, the newest addition to the elite club of Test cricket grounds.

ODI series

Afghanistan are set to play a three-match ODI series against Ireland this month with the first game scheduled for January 26 followed by the next two matches on January 29 and 31 in Amerat.

This will be followed by Afghanistan's Test and T20I series against Zimbabwe, now scheduled to be held in Oman in February in which they will play two Test matches and three Twenty20 Internationals.

"This is a big news and a wonderful achievement for Oman Cricket. The New Year has started on such a promising note for the Sultanate. Apart from the UAE, Oman is the only other Associate nation to enjoy Test, ODI and T20I status. This is a very proud moment for us all," said an elated Madhu Jesrani, Secretary, Oman Cricket.



HOME SERIES IN OMAN: Afghanistan are set to play a three-match ODI series against Ireland this month with the first game scheduled for January 26.



Kanak Khimji

"Oman Cricket is delighted to know that the Sultanate has become an accredited venue for Test matches, ODI and T20 Internationals. The credit must go to our chairman Kanak Khimji and the Board of Directors for guiding us all these years. This honour and achievement is a realisation of our

chairman's dream. Oman hosting Test matches and all forms of international cricket is a dream come true. This was his vision and we should all thank him for guiding us to the path," said Duleep Mendis, Chief Development Officer at Oman Cricket and coach of national team.

ICC accreditation did not come easy. The procedure was quite tough and Oman Cricket had to work hard to meet all the requirements.

Oman Cricket Academy

"When it comes to hosting Test matches and white ball international cricket, they (ICC) go into certain details. Fortunately, we fulfilled almost everything. Oman Cricket Academy is such a fantastic centre that it has everything. All the necessary facilities are there in one location. Most of the ICC officials have been here and seen the facility and they are very happy to grant this accreditation to Oman Cricket Ground. I must acknowl-

edge that Pankaj Khimji played a key role in getting ICC's attention to our facility in Amerat and we thank him for being so effective and helpful," explained Mendis.

Oman also plans to boost seating capacity of the ground before the first Test match takes place here.

Long tour

"This will be a long tour and we need to plan and prepare well to give a good account of the facilities that we have. We are determined to make this a successful event. There will be many more international series taking place in Oman, bringing in top broadcasting companies here telecasting the games which will be viewed live around the world. This kind of international exposure is sure to benefit Oman," said Mendis.

Afghanistan's series against Ireland and Zimbabwe were originally scheduled to be held in UAE and India respectively but will now be held in Oman.

REAL GIFT OF 2021

Biggest news for cricket fraternity: Pankaj Khimji

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman becoming a Test centre is a real gift of 2021 and certainly an uplifting, mood enhancing news for cricket fraternity in the country, said Pankaj Khimji, senior member of Oman Cricket's Board of Directors.

"This is a phenomenal time for us. We had the lows of 2020 when there was little or no cricket and then we came to 2021 and we came out with a bang. We have received our first Test accreditation for Ground No.1 which is really a phenomenal, uplifting, mood enhancing vaccine that we could have got for cricket in Oman," he said reacting to the news that Oman has been accredited to host Test, ODI and T20I matches.

Pankaj, who is also considered Oman's voice in the highest echelons of ICC and ACC, said becoming a Test centre is going to be a game-changer for cricket in Oman.

"To see Test cricket being played here in February between Afghanistan and Zimbabwe will probably be the finest moment for my father (Kanak Khimji) whose dream was to bring cricket to Oman. But did we actually dream of Test cricket coming to Oman? I think that was really a pipedream. To realise a pipe-dream is probably the greatest high and this is really a tribute to my father who is our inspiration and our leader in terms of cricket in Oman. For Kanakji, this is certainly a super spirit lifting development," he added.

Pankaj said this was the right time to thank all those who had supported Oman Cricket in achieving greater glories.

"I must thank His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said for supporting this



wholeheartedly, Rashad Al Hinai for making sure that we have all the permissions in place and of course every other member of the Ministry of Sports and Royal Oman Police and city administration who have really gone the whole nine yards in making this happen," he added.

He also thanked OC administration, Board of Directors and all the teams in Oman for all the years of hard work that has gone into making this beautiful infrastructure.

"Of course, we pay our tributes to late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour for his contribution and magnanimity in making us realise our cricket dreams and putting Oman on the real map of Test cricket now. We also thank His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Patron of Oman Cricket. I have no words to explain the contribution that he has made over the past twenty five years to making Oman one of the most renowned Associate cricket nations in the world."

Pankaj said OC still had a little bit of ground to cover before the dream is fully realized. "I am sure things will be put in place and the spade work done well in time to be able to host Test matches in Oman," he concluded.

PAKISTAN VS NZ

Williamson, Nicholls shine as Kiwis take firm control

CHRISTCHURCH: Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls' unbeaten 215-run stand on day two of the second Test against Pakistan gave New Zealand an edge at stumps on Monday here at the Hagley Oval, Christchurch.

The Kiwis concluded day two at 286/3, trailing Pakistan by 11 runs. Williamson and Nicholls are currently unbeaten on 112 and 89 respectively. For Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Abbas, and Faheem Ashraf scalped one wicket each. Starting their innings on day two, New Zealand openers provided a steady start to the side as Tom Latham and Tom Blundell put on 52 runs for the first wicket, but Pakistan came back strongly as the visitors dismissed both the openers in a span of six balls.

First, Blundell was dismissed



by Faheem Ashraf, and five balls later, Latham (33) was sent back to the pavilion by Shaheen Afridi, reducing New Zealand to 52/2. Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor then ensured that the hosts do not lose any more wickets before the lunch break.

After the lunch break, the Ki-

wis lost the wicket of Ross Taylor (12) as he was sent back to the pavilion by Mohammad Abbas, but Williamson and Henry Nicholls steadied the ship for the hosts and the duo took the score to 145/3 at the tea interval with Williamson and Nicholls on 40 and 25 respectively. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

We've to take it on the chin and react: Frank Lampard

LONDON: After losing to Manchester City, Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said they allowed their opponents to take control of the game and stressed that his side should "take it on the chin and react" properly in the coming game. Chelsea were beaten by Manchester City 3-1 in the Premier League here on Sunday.

"From 15 minutes onwards we allowed City to take control of the game, find spaces between the lines, and play with the quality of player they have. The two goals came in quick succession and you have to continue believing and keep going, and for the rest of the half the players found that difficult because of the levels City were playing at with and without the ball," the club's official website quoted Lampard as saying.

"I said to the players at half-



time, I sat there and had those days. I sat there and had those days and lifted a trophy at the end of the year. I remember getting beaten at Middlesbrough 2-0 or 3-0, when they had Viduka and Yakubu up front, and we were sat in the dressing room pretty demoralised. We bounced back because we had a spirit in the dressing room, we had

a quality of player. We're in a different period now, but any player in football is going to have moments like that... I don't want to hide away from that, but the players, myself, have to take it on the chin and react," he added.

Three quick goals from Manchester City in the first half did the damage. Ilkay Gundogan's opener in the 18th minute was followed by Phil Foden and Kevin De Bruyne's strikes which came in the 21st and 34th minute respectively.

Chelsea's only goal was netted by Callum Hudson-Odoi in the 90+2nd minute. Lampard's team is currently placed in the eighth spot on the Premier League standings with 26 points.

The club will now take on Morecambe in the FA Cup on January 10. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by February 2020 reaching \$52.55, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman rose \$1.68. - ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,695.16 points, up 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.43 per cent at 524.78 points. Muscat Thread Mills, up 9.72 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 4.21 per cent, was the top loser.

Tethys Oil starts operations on Block 49 onshore Oman

The well is planned to be drilled to a depth of about 4,000 metres below ground and drilling operations are expected to last about 45 days

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil announced on Monday that drilling operations of exploration well Thameen-1 on Block 49 onshore the Sultanate of Oman has commenced.

The well is planned to be drilled to a depth of about 4,000 metres below ground and drilling operations are expected to last about 45 days.

Primary target is the Late Ordovician Hasirah Sandstone layer at a depth of 3,500 metres (TVD). A secondary target is the Mid-Ordovician Saih Nihayda Sandstone at a depth of 3,700 metres (TVD). In addition, the well will also investigate the shallower Gharif Sandstone.

"We are delighted to have started drilling operations on Block 49. The Thameen-1 well is designed to penetrate several potentially hydrocarbon bearing rock layers, said Tethys Managing Director Magnus Nordin.

"We have three defined targets, but we will analyse all data from the well to increase our understanding of the potential oil plays in the block, conventional as well as unconventional," he added.



DRILL SITE: The drill site is located within the northern part of Block 49 at Marsudad village in the Wilayat of Muqhsin. Block 49 is an onshore block that covers 15,439 square kilometres in the South West of the Sultanate of Oman within the Governorate of Dhofar. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

The drill site is located within the northern part of Block 49 at Marsudad village in the Wilayat of Muqhsin. Block 49 is an onshore block that covers 15,439 square kilometres in the South West of Oman within the

Governorate of Dhofar.

Tethys Oil, through its wholly owned subsidiary Tethys Oil Montasar, has signed a contract with Abraj Energy Services for the provision of the Abraj-204 drilling rig.

Tethys Oil entered into a farm-out agreement with EOG Resources (EOG) in November 2020, whereby EOG acquired 50 per

cent interest in the exploration and production sharing agreement covering Block 49.

The agreement is subject to government approval. Tethys Oil, through Tethys Oil Montasar, is the operator of the Block and holds 50 per cent of the license interest.

A farmout agreement is an agreement with a working inter-

est owner (Farmor) whereby the Farmor agrees to assign working interest to the Farmee in exchange for certain contractually agreed services.

Tethys Oil is a Swedish oil company with focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds inter-

ests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58.

Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P reserves of 26.1 million barrels oil (mmbo) and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 13.5 mmbo and had an average oil production of 12,832 barrels per day from Blocks 3&4 during 2019.

COMMENTARY

Shock-proof: How to forge resilient supply chains

AS COVID-19 threw fragile global supply chains into disarray, many companies were stunned by their own vulnerability. The risk of depending on a supply base that is concentrated in one geographic region has been increasing over the past 30 years, but the pandemic quickly demonstrated how much chaos and pain one unexpected event could inflict.

It was a powerful wake-up call. The disruption triggered by COVID-19 has prompted leadership teams to confront a new era of supply chain volatility.

Bracing for an era of increased turbulence, leading multinationals are rethinking their supply chain strategies to lower the risk of disruption. In a recent survey of 200 global manufacturers by Bain & Company and the Digital Supply Chain Institute, executives ranked flexibility and resilience as their top supply chain goals. Only 36 per cent of senior executives ranked cost reduction as a top three-goal, down from 63 per cent who saw it as a priority over the past three years.

To improve supply chain resilience, 45 per cent of respondents plan to shift production closer to home markets in the coming years. The good news is that automation has reduced the cost of manufacturing, eroding the labour arbitrage advantage that fuelled decades of investment in offshore production. The cost of humanoid robots is comparatively lower now which means companies with processes capable of being automated such as consumer electronics can opt to move supply chains closer to home without raising costs significantly.

For the last 30 years, manufacturing companies have wrung out supply chain



costs by disaggregating the various steps of the value chain, concentrating each step with a limited number of companies and geographies to improve economies of scale. As a result, most leadership teams lack sufficient supply chain visibility to assess their geopolitical and geographical risks. Before investing in a new supply chain strategy, successful leadership teams evaluate their supplier and contract manufacturer risk according to two factors: the country where goods are produced and the supplier's headquarters location.

Two key factors that determine geopolitical supply chain risk are the supplier's headquarters and its manufacturing location.

Once leaders understand their risk exposure, they start building resilience into their value chains in a two-step process. First, they quickly add flexibility to the supply of finished goods and high-risk subcomponents where possible, to limit immediate risks and satisfy customers. Second, they take a strategic approach to rethinking the value chain from end to end. That includes deciding the pace of change and periodically reviewing decisions based on external conditions and internal capabilities. Below are 3 steps to help companies pioneer the shift to supply chain resilience:

Boost flexibility

Supply chain flexibility is becoming a more and more important concept for gaining competitive advantages. The priority in making supply chains shock-proof is increasing flexibility for supplying finished goods and high-risk subcomponents. This would open the possibility for companies to respond to short term changes in demand and supply situations as well as structural shifts in the environment of the supply chain on an immediate basis.

Not many countries have the capacity and infrastructure to handle all the volume, so manufacturers often have to piece together a solution across multiple neighbouring countries. For many companies, aligning a new production location with demand can deliver significant benefits, particularly in industries where demand is rising even though the downturn, including MedTech and certain consumer products.

Rethink end-to-end network strategy

For each value chain, leadership teams need to properly balance risk and resilience at the lowest total landed cost. This includes decisions on single vs. multiple sourcing, where to manufacture at each stage of assembly, and proximity to customers. They also need to determine whether to produce in-house or outsource, taking into account variables such as national incentives and declining manufacturing costs. Successful companies revisit their value chain choices regularly, especially in turbulent times.

Balancing cost and risk

Resilience does not eclipse every consideration. As leadership teams start to understand where they need

flexibility, they face important trade-offs on cost. Investing in too much flexibility can render a company uncompetitive. As they look to reshape supply chains for the future, successful companies determine how much resilience they need, where it matters most, and what they can afford.

Resilient and flexible supply chains can be a powerful defensive hedge, but also a source of competitive advantage. Leaders make the most of options such as capacity buffers, digital infrastructure and nimble teams to react faster and more efficiently than their peers.

The investment to build and maintain these capabilities varies, depending on a company's need for responsiveness and efficiency, as well as the level of industry competition. This is why the roadmap for resilient supply chains must be linked to a company's long-term business strategy.

For example, a high-growth business that has high margins and short product life cycles, and is dependent on components coming from widely distributed sources such as high-end cell phones, will require a different type of supply chain resilience than a hypercompetitive low-margin business, such as clothing or toys, which relies on imported finished goods.

Geopolitical volatility and market turbulence will transform supply chain management in the coming decade. Leadership teams that invest in strategies to increase supply resilience will simultaneously create a new source of competitive advantage.

By Karim Shariff, Partner at Bain & Company Middle East, Sri Rajan, Partner at Bain & Company San Francisco, Joshua Hinkel and Partner at Bain & Company Dallas

WORLD ECONOMY

COVID-19 vaccines may help allay fears in global markets

BEIJING: As the pandemic-battered global economy slid into a severe recession in 2020, global markets have turned more sensitive, with wild volatility seen from risky assets, notably stocks, to safe-havens, such as gold.

Further development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in 2021 may help allay fears in global markets, yet uncertainties persist. The International Monetary Fund predicted in October that the world economy would shrink by 4.4 per cent in 2020.

Although the world economy will likely recover from the slump, the impact of the ravaging coronavirus cannot be underestimated, and global trade is being reshaped by mounting geopolitical risks and transfer of power in major economies. These factors stoked widespread concern among investors about the prices of the four major assets - gold, the US dollar, crude oil and stocks.

Will gold hold firm?

Gold is always a safe haven for investors. In 2020, fears of the greenback were simmering due to the combined factors of the pandemic, economic depression, increasing geopolitical risks and higher US national debt.

When adverse events occur and linger for a while, in addition to loose monetary policies adopted by countries, more investors are likely to pile their funds into safe havens like gold from volatile holdings and consequently drive up gold prices with increased demand.

Gold prices rose sharply amid volatile trading in 2020. Following the coronavirus outbreak, liquidity risks once emerged in the international financial market, and the precious metal drastically retreated after a strong start. As market sentiments improved, however, the yellow metal began to rally in March and fears a record

level of 2,075 dollars per ounce in August before dipping a bit.

Will the dollar continue to weaken?

The Federal Reserve in March unveiled unlimited, open-ended quantitative easing, cutting interest rates in two emergency meetings by a total of 150 basis points, which represented the government's desperate attempt to stimulate the coronavirus-stricken economy. Such aggressive moves, however, triggered a dollar plunge.

How high will crude oil go?

Crude oil prices in 2020 indicated a "V-shaped" recovery. The US oil prices plunged nearly a third on March 9, the biggest crash since the 1991 Gulf War. And once again on April 20, oil prices dipped below zero for the first time, closing at -37.63 dollars per barrel in New York, in that coronavirus-induced oversupply of crude threatened to overwhelm storage facilities.

Oil demand rebounded and prices edged up in the second half of 2020 as the international crude market tightened the supply side and business activities resumed in many economies amid preventive measures against the virus.

It is widely acknowledged that vaccination against COVID-19 will buoy optimism on the global economic recovery as well as oil demand and prices.

Will stocks cool off?

Wall Street has been on a rollercoaster ride in 2020. The US stock market reacted to unpredictability with large drops, triggering a market-wide circuit breaker four times in March. But in November, the Dow Jones Industrial Average cracked 30,000 for the first time, surging 11.8 per cent, the best monthly performance in three decades. - xinhua

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Muscat Thread Mills, up 9.72 per cent, was the top gainer, while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 4.21 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,695.16 points, up 0.43 per cent from the previous close.

The Sharia Index ended up 0.43 per cent at 524.78 points. Muscat Thread Mills, up 9.72 per cent, was the top gainer, while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 4.21 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Omantel was most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 644 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.47 million, with more than 12.1 million shares changing hands.

Out of 40 traded stocks, 16 advanced, 5 declined and 19 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR296,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for

OMR208,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR88,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,706.47 points, up by 0.56 per cent. Muscat Finance, Al Anwar Holding, Al Sharqia Investment Holding, Oman & Emirates Investment Holding, and Sohar International bank were up by 8.11 per cent, 4.69 per cent, 2.82 per cent, 2.27 per cent, and 1.10 per cent respectively. Oman Arab Bank was down 0.53 per cent.

Industrial Index closed at 4,349.67 points, up 0.52 per cent. Muscat Thread Mills, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles, Al Jazeera Steel, and Al Maha Ceramics were up by 9.72 per cent, 4.44 per cent, 2.23 per cent, 1.40 per cent, and 1.34 per cent respectively. Dhofar Cattle Feed was down 4.21 per cent.

Services index was up by 0.02 per cent before closing at 1,602.64 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,697.10	3,679.23	3,695.16	3,679.34	15.82	0.43
Financial Index	5,706.58	5,680.70	5,706.47	5,674.93	31.54	0.56
Industrial Index	4,353.07	4,337.00	4,349.67	4,327.08	22.59	0.52
Services Index	1,603.59	1,600.28	1,602.64	1,602.28	0.36	0.02
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	524.91	522.81	524.78	522.55	2.23	0.43
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,219.23	4,198.83	4,217.01	4,198.96	18.05	0.43

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,133,690	1,471,604	644	20,277,338,130	16	5	19	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 4

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	52,394	2,096	3	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.037	0.003	8.108	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.100	12,285,853
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	1,007,940	67,894	68	0.067	0.069	0.067	0.067	0.064	0.003	4.688	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HOLDING	777,604	56,772	43	0.071	0.074	0.071	0.073	0.071	0.002	2.817	0.074	0.072	0.074	0.100	6,570,000
OM0000000278	AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	954,263	138,376	60	0.147	0.147	0.144	0.145	0.143	0.002	1.399	0.144	0.144	0.146	0.100	18,110,204
OM0000000005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	12,000	2,726	3	0.228	0.228	0.226	0.227	0.224	0.003	1.339	0.226	0.225	0.228	0.100	12,485,000
OM0000000338	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	100,000	9,200	3	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.001	1.099	0.092	0.091	0.093	0.100	223,974,620
OM0000000160	NATIONAL GAS	87,831	12,735	12	0.144	0.147	0.144	0.145	0.144	0.001	0.694	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.100	12,325,000
OM0000000368	OOREDOO	95,213	37,507	25	0.384	0.384	0.382	0.384	0.382	0.002	0.510	0.382	0.382	0.386	0.100	256,472,027
OM0000000296	BANK MUSCAT	87,500	34,796	19	0.388	0.400	0.386	0.388	0.386	0.002	0.505	0.386	0.384	0.386	0.100	1,293,308,971
OM0000000135	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	904,287	82,531	32	0.090	0.093	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000000174	OMAN CEMENT	14,000	3,430	4	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.235	0.245	0.100	81,063,814
OM0000000207	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SER.	279,509	19,007	23	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.071	0.100	19,851,592
OM0000000302	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	395,908	285,127	16	0.720	0.724	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.000	0.000	0.724	0.720	0.724	0.100	540,000,000
OM0000000324	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	138,000	47,269	17	0.346	0.346	0.340	0.342	0.350	-0.008	-2.286	0.340	0.338	0.340	0.100	80,852,220
Total		4,906,449	799,466	328												

Parallel Market

OM0000000206	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	6,000	474	2	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.072	0.007	9.722	0.079	0.000	0.079	0.100	1,257,168
OM0000000352	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON.	3,291,384	154,048	98	0.047	0.048	0.046	0.047	0.045	0.002	4.444	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	13,629,090
OM0000000226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	687,954	168,359	50	0.244	0.250	0.243	0.245	0.239	0.006	2.510	0.250	0.246	0.250	0.100	14,995,047
OM0000000181	OMAN AND EMIRATES INV. HOLDING	47,306	2,138	9	0.045	0.046	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.046	0.045	0.048	0.100	5,484,375
OM0000000218	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	183,442	50,417	10	0.270	0.275	0.270	0.275	0.269	0.006	2.230	0.275	0.275	0.285	0.100	81,458,763
OM0000000963	PHOENIX POWER	40,000	2,980	5	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.961	0.082	0.081	0.086	0.100	78,055,276
OM0000000259	BANK DHOFAR	70,900	6,948	2	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.098	0.096	0.099	0.100	293,642,441
OM0000000178	MUSCAT GASES	2,976	616	1	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.100	6,210,000
OM0000000131	NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS	92,250	8,210	11	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.087	0.089	0.100	2,987,859
OM0000000483	NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	794	129	1	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.160	0.163	0.100	266,655,202
OM0000000156	OMAN FISHERIES	4,000	346	3	0.086	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.094	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000000107	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	25,900	10,938	3	0.422	0.424	0.422	0.422	0.422	0.000	0.000	0.424	0.422	0.440	0.100	37,853,400
OM0000000237	UNITED FINANCE	244,486	10,972	10	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.046	0.100	15,711,498
OM0000000314	ACWA POWER BARKA	100	43	1	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.478	0.478	0.000	0.000	0.432	0.000	0.432	0.100	76,480,000
OM0000000420	BANK NIZWA	285,204	27,353	16	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000000478	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	1,640,491	128,226	54	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000000425	AL BATINAH POWER	244,874	12,233	11	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000000493	AL SUWADI POWER	112,510	5,738	5	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000000620	VISION INSURANCE	60,000	4,980	5	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	5,300,000
OM0000000703	NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS.	300	108	1	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.344	0.360	0.100	91,160,000
OM0000000790	AMAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FU	3,900	363	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.100	0.100	19,800,000
OM0000000520	OMAN ARAB BANK	87,631	16,534	6	0.190	0.190	0.178	0.189	0.190	-0.001	-0.526	0.178	0.179	0.190	0.100	315,518,490
OM0000000300	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAR.	10,860	7,298	2	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.676	0.004	-0.592	0.672	0.608	0.672	0.100	46,368,000
OM0000000473	SEMBOH SALALAH	28,527	2,824	5	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000000130	DHOFAR CATTLE FEED	1,156	469	2	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.095	-0.004	-4.211	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.100	7,357,350
Total		7,176,945	621,843	314												

TOURISM REVENUE

Egypt receives 3.5mn tourists in 2020

CAIRO: A total of 3.5 million tourists visited Egypt in 2020 compared to 13.1 million in 2019, according to Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Khaled al-Anany.

The revenues of tourism in 2020 hit \$4 billion, said al-Anany on Monday, compared to \$13.03 billion in 2019. "Occupancy of the hotels constituted only 10-15 per

cent of the percentage in 2019," said al-Anany, noting that the ministry has signed a contract with a foreign company to draw a strategy for promoting the tourism map in 2021.

The Tourism Activation Authority earlier said that 65 per cent of the tourists who visited Egypt in 2020 came in January and February. The country lost at least one

billion dollars for each month during the travel ban, according to the statement. It predicted the recovery will start in March 2021 but the number will still be less than that in 2019.

The tourism industry, a key pillar of Egypt's economic revenues and hard currency, had started to show signs of recovery. — **Xinhua**

FORECAST

Indian rupee to trade weaker in 2021: Fitch Solutions

SINGAPORE: Fitch Solutions has revised its forecast for the Indian rupee to average stronger at Rs75.50 per US dollar in 2021 from Rs77 previously, and Rs77 in 2022 from Rs79 previously to account for a stronger 2021 forecast.

"We expect the rupee to trade only slightly weaker over the near term from current levels," it said.

"We see depreciatory pressure on the rupee due to worsening terms of trade from rising oil prices, further monetary easing and bouts of risk-off sentiment being partially offset by US dollar weakness and central bank foreign exchange intervention to combat imported inflation."

Over the longer term, said Fitch, the over-valuation of the rupee in real terms and higher inflation in India vis-a-vis the dollar should exert weakening pressure for the rupee.

With India having a crude oil import dependence of more than

80 per cent of its needs, rising global oil prices driven by a global economic recovery in 2021 will see a worsening of India's terms of trade, and put depreciatory pressure on the rupee.

Brent oil is expected to average 53 dollars per barrel in 2021 versus the 2020 year-to-date average of 43.18 dollars per barrel.

Positive news

Meanwhile, positive news on COVID-19 vaccines as well as US President-elect Joe Biden's victory at the November elections have improved risk sentiment and equities rose to new highs in many markets.

Considering still-elevated uncertainty around the recovery outlook given a resurgence in COVID-19 infections in major economies in Europe, Asia and record infection counts in the United States, markets may have overpriced positive news recently so the risk of correction lingers

over the coming months.

"Given the rupee's status as an emerging market currency positively correlated to risk, the rupee is likely to weaken during such a risk-off period."

Two factors

Fitch said two factors will partially offset the depreciatory pressure on the rupee. First, loose US fiscal and monetary policy will likely continue exerting downside pressure on the dollar into 2021 which will partially offset rupee weakness.

Second, the Reserve Bank of India with a foreign exchange reserve position of 578 billion dollars as of December, representing an import cover of around 19 months, will likely intervene to prevent excessive rupee weakness to manage imported inflation to reduce the risk of high inflation derailing India's recovery in 2021. — **ANI**

CHINA RAILWAY

China-Europe freight trains via Xinjiang hit record high in 2020

URUMQI: A record number of 9,679 inbound and outbound China-Europe freight trains passed through northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in 2020, according to China Railway Urumqi Group Co. Ltd.

The number of trains travelling through Alataw Pass reached 5,027 in 2020, up 41.8 per cent year on year, while those through Horgos Port totalled 4,652, up 37 per cent year on year.

Sources with the company said a large number of goods previously transported to Europe via air and sea shifted to the China-Europe freight train last year.

Local railway authorities expanded the capacity of the Alataw Pass and the Horgos Port and optimised the operation of production in 2020. Through better coordination among railway, customs, border control authorities as well as Kazak authorities, the time a train needed to pass the border was reduced to less than one hour from 10 hours, the sources said.

Currently, 22 lines run through Alataw Pass, reaching 13 countries including Germany and Poland. — **Xinhua**

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Contact
92951654, 99332902

FOR RENT
Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Panasonic VRF A/Cs, Free centralize gas, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured Car Park.
Behind Mazoun Complex, Ruwi
Fully Furnished Apartment Also Available
Contact: 96707247 or 24704141

FOR RENT
Deluxe 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Split A/Cs, Fixed wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, Free Unlimited Broadband WiFi, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system & Secured car park.
Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj
Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment And Transport For Office Also Available
Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

FOR RENT
Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Ducted VRF A/Cs, Free centralize gas, Built in wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured car park.
Next to Sri Lankan School Wadi Kabir
Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment and Transport for Office also available
Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

FOR SALE

FOR SALE
35 ROOMS - WELL MAINTAINED
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IN MABELLEH DUBAI HIGHWAY ROAD.
NO BROKERS. ONLY SERIOUS BUYERS.
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PHONE: 99291154 / WHATSAPP: 99816262

FOR RENT

Brand new two bedroom at Marsa Garden Al Mouj, Full equipped kitchen and built in cupboards and two bathrooms for OMR 600 kindly contact +968-93328511
Industrial Land 1500m2 in Al-Ohi Industrial area in Suhar. Contact : 99231000
1 BHK , 2 BHK flats for rent at Azaiba - Next building Al Meera Hyper market. Contact 94934353 Email hotapaz@omantel.net.om

Rent flat near Badr al sama hospital in Ruwi, 4 Bedroom with AC & also Room for rent in Wadi Adei with AC. Contact 99345137
Flat for Rent in Wadi Kabir(2BHK), sitting room(3 bathroom) A/C split near Jalalah mosque. Contact 99324402

NRI

15 cents land in Kozhikode, Thondayad. Opposite to StarCare hospital on Kannur bypass, 250 meters from highway with black-top road frontage. Contact 91-7902216185

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OBG clinic for sale. Location Al khoud. Contact 99352793/99014851
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CONTACT 92042451

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JOB VACANCIES

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES
CO. looking for **Male Chemist** for:

- 1 - Quality Control Department
- 2 - Quality Assurance Department
- 3 - Analytical Development Laboratory

Qualification Required Master of Science in:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- In Organic Chemistry
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Bio Analytical Science
- Chemistry

Send your C V within two weeks to:
Email ID: npico@omantel.net.om

(Omani Nationality Only)

PARAMOUNT KITCHEN EQUIPMENT
Looking for the following

SALES EXECUTIVE (R-OM-001)

Above candidates must have more than 3 year Experience/Knowledge of Kitchen Equipment industry or Similar with Oman D/L. Employee Should ready to joint immediately.

Interested are requested to send CV to pro@paramountmuscat.com

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JOB WANTED?**

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HERE**

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VACANCY FOR PURCHASE EXECUTIVE

One of the largest and most reputed ISO certified manufacturing companies in the Sultanate of Oman has vacancy for competent professional in purchase functions.

Candidates should have Degree/Diploma in Engineering and 5-7 years of experience in GCC in purchase functions at a manufacturing organization and ideally should be in the age group of 30-35 years.

Please send resume within 7 days with salary expectations to:
omanrecruitments@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

ENGINEERS

A leading Engineering consultancy in Oman looking for a Fire Engineer, with a minimum of 5 years experience.

Only Omani citizens need to apply.

Send your resume to:
hr@milesmct.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

As a part of expansion, Vasanta Bhavan restaurant and mart located in different parts of Muscat is seeking CVs from suitable candidates for the following position:

- Captain/Cashier - 2nos.

- Waiter - 3nos.

- Woman Cashier for food court - 2nos
- Filipino Preferred.

Kindly contact:
Mr. Biju: 9271 3345

JOB VACANCY

A LEADING MONEY EXCHANGE COMPANY is looking for **Graduates/Postgraduates in Commerce** (Male/Female) with prior work experience.

Other Requisites: proficient in MS Office, Fluent in English and two more languages from, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Bangla, Tagalong, Punjabi, Malayalam, Telugu.

Less than 35 years as on 31/12/2020 and open to do outdoor marketing/sales visits.

email: xchangecvoman@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

**Indian Chef/Cook
for Private Family
with experience
in Arabic and
Indian dish**

Please contact: 99735820

JOB VACANCIES

MEDICAL

Required nurse with MOH license for immediate appointment for a clinic at Ruwi.Contact 78330763 between 9.30 to 12.30 & 5 to 8.30

Femal Nurse required for a Clinic in Al Buraimi. Contact +96892737149
Email drpkabbas@yahoo.co.in

MANAGER

Property Leasing Manager Send CV To vepsupervisor@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking for Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter, Foreman, Office Staff. Contact 24709144
Email atf24704415@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Urgently wanted experienced Purchase manager/supervisor for a super market in Qurum. Contact 91444677

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SALES/MARKETING

Urgently required a Ready-made Garments salesman with minimum Two Years Experience.Computer knowledge is a mustWhatsApp: 99816262

Looking for experienced freelance sales executives with valid Oman D/L for F&B division (Restaurants and coffeshop products) for immediate placement. Interested candidates may send CV to jabirappa@icloud.com or Contact 92339651

Required, Sales Helper for Building Material Shop in Muscat, cv to: mwmuscatcarrer@gmail.com, whatsapp +968-78268276

Digital Marketing exec who can set up and run Google Display Network, Google Search campaigns required. Also required Social Media management executive to set up, community manage fb, IG, Twitter, LIn, You Tube etc. Arabic knowledge is an advantage. WhatsApp CV to 99106556. Email: socialdigitaloman@gmail.com

We are looking for an experienced Sales Executive with valid Omani DL. Contact: printoman24x7@gmail.com

Smart, dynamic Sales Executive, 2-3 years of outdoor sales for a reputed Tile & Cladding stone company. Building material experience, Arabic knowledge, Oman Driving License preferred. Attractive package. Apply with photographs to salesjobs@gmail.com or 00968-96986963.

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3. Monthly and Yearly Accounting
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Website: www.almalaki.co

Contact: 90608097

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Contact: 99884291 / 99741875.
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

Pest Control treatments - Cock-roaches, Ants etc Ocean Centre LLC.
Contact 9932 9289.
Mail - sales@oceancentre.co

Disinfection & Sterilization Treatments. Ocean Centre LLC.
Contact 9932 9289.
Mail - sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning- Offices, Villas, Flats. Ocean Centre LLC.
Contact 9932 9289.
Mail - sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Contact Mundhir I-Rizaigqi trading. LLC # 24810137, 99450130

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant (CA Inter) - Indian (male) with 10 years' experience Accounting. Oman DL. Contact 94450401.

BCom Graduate with DL & Experience looking for suitable placement. Contact 92695069.
Email: zameelpv@gmail.com

Indian male B.Com, tally experience,accounts upto finalization with DL. Contact 94532610. Email vargheseekuttikattil@gmail.com

Male accountant M.S finance, 7yrs gulf experience with DL.Contact 95318382. Email salmanriaz1988.thumrait.int@gmail.com

Indian male 18+ yrs experience in finance,debt collection & credit,audit operation available for immediate joining. contact 95500941, 78159940. Email tatabrezaziz@gmail.com

Looking for Senior Accountant Position. Having 10 Years Experience, and DL also. Mob - 79202007

Accountant Indian Male, 34 years old, 9 years of experience in finance, Looking for suitable job. Contact 9874 8634

Looking for Senior Accountant Position. Having 10 Years Experience, and DL also . Mob - 79202007

Indian Male, Bcom, MBA 19 years experience in Budget,Banking,Audit, MIS,Payroll,ERP(Epicor,Sage,Tally, Oracle). NOC available. ready to join immediately. GSM 91190552.

MBA Finance 16+ Exp of Oman in Accounts up to finalization,looking for suitable senior position Contact: 92383882

M.Com/CA, 10+ yrs of experience in accounts, finance, banking, taxation, MIS seeking suitable opening. DL, NOC available.
Contact 92930407, 79202015

Assistant Accountant, Indian male, B Com 12 years experience in Oman with D/L and NOC seeks suitable placement. Contact 96395258

Looking for Senior Accountant Position .Having 10 Years Experience, and driving license also . Mob - 79202007

Sudanese 32 yrs,6 yrs experience in Oman in Accounting & Administrative assistant.contact 94050251. email danygalaxy184@gmail.com

Accountant, office administration, back office.Contact 93403636.Email munaifshaikh22@gmail.com

Indian female, M.com (Finance) & MBA (HR), 6 years experience seeking an opening in Muscat. Contact 95340104; sunilasunil30@gmail.com

Part time accountant with more than 12 yrs experience in different financial sectors.Good working knowledge of ERP softwares & advanced excel.Can do audit & certification & consultancy work. Contact 94197499.
Email ma.abdul1988@gmail.com

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

SENIOR CORPORATE AND RETAIL BANKER

With over 30 years experience in Credit Management, Relationship Management, Credit Administration, Operations Management and Recoveries/IFRS9 Provisioning Methodologies seeks suitable placement.

Email: DolphinOcean367@gmail.com

QUALITY MANAGER

Indian, Quality Manager, 18 years exp, 4.3 years at Abu Dhabi, looking for top/senior management position in quality. Coordinating RFQ to Mass production, Time, Resource & Quality planning, Process design, Project execution, etc. Available to join shortly.

Contact: 91-9952022345, venkatavaradu@rediffmail.com

SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR – CIVIL ENGINEERING

Very widely experienced both in Consultancy and Construction looking for a placement at top management level or on partnership.

Contact: winnerdandd@gmail.com
Mobile/WhatsApp 95150850, 79163390

Smart Indian, excellent English, Research & Technical Writing Skills, Double Masters (Finance, Journalism & Mass Communication), Arabic Speaker, 17years Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC seeks role in Admin/HR/Projects/Corporate & Marketing Communications/Operations/Custom Relations/Role in Chairman/CEO Office. Immediate joining. NOC.

99283938 / rajansampath@hotmail.com

SR. Manager/GM/VP (Plant)

Indian Male, with more than 23 years exp. in repair/maint/deployment/logistic/procurement of Vehicles/Heavy construction equipment in a large reputed construction industry seeks suitable placement in senior management level. NOC available.

Contact: 79198709

HSE Eng/Advisor, Msc Env & NEBOSH IGC with 10 years extensive construction, safety exp. Immediately available with NOC.

Contact 95193937

ENGINEER

BTECH IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING *(EEE)*WITH 3 YEARS EXPERIENCES DIPLOMA IN PLC & SCADA. NOC, Oman Valid Driving License Looking for a suitable Job. Contact 78227500
Email: muhdfahiz007@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian, Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' world class experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting etc. Multiple Professional qualifications in Accounting and audit. Looking for Top/Senior management position in finance/internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 99455353

Moroccan Sales Engineer with over 6 years of industrial experience in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.

GSM: 93823132
Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.com

Project Engineer

32 yrs old – Having 10 years of experience (6 yrs in Oman) in oil & gas field – Intense work experience in fabrication of Pressure Vessels, Structural Steel fabrication & erection, Manufacturing of Skid Packages, Piping Spools & supports, Storage Tanks, Stack & Ducts, Pig Traps. EPC & Turnaround projects.

Having DL & Current Visa expires in Feb 2021.
Contact # boopathiraja88@gmail.com / 97412105

MicroMasters in Supply Chain Management, B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering 3 years industry experience as a Sales Engineer, Valid Oman DL.

Contact: 99137115
Email: adimurali7@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree looking for position in Office Administration/Document Control, total 22 years of experience, 19 years in Oman with Oman driving licence. NOC available.

Contact No. 99757759

Project Manager/Engineer Structural/Civil Engineer

with 14 years of experience (8 years in USA and 4 years in Oman) in PEB, RCC, Pipeline, Offshore, and Marine structures and have Master degree from USA. Seeking for placement as Project Engineer or Manager.

Please contact me on +968-93368626
Irfan.sanjari.syed@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting, Income tax, VAT etc. Qualified CPA, CMA, CIA. Looking for Senior management position in finance/internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608 / soji_ansu@yahoo.com

CIVIL ENGINEER

16+ Years Experience In Site Supervision, Structural Engineering, ETABS, STAAD, ROADS, BRIDGES, Project manager, INDUSTRIAL. WORKED WITH SOHAR ALUMINIUM AND OCC. WITH ALL SAFETY Training & KNOWLEDGE. Available Noc & Valid Driving License.

Call or Wts app 98333185

GM / NSM / Head Of Sales

Male 49 – Proven Business Manager with exceptional sales management skills. Chartered Institute of Marketing - UK, MBA in Marketing, 15+ years of FMCG sales & business management experience in GCC & OMAN. NOC/DL available.

Email: sljobseeker72@gmail.com
Contact: 96223114

Indian, Civil Engineer (Project Manager)

with 11+ years of experience in building projects having valid work visa (currently at Muscat) looking for a fulltime/Parttime job. Having Valid Omani DL.

Contact 94125368

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

Chief Accountant MBA

Indian Male With 16 Years' Experience in all aspects of Accounting. NOC & Oman DL Available, seeks Suitable placement.

Contact: 97741485
Email: stm.crg@gmail.com

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

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

Contact: 78235621/bsda@ymail.com

Omani DL holder Indian from Kerala looking for a job in F M C G sector.

12 year experience in Oman.
Speak Arabic, English, Hindi and Malayalam.
Work experience in all over Oman.

Interested please Contact 94022634

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: mvssmgr@gmail.com

Execution Architect/ Finishing Manager

36, Male in design/ execution at consultancy & contracting with 13 Work experience in Hotel/Office/ Airport/ retail in Construction/Interior fit-out Space seeking Suitable placement. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/ Tendering/ Estimation. D/L and NOC available immediately.

Contact: 78371040; architdesign2020@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

Graduate Civil Engineer

From India with over 11 years Project Management Experience with Consultant and Client in Oman with local release & driving license seeks suitable opportunities.

Email: contactsyedshams@gmail.com; GSM: +968 98500235

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

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

Indian Male 43.y.o seeking a suitable opportunity in Admin/Mktg/Ops Noc & D/L available. PH. 98274545

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

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience in Stores, Purchase, Operation, Admin. D/L. Immediate joining. # 78363835

Indian male 14+ yrs experience NOC available looking for secretarial, administration job. Contact 99341481. Email mhd82ajaz@gmail.com

Bangladeshi male, B.SC looking for suitable job. Contact 79978201

Looking for HR & Admin Manager / Executive or Secretarial postions. Knows custom clearance and costing also. Over 15 years of experience, please call 91732334

Office manager / Business coordination / project administration Indian Graduate Male Experienced in Engineering Consultancy & Construction Contacting Companies looking for a suitable placement. Ready to join immediately with Oman DL & NOC. Contact: 79705674 Email: pramoda.online@gmail.com

Indian Male seeking Admin/HR Job having 23 years of experience in Oman with Valid DL and NOC available - Contact: 99578192

Indian female with 10 yrs experience in payroll, executive secretarial, general admin/HR with valid D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 96441865. Email reeteequ1779@gmail.com

Omani Male 35 yrs old, looking for a PRO job. Has experience 14 yrs in the same field. Contact 92049106, 95422144

Indian Female 10 years' experience in Muscat, for the post of Sales Coordinator, Secretary or Office cum Commercial Assistant. Contact 94048550, 95431427. E-mail: bmnair27@yahoo.com

Indian Male, MBA, B.COM having 6 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & Purchase looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 92369044. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian female 29. Experience in telemarketing/secretarial/office admin work. On family visa. Ready to join ASAP. Contact. 93605361

HOSPITALITY

Looking for Bartender job. Contact 98917401

ARCHITECT

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

DRIVER

Experienced driver with car, looking job in office/company for contract. Contact 79250786

10 yrs experience driver looking job. Contact 91335595

Looking for driving job. Contact 96312087

Looking for driving job with Car. 6 yrs experience. Contact 96176918

Looking for job in driving, with 5 yrs experience. Contact 96189448

IT

CRM, ERP & MIS analyst, experience 5 yrs. Contact 71561266

Indian Post Graduate with 21 years experience in Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, Forms, Reports, DBA, IT Manager, Orion ERP, Sage ERP with Accounts Knowledge and NOC. Contact 95398567 / 78141598 / anasd2k@gmail.com

IT sales and support. 5 years experience with IT network and hardware, BSc. Networking, Oman D/L. Contact 97060076

Web developer, 22, Indian, BSc (Hons.) IT, UK. 1yr exp in various software projects (including PHP, NodeJS, ReactJS). Seeking a suitable job. Currently in Oman. Contact: 79371798

Computer service technician with 2 years exp, also with 2 years exp in sales in oman, looking for suitable job. Indian male 28, currently in oman, NOC available. # 94496905

IT Administrator, Indian Male Looking for Job. 12 years of Exp. in Oman with D/L. CCNA Certified Work Exp. in POS system, CCTV, IT Network. 95059065 / 95147348 / jaxonnj@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Indian Male 43.y.o seeking a suitable opportunity in medical centers for Admin/Mktg/Ops. Noc & D/L available. Contact 98274545

Indian 30yrs, MSW [Medical & psychiatry] MSC Psychology, 6 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 79308281, 91 9207258008

MANAGER

Indian, Finance Manager 20Yrs Experience, Trade finance - MIS - Budget - Planning - Auditing - Finalisation - Banking: 90473368, devan801@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Quantity Surveying, preparation of documents like BOQ. 23 years in Oman searching a job from contractor or consultant has experience in Civil, MEP, landscaping and interior decorations. Contact 93072517

Safety officer (engineer), two years experience in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid D.L. Contact 79318246

Planning Engineer: Pakistani National with BE Civil, 13 years of experience including 8 years in Oman in Project Planning, Scheduling and Delay Analysis looking for a suitable position. Local transfer - NOC, Contact: 97018909.

HVAC Technican cum Supervisor, chiller plant coldroom all refrigeration system, VRF system, 30 yrs experience DL holder Contact 79816271. Email mohandaskd@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer (B.E) with 7+ yrs exp in MEP projects, Oil & Gas piping projects. NOC & Oman DL available. Contact 91293770. email jebil212@gmail.com

B.E Mechanical engineer, having overall of 5 yrs experience in steel fabrication industry seeking a suitable job. Ready to join immediately with local NOC arranged. Contact 968-78052560

Indian 26, experience in Telecom Networks (Oman) & master's degree, seeking position as Project/Network Engineer. Contact 92613254. Email mohdalsalih22@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer, Looking for a job in Quality Control, with DL Contact 79714227. Email lokeshshirdkar15@gmail.com

Senior civil engineer with over 10 yrs experience on high end projects (RE) Contact 78270396

Senior Civil Engineer with 8 years' experience in government and private construction projects with NOC/DL looking for a suitable job , GSM : 93352004

Electrical Engineer B.Tech., 15 years exp in Oman seeks job. NOC and Release available. Contact 92254336 Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E Civil engr with 14 years of Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

Project engineer experienced in aluminium Industry with valid Oman DL, seeks job. Contact 79500069

HVAC engineer with 1 year Experience seeks job. Contact 79027224

Mechanical engineer of Car diagnostic and maintenance with experience three years. Contact 93521100

Indian Female Structural Engineer (B-Tech Civil), 18 Years Gulf Experience is seeking for suitable placement. Having valid visa and driving license. Ready to join Immediately with necessary documents. Contact: 79858363.

Indian Civil QA/QC Engineer, Inspector (BE Civil, PDO approved, QMS Auditor, Oman Driving licence, NOC) with 10 years of experience looking for new job. 96359447, +919901059827

Facility engineer. (BE) 12 years exper. in electrical or maint. engineer field, valid Oman DL. Seeking facility or maint. engineer job. Contact 94493654 or syamsk2255@gmail.com

Senior Planner for Infra projects highway and buildings (B.Tech. Civil with 17 yrs Exp) Immediate join. local transfer - NOC. Contact : 91170802. Email: vrvrtammu@gmail.com

Sri Lanka male QS Having 6 years Experience and looking for a suitable job in Oman and ready to join immediately contact 79473123

Electrical engineer, experience 12 year in Oman. Contact 98148034

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 10+ yrs experience valid Oman DL, looking for suitable position. Available for immediate join. Noc available. Contact 79023001

Looking for a job for the post of Electrical Engineer with B.Tech and 15 years exp in Oman. NOC and Release available. Contact 92254336. Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E civil engineer having 12 plus years of Oman experience in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

SALES / MARKETING

20 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing of Central Air Conditioning & Structural steel etc. Contact 968-95950370

Experienced and academically qualified retail professional available in Oman with more than 20 years experience in multinational brands. Looking for a challenging opening in the top management role. Contact +968 92639013

Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) & Digital Marketing. Valid Oman D/L. Looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79748272 Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com.

Indian/female (28)/MBA, 6+ years' experience in digital marketing and business development with valid Oman D/L. available for immediate joining. Contact: 97210952

Indian Sales/Marketing manager selling of Constructional, building material products with 14 yrs experience in Oman with DL, looking job. Contact 95952066

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MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing, painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837, 98937266

Electrician, plumber & A/C Service, L.Driver (D/L) Contact 95308363

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Finance Manager, 28 years Oman experienced worked with reputed groups, Managing Cashflow, MIS, Budget, Forecast etc. Contact 968-98803439 (Call/Whatsapp)

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Diploma civil Indian male 26 yrs 5 yrs oman exp, NOC ready, sales/procurement/stores. E.mail vijju.asp7777@gmail.com, GSM/WA 00918712330030

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

Keralite, 31 yrs purchase assistant, 10 yrs working experience in Oman, valid Oman DL. Looking for suitable jobs. Contact 98615731 Email sanalk73@gmail.com

Indian/Male(29)/MBA/6 years' experience in procurement and sales coordination with valid Oman D/L. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194

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ROUND-UP

Qatar Airways expands South America connectivity

Qatar Airways has signed an expanded codeshare agreement with LATAM Airlines Brasil



DOHA: Qatar Airways announced it has increased São Paulo services to 10 weekly flights and expanded codeshare cooperation with LATAM Airlines Brasil optimising connectivity for both airline’s passengers to and from destinations in Asia, the Middle East and South America. The new codeshare agreement will further strengthen the two airlines’ strategic partnership, first initiated in 2016 and recently expanded in June 2019.

The expanded agreement will allow Qatar Airways passengers to book travel on 45 additional LATAM Airlines Brasil flights and to access over 40 domestic and international destinations on the South American carrier’s network, including Brasilia, Curitiba, Porto Velho, Rio Branco, Rio de Janeiro, San Jose, Lima (Peru), Montevideo (Uruguay) and Santiago (Chile).

LATAM Airlines Brasil passengers will also benefit from access to the recently expanded 10 weekly flights to and from Sao Paulo,

operated by Qatar Airways’ state-of-the-art Airbus A350-1000 that features the World’s Best Business Class Seat, Qsuite. LATAM Airlines Brasil passengers will also be able to book travel to eight additional Qatar Airways’ destinations such as Bangkok*, Hong Kong*, Maldives, Nairobi, Seoul and Tokyo along with additional Qatar Airways’ connecting flights to destinations such as Baku, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

With existing loyalty cooperation, frequent fliers with both airlines are also able to earn and redeem miles for travel across the partners’ complete network as well as recognition of their tier status at select airports with benefits such as priority check-in and priority boarding.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: “South America is a strategically

important market for Qatar Airways. We are proud to demonstrate our strong commitment to passengers travelling to and from South America by providing even more flexible travel options. By increasing São Paulo services to 10 weekly flights and expanding our codeshare agreement with LATAM Airlines Brasil, we will further cement our position as the airline of choice for customers travelling between Asia, the Middle East and South America.

“Since 2016, both Qatar Airways and LATAM Airlines Brasil have witnessed the significant mutual benefits commercial cooperation have brought, providing our passengers with unrivalled service and seamless connectivity and it is why our codeshare cooperation has been expanded twice in recent years. We look forward to further strengthening our commercial co-

operation with LATAM Airlines Brasil to enhance the travel experience for our millions of customers.”

LATAM Brasil CEO, Jerome Cadier, said, “We are expanding connectivity and the choice of destinations for our customers. Even in a year as difficult as 2020, we are committed to offering our passengers more options to travel further with greater convenience and simplicity.”

In May 2020, Qatar Airways’ most technologically advanced passenger aircraft, the A350-1000, arrived at São Paulo International Airport (GRU). The award-winning airline is the first to fly this revolutionary aircraft to South America. One of the latest additions to the Airbus family of twin-aisle, wide-body jetliners, the A350-1000 offers 327 seats across two cabins – 46 Qsuite Business Class seats and 281 extra-wide 18-inch seats in Economy Class.

Similar to the A350-900 – for which Qatar Airways was also the global launch customer – the high-performance A350-1000 boasts an advanced airframe with extensive use of composite materials. Coupled with a fuselage innovatively built with carbon-fibre reinforced plastic, the jetliner burns lesser fuel, reducing harmful effects to the environment. On the inside, LED mood lighting mimics a natural sunrise and sunset to help reduce the effects of jet lag.

Qatar Airways strategic investment in a variety of fuel-efficient twin-engine aircraft, including the largest fleet of Airbus A350 aircraft, has enabled it to continue flying throughout this crisis and perfectly positions it to lead the sustainable recovery of international travel. The airline’s recently delivery of new state-of-the-art Airbus A350-1000 aircraft has increased its total A350 fleet to 53 with an average age of just 2.7 years. Due to COVID-19’s impact on travel demand, the airline has grounded its fleet of Airbus A380 as it is not environmentally justifiable to operate such a large, four-engine aircraft in the current market. Qatar Airways has also recently launched a new programme that enables passengers to voluntarily offset the carbon emissions associated with their journey at the point of booking.

The national carrier of the State of Qatar continues to rebuild its network, which currently stands at over 110 destinations with plans to increase to 129 by the end of March 2021.

ESO rounds off a busy year for environment conservation

MUSCAT: The Environment Society of Oman (ESO) is rounding off a busy year, which saw it continue to fulfil its mission to protect Oman’s natural heritage and influence environmentally sustainable behaviour.

With the steadfast and generous help of its members, sponsors and supporters, ESO, which is the Sultanate’s only non-profit organisation focusing on environmental conservation, carried out a number of educational programmes, awareness campaigns and conservation projects.

During the year, it produced seven educational materials, including booklets, infographics and videos, distributed more than 700 frankincense tree seedlings together with the Dhofar communities, and distributed 4,600 reusable bags to communities in Muscat, Sur, Masirah, Al Wusta, Sadah and Thamreet. Bolstered by the Summer Sea Turtle Sustainability Grant from the Turtle Island Restoration Network and SEE Turtles, a grant awarded to ESO thanks to an international public vote, ESO also removed almost 200 tonnes of abandoned fishing nets in Masirah.

Continuing to drive community engagement, ESO has ended the year with 356 individual members, 30 corporate members, as well as strengthening relationships with educators and fishermen across the country. It also held several of its long-running programmes.

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Ahlibank set to announce winner of 2020 'Salary for Life' prize draw

The ceremony, which will be held at W Hotel-Muscat, on Tuesday, January 5, at 1pm, will also unveil the new 2021 Wafra prize scheme

MUSCAT: Continuing its efforts to establish a prudent savings culture in Oman, Ahlibank is all set to announce the lucky winner of its 'Salary for Life' prize draw as part of the 2020 Wafra prize scheme.

The ceremony, which will be held at W Hotel-Muscat, on Tuesday, January 5, at 1pm, will also unveil the new 2021 Wafra prize scheme. Many cash draw prizes, across various categories, and reaching out to a wider customer base, will be announced in the presence of a number of the bank's officials.

The event will be streamed live across the bank's social media platforms where during the live broadcast on different social media pages, 10 lucky viewers will stand a chance to win cash prizes worth OMR1,000.

Following the launch of the new 2021 Wafra prize scheme, the bank will announce the winner of the last quarterly draw for 2020, wherein the winner will walk away with a whopping OMR250,000 (OMR 1,000 per month over 250 months). As part of its 2020 prize scheme, ahlibank has rewarded more than 1,300 customers, with a total of more than OMR1.8 million in prizes, across its branches in the Sultanate.

The Wafra prize draw scheme has transformed the lives of many by providing them with the necessary monetary impetus to fulfil their dreams and aspirations, and given several customers a reason to save for a better future for themselves and their families.



EXPANSION



Lulu Exchange opens 35th branch in Oman

MUSCAT: Lulu Exchange, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, opened its 35th branch in the country, at Al Ghubra.

The branch, which is located at Ghubra Souk, was inaugurated by Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Financial Group, in an online function attended by Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali Al Ghazali, Director, Lulu Exchange, Lathish Vichitran, General Manager, Lulu Exchange and other key stakeholders of the company.

The opening marks the company's third branch in the Al Ghubra region, further strengthening Lulu Exchange's network of branches across the country.

Congratulating the team on the occasion, Adeeb Ahamed said, "The opening of the new branch signals our confidence and trust in the resilience of Oman's economy. Through our expansive network, we aim to bring our customers closer to the world-class experience we offer through our services."

The new branch also marks the

223rd global branch of Lulu Financial Group, and Ahamed congratulated the team for ensuring minimal disruption of services during the ongoing health crisis, and continually introducing innovative financial solutions, in line with evolving market dynamics.

Commercially active area

"Al Ghubra is one of the most commercially active areas in Oman and having a branch here will enable us to enhance our capabilities in the area," he said, adding, "We

remain committed to our mission to design the world's most reliable, seamless and accessible financial journeys to improve the lives of both retail and corporate customers in Oman, by putting technology and innovation at the heart of all things new."

Lulu Exchange presently provides remittances, currency exchange and value-added services in a timely, transparent and reliable manner through its network of branches and mobile payments app, Lulu Money.

CONSUMER PRIVACY PROTECTION

Huawei Mate 40: Maximising security with 'minimum authorisation'

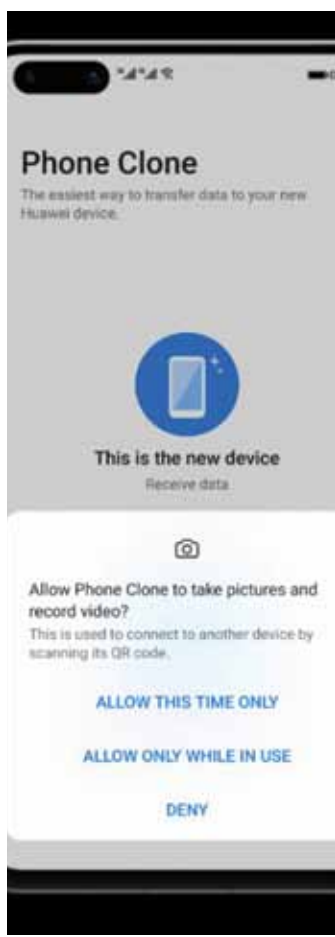
MUSCAT: We've all been there: you've just downloaded a new app and now it's asking you for permissions. It's time to make a choice between 'always allow' or 'deny'. All too often, it's not much of a choice, since if you choose 'deny', you can't even open the app. With the development of the Internet as our window to the world, there has been a parallel development of innovative technologies that can protect us.

Huawei has made great progress in consumer privacy protection, evident in the Huawei Mate 40 Pro. For example, the NotePad app has a lock feature, which allows users to protect individual notes with a password or fingerprint or even the option of removing the location and time information of a photo before sharing it with friends through Huawei Share.

However, the most practical feature of all is Minimum Privacy Authorisation. With this feature, whenever a new app requests permissions, in addition to 'always allow' and 'deny', you have other alternatives, namely, 'allow this time only' and 'allow only while in use', protecting you from permissions overreach.

Huawei has established a comprehensive privacy protection mechanism covering everything from hardware to software, with implementation at many different system layers. At this year's flagship product launch events, 'innovative technologies that protect privacy' was a phrase that came up again and again.

In addition to this, the Huawei Mate 40 Pro ensures top-notch safety with its CC EAL5+ certified Trusted Execution Environment operating system, the highest certification level for commercialised security micro-kernel. It also comes with Dual



biometric authentication, which consists of 3D Face unlock and an in-screen fingerprint sensor.

We entrust more and more aspects of our lives to mobile apps, and as a consequence, our mobile phones contain more personal information than ever. In the coming Internet of Everything era, mobile phones will carry thousands of times more information than they do already. By sorting out appropriate levels of authorisation, we can protect our security and privacy, the importance of which will only increase in the years to come.

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