

'PRIVILEGES FOR VACCINATED PEOPLE UNDER CONSIDERATION'

The technical health team is currently studying the privileges that will be offered to the vaccinated people after vaccination rate reaches more than 50 per cent, the Minister of Health has said. **>A4**



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HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES MONGOLIAN PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh of Mongolia on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes to the president and his country's people. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 97 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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OMAN-SAUDI RELATIONS TO SCALE NEW HEIGHTS



His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik will leave for Saudi Arabia today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Relations between Oman and Saudi Arabia are set to scale new heights, as His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik travels to the KSA today, in response to an invitation from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

During His Majesty's official visit, discussions are expected to touch on a number of bilateral issues, including stronger relations, the aspirations of both nations, joint programmes to achieve the goals set out by the countries, looking at results that help achieve common interests, and taking steps to establish a more prosperous future for both countries.

"The meeting of the two leaders will be a qualitative leap that enhances many aspects of concern between the two brotherly countries and people," said His Highness Sayyid Faisal bin Turki Al Said, the ambassador of Oman to Saudi Arabia. "The land border crossing between the countries will help contribute towards more direct movement, whether personal or economic in nature."

Many bilateral discussions between the two countries have taken place. In recent times, many meetings – both physical and virtual – have taken place between officials of the two nations. This

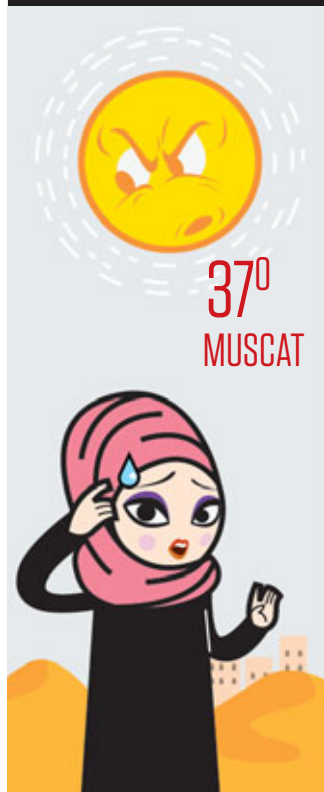
comes within the framework of strengthening cooperation and joint action across various fields.

"Economic development in Saudi Arabia is of a large and diversified nature, in accordance with the country's Vision 2030 programme, which is similar to Oman's Vision 2040," said the ambassador. "These programmes take into account the circumstances and specifics of each country. Both Oman and Saudi Arabia are engaged in strong and mutually beneficial economic relations."

His Highness went on to add that both country's national visions are based on formulating economic development in the right direction, through targets that will achieve transformation, promote economic diversification, and increase trade through programmes and plans drafted to achieve the same.

His Highness Sayyid Faisal will be part of His Majesty's Omani delegation in Saudi Arabia. A number of other senior figures will be accompanying him, including His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal bin Saud Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of Royal Office, and Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior.

Also part of the high-level delegation are Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Said bin Hamoud bin Said Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Qais bin Mohammed bin Moosa Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of the Omani Investment Authority (OIA). **>A5**



MINISTRY OF ENDOWMENTS AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

July 20 to be 1st day of Eid Al Adha

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tuesday, the 20th of July 2021 will be the first day of Eid Al Adha, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs has announced. In a statement, the ministry said its moon sighting committee had received evidence of sighting the crescent moon.

"Sunday, 11th July 2021 will mark the beginning of Dhu'l-Hijjah 1442 AH, and Tuesday, 10th Dhu'l-Hijjah 1442 (20th July 2021) will mark the beginning of the Blessed Eid Al Adha," it said.

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, on this blessed occasion, conveyed its sincere congratulations and good wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and wished that the Almighty protect him and grant him good health. Prayers were also made for the prosperity of Oman and the Islamic nation alike, with the ministry asking the Almighty to heal the world and protect it.



The meeting was chaired by HE Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Abdullah Al Salmi, the Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, and he was joined by His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad bin Suleiman Al Khalili, Grand Mufti of Oman.

Others present were Dr Mohamed bin Said bin Khalfan Al Mamari, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Khalid bin Hilal

bin Said Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Dr Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Hashmi, Supreme Court Judge, Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Sattar bin Ahmed Al Kamali, Chairman of the Court of Appeal in the Musandam Governorate, and Mohammed bin Salim bin Dahman Al Nahdi, Appeal Court Judge in Muscat.

The committee took this occasion to wish everyone a blessed Eid.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Promotion campaign for Omani products

1 Company owners in Oman will be offered the chance to take part in an awareness campaign to help them market their products at Expo 2020 in Dubai, which is expected to begin this October. **>A3**



WORLD 52 workers killed in Bangladesh factory fire

2 A food processing factory was gutted nearly 25 kilometres (16 miles) east of the capital Dhaka on Friday, according to media reports. The death toll from the blaze climbed to 52, according to the police. Dozens were injured, many critically, in the factory blaze in Rupganj. **>A6**

MARKET Sohar Port and Freezone results impressive

3 Sohar Port and Freezone has announced impressive results for the first quarter of 2021, recording growth in all categories of cargo in Q1 2021 over the same period last year. **>B1**

FOOTBALL

Italy and England fans in Oman hope for a memorable Euro 2020 final today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: English nationals in Oman have only one message to deliver ahead of their country's match against Italy in the final of Euro 2020: football is coming home.

It's been 55 years since England's last triumph came on the world stage, when they won the World Cup in 1966, but the team's supporters believe that home advantage in front of raucous supporters will provide them the incentive to go all the way on Sunday night.

"A major final at home at Wembley, the home of football is where we deserve to be after a professionally-played tournament, but I do not think it is going to be easy tonight," said Elliott Wright, a



British national in Muscat. "The Italians are known to be notoriously difficult to beat, so it is going to be a hard-fought game that could go either way. Simply put, though, we have waited too long.

Come on, England!"

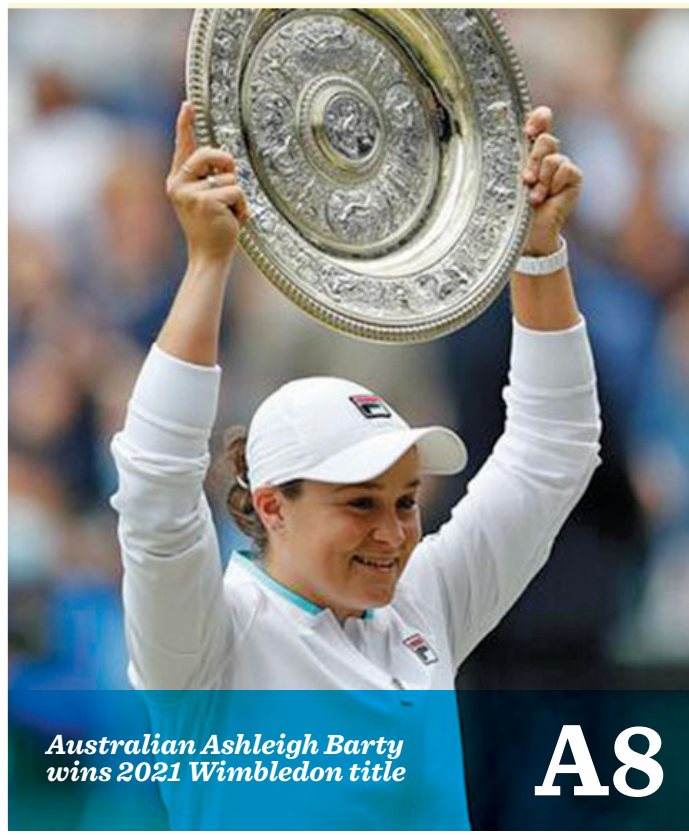
Chuck Martini, a former goalkeeper for Premier League sides Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur, currently heads the Muscat Football Academy in Oman.

He too is confident that England's shot at glory has come at last.

"I am really happy for England, it was a difficult game against Denmark in the semis, but Italy is going to be a tougher customer," said Martini, who holds British nationality but represented Morocco at international level. "Everyone says football is coming home, and I believe it is indeed going to come home."

Playing really well

"The boys are playing really well, we will have a little bit more on the day to beat Italy," he said. "We will bring the trophy home and the country is going to have a great party. I think the game is going to be won in normal time – I don't see it going to extra time and penalties. I believe we will win 2-1." **>A5**



Australian Ashleigh Barty wins 2021 Wimbledon title

A8

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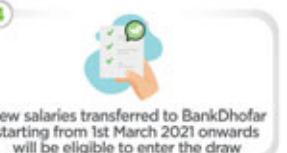
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Expo 2020 offers Omani firms a global platform to show products

Titled ‘The Road to Expo 2020 Dubai’, the first virtual workshop on the event will take place at 11am today

KHALED ORABI
k.orabi@shabiba.com

MUSCAT: Company owners in Oman will be offered the chance to take part in an awareness campaign

to help them market their products at Expo 2020 in Dubai, which is expected to begin this October.

Titled ‘The Road to Expo 2020 Dubai’, the first activity under the event is a virtual workshop that will take place at 11am today on Zoom.

The campaign is spearheaded by the General Commission of the Sultanate to Expo 2020 Dubai, and is one of the national initiatives in collaboration with a number of public and private entities. These include the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the Ministry of Social Development, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the SME Development Authority, and Taiseer Services and Transactions Centre, which will

manage Oman’s sales outlet at the country’s pavilion at Expo 2020.

Participation

The workshop will see the participation of Mohsin bin Khamis Al Balushi, Advisor of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Sultanate’s commissioner general for Expo 2020 Dubai, Dr Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Centre, Hamad bin Salim Al Harthi, Head of Finance for SMEs and Portfolio Management at Oman Development Bank, and Nada Bassam of Taiseer. Workshop discussions will be moderated by Ghassan Al Roshdi.

Mohsin bin Khamis Al Balushi, Advisor of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment

Promotion is to give a speech on the preparedness for the participation of the Sultanate at Expo 2020 Dubai, and the opportunities such international expos provide at the national level for various economic sectors. His speech will also tackle the challenges facing the Sultanate’s participation under present developments and conditions of the COVID 19 pandemic, the extent to which industrialists and SMEs can benefit from Expo 2020 Dubai, and the incentives offered by the Sultanate’s General Commission to participants at the expo.

Dr. Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Centre, is on hand to discuss the significance of Expo 2020 Dubai for industrialists and manufacturers, the role of the Industrial Innovation



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ITC- 210705	Provision of Operation & Maintenance Services for District Cooling System at Muscat International Airport	500	29 th July 2021	15 th Aug 2021
ITC- 210706	Provision of Waste Management and Pest Control Services at Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport	500	29 th July 2021	15 th Aug 2021
ITC- 210707	Provision of Cleaning Services for Landside and Airside Ancillary Buildings at Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport	500	29 th July 2021	15 th Aug 2021

Tenders Collection: Specialized companies may obtain Tender Documents/ Specifications from Procurement Department upon receipt of complete payment of tender fees by credit card and receive scanned copy of deposit Receipt along with a copy of Company Commercial Registration Certificate to Email: finance.oamc@omanairports.com provided with company name, tender number & contact person as a mandatory.

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Privileges for vaccinated people are under consideration, says Oman’s Health Minister

MUSCAT: Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health and member of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, has said that the Committee aims, through its decisions, to protect public health and save lives.

The minister pointed out that the Committee’s past decisions to impose lockdowns (notably during the period from October to January 2020) brought about considerable decline in the number of infections.

The minister said that, where it pertains to public health, only figures speak out and respond to numerous queries raised about the significance of lockdowns. It is a fact that lockdowns are common precautions in the world, not just limited to the Sultanate. “Some countries in the region imposed a full, month-long lockdown and the results were more than comfortable,” said Dr. Ahmed, noting that decisions taken by the COVID-19 Supreme Committee and technical departments (Health Ministry) change according to the changing scenario of the pandemic.

Speaking at the 25th press conference held recently by the Supreme Committee since the outbreak of the pandemic, Dr. Ahmed said, “A lot of questions were raised about the total lockdown during the forthcoming Eid days as if the members of the Supreme Committee do not comprehend the misery undergone by all and just wish to deprive people of celebrating the occasion. The objective is clear. Members of the Supreme Committee try their best to curb the spread of the pandemic and save people’s life.”

“How can some celebrate Eid while others grapple with rising numbers of deaths? Somehow, all are affected by the lockdown, but festive seasons can be compensated for after the eradication of the pandemic,” Dr. Ahmed added.

The minister explained further that the gatherings (weddings and otherwise) that took place during Eid Al Fitr holidays caused a spike in infection and death cases, and this is evident by the figures. The Supreme Committee also affirmed the non-performance of Eid prayers or pre-Eid souqs (habta) or any sort of gatherings in all governorates of the Sultanate.

Legal action for refusing

In other comments, the minister said that the number of people vaccinated against COVID-19 touched 36 per cent of target segments. Data of as many as 100,000 people who have been vaccinated have not yet been pro-

cessed. Till 7 July 2021, a total of 1,936,330 doses of vaccines have been received, said Dr. Ahmed, adding Pfizer-BioNTech accounted for most doses received/administered in the Sultanate.

The minister affirmed that the vaccination programme will continue to be implemented, targeting at least 65 per cent to 70 per cent of the eligible segments before the end of August 2021.

“The technical health team is currently studying the privileges that will be offered to the vaccinated people after vaccination rate reaches more than 50 per cent,” the Minister of Health added.

There will be no vaccination campaigns during Eid Al Adha holidays, said the minister, but the immunisation drive will resume immediately after Eid, in an intensive manner. Those who made bookings (before the lockdown was decided) will not lose their reservations, said the minister, adding that the appointments will be rescheduled.

The Sultanate will not turn its back on any person who belongs to the target segments, said Dr. Ahmed, who affirmed that all members of the target groups will be vaccinated.

The minister also stressed that legal action will be taken against any employee of a government establishment who refuses the vaccine without a convincing medical reason.

In reply to a question about shifting between AstraZeneca and Pfizer (taking the first dose from one type of vaccine and the second from another vaccine), or vice-versa, the minister said that the practice is common in some countries and that there is no objection to do the same in the Sultanate.

In his turn, Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, member of the COVID-19 Supreme Committee, said that a specialised technical team and an operating chamber are active round the clock and ready to reply to any queries from wilayats and governorates of the Sultanate.

The minister said that ‘delivery firms’ and street vendors are allowed during the lockdown period on condition that they hold permits.

Al Yousef added that the Royal directives of His Majesty the Sultan to the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) provide that the ASMED shall have an emergency loans programme for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). So far, a total of 3,200 applications have been submitted for such loans, said the minister, noting that the ASMED decided to con-



duct field visits to the applying firms and establishments.

The minister pointed out that the loans targeted certain segments, which are the segments of “Women”, “The Self-employed”, “Taxis”, “Driving Schools”, “Most Affected Borrowers from Oman Development Bank” and “Home-based Business”.

Eng. Isam Saud Al Zedjali, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, said that slaughterhouses in Muscat Governorate will remain closed during Eid holidays. He added that two slaughterhouses in Muscat have been dedicated to receive requests from citizens during the partial closure period.

Meanwhile, Major-General Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector-General of Police and Customs, said that COVID-19 Supreme Committee takes certain cases into consideration and that the panel will be flexible with humanitarian cases and all that relates to farmers during the first

period of the lockdown (partial lockdown) and during the period of full lockdown on Eid days. For this purpose, a special centre will be opened and active round the clock. The special cases centre will be under the supervision of five government ministries.

Major General Al Harthy explained that there will be command and control checkpoints between governorates, but wilayats will be open, under the supervision of security personnel to ensure the application of the COVID-19 Supreme Committee’s decisions.

In reply to a question about watering plants and attending to livestock during the lockdown period, Major General Al Harthy said that there will be flexibility and that the persons concerned will be allowed to do their duties in accordance with certain terms and conditions. Also, animal feed vehicles will be allowed to stop over at the entrances of wilayats to sell

the fodder provided the customers take away the items and leave immediately, without assembling at sale points.

Hospitals, pharmacies, fuel filling stations, water stations, factories and warehouses will remain open, said Major General Al Harthy, adding that 3-ton trucks carrying supply items will be allowed to move about to ensure smooth flow of basic services needed to sustain human life during the lockdown period. Emergency cases of all sorts will be allowed passage, including medical teams and emergency teams (electricity and water).

Dr. Ahmed Salim Al Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, said that there is competition and monopoly in the procurement of vaccines at volumes beyond the needs of some countries. He called upon all countries of the world to be fair in distributing the vaccines.

He pointed out that the total

lockdown in the Sultanate during Eid Al Adha holidays will protect citizens and residents and ease the pressure on medical teams. “Decisions taken by countries to control the pandemic curve are recognised by all as practical measures that, though painful. We have to be objective in our vision of serious matters,” he said.

Al Mandhari referred to the slow pace of distribution of vaccines worldwide and in the Eastern Mediterranean region in particular. “The number of people vaccinated around the world so far reached 3 billion, but only 100 million doses are distributed to the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean, with percentages ranging between 1 per cent to 70 per cent,” he added.

At a global level, 70 per cent of the 3 billion doses of vaccines went to 10 countries only, said Al Mandhari, noting that the WHO seeks to get 70 per cent of the world population vaccinated by mid-2022.

Dr. Saif Salim al-Abri, Health Ministry’s Director-General of Disease Surveillance and Control, said that the WHO issued a report last week indicating that, though vaccinations are being administered at a constant pace in advanced countries, there is still great caution, since no respite is seen from the pandemic.

Al Abri affirmed that vaccines are worth taking and that they do protect from the disease although some of those who get two doses still get light infections.

The vaccination prevents the occurrence of serious cases that require hospitalisation, said Dr. Saif, noting that no change of procedure has been made for people arriving from abroad before the end of August 2021.

Dr. Saif expressed the hopes that, by the end of July 2021, decisions based on the percentages of immunisation will be issued in the Sultanate. He said that the rate of deaths increased by 372 per cent, compared to the situation during the previous wave in August last year (2020).

Dr. Badr Saif Al Rawahi, Director of Contagious Disease Control Department at the Health Ministry, said that two million people will be vaccinated in Oman after Eid Al Adha holidays, accounting for 55 per cent of the target proportion.

The number of doses of vaccines in the Sultanate is expected to reach 3 million during August and September 2021, he added.

“So far, we immunise about 40,000 people on a daily basis,” said Dr Badr, who hoped that the rate of immunisation will rise upon the arrival of new amounts of vaccines after Eid Al Adha.

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Extraordinary rock formations and high mountains in Al Awabi



AL AWABI is a small traditional village in Oman nestled at the foot of the Al Hajar Mountain range. Located between Nakhal and Al Rustaq and approximately 156 kilometres from Muscat, the village is surrounded by a chain of high mountains and extraordinary rock formations that can be seen in Wadi Bani Kharus gorge in the Al Hajar Mountains.

Al Rami, Al Waliya, Al Dhahir, Tawi Al Sih, Al Rajma, Falaj Bani Khuzair, Subaikha, Al Mandhur,

Al Baramiyah, Stal and Misfat Al Hatatlah are some of important villages of the wilayat of Al Awabi. Wadi Bani Kharus is one of the most famous valleys that bear witness to the ancient Omani history. It also has many falajes, rock formations and archaeological inscriptions on some stones and old houses.

There are several ancient mosques of which Al Ghamama Mosque in Wadi Bani Kharus is the most famous one.

Koor Al Ghaba in Wadi Bani Kharus is a lake with a deep pool of water from which a cascade with white water hangs from atop.

Awabi Fort, which was built almost 200 years ago, is another attraction of this place.

A number of agricultural products are grown in Al Awabi other than dates such as mango, orange, lime, pomegranates, banana, guava, figs along with common vegetables.



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BILATERAL COOPERATION

< FROM A1

Oman-Saudi relations support visions of both countries

The visit to Saudi Arabia by His Majesty the Sultan was also welcomed by Ahmed bin Said Al Sharqi, the vice chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee of the Majlis Al Shura.

“What distinguishes these agreements is that they support the visions of the two countries in expanding the base of economic diversification,” he said. “The projects and direct investments they include will contribute to this aspect and create sustainable prospects for the Saudi and Omani economies. There are also free, economic, and industrial zones that are mutually investable.”

Describing the new land border crossing between the two countries as an ‘economic artery’, Al Sharqi added, “The fields of technology, communications, and logistics cannot be overlooked as being good areas for cooperation. Increased economic growth, trade, and investments will contribute to finding sources of diversification and place the two countries among those that keep pace with the requirements of the industrial revolution.” He explained that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has also made bilateral cooperation more important, particularly since they are located next to each other, have strong historic relations, and have always been solid partners. “Agreements over projects and investments serve towards crystallising such aspects, because future challenges require cooperation, which in this case is supported by the leadership of both countries,” he said.

This will be the second meeting between His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, after they first met in January 2020, following the demise of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour.

Right from the day he acceded the throne, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik affirmed his determination to work in close coordination with his brethren, leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, to improve the GCC’s efforts towards realising the achievements that are in keeping with the aspirations of the peoples of the Gulf countries.

Under the astute leadership of His Majesty the Sultan, the Sultanate has always reiterated its well-founded political stance, which proved to be constant through sustained, positive diplomatic efforts towards issues of the region. The diplomatic efforts of the Sultanate are supported by an exchange of high-level visits between the Sultanate and other GCC states.

Principles on which Oman-Saudi relations are established are solid and enduring. Testimony to this is the tangible progress made between the two countries in political, economic, social, cultural and security spheres. It is renewed evidence that these relations are continuous, open and are expected to see further comprehensive growth. The two countries’ keenness on exchanging points of view about matters of common concern is reflected in high-level meetings between their leaders and top officials, examples of which are the continuous contact between His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The Omani and Saudi visions are identical in many ways, including their perspective towards environmental sustainability, which is considered among the most significant international issues raised in the agendas of UN organisations. The Sultanate expressed its appreciation to Saudi Arabia’s ‘Green Middle East’ initiative to safeguard the sustainability of the environment. The initiative, announced by the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia in partnership with the region’s countries, envisages the implementation of a large-scale afforestation programme aimed to address environmental challenges.

Over a period of two years (2020 and 2021), Oman and Saudi Arabia intensified high-level bilateral meetings. In March 2020, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud, Deputy Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, who was on a visit to the Sultanate to explore aspects of existing cooperation between the two countries and ways to realise the joint interests of the Omani and Saudi peoples.

During the meeting, Prince Khalid bin Salman said he was delighted to convey a message from the Saudi leadership to His Majesty the Sultan. He pointed out that during the meeting, emphasis was laid on “enhancing the brotherly, bilateral and strategic relations between the two countries in all fields”.

Today’s remarkable growth and expansion of Oman-Saudi relations is in pursuance of a benign march led by the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour and his brethren, the Kings of Saudi Arabia, over the past decades. It is a policy based on solid foundations and clear-cut principles that distinguish the ties of the two countries. These relations resulted in many agreements and joint ventures in all fields.

The positive reactions of Oman and Saudi Arabia at many levels are conspicuous. They underscore the keenness of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to press ahead with promoting this deep-rooted relationship. The visit of His Majesty the Sultan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud will give impetus to the bilateral relations and it will constitute a new starting point for establishing a more prosperous future for the peoples of the two countries.

It will lend support to concepts of justice, peace, security and tolerance in regional and international issues of common concern. The visit will also cement intra-GCC ties and rally efforts of GCC leaders to consolidate stability and upgrade the rate of prosperity.

EURO 2020 FINAL

< FROM A1

‘England was a bit better than Denmark’

England needed a goal scored off the rebound of Harry Kane’s extra-time penalty to beat the Scandinavian side 2-1, and Martini admitted the Danes had played really well at the Euros.

“I felt the English had just that little bit more quality than Denmark, but I thought the Danish keeper Kasper Schmeichel had a terrific game.” While ‘football’s coming home’ may be a very traditionally English chant, it has been hijacked by some Italian supporters, who feel instead that ‘football’s coming Rome’ – they fully expect their side to win at Wembley, in front of tens of thousands of England supporters.

Italy is one of international football’s most successful teams, having won four World Cups – the last came in 2006 – as well as the 1968 European Championships.

“Our team is very strong – it is composed of many seasoned veterans like Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci who have been its leaders for a long time now, as well as some younger players who are the future of our side, like Gianluigi Donnarumma and Federico Chiesa, so we have the right balance,” said Italian national Damiano Flisi, who works in Oman’s tourism sector.

He pointed to Italy’s semi-final win over Spain to highlight just how comfortable the team is when it comes to high-pressure situations. While his opposite number Jordi Alba was visibly tense ahead of Spain’s ill-fated penalty shootout, a grinning Giorgio Chiellini was constantly encouraging his players and went so far as to hug the Spanish defender as well. “This is a team that is really there for each other – the team spirit instilled by coach Roberto Mancini has been amazing,” said Flisi.

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Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC)
“Electricity Service” invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/080
Subject	Power Supply Infrastructure for 300 Houses in Ain Hamran Housing Project at Taqa
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC’s office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id’s for tender document.
Experience	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be registered electrical contractor with valid Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) certificate, Sultanate of Oman and should have performed similar jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Grade – C Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DPC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 25 th July 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 1 st August 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om ; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

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



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company

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COVID VACCINE

BioNTech-Pfizer to seek approval for third shot

WASHINGTON: US drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech have announced that they will seek regulatory authorisation for a third dose of their COVID-19 vaccine.

The companies, whose COVID-19 vaccine is sold under the brand name 'Comirnaty', are developing a booster shot intended to target the delta variant as concerns rise about the highly trans-

missible strain.

The companies said they believe a third dose of the mRNA vaccine has the potential to preserve the highest levels of protective efficacy against all currently known variants including Delta.

But US top federal agencies said Americans don't need boosters yet and said it was not up to companies alone to decide when they might be needed.

The joint statement issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), saying Americans do not need booster shots yet.

This joint statement released after Pfizer issued its statement.

"Americans who have been fully vaccinated do not need a booster shot at this time," they said.

The US government officials

have stressed that fully vaccinated people have a low risk of infection, even from the Delta or B.1.617.2 variant, which is more transmissible than earlier lineages of the virus.

In a joint statement, Pfizer and its partner BioNTech said, "Pfizer and BioNTech have seen encouraging data in the ongoing booster trial of a third dose of the current BNT162b2 vaccine." **ANI**

52 workers killed in Bangladesh factory fire

Survivors told local broadcasters that they broke open a padlocked gate to escape the fire when they heard the alarm



GUTTED: Dozens were injured in the factory blaze in Rugganj, nearly 25 kilometres (16 miles) east of the capital Dhaka.

DHAKA: A food processing factory was gutted nearly 25 kilometres (16 miles) east of the capital Dhaka on Friday, according to media reports.

The death toll from the blaze climbed to 52, according to the police. Dozens were injured, many critically, in the factory blaze in Rugganj.

Police had earlier reported three deaths, including two female workers who died after they jumped from the third floor.

The death toll rose sharply after firefighters started recovering dozens of bodies of trapped workers from the factory's upper floors.

Locked gates

Survivors told local broadcasters that they broke open a padlocked gate to escape the fire when they heard the alarm. They said hundreds of employees were inside when the blaze broke out.

Some of the injured workers jumped from the factory's roof to escape the blaze, police inspector Sheikh Kabirul Islam said.

Emergency crews rescued 12 workers trapped on the second and

third floors of the building, said Zayedul Alam, chief of the district police. Firefighters also rescued 25 people from the roof. The reason for the fire was still unclear.

Fires devastate Bangladesh

The fire was the latest unfortunate event in Bangladesh's history of tragic industrial disasters.

In a similar incident, at least 112 people were killed in a multi-story commercial building fire on the outskirts

of Dhaka in 2012 as the workers were trapped behind the factory's locked gates.

Earlier this year, a fire destroyed shelters in a Cox's Bazar refugee camp housing Rohingya Muslims.

In February 2019, a fire in a centuries-old cramped neighborhood in Dhaka killed at least 70 people. In the same year, more than 25 people died in a multi-story commercial building fire. **DW**

RESOLUTION DECLARED

President of Haitian Senate declared interim leader after Moise's assassination

MOSCOW: Haiti's Senate has issued a resolution declaring President of the Haitian Senate Joseph Lambert interim president following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise, local media reported.

The resolution was adopted on Friday and was supported by several Haitian opposition parties and organisations, Rezo Nodwes said.

Haiti's Senate, which currently consists of only a third of its members, said that Lambert would take a constitutional oath in parliament and would be installed in his functions immediately after that, to form a new government. At the same time, a number of political parties in Haiti have signed a memorandum, saying that Ariel Henry, who was appointed prime minister by Moise two days before the assassination, should now head the government of national unity, Haiti24 reported.

Henry did not have time to form a new government, so Claude Joseph is now serving as interim prime minister since he was the incumbent at the time



of Moise's assassination. Joseph is counting on the support of the international community to stay in power until presidential and legislative elections are held on September 26.

According to Haiti's police, a group of 26 Colombians and two Americans shot President Moise in his home on Wednesday. The National Police said earlier on Friday that 17 Colombians and two Americans of Haitian descent suspected of participating in the assassination had been detained. In a later update, police said that another suspect, identified as Mendivelso Jaimes Gersain, a Colombian national, was also detained. **ANI**

NOT RESPONSIBILITY OF US

Rebuilding Afghanistan is not US responsibility, says Biden

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden made it clear that rebuilding Afghanistan was not the responsibility of the US and urged Afghan leaders to gather together to drive the country towards a better future.

President Biden also stated that the US military mission will continue till the end of August and America's objectives to prevent a

base against American interests and ridding bin Laden from his safe haven was accomplished, Pajhwok Afghan News reported. Addressing a press conference held after the US security team briefed Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on the latest developments in Afghanistan, Biden said: "I will not send another generation of Americans to war in Afghanistan

with no reasonable expectation of achieving a different outcome".

Earlier the security team also briefed that ninety per cent of the withdrawal process has been completed in Afghanistan and the country will be completely handed over to the government by late August, other foreign forces have also completed the withdrawal process. **ANI**



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Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC)
"Electricity Service" invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/081
Subject	UNE - LOT 07B - 2021
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id's for tender document.
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid "DCRP Registration Certificate" and valid "CEP Passport by DPC" Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 25 th July 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 1 st August 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (2% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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England chase history as they face Italy in final

After two epic semi-finals, London now hosts a decider which, for the first time in Euro history, will feature England



LONDON: Is it coming home to London or going to Rome? This is the question that would be answered in Sunday's Euro 2020 final when England and Italy clash at the historic Wembley Stadium to decide the next champion of Europe.

After two epic semi-finals, London now hosts a decider which, for the first time in Euro history, will feature England. This blockbuster clash between Europe's old-timers is a dream match-up for all footballing fans around the world as Italy is now the only team between Three Lions and their first major tournament win since the 1966 World Cup. Since

that famous World Cup triumph at the previous Wembley Stadium, England has lost in the semi-finals of five major tournaments: EURO '68 and '96, the 1990 and 2018 World Cups, and the 2019 UEFA Nations League. However, Gareth Southgate-led English side has buried those ghosts of the past as they have seen off Germany, Ukraine and, Denmark to earn their chance to end 55 years of drought in the Euro 2020 final.

Southgate's men will have the opportunity to make themselves

national heroes when they step out in front of 60,000 supporters at Wembley. And the nerves will no doubt be rising among the squad as they look ahead to the biggest match of their careers.

Facing Three Lions will be the formidable Italians who are arriving in London with a 33-match unbeaten run. Their last defeat came all the way back in September 2018. Roberto Mancini's men held their nerve in a semi-final penalty shootout battle with Spain, while previously eliminat-

ing the world's no.1 ranked team Belgium in the quarter-finals. They conquered Austria in the extra time for their last-16 win after dominating Turkey, Switzerland, and Wales to top Group A.

Since the start of the tournament, Italy has netted 11 goals in the tournament with Ciro Immobile, Lorenzo Insigne, Manuel Locatelli, Matteo Pessina, Federico Chiesa, and Nicolo Barella being the scorers. But for England, eight out of their 10 goals have been scored by Harry Kane and Raheem Sterling which can become a problem for the home side in a tight final.

Italy and England have faced each other 27 times, the Azzurri winning 11 to Three Lions' eight, with eight draws. England suffered tournament-ending losses in both the teams' previous EURO encounters. Marco Tardelli's late goal earned them a 1-0 win in the 1980 group stage while Italy prevailed on penalties in the 2012 quarter-finals.

Notably, Italy has never lost to England at major finals, with the 2-1 FIFA World Cup victories in 1990 (third-place play-off) and 2014 (group stage) on top of those EURO triumphs. **ANI**

It is Messi versus Neymar as friends turn rivals on the night of the final

BRASILIA: Two of the biggest footballing nations in South America, Argentina and Brazil, have a date with destiny on Saturday at the world-famous Maracana in Rio de Janeiro to decide who will be the 2021 CONMEBOL Copa America champion.

This action-packed encounter will witness Lionel Messi on one side and Neymar on the other as the two friends turn fierce rivals on the night.

The game will kickoff at 21:00 local time with fans around the world tuning in for this dream final. Argentina is yet to be beaten in this year's competition. Lionel Scaloni's side finished top of their group with three wins and a draw against Chile. In the quarterfinal, they won 3-0 against Ecuador to progress to the final four. La Albiceleste have reached the final in four of the last six editions but have not lifted the trophy in almost 30 years; they will hope to put an end to that run against Brazil. A motivated and inspirational Lionel Messi has been the star for Argentina in the 2021 Copa America so far alongside the likes of Lautaro



Martinez, Rodrigo de Paul, and their new hero, the goalkeeper Emiliano 'Dibu' Martinez.

As for Brazil, Neymar and Lucas Paqueta have linked pretty well in attack ahead of a very organised strong defensive unit that has taken them to the final. Paqueta scored two-goal against Chile and Peru as Brazil won both matches by the scoreline of 1-0 to enter the Copa America Final.

All eyes in this crucial final will be again on Barcelona legend Lionel Messi who has won everything at the club level, both in personal and team capacity, but has missed a major title with his country apart from a 2008 gold medal in the Olympics. **ANI**

WIMBLEDON FINAL

Australian Ashleigh Barty wins 2021 Wimbledon title

LONDON: In 1971, an Aboriginal Australian named Evonne Goolagong Cawley won her first Wimbledon title. Donning a scalloped hem on her regulation whites, the tennis star defeated compatriot and defending champion Margaret Court in straight sets.

Half a century later, another Indigenous Australian named Ashleigh Barty earned her first Wimbledon crown. Wearing the same whites as her mentor, the 25-year-old defeated Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3 to become the first Australian since Goolagong Cawley to win Wimbledon. "I hope I made Evonne proud," the world number one said

afterward, wiping back a tear. Barty, who defeated former champion Angelique Kerber in the semifinals, got off to a roaring start, winning the first three games of the first set without dropping a single point.

Pliskova, who was hoping to get back into the top 10 in the women's rankings before Wimbledon, made life more difficult for the Australian in the second set. The eight seeded Czech battled back to take the second set on a tie break.

But Barty regained control in the third, frequently turning to her go-to backhand slice to grind down Pliskova.

"It was an exceptional match from the start, and I knew I needed

to bring my best," Barty said.

Barty had previous success at Wimbledon a decade ago. She won the junior title in 2011 at the age of 15 at the All England Club, a victory that saw her reach No. 2 in the junior rankings.

She had turned pro the year before, and in 2012, she reached the main draw of the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon Grand Slam.

In 2014, Barty decided to take a break from tennis, saying she wanted "to experience life as a normal teenage girl and have some normal experiences." She even tried her hand at cricket, joining the Brisbane Heat of Australia's inaugural Women's Big Bash League in 2015. **BW**

CRICKET

Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah decides to retire from Test cricket

HARARE: Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah has announced his retirement from Test cricket in the middle of the ongoing one-off game against Zimbabwe. According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, Mahmudullah made the announcement shortly after the end of the third day's play of the ongoing one-off Test against Zimbabwe. Mahmudullah's decision didn't go well with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan, who said the all-rounder's announcement will negatively affect the team in the middle of the game. Hassan said Mahmudullah's decision was "unusual" since the match isn't over yet.

"I have not been informed officially but someone called me



on the phone and said he doesn't want to play Tests anymore," Hassan told the Bengali daily Prothom Alo as reported ESPNcricinfo.

"Apparently, he told the dressing room. I think it is highly unusual, since the match isn't even over. I think he did it from emotion. Such an announcement will have a negative impact on the team. It is unacceptable. I have no problem if someone doesn't

want to play, but there is no need to create a mess in the middle of a series," he added.

The ongoing one-off Test is Mahmudullah's 50th match in the longest format of the game. The all-rounder hit a gutsy ton in Bangladesh first innings to rescue visitors from a precarious position. The visitors scored 468 in the first innings in response to Zimbabwe's 276. Mahmudullah was added at the last minute to the Bangladesh squad.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh player Taskin Ahmed and Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani have both been fined 15 per cent of their match fees for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the second day of the one-off Test in Harare. **ANI**

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SIGNS OF REVIVAL IN INDIA

The Indian economy is showing signs of revival from the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, said the Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance. It further added that healthy monsoon coverage, gradually rising Kharif sowing and unlocking of states are expected to ease inflation.

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GLOBAL TAX REFORM

The world's largest economies will plan how to push ahead with the proposal to set a minimum corporate tax rate at the summit of finance ministers and central bankers from the G20 countries. Some countries are still withholding their support.

Sohar Port posts impressive results for first quarter of 2021

The year-on-year throughput growth at Sohar Port and Freezone has transformed the Sultanate's capacity for worldwide trade

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone has announced impressive results for the first quarter of 2021, recording growth in all categories of cargo in Q1 2021 over the same period last year.

As the rapidly growing complex continues to transform the Sultanate's burgeoning maritime and logistics industries, it reported that throughput increased by 21 per cent over the same period in 2020, dry bulk volume grew by 25 per cent to almost 9 million tonnes, breakbulk handling grew by 7 per cent to 426,783 and liquid bulk in-



STEADY GROWTH: The first quarter results for 2021 show that there is a very strong demand for raw materials for industry and consumer goods, fuelled by the recovery of economies around the world. - File picture

creased by 7 per cent to just over 4 million tonnes.

The number of handled containers increased by 1.8 per cent to 197,000 TEU. In addition, the port also recorded spectacular growth of a 200 per cent increase in Ship-to-Ship (STS) cargo given its strategic location and its reputation

for delivering unmatched quality of service with quick turnaround times with our ever-growing STS customer base.

"The year-on-year throughput growth at Sohar Port and Freezone has transformed the Sultanate's capacity for worldwide trade. The first quarter results for 2021 show

that there is a very strong demand for raw materials for industry and consumer goods, fuelled by the recovery of economies around the world. Our robust business continuity strategy and advantageous position at the crossroads of global trade routes has helped us to manage increased levels of cargo

traffic and ensure a seamless and uninterrupted flow of operations to support the national economy," said Mark Geilenkirchen, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Port.

Omar Mahmood Al Mahrizi, CEO of Sohar Freezone, Deputy CEO of Sohar Port, added, "Sohar is positioned as a logistics gate-

way and is integral to bringing in the requisite goods to clients within the freezone and industries in the region relying on a steady flow of materials.

"Further expansion of the port will increase Oman's role as an international trade hub allowing us to attract more leading global partners and establish ourselves as the ideal location for business outside the Gulf."

Al Mahrizi added, "We are grateful to the entire Sohar team, both at the port and freezone and offshore, for their unwavering dedication during this period and we look forward to additional growth throughout the year."

Sohar Port and Freezone is renowned as one of the fastest-growing complexes of its kind in the world and is currently undergoing significant developments within its industrial cluster.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it offers a myriad of incentives for businesses and investors, including easy set-up facilities and a One-Stop-Shop for regulatory procedures. Meanwhile, the port's own unique online route planner, 'Sohar Navigate', has been specifically designed to help companies use container transportation in smarter ways for their supply chain.

SECOND PHASE

New guidelines for import of cosmetic products to be implemented

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will start the second phase of implementation of the specification on cosmetic and personal care products in Oman, which requires importers to submit the technical documents of the registered products from August 2021.

This includes a new package for cosmetic and personal care products (other than products for rinsing) such as those used on the skin: creams, emulsions, lotions, jelly/buttery gels, oils and serums.

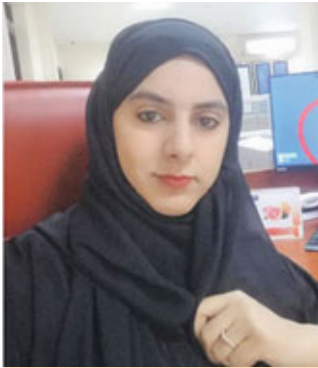
This comes in line with the implementation of Ministerial Decision No. 128/2019 that considers the Gulf standard specifications for safety requirements in cosmetics in terms of regulating imports and ensuring their safety for use by the consumer.

"Importers must submit technical documents of the products registered in the second stage before allowing the releasing of the shipment by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion through (Bayan) platform," Hiba bint Yasser Al Mazrouei, a chemical products quality control specialist in the Directorate General of Standards and Metrology at MoCIIP said.

She pointed out that the second stage implementing the standard on cosmetics includes a new package of the products.

These include all cosmetic and personal care products (other than products for rinsing), products that to be used on the skin (face, body, hand, feet, etc) such as: creams, emulsions, lotions, jelly/buttery gels, oils and serums, she added.

It also includes oral and dental care products, which fall under: various types of toothpastes, mouthwash products, and perfumes, in addition to cosmetic products for using on hair (head, face, beard), such as: hair dyes of all kinds, products for curling, straightening and fixing hair, products for strengthening and reviving hair such as oils, creams, etc., hair decoration products, hair cleaning products, hair shaping products, and henna hair, sun protection products of all kinds,



“

Importers must submit technical documents of the products registered in the second stage before allowing the releasing of the shipment by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion through (Bayan) platform

Hiba Al Mazrouei

deodorants and antiperspirants.

Heba added, "In accordance with the regulations and procedures prepared by the MoCIIP, represented by the Directorate General of Standards and Metrology, the importers also must submit technical documents through the ministry's platforms for approval some time before shipments arrive in order to avoid the challenges of delays at border ports."

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

15 new Omani closed joint stock companies established in 2020

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Licenses have been issued for founding 15 new Omani closed joint-stock companies in 2020 with total issued capitals reaching OMR65.79 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

The number of Omani closed joint stock companies stood at 396 companies in 2020 with an aggregate issued capital of OMR8.49 billion, the MoCIIP said in a statement.

The Statistics Department of the ministry further clarified that the number of companies sub-



ject to the foreign investment law till the end of 2020, reached 14,021 companies, with a capital of OMR5.58 billion.

The ministry in the statement

pointed out that, the number of companies registered under the Foreign Capital Investment Law during the past year, reached 1,414, with a capital of OMR188 million,

where 1,522 electronic transaction requests were completed through the Invest Easy portal until the end of December 2020.

The Foreign Capital Investment Law permits the investor to found a company in one of the permitted activities by owning its entire capital without stipulating a minimum capital for the company, provided that the foreign investor shall adhere to the submitted timetable of implementing the investment project, which will be approved in accordance to a study economic feasibility without any non-approved fundamental modifications to the investment project.



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MARKET

G20: Finance ministers meeting to discuss global tax reform

The world’s largest economies will plan how to push ahead with the proposal to set a minimum corporate tax rate

WASHINGTON: Finance ministers from the Group of 20 countries will push for agreement on proposals backed by US President Joe Biden to deter tax dodging by multinational companies.

While approval of the sweeping tax package is likely at the G-20 meeting Friday and Saturday in Venice, the proposals still face a key hurdle in the US Congress, where Republicans have vowed to oppose it.

Top of the agenda is implementing global tax reform, spearheaded by the US Treasury Secretary Ja-



PLANNED TAX REFORM: The G20 members, which comprise the world’s largest economies and account for over 80 per cent of global GDP, are expected to be the main winners from the planned tax reform. -DW

net Yellen. The initiative proposes a minimum corporate income tax of 15 per cent.

Some 130 countries already backed the plan, brokered by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The minimum tax rate would bring in an estimated \$150 billion (€127 billion) in additional tax revenues globally.

Who benefits most from tax reform?

The G20 members, which com-

prise the world’s largest economies and account for over 80 per cent of global GDP, are expected to be the main winners from the planned tax reform.

Tax havens that slashed their corporate taxes to incentivise multinational companies to set up headquarters there would lose out the most.

Nevertheless, many such states have signed up, including Panama and Bermuda.

Countries will have until the end of 2023 to put the proposed tax reform into law. But ministers may question the ability of the US government to get such a proposal through the hotly divided US Congress where Republicans have already fought against US President Joe Biden’s domestic tax plans.

Pockets of resistance

Some EU countries, such as Ireland, Estonia and Hungary are also holding back. Pascal Saint-Amans, Director of Tax Policy at the OECD told DW that success hinges on the EU’s approval. While not all member countries have signed up yet, France and Germany have pushed for significant reform for many years.

Blocking approval in the EU may cause problems, but Saint-Amans is confident, pointing out that not all countries’ consent is necessary for the minimum to become effective. As long as the world’s biggest economies are on board, the most powerful companies residing

there will be taxed.

Ireland has clashed with other EU countries over digital companies such as Google and Facebook who have their European headquarters in Ireland. France and Germany complain that digital giants are not paying their fair share in tax due to low Irish tax rates.

German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said on Friday that it was not necessary for all countries to sign up for the deal.

“I am convinced that in the end, we will come to a joint decision in the EU,” he told public broadcaster Deutschlandfunk.

Global minimum carbon price

Yellen also spoke before the meeting in Venice, calling on the other participating countries to decarbonise their economies.

The G20 states “are responsible for 80 per cent of global carbon emissions, so it is our responsibility to take action — and do so immediately,” she said.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire also spoke on the topic, suggesting a minimum carbon price, calling it a “global floor.” -DW

REPORT

BANKING INDUSTRY

Indian economy showing signs of revival, inflation to ease soon

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy is showing signs of revival from the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, said the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Finance on Friday.

It further added that healthy monsoon coverage, gradually rising Kharif sowing and unlocking of states are expected to ease inflation. DEA released its monthly economic report for June. On price

rise, the report said inflationary pressures took an upturn in May 2021 with headline inflation and Wholesale Price Index inflation touching a high of 6.3 per cent and 12.94 per cent respectively. “Supply side disruptions in states and unfavourable base effects drove the broad-based momentum in retail inflation across food, fuel and core categories,” the report said.

“Healthy monsoon coverage,

gradually rising Kharif sowing and unlocking of states is expected to ease food, and thereby headline inflation. However, risks due to global demand-led recovery in commodity prices and input cost pressures remain,” it added.

DEA in its report also pointed out that while supply side disruptions stoked retail inflation, healthy monsoon, unlock and Kharif sowing are expected to bring reprieve. -ANI

Oman Banks Association commends banks for their efforts to fight COVID-19

MUSCAT: Oman Banks Association (OBA) – an umbrella organisation to represent and promote the banking industry in Oman – has commended all the banks in the country for their efforts and exceptional measures to combat COVID 19.

OBA has particularly praised the health and safety procedures that all the banks adopted since the beginning of the pandemic for their staff, stakeholders and the general public.



The association applauded the role and efforts of the Central Bank of Oman in providing necessary guidance, and communicating and coordinating with all the banks to combat the pandemic.

From holding virtual meetings efficiently to maintaining social distancing within the banks, the bankers have been following the protocol for the safety of all. They have worked relentlessly and made sure that their customers’ banking needs are served and catered to during this extraordinary time. The banks were quick to respond to the rapidly changing economic situation and launched digital bank-

ing services and technologies to limit the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact both socially as well as economically.

A senior spokesperson of the OBA applauded the several CSR initiatives that the banks undertook to support the health sector and society. All the banks donated funds to the health sector for purchasing medical equipment and launched contact-less products and services to keep the community safe while fulfilling their banking requirements. For their staff and branch customers, the banks have ensured that sanitisation and safety procedures as set by the Ministry of

Health and the Supreme Committee are judiciously followed.

More recently, the banks have launched well-streamlined nationwide vaccine campaigns for employees and their families. OBA advises the people of Oman to continue to follow all safety procedures in the wake of the ongoing pandemic.

The Oman Banks Association is a non-profit professional association created in 2014 to represent the banking sector, promote Omani banking activities, coordinate with the Regulators on matters of policy and strategy and support banking excellence in Oman.


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ACQUISITION

GFH acquires \$100 million student housing portfolio in US

MANAMA: GFH Financial Group announced that it has signed to acquire a \$100 million student housing portfolio affiliated with top-rated universities located in the United States.

The acquisition is in partnership with Student Quarters, an Atlanta based specialist asset manager, who is the sixth-largest purchaser of student housing assets in the US and has completed transactions in the space with a total value in excess of \$1.4 billion.

Investment strategy

GFH’s investment strategy in student housing assets is based on building a diversified portfolio that targets universities within the top 150 universities in the US and that are considered flagship universities in their respective states with strong sporting and academic facilities. These universities have steady growth in enrolments over long periods of time and have large student populations in excess of 20,000.

Over the past year, the student housing market has remained a strong performing sector with approximately 90 per cent average occupancy levels and nearly 100 per cent rental collections, which are backed by parental guarantees.

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Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer, Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
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Accounts & Finance
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Contact on Tel : 95803522

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

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

Indian Chartered Accountant
Indian Female CA with 8 years' experience in Audit, Accounts, Finance, Investment, Consultancy looking for suitable assignments.
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GROUP FINANCE MANAGER
with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement
Contact 93288251
Email: suhasdkini@gmail.com

HR / Admin
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Contact 79285929

PROJECT ADMIN/CEO OFFICE MNGMT/HR/OPS CORPORATE & MKTG. COMMUNICATIONS/ADMIN
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CONTACT 99283938

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Contact 79830312

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Please contact imrankelani@gmail.com
95785529

Business Administrator
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Contact 94887879
Email: amani.alhaj94@gmail.com

MANAGER
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Call/Whatsapp 94777651

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

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Contact 97264447

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GSM: 96409439
Email: farhansiddiqi2014@gmail.com

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

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

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

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vineeth33@yahoo.com

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akhfarmahmood3137@gmail.com

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

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Contact 91377630
Email: maheshkv83@gmail.com

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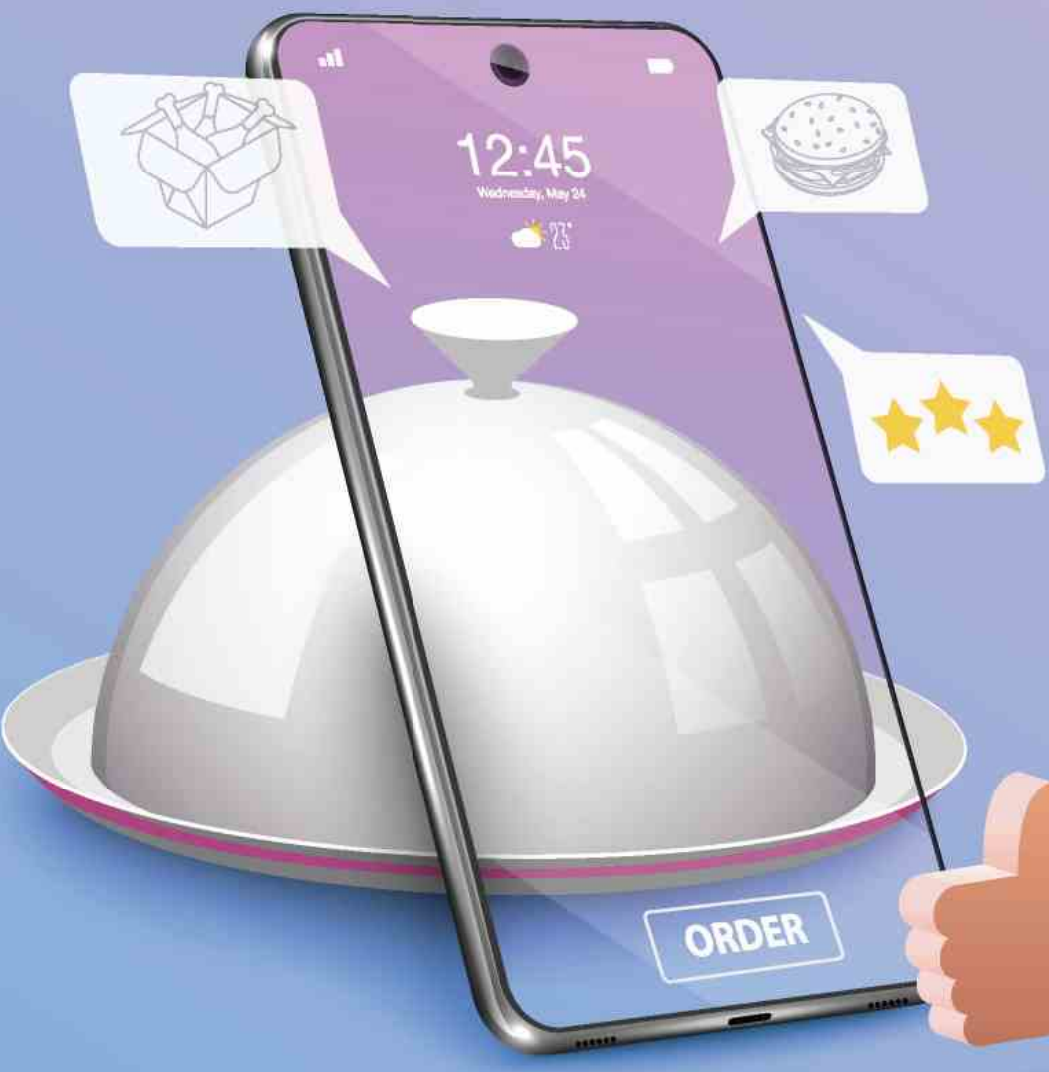
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ROUND-UP

Oman Cables launches COVID-19 vaccination initiative for its staff

The vaccination programme is part of the group's sustained commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of its workforce, customers and the wider community

MUSCAT: Oman Cables Industry, manufacturer of the integrated product range of various cable types completes first vaccine doses for its employees in collabora-

tion with the recently commissioned Oman International Hospital (OIH) managed by Idealmed Global Health Services (IGHS). The vaccination programme initiative is part of the group's sustained commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of its workforce, customers and the wider community. The adoption of the vaccination has been encouraged through comprehensive communication campaigns targeted at employees to raise awareness about the programme. To provide a seamless and safe vaccination experience, Oman Cables has partnered with the leading Oman International hospital. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Oman Cables has implemented multiple layers of hygiene and safety measures to curb the spread of the virus. These include social distancing and mandatory masks, compulsory screening for visitors, rigorous disinfection and sanitization drives. In support of the efforts of the

governmental authorities in the Sultanate of Oman, Oman Cables identifies its role in contributing towards critical causes by offering support to help local communities and members become more resilient, particularly those on the frontlines soldiering every day to save hundreds of lives. The health and well-being of employees and customers remain at primary focus. Oman Cables is adamant about creating a first-rate safety environment through continuous monitoring of safety recommendations from local health officials as well as the World Health Organization (WHO). Oman Cables will proceed with the second dose of the vaccine according to the specified period. The vaccination programme has also been extended to be offered to employees' families. This will be in coordination with Oman International Hospital and line with the company's strategy for immunisation against COVID-19.



CAMPAIGN

'Fuel and win' at Shell Service Stations with Bank Muscat Premier Banking Debit Cards

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has invited all its Premier Banking customers (Private Banking, Asalah and Al Jawhar) to participate in its ongoing 'fuel and win' campaign at Shell service stations in the Sultanate. All Premier Banking customers who use their debit cards to make a minimum payment of OMR 10 for a single transaction at Shell service stations are eligible to be included in the draws, which will be held periodically during the promotion that will run till 20 August 2021. As many as 180 lucky customers from Private Banking, Asalah Priority Banking and Al Jawhar Privilege Banking will win RO 20 each during the two-month-long campaign period. Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat, said: "We have seen a rapid shift to digital and contactless payments



over the past year as a result of the many new developments in both digitalisation as well as the social distancing requirements brought about by the pandemic. To further popularise the ease of contactless payments in daily transactions, Bank Muscat is pleased to once again and bring this exciting promotion, and we urge all our Premier Banking customers to take

maximum advantage of the offer and win prizes." Shell service stations in Oman accept contactless card payments through Bank Muscat's secure and robust, contactless "Just Tap" point of sale (PoS) systems. It is important to note that these wireless card terminals are certified for safe usage in service stations. Speaking about the promotion, Khalid Al Awaisi, Mobility Country Manager at Shell Oman Marketing Company commented: "We recognise the importance of providing the card payment option at Shell service stations and the need to encourage the usage of contactless payments now more than ever. Customers are looking for a safer and more convenient experience and providing this option, helps them feel safe when making payments at Shell service stations. Our partnership with Bank Muscat reaffirms this strategic approach, making the experience of

our customers more convenient for them." Bank Muscat's "Just Tap" contactless cards are particularly useful in secure payments during the current challenge of social distancing and enhanced measures for hygiene. Cardholders are able to complete their low-value point-of-sale (POS) transactions with a simple tap of the card at a 'Just Tap' enabled point-of-sale (POS) terminal without the need to enter their personal identification number (PIN) for transactions up to RO 40. With the entire process taking only a few seconds, both the customer and the retail outlet, benefit from faster checkout times. Customers will continue to receive alerts on their mobile phones for all transactions made using their cards. This ensures that the customers' security and privacy concerns are taken care of while facilitating quick and secure transactions to help save time.

LIMITED-EDITION TIMEPIECE

IWC Schaffhausen launches pilot's watch chronograph edition 'Sultanate of Oman'

MUSCAT: IWC Schaffhausen presents the Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Sultanate of Oman" (IW387910) to mark the country's 51st National Day on November 18, 2021. Limited to 100 pieces, the timepiece features a distinctive back engraving of 'Sultanate of Oman' in Arabic calligraphy, along with an image of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman. The limited-edition timepiece can be ordered exclusively at the luxury watch and jewellery boutique Mistal.



brought IWC pocket watches into the country over 100 years ago through the Port of Aden, an important trading post for the region. Hannes Pantli, a current member of the board of directors of IWC Schaffhausen, visited Muscat for the first time in February 1974 and had the honour of meeting late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. This was the beginning of a long

and very interesting relationship between Schaffhausen and Oman. Since then, Hannes Pantli has regularly visited the Sultanate, and IWC has created special watch sets for the Middle Eastern market, which were hugely successful. The timepiece is powered by the IWC-manufactured 69380-calibre movement with a classic column-wheel design, which is housed in a bronze case with a 41-millimetre diameter. IWC pays tribute to Oman's rich heritage and culture with this special edition featuring a striking blue dial and blue textile strap and titanium back. The material and colour signify the strength, unity and rich history of the country, giving the timepiece a unique character and an exuberant charm.

"We are delighted to be releasing a limited-edition timepiece for the wonderful nation of Oman to celebrate our long-standing relationship. We look forward to sharing this beautiful moment with connoisseurs who appreciate the luxury and timeless elegance of an IWC timepiece," said Mehdi Rajan, Regional Brand Director of IWC Schaffhausen for the Middle East, India and Africa. Speaking on behalf of Mistal, IWC's local partner in the country, Dharmesh A. Khimji, Managing Director of Mistal said: "We are proud to have been associated with IWC for almost five decades. With its first limited edition in the modern era, we are honoured to dedicate this exclusive IWC to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and our beautiful Oman."

ATTRACTIVE FINANCING OPTION

Pay OMR137 monthly for your Mitsubishi Montero Sport

MUSCAT: Elevate your journey with a Mitsubishi Montero Sport, now available from General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, with EMI as low as OMR 137, inclusive of VAT. In addition, Montero Sport comes with six years/unlimited kilometres warranty and roadside assistance. Commenting on the Montero Sport, Zuwaina Al Azri, Communication Manager of ZAG, "The Montero Sport is arguably one of the most well-rounded SUVs available on the market today, combining sedan-like comfort and functionality with class-leading off-road capability, reliability, and durability. In addition, it is



available at an extremely affordable price and with very attractive financing options; with EMI starting from just OMR 137 including VAT." The new 2021 Montero Sport

adopts a more powerful yet refined exterior design. Mitsubishi's signature Dynamic Shield front view design concept has been further evolved from its predecessor on the new Montero Sport to secure

better visibility. It also emphasises the sense of wideness with the headlights continuing from the front grille and the combination lamps at the bumper corners. The higher bonnet of the vehicle exhibits a deeper front face, while a more solid, powerful chrome part design projects a more refined, sophisticated appearance. The new Montero Sport's bold exterior is complemented with a refreshed interior that delivers high quality and comfort, together with advanced functionality. The entire floor console has been refreshed for the new model and soft padded interior door handles enhance the overall interior look with quality and comfort.

EYECARE



Muscat Eye Laser Center celebrates 19 years of commitment to clear vision

MUSCAT: Starting in 2002, Muscat Eye Laser Center has touched and improved the quality of life of more than a hundred thousand patients, besides conducting thousands of successful surgeries, in its journey of 19 years. Being based in Shatti Al Qurum and Al Mawaleh North, the premier eye laser centre is known for its international standards of quality and safety in the field of ophthalmology and surgery with an expert team of world-leading Omani and expatriate surgeons. The centre provides patients with eye care, delivered in a professional and personalised environment, in the specialities of laser vision correction, treatment of corneal diseases, cataracts, retinal diseases, glaucoma and other procedures. It also has a special department for pediatric ophthalmology. Over the years, the centre has become synonymous in Oman and the world with proven surgical results. Speaking on the occasion of the 19th-anniversary celebrations, Sameer Al Awam, CEO, Muscat Eye Laser Center, said, "It is our earnest endeavour to make patients feel comfortable and confident that they will receive eye care of the highest quality. We are committed to providing our patients with a value-added experience and building a strong relationship with them that their needs are met professionally while being fully informed of the diagnosis so that they understand the nature of the treatment they need."

Muscat Eye Laser Center is the only centre accredited by the Oman Medical Specialty Board to train Omani licensed ophthalmologists, on a mandatory learning path. Thereafter, they can practice the profession of ophthalmology in hospitals, or private and government centres, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. Over the years, Muscat Eye Laser Center has been keen to acquire the latest medical equipment, to provide better comprehensive care. The centre boasts of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, conforming to the latest international specifications. The centre added the highly accurate Schwind Amaris 1050 RS automated machine, to its list of medical facilities, being the first centre in the Sultanate to do so. With its repetitive rate of 1050 hertz and unique 7D eye tracking, it offers unmatched speed, precision and safety for laser eye surgery, to set new standards for corneal and vision correction surgeries in the Sultanate. With world-renowned achievements and extensive contributions to the field of ophthalmology, the team has the expertise to handle the most complex eye conditions that may not be treated elsewhere. As part of its social responsibility towards the Omani society, Muscat Eye Laser Center has created a special section for patient assistance services to consider requests and the possibility of aid and payment facilities through interest-free instalments, in co-operation with local banks. Muscat Eye Laser Center gives great importance to the continuity of research and development, and to follow up on published scientific studies. To always provide the best, the centre keeps pace with the latest and world-leading treatment methods. Muscat Eye Center has achieved international accreditations such as the ISO 9001 certificate for quality, and the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards International (ACHSI), the only eye centre in the GCC region to do so. In recognition of their services, Muscat Eye Laser Center has won several prestigious awards such as Leading Eye Care Center 2020, The Best Eye Care Provider 2020, Most Recommended Eye Center in Oman 2019, Life Changers in Eye Care Award 2019, Oman's Most Trusted Brand 2017, 2018, 2019; Best Specialised Clinic in Oman 2019, Eye Care Excellence 2018, Oman's Best Clinic 2016, Oman's Best Doctor 2016, among others.

ROUND-UP

Dr Ali Al Bimani unveils marketing campaign at National University

The marketing campaign includes academics, media professionals, athletes, and specialists in several scientific fields and to communicate with the authorities concerned, social and sports bodies, spread knowledge, raise awareness in education in the community, and contribute to supporting charitable campaigns in the Sultanate

MUSCAT: The National University of Science and Technology launched last Thursday a marketing campaign and its components, at the inauguration ceremony, which was held under the patronage of Dr Ali Al Bimani, Vice-Chancellor of the National University, at Al-Araimi Boulevard complex.

Al Bimani gave the starting signal for the marketing campaign, which includes several stations. This initiative is a first of its kind at the level of universities in the Sultanate. Al Bimani said that the National University, through this marketing campaign, seeks to reach the community and provide its services to all, indicating that the National University is the university of everyone.

The campaign started its stations at Al-Araimi Boulevard Complex, which comes as part of its plan to visit many stations in Muscat, Sohar, Nizwa and Salalah.

The National University focuses on community service through its marketing campaign, which tours several stations in Oman to display its services and to convey the message of science and knowledge.

The marketing campaign includes academics, media professionals, athletes, and specialists in several scientific fields and to communicate with the authorities concerned, social and sports bodies, spread knowledge, raise awareness in education in the community, contribute to supporting charitable campaigns in the Sultanate and support the student work.

In addition, promotion of the National University for its projects, academic programs and international achievements, services, provision of training to the community in several fields and promoting the Sultanate in tourism, history, sports, and science.

The Centre of Admission and Registration

Dr Salim Al-Arimi-DVC announced that the centre will be the first of its kind at the university level in Oman. The university will be working around the clock and the week with a toll-free number (80080002) to enable the university to communicate to provide its academic and educational services.

All calls are automatically linked in which the applicant information will be stored so staff will be able to contact him and quickly responded to his application.

Dr Salem Al-Arimi said that specialised cadres in admission, registration, marketing, and communication will work at the call centre. The staff is fluent in both Arabic and English. The call centre operates 24 hours a day and a direct response within 12 hours during the official working hours.

All calls are electronically linked so that the applicants' information is stored so that they can communicate with him and the speed of execution of the application. All



the calls received by the university call centre are recorded to preserve the rights.

Academic programmes

In the inauguration ceremony of the large marketing campaign, the National University announces the opening of admission and registration for its academic programs in engineering, medicine, and pharmacy, through offers presented by the deans of the three colleges for undergraduate and master which offered by the university. The three colleges are Baushar, Al Hail and Sohar.

The university programs include Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Engineering programmes in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Power Engineering, Process operation and Maintenance Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying and Cost Management.

The National University also announced several master programmes that are being offered in cooperation with Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom and the University of South Carolina, United States. These programmes include Master in Asset and Maintenance Management, Master in Construction Management, Master of Science in Supply Chain Management and International Operations, Master of Science in Process Engineering, Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Information Technology with three sub-disciplines: Cloud Computing, Big Data and Internet of Things, Advanced computer networks and cybersecurity.

National University has four campuses in Baushar (headquarters and the College of Pharmacy), Sohar campus (College of Medicine and Science), Al-Hail South campus College of Engineering) and the university campus in the

Airport Heights (Foundation Studies Centre).

Launch of new programme (Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences)

The university has announced the launch of a Bachelor of Science program in medical laboratory sciences, which is offered by the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Prof. Dr Mohammad Al Shafae, Dean of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, said, "Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) programme is qualified academic and applied science education that is designed to help students to develop, perform, evaluate, and correlate laboratory testing while assuring quality and accuracy. The MLS programme also equips students with multi-level functions in the areas of analysis and critical thinking, communication skills, regulatory compliance, quality assurance and performance improvement. Moreover, MLS graduates will demonstrate ethical and moral attitudes that are necessary for gaining and maintaining the confidence of patients, professional associates, and the community."

The MLS programme is composed of 134 credit hours of coursework over four years, with the final two semesters being reserved for clinical practice courses. The programme curriculum is based on major requirements that meet the content requirements of international accreditation agencies.

The MLS programme course content encompasses such disciplines as clinical chemistry, haematology, immunology, immunohematology, microbiology, urinalysis, molecular methods, laboratory management, and research methodology. Successful completion of all required MLS courses will result in a Bachelor Degree from the National University of Science and Technology.



Sponsors and partners

Al-Araimi Boulevard (main sponsor)

Al Araimi Boulevard is the first destination in the Sultanate in entertainment family entertainment centre of 6,000 square metres, and its visitors will feel the unique atmosphere in the openness of nature between water fountains, lush trees and a unique walkway designed to enjoy a distinguished hospitality experience in line with the highest international standards. It will also be home to 20 casual dining restaurants with an impressive food court that seats up to 1,200 people reinforced by the

services of international restaurants that number up to 20 restaurants, including 1,200 dining seats, in addition to cinemas that have 10 screens that work with 3D technology, and within the framework of the facilities that it was keen to provide to serve its customers, the project created more than 3,000 car parks available at the mall.

Muscat Media Group (Times of Oman, Al Shabiba) the main media sponsor of the campaign

The Muscat Media Group (MMG), is the leading media group in the Sultanate of Oman. Founded by the late Essa bin

Mohammed Al Zedjali who was a renowned journalist in the Sultanate, the group has played a vibrant role in Omani society since 1975. MMG offers advertisers more than 32 products in Arabic and English languages.

The Muscat Media Group (MMG) provides a media house in the region by disseminating news – the company is a role model and an innovator with a well-defined corporate social responsibility. The strength of the company lies in its dynamic and vibrant talent pool of employees guided by the prudent leadership of Chairman Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali and CEO Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali.

ROUND-UP

OWN HIGH PERFORMANCE INTELLIGENT SEVEN-SEATER SUV CHANGAN CS95 4WD



The 2.0L turbo engine, 224 hp, 6-speed AT, and 4WD Changan CS95 which magnifies driving experience with sophisticated luxury and superior comfort has been designed to stir the driving emotions



MUSCAT: Changan’s high-performance intelligent seven-seat SUV CS95 is now available at Monthly EMI starting from OMR215 for six years financing through Bank muscat till this month-end. Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment, which is part of Bahwan International Group also announced a low EMI offer which includes a five per cent Value Added Tax (VAT). The 2.0L turbo engine, 224 hp, 6-speed AT, and 4WD Changan CS95 which magnifies driving experience with sophisticated luxury and superior comfort has been designed to stir the driving emotions. Changan CS95 4WD features Business class comfort with perforated leather seats and lane departure warning. With a com-

manding presence and muscular stance, Changan CS95 is designed to demand attention wherever it goes. With meticulously crafted details complemented by convenient technology, the CS95 ensures refined luxury in every drive for up to seven passengers. With a range of innovative driving technologies, the CS95 delivers an assured sense of confidence and control to the driver. Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides owners with a highly efficient and energy-saving performance. A spokesperson for AGAE said, “We are delighted to offer low EMI on CS95 which is packed with endless features and has numerous advantages over its segment com-

petition. CS95, a flagship model of Changan, is an ideal seven-seater SUV for a large modern family who wants to travel in luxury, with business class comfort in all road conditions with its intelligent 4WD system. Under the hood is a Blue Core 2.0L turbocharged engine mated with a six-speed AT which produces a 360 Nm of torque.” Vehicle specifications CS95’s vehicle specifications include length x width x height of 4949mm x 1930mm x 1790mm, Blue Core 2.0L T GDI Turbocharged Gasoline Direct Injection engine, wheelbase of 2810mm, maximum output of 233 HP at 5000-5500 rpm, maximum torque of 360 Nm at 1750-3500 rpm, tyres with 55/245 R19 alloy wheels and a fuel tank capacity of 74 litres.

A flagship model of Changan brand Changan CS95 4WD wide-winged grille represents strength and comfort and its matte texture with a bright strip are well matched. The original C-shaped light combines position lights, steering lamps, and daytime running lights. The sculpted waistline wraps around the entire body, creating an extraordinary visual. The floating roof design affords the vehicle a sense of speed. The two-tone rim design highlights the dynamic outline. Additionally, Changan shows ingenuity by integrating its V logo in the details. The refined instrument panel with silver highlights aligns with the exquisite man-machine function button. Broad cen-

tral control matches high-grade multi-functional storage space. Leather seats feature elaborate stitching. A variety of seating combinations are offered to meet a diversity of customer needs. Second and third-row seating is spacious and foldable. Adapting varies road conditions 2021 CS95 4WD 7 seater Outfitted with Bosch medium-range radar MMR evo14, CS95 can find a forward vehicle. Adaptive Cruise Control System move-stop function with speed range from 0 to 150 km/h guarantees CS95 to activate from stationary and accelerate or decelerate intelligently. Keeping a safe distance, stopping, or moving following forward vehicle and adapting varies road conditions makes CS95 easier to drive.

Safety elements Fitted out with Bosch MPC2 Plus camera, CS95 can detect the lane line and warn drivers when deviating from the lane, preventing accidents from fatigue or distracting driving. The distance lights and passing lights can be switched intelligently when driving at night. CS95 can also automatically detect speed limit and avoid speeding when driving on the expressway. The three intelligent functions, car distance warning, forward collision warning, and collision mitigation, equipped in CS95 can avoid or ease the collision by alarm and auxiliary braking.

Premium Audio System CS95 is endowed with 10 Pioneer HiFi Speakers & DSP power amplifiers to deliver fresh, new audio experiences to every passenger. Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, recently announced a partnership with leading international automotive group Changan Automobile Co. Ltd to bring its range of passenger vehicles to Oman including CH Changan EADO Plus.

About AGAE Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment which is part of Bahwan International Group has set up a spacious and state-of-the-art Showroom in Al Qurum and Service centre in Ghala, Muscat. AGAE has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in many cities including Salalah, Sohar, Sur, Nizwa, Ibra and Barka etc. Changan Oman offers 5 years or 150,000km manufacturer warranty on all passenger vehicles in Oman.



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