

YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS NATIONAL MUSEUM

Dr. Ahmad Awad Mubarak, Minister for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs in the Republic of Yemen visited the National Museum, within the framework of his current official visit to the Sultanate. **>A5**



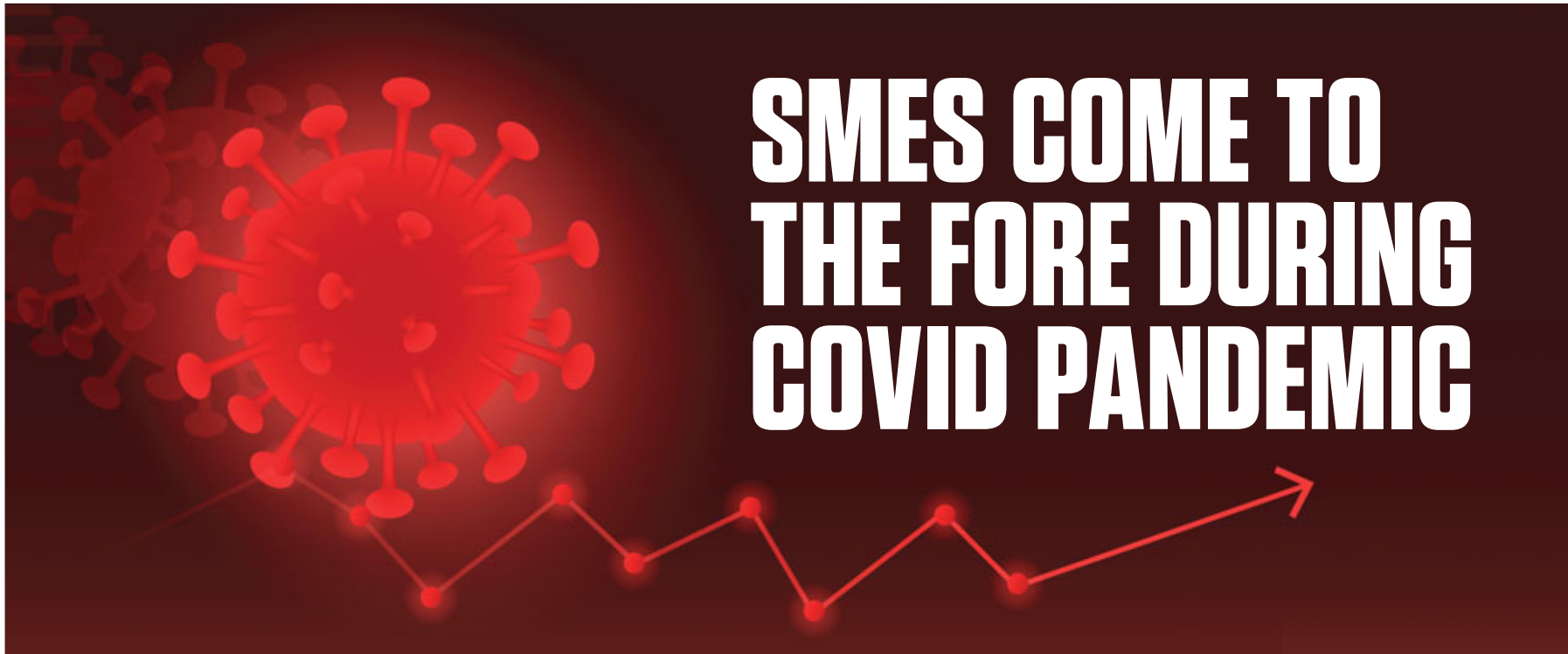
DAR AL ATTA'A CHILDREN'S WRITING COMPETITION

The Let's Read Library of Dar Al Atta'a Association has concluded the activities of its 15th Children's Writing Competition. The winners of the competition were honoured on 5th June. **>A4**



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SMEs have pitched in to provide both goods and services to businesses and consumers alike helping them tide over difficult times

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are helping businesses and people in Oman lessen the economic and personnel impact the COVID-19

pandemic has had on them.

SMEs have been able to provide vital goods to those who were unable to buy them from elsewhere, have offered shops required to shut down an online space to continue operations, and created

digital solutions for clinics to reduce crowding, and the chances of a potential spread of infection. There are 52,524 SMEs currently operating in the country, and more than 7,000 of them have been set up after March 2020, shortly after the pandemic began in Oman.

Sharifa Al Barami, the co-founder of Markeetex, has offered free membership to some merchants who have been affected by the pandemic. Sharing an example of how this helped families procure food and other items essential to their day-to-day living, she said, "When Wilayat Muscat was put under health isolation, we

received permits to go in. We had, for example, an expat family who had gone outside the country for business when the lockdown began, so his family was completely isolated. They had no means of even paying; he would pay online, buy everything for them, and we would make sure they were delivered to his family.

"There were many families in areas like Ruwi, Darsait, Muttrah and Muscat who came to rely on us," she added. "We used to run three big truckloads on a daily basis, with a cold chain, to deliver all of the goods that needed to be delivered to families there." **>A3**

52,524

IS THE NUMBER OF SMES CURRENTLY OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY AS OF APRIL 2021, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

ALBUM OF PHOTOGRAPHS

National Museum restores rare photographs of Oman, Iraq, India

MUSCAT: The National Museum recently finished restoring an album of photographs of Oman, Iraq and India presented by Louis Maguire, the United States Consul in Muscat, to Lt. Colonel S. B. Miles, the British Political Agent in the Gulf, on 6 September 1885 CE.

This project restored and preserved a photo album that contains images historically significant to Oman, including the second-oldest known photograph of Muscat, photos from inside the US Consulate at the time, and the oldest known photo of Muttrah.

Shared memories

Not only important to Oman, but these significant photos also illustrate the long, historical ties between Oman and the United States. The restoration of these critical shared memories between the two countries is one of only three projects in the Middle East in 2019 C.E.

Furthermore, the ECA has awarded the National Museum with one of its coveted grants from the AFCP for 2019, from a diverse international and worthy applicant pool. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Watch solar eclipse

1 Although it isn't visible from Oman, people around the globe can enjoy the spectacle on live stream. **>A3**

WORLD
Pakistan train mishap

2 Two express trains collided in southern Pakistan early on Monday, killing at least 40 people and injuring dozens. **>A6**

MARKET
Banks cut dividends

3 As an ongoing effect of the pandemic, GCC banks slashed cash dividend payments by almost half. **>B1**



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Asr.....	3.29pm
Maghrib.....	6.57pm
Isha.....	8.19pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3.52am



DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES I DID, SAYS OMANI, RECALLING OFF-ROAD ORDEAL

Whenever you are driving across a body of water, no matter how familiar it may look, always keep your windows rolled down and unbuckle your seat belt before you get in...what if it gets jammed when you are trying to exit the car? I would have surely drowned. If you are in trouble, call the Royal Oman Police on 9999



Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani national whose vehicle sank into a wadi in Oman because he was distracted, missed the wadi exit, and underestimated the terrain has asked people not to make the mistakes he did, as it might not always be possible to undo them.

Salim Al Barwani and his uncle were on a routine excursion to Wadi Dayqah in Quriyat, when his vehicle plunged to the bottom of the wadi, because he missed the exit and did not know he had entered its danger zone.

Although he's been travelling to Quriyat twice a year for the last three decades, there was one important change to the surroundings this time around that he did not take into account.

"The dam in Quriyat was opened, because the water level was high, so water was flowing down into the wadi. I take a lot of landscape photography and I did not want to miss this opportunity," he recalled. "Driving back home, I got distracted, and I went beyond the exit point, into the dangerous side of the wadi, into unfamiliar territory. I didn't know where I was, but I was still convinced the exit was in front of me."

"We looked around and reasoned that we had driven here an hour ago, so we must still be in the same place," admitted Salim, speaking to Evita Louis of TFM, the radio station of the *Times of Oman*. "In a minute, we went from driving a four-wheel drive that is more than two metres tall, to losing sight of our car in the wadi, where it sank like a rock. It happened so quickly, but thank god we are alive, because our windows were open."

With his vehicle sinking quickly, Salim and his uncle quickly swam out through the windows that he'd left open by pure coincidence. These opened windows provided them the opportunity to escape the wadi.

A few days ago, a vehicle retrieval team from Guide Oman

and 3R headed to Quriyat to extract Salim's vehicle, which still lay at the bottom of the wadi. Their skill in retrieving stricken vehicles, and dedication to planning for such incidents, meant they were able to get Salim's four wheel drive out in all of 20 minutes, with minimum fuss.

A popular pastime

With his vehicle returned to him, and supremely grateful for being alive, Salim Al Barwani now wants to share his story with the wider community, particularly since going off-road and exploring the more remote parts of the country is a popular pastime among both locals and tourists.

"Because I knew the location, I was complacent," he said. "What I did not take into consideration was that the dam had been opened so the wadi was in full flow. I had never been there when the wadi was flowing. That led to the landscape changing."

"Guide Oman made all the difference...they made it all possible," he said, recalling the rescue. "The first thing we needed to do was assess whether it was safe to attempt a rescue: they took all the precautions required. One of the safety measures they needed to look at was adding weight to both sides of the car, so that it does not slip or turn over while it is being recovered. This was done in a very professional and very safe way."

"By the time they'd gotten there, it was as if they had conducted rescue drills with my vehicle before. I have been with the 3R team before, and one of their mottos is that they do not leave anyone behind."

Having survived this experience unscathed, Salim has things he plans to do differently the next time he goes off-roading.

"Normally, when I take part in such excursions, I follow my GPS and mark the point of entry and exit from the road," he said. "This time, however, I did not do that, because I was in familiar territory. The next time, although



I may be in a known area, I will make sure to mark the right points, because it is very easy to get distracted. "Although I know the location, I will prepare myself a bit better than I did the last time. I normally prepare a journey map for a trip, and inform people of my location, so that if I do not return around the time I am expected to, they will start looking for me. This is something I strongly encourage people to do."

Plenty of advice

Salim has plenty of advice to give to others who intend on going off-roading. He is hopeful his wisdom will help those who find themselves in the sticky situation he did.

"Listen to the voice inside your head: when you feel uncomfortable, don't try to convince yourself that everything is okay," he said. "In this case, I did look around and thought there was no other place to cross. I did reason with myself that because I had come here an hour ago, what could go bad? Had I listened to myself, I would have driven back for about five minutes and found the proper crossing point."

"Whenever you are driving across a body of water, no matter how familiar it may look, always keep your windows rolled down and unbuckle your seat belt before you get in...what if it gets jammed when you are trying to exit the car?" he wondered. "I would have surely drowned."

"If you are in trouble, call the Royal Oman Police on 9999," he explained. "What happened in our case is that there were people in the area who helped us get out of the water after the incident. One of them had the number of a friend in the ROP on his phone, but this person worked in Muscat, not Quriyat. The message did not make it to Quriyat, so the local police were not aware of the message until two days later."

"Another piece of advice is understanding your car when you go off-road. Don't venture there if you are not familiar with the area," he went on to say. "Go with experienced people: just because you are a convoy of three cars going to the desert for the first time does not mean you will be safe there. If you ever get in trouble, don't panic. It is easy to say this, but panicking does not help. Staying calm and seeking help is the way out."

His final piece of advice? Carry a cheap phone for emergencies, and store it safely on your person.

"What one of my friends does is take an OMR20 phone with him, he keeps it in a sealed wrapper, and that stays in his pocket until he needs it in case of an emergency," said Salim.



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Expats stuck back home hopeful of early return

An entry ban against passengers travelling through 15 countries whose nationals form a significant portion of the expatriate community in Oman is currently in place



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expatriates who have gone to their home countries on leave are hopeful the entry ban against their nations will soon be lifted, so that they can return to Oman.

An entry ban against passengers travelling through 15 countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sudan, Egypt, and Tanzania, whose nationals form a significant portion of the expatriate communities in the country is currently in effect.

However, with case numbers now significantly lower in India, expats hope they will once again be allowed to disembark in Oman. COVID-19 infection rates in India have dropped from a peak of about 415,000 a day in the first week of May, to just above 100,000 on June 7, according to the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Resource Center.

With the lifting of a number of restrictions that were adopted to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Oman, Indian expatriate Shiv Gupta is waiting for the entry ban to be lifted so that he can return to the country.

“We have been waiting for the airport to open to us for months now, and hopefully it will come soon,” said Gupta, a business owner in Muscat. “The case numbers are dropping here as well, so I remain positive that we will be able to fly home in the coming weeks. With many businesses allowed to operate again, this will be a good time for us to resume our operations, so the sooner we get there, the better.”

Anuja Sharma, another Indian expatriate who has received both doses of her COVID vaccine while back home, also hoped people from banned countries would be allowed to re-enter Oman soon.

“When I did go to India on holiday, there was no entry ban in place, so I thought it would be okay for me to visit my family and return,” she said. “When we heard that passengers from India and other countries were to be denied entry, it did not leave us much time to book tickets to come back. I decided to stay on in India, because I had the comfort of family here.”

“My company has been okay with me working remotely for the past few weeks, but I hope that

now things are gradually reopening across the world, it may not be long before we are allowed to board flights to Oman,” she added.

Shadab Niazi from Pakistan was also of a similar opinion. Caseloads in his country have also dropped, from a peak of nearly 8,495 in the first week of May, to less than 1,500 a day. Despite being hopeful of a return to Oman for a while, Shadab said he was confident that it would not be long before Pakistani nationals are allowed to fly to the country.

Livelihoods

“Like myself, there are many other Pakistanis who have our livelihoods in Oman,” he said. “For many of us, the nature of our work means we cannot do it remotely. Many of the others who are stuck here work in transportation, maintenance and the service sector, so we need to go back as soon as we are allowed.”

“We understand, of course, that the decision to implement the entry ban was not taken lightly, but when we heard the latest developments regarding the lifting of many economic restrictions in the country, it

gave us hope that we too will soon be allowed to travel,” he added.

Filipino national Nina Valdez also flew to Manila to visit her cousins, both of whom had gotten jobs in Oman, and were looking to fly back with her. Their plans to come to the Sultanate, however, have been put on hold, since people travelling from the Philippines cannot enter Oman until further notice.

After peaking at about 15,000 infections a day in April 2021, the numbers have dipped significantly to about 7,200, and Nina is optimistic that should numbers drop further, they will be allowed to travel soon.

“My cousins intended to come with me to earn money for their families in our country,” she said. “We are looking forward to the day we will be allowed to enter Oman and take up our jobs, but until then, let us stay here and hope for the best.”

Currently, passengers flying through 15 countries are banned entry into Oman: Brazil, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, the UK, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

Here is how you can watch the June 10 solar eclipse in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An annular solar eclipse is expected to occur on June 10, and although it isn't visible from Oman, many astronomical sites are setting up live streams so people around the globe can enjoy the spectacle.

Timeanddate.com will be organising a livestream of the eclipse, which will be visible to many countries in the northern-most parts of the world. It begins at 7:45 am UTC (11:45 am GST), and ends at 1:15 pm (5:15 pm GST) later that day.

An annular eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the Sun. An annular eclipse occurs over those countries where the moon completely blocks out most of the sun, leaving only its circumference visible, leading to the popular ring-of-fire phenomenon.

While the complete shadow of the moon – called the umbra – falls over these countries, others experience a partial eclipse, with only a partial shadow, or penumbra, falling over them.

“During an eclipse, two shadows are cast,” according to NASA. “The first is called the umbra. This shadow gets smaller as it goes away from the sun. It is the dark center of the eclipse shadow. The second shadow is called the penumbra. The penumbra gets larger as it goes away from the sun.”

Northern Hemisphere

People in parts of Canada, Greenland, and Russia will be able to enjoy the annular eclipse. Those in other parts of the Northern Hemisphere – the US, St Pierre and Miquelon, Iceland, Bermuda,

Norway, Sweden, Finland, China, and Mongolia – will get to witness a partial solar eclipse.

“Viewers in Canada's north will be treated to a spectacular sight—an annual solar eclipse,” said an explainer from the University of Toronto. “This once-in-a-lifetime event will provide viewers in Northern Ontario, Northern Quebec, and Nunavut with a chance to see the sun become a ‘ring of fire’ as the Moon passes in front of it.”

“For those outside the path of annularity, the eclipse will still be visible as a partial solar eclipse across most of Canada, although you'll have to set your alarm if you want to see it—it'll be in progress as the Sun rises,” added the university. Should you find yourself in an area where you are able to personally view the eclipse, please do not view it with the naked eye. Doing so can cause blindness, as well as a host of other sometimes irreversible problems.

Safety first

“You should never look directly at the sun without appropriate safety equipment, even during an eclipse,” said the University of Toronto. “However, with a certified eclipse viewer, it's safe to look at a solar eclipse for a few minutes at a time.”

“Certified eclipse viewers work by blocking almost all of the light from the sun, allowing only a tiny, safe amount through,” they added. “Never use binoculars, a telescope, a camera, or welder's glass to look at a solar eclipse. Do not combine eclipse viewers with any other equipment. You can damage your camera – or your eyes!”

ECONOMY

<FROM A1> Startups turn pandemic into an opportunity

“It's been quite a journey, and we will continue to offer this service to the pandemic,” she further said.

Many shops that usually rely on tourism to make a living have also joined Markeetex so that they can sell their products to customers overseas.

Affordable

“We are also able to deliver Omani frankincense and oud to people in Singapore, Australia, the US, and Europe,” Al Barami said. “Even with the shipping costs, the prices are affordable compared to the quality and price received there. This is the beauty of online: it dissolves all of the commercial borders. We are very happy we can offer the service to businesses and other SMEs whose shops have closed. We also have merchants from outside Oman: the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Estonia, for example.”

Prosthetics

Another SME, Atoms Labs, are partnering with companies that offer surgical prosthetics made from PEEK (polyetheretherketone), a material that has durability and resistance similar to that of bones. Initially used to make spinal and cranial implants, PEEK now finds use across a number of medical fields, including orthopaedics and dentistry.

Surgical prosthetics can now be manufactured in Oman for those who require urgent medical care, instead of waiting for them to be ordered and delivered from overseas, which could take months.

Founded jointly by Yumna Al Sharji and Bassl Koukash, the company has also developed digital scanning processes to lessen the wait times for patients at clinics and dentists, helping reduce visitor numbers, which helps minimise the spread of COVID-19. They have helped set up three dental labs based on this technology, and also run training programmes for medical technicians to learn the skills required to conduct these procedures.

“PEEK-based implants are very important right now – many hospitals currently provide these services outside the country,” said Koukash.

“We buy the raw material from outside, and manufacture here, thereby localising this technology in Oman. Designs can be made on the needs of patients. It can be used for a number of surgical treatments. Our aim is to help save time and resources in current procedures, as well as bring new concepts to Oman.”

Andrew Roughan is the managing director of UK-based start-up developer Plexal. In collaboration with the Oman government,

the Embassy of the UK in Muscat, and local partner Al Jabr, Plexal recently ran the Rapid Innovation Accelerator for 15 start-ups to enable them to develop their products and help them expand business.

Flexible

“Generally, startups and SMEs are the ones who tend to see the opportunity for innovation in an industry,” he said. “They are also usually much more flexible and can move more quickly than bigger businesses, so they can develop ideas and new solutions much more quickly than larger players in the space. Therefore, they often provide a vital service to big business by developing solutions to problems. In the context of the pandemic, startups have an important role to play in coming up with creative solutions to the unique challenges of our time.”

According to data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information, there are 52,524 SMEs in the country as of April 2021, up from the 44,139 during the same period in 2020. Muscat is home to 17,692 SMEs, the largest share in the country, but the biggest growth in terms of percentages, have been seen in Al Wusta (38.2 per cent), where there are 684 SMEs, and in South Sharqiyah (24.5 per cent), where 3,123 operate.

Alila

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Dar Al Atta’a Children’s Writing Competition sees enthusiastic turnout from students



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Let’s Read Library of Dar Al Atta’a Association has concluded the activities of its 15th Children’s Writing Competition. The winners of the competition were honoured on 5th June at the premises of the library at Avenues Mall.

The participants were asked to write a story involving events that occurred in Oman, or were required to re-write a traditional story. The winners comprised three age groups and across two languages (English and Arabic). Eleven winners have been honoured during the celebration. Jane Jaffer, the founder of the Let’s Read Initiative, said: “We are delighted to receive several writings during this year, in both Arabic and English. All writings submitted have been read by three members of the competition’s committee at least.”

She also expressed her thanks and appreciation for the competition’s committee for devoting their time and efforts for the competition.

Dr Wafa Al Shamsi, member of the Competition’s Committee concerned with the Arabic language writings said, “the writings of the participants submitted to the committee were of a varied depth, and the majority of participants in the competition were between eight and 11 years of age. The remarkable numbers of participants from this age group is due to the nature of children, which is characterised by love of competition and participation.

Elizabeth Al Sarhani, one of the members of the committee concerned with the English language participation, said that the competition has seen the participation of a number of talents whose skills are yet to be explored and unveiled.

Reem Riyadh Al Siyabi, from Safiya bint Al Khatib School for Basic Education, who won the first place in the age group for children from eight to eleven in the Arabic language competition said, “the Let’s Read Library has encouraged me to participate in the 15th Children’s Writing Competition. The competition has been challenging and all of us have been encouraged to take part in future competitions.

A’alia bint Said Al Sulaimani, from Safiya bint Al Khatib School for Basic Education won the second place in this category. Asma Talal Al Alawi won the first place in the 12 to 15 years age group, followed by Noof bint Adel Al Hadhrami.

In the English writing competition for children from eight to 11 years, first place went to Gina Eberlin from the Royal Flight School followed by Adam Hakim from the same school. First place in the 12 to 15 age group went to Faisal bin Talal Al Busaidi from Modern Generation Private School followed by Dolara Koryobu from Sri Lankan School.

In the 16 to 18 years old category, first place went to Sabih Ridha from Muscat International School, followed by Aram Al Khalifi from the same school.

COLUMN



Recipe for the perfect career

What is a career? It’s the portion of a person’s life devoted to work. Now, you may view the word career to mean simply a job. Yet, it is more than just a job; it is a pathway that links education and work. It is inclusive of the efforts spent on developing yourself for the occupation.

For example, content writer at Company XYZ is a job, but writing as a career begins with you enrolling yourself for a foundation course in literature or writing to develop and enhance your language skills.

Therefore, the parts of your life that concerns your learning, training and experience towards the profession and as well as the profession itself, encompasses your career. Now let’s delve into the recipe for the perfect career.

Personality

One of the most important factors that determine your choice of a career is your personality. It’s a framework of how you are built as an individual, derived from a combination of genes and life experiences. A personality is mostly consistent and can determine what an individual likes, how they would react in certain situations and what they do. Hence, your personality plays a part in your career preference – through your tastes and how you view life. If you are an extroverted person, who loves to travel, you might not enjoy a 9-to-5 desk job; instead, a job that requires travel and social interaction would be better suited.

Passion

How can you invest so much of your time and effort into something you don’t like to do? It may be possible, but it definitely begs

One of the most important factors that determine your choice of a career is your personality. It’s a framework of how you are built as an individual, derived from a combination of genes and life experiences.



Dr Baby Sam Saamuel

the question – is it worth it? Passion is what keeps your work life alive! It’s the light that burns at night with you as you work to achieve your dreams. We’ve all

heard this quote, “Do what you love, and you never have to work a day of your life.” These ideas are also seen in Ikigai, a Japanese concept, combining the

terms “life” (iki) and “worth” (gai). Put together, Ikigai means a life of worth. It is said to be a feeling of well-being that arises from engaging in activities that one enjoys.

Skills

A person’s skills are another thing that contributes to their career. Each occupation has specific skills that it requires over and above subject expertise that are crucial for doing a task efficiently and effectively. An example is that some jobs require great communication skills while others need dexterity. The 21st century skills required to be global citizen include learning and innovation skills like creativity, critical thinking, collaboration; information, media and technology skills like ICT and media literacy; and life and career skills like leadership, flexibility, initiative etc. The good news is that these are

all skills that you have probably already gained even in school through various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Take time to know and enhance your skills. It might just lead you to your dream job.

When you begin your search for a perfect career, start by reviewing these core facets. There are many personality tests and aptitude assessments available that let you understand your key nature, areas of interests, skills and strengths.

Back to our recipe! Personality, passion and skills – are the key ingredients. Combine them all using self-reflection, and you have your career cooking!

Dr Baby Saamuel is the Vice-Chairman, Knowledge Oman and is Ex-Chairman, Indian Schools in Oman. You can contact him at mail@babysam.biz for queries or suggestions.



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OMAN

OFFICIAL VISIT

Yemeni Minister visits National Museum, Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

MUSCAT: Dr Ahmad Awad Mubarak, Minister for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs in the Republic of Yemen on Monday visited the National Museum, within the framework of his current official visit to the Sultanate.

The Yemeni guest and his accompanying delegation toured the halls of the National Museum, which epitomise important aspects of the Omani cultural

heritage. They were briefed about the historic manuscripts in the museum.

Earlier in the day, they also visited the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and were briefed on various Omani and Islamic architectural designs of the mosque. The guest also toured facilities of the mosque, such as the Institute of Islamic Sciences, the library and lectures hall. - **ONA**



CLOUD COMPUTING

Two Omani firms sign pact

MUSCAT: Two Omani firms, Data Mount company (Green Mountain Data Company) and International Emerging Company (ETCO), signed an agreement with Chinese group Alibaba in the field of cloud computing.

The agreement, signed in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, states that the two firms will manage, operate and market Alibaba cloud computing centre and services in the region. This will enhance cloud computing in the region and promote the Sultanate as a regional gateway for the services.

Under the agreement, Alibaba will invest \$10 million during initial stages to provide focal systems and modern technologies, while Data Mount spends around \$4 million in furnishing infrastructure equipment for the information centre.

The three parties will also provide data processing, cloud hosting and national cadre training on using Alibaba cloud programme.

The agreement was signed by, Business Vice-President of Alibaba, Selina Yuan, Abdulha-keem Amer al-Maslahi, CEO of Data Mount, and Abdulaziz Jafar, CEO of ETCO.

Selina said that Alibaba plans to deliver highly secured and reliable cloud services in Oman and the region at large through the two Omani firms (Data Mount and ETCO), which will join hands with Alibaba by managing and operating its data centre and hosting its cloud programme. - **ONA**

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Meeting discusses ways to support Omani products

MUSCAT: The Committee for National Industries Development tasked with supporting Omani products held its first meeting of the year on Monday.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in the presence of representatives of government departments concerned.

The committee supervises the implementation of the Industry Strategy 2040 and seeks to develop industries keep pace with technology and knowledge updates. The committee also explores ways to inculcate the culture of industrial innovation, draft programmes and mechanisms for enhancing the contribution of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the industrial sector and improving product quality.

The committee also specialises



in drafting strategies, policies, procedures and principles for applying added value in the industrial sector, generating new investment opportunities (to substitute imports and foster exports) and devising programmes for the promotion of Omani products quality with the aim of augmenting the volume of sales in local and international markets.

Recently, the Ministry launched a campaign titled 'Made in Oman' in partnership with government and private sectors.

The campaign aimed to support Omani products, promote them locally and internationally, find marketing outlets for local products and boost SMEs exhibits in shopping centres in various governorates of the Sultanate. - **ONA**

ONLINE PLATFORM

Agreement signed

MUSCAT: The Telecommunication Regulatory Authority signed a pact with the Global Computers Services Company (GlobCom).

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) aims to create an online platform for attracting national competencies in different technological fields, as well as

areas of telecom and mailing services in order to supply the labour market with competent Omani job seekers. It was signed by Eng. Ahmed Hasan Al Hadabi, TRA Acting Executive Manager - Strategy Planning Unit, and Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Nu'amani, General Manager of GlobCom. - **ONA**

Crowe Mak Ghazali LLC ANNOUNCEMENT

ON STARTING THE LIQUIDATION OF OMAN GROWTH FUND

Crowe Mak Ghazali LLC announce that they will start the liquidation of Oman Growth Fund which is registered with the Capital Market Authority in Muscat as per the extraordinary general meeting was held on 24 May 2021 and the liquidator only has the right to represent on behalf of the fund. And anyone has to follow up with the liquidator in any matter related to the fund on the following address:

Al Khwair - Opposite to Muscat Grand Mall - The Office Building - Fifth Floor - P.O. Box: 971, Postal Code 131, Telephone No. 24036300 Fax: 2458 7588

The liquidator also calls upon the fund's creditors to submit their claims against the fund, supported by documents, at the above-mentioned address, within a maximum period of 15 days from the date of publishing this announcement, and whoever has rights to the fund under liquidation must pay it to the liquidator at the address referred to above.

Crowe Mak Ghazali LLC
Liquidator

NATIONAL MUSEUM

< FROM A1 Restoring rare photos

The selection committee approved the project "Oman: Conservation of 19th-Century Photographs in the Collection of the National Museum of Oman". In this context, Leslie M. Tsou, US Ambassador to the Sultanate visited the National Museum and was greeted by Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi - Secretary-General of the National Museum, to view the album.

By working with the National Museum to support the preservation of Oman's cultural heritage, the AFCP will help restore vitality and culturally defining historical artefacts to ensure their enjoyment and relevance, not only today but for generations to come.

It is worth noting that this al-

bum is dated back to 1885 CE (1288- 1302 AH / 1871-85 CE) and consists of 88 pages and 93 albumen print.

The album contains approximately 65 photographs of Oman, nearly all taken in and around Muscat, including the nearby town of Matrah. Many of the pictures were attributed to Louis Maguire, with at least three photographs taken by S.B. Miles in 1885 CE.

The album contains the earliest ever-known photographs of Matrah, A'Rustaq Fort, Jabreen Castle from the town's market, and Jabal Misht. The album has a presentation inscription in ink on the first mount indicates and pencil captions on the mounts attributed to Miles. - **ONA**

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Death toll from train collision in Pakistan's Sindh reaches 40

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed sorrow over the incident and said an investigation would be conducted into the cause.

ISLAMABAD: Two express trains collided in southern Pakistan early on Monday, killing at least 40 people and injuring dozens, said officials.

The accident occurred in Ghotki district, in Sindh province. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed sorrow over the incident on Twitter, and said an investigation would be conducted into the cause.

"Shocked by the horrific train accident at Ghotki early this morning leaving 30 passengers dead. Have asked Railway Minister to reach site and ensure medical assistance to injured & support for families of the dead. Ordering comprehensive investigation into railway safety fault-lines," Khan tweeted.

The Sir Syed Express train crashed into the Millat express, which had derailed. It wasn't clear what caused the derailment and subsequent crash. About 1,100 passengers were aboard the trains.

Minister for railways Azam Swati told AP news agency, "I am



TRAIN COLLISION: The Sir Syed Express train crashed into the Millat express, which had derailed. It wasn't clear what caused the derailment and subsequent crash.

on my way to the Ghotki district where the tragic train accident happened today. We are not sure about the cause of the train accident at this stage," he said.

Rescue operations under way

Police officer Usman Abdullah told AP that police and rescue officials, along with villagers, were transporting the dead and injured passengers to nearby hospitals. Locals were also helping pull out bodies and injured people from the wreckage.

"Right now the challenge for us is to quickly rescue those passengers who are still trapped in the wreckage," said district police chief Umar Tufail. At least 50 passengers have been transported to

the hospital, where some remain in critical state.

TV channels showed injured passengers being transported in ambulances. Pakistani media reported that heavy machinery to free trapped people was not available at the site for hours after the crash. Mobile phone footage shown on media depicted several green carriages lying on their side.

An injured survivor from the derailed train told local media, "We felt as if we had been thrown away. The second train then hit our train that caused more damage."

Aijaz Ahmed, the driver of the Sir Syed Express train told Pakistan's Geo News TV that on seeing the derailed train cars, he tried his best to avoid the accident by braking but failed.

Chairman of Pakistan railways Habibur Rehman Gilani told Geo News TV that the section of the tracks where the accident took place was old, and needed replacing.

Authorities said troops had also arrived to help out with rescue operations. Military medics and ambulances were dispatched, and military engineers have been sent to the accident site.

A train traveling between Karachi and Rawalpindi caught fire in 2019, killing dozens. A train collision in Karachi had killed 21 passengers in 2016. Pakistan witnesses frequent train accidents, as little attention has been paid to the maintenance and upkeep of railway tracks and signal systems in recent years. **DW**



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FOREIGN TRIP

Kamala Harris lands in Guatemala for first trip as VP

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris landed in Guatemala City on Sunday as part of her first foreign trip since she took office.

US President Joe Biden's administration is expected to announce new steps to fight smuggling and trafficking in Guatemala, a senior administration official said Sunday.

Guatemala's Foreign Affairs Pedro Brolo and US Ambassador to Guatemala William Popp welcomed Harris at about 6:30 p.m. local time.

Harris was initially meant to arrive in Guatemala earlier in the day, but her flight was forced to return to the US following technical issues, according to officials.

Besides bilateral discussions with the two countries' leaders, Harris is set to meet community leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Harris will later fly to Mexico for talks.

US aims to tackle migration, investment

The vice president is seeking to secure commitments from Guatemala and Mexico for further cooperation on border security



and economic investment.

Harris also aims to tackle corruption, which has plagued the region for years.

During a meeting in May with Guatemalan justice leaders, Harris said corruption was a "significant deterrent" to economic investment there, adding that "injustice is a root cause of migration."

Harris had laid out an approach focused on creating better living conditions in the region through humanitarian and economic aid.

She announced additional aid of \$310 million (€255 million) to support refugees, and secured investment commitments from several companies to promote economic opportunity. **DW**



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She’s powerful, but I was ready, says Rybakina after defeating Serena

The 21-year-old grew up watching Serena on TV and had always hoped to meet the legendary American

PARIS: Kazakhstan tennis player, Elena Rybakina was all praise for Serena Williams after she defeated the 23-time Grand Slam champion 6-3, 7-5 in the fourth round of the French Open on Sunday. The 21-year-old grew up watching Serena on TV and had always hoped to meet the legendary American in competition. “I’m so happy with the match today. It’s difficult to expect anything, because you watch on TV and that’s completely different when you come on court and you feel the power and everything. I knew that the serve was going to be difficult for me to return,” reflected Rybakina, who blocked out the aura of facing Serena that so many succumb to. “She’s powerful, but I was



FRENCH OPEN: The chase for that elusive record-equalling 24th Grand Slam now moves to Wimbledon for Serena.

ready. Then after few points I felt it comfortable, so nothing.” Moments after the match, Serena hinted her Roland-Garros days are not over. “Yeah, I’m definitely not thinking about it at all,” said Serena with a grin when asked if this may have been her last match on Parisian clay. “I’m definitely thinking just about other things but not

about that.” “It was definitely close. I’m so close. There is literally a point here, a point there, that could change the whole course of the match. I’m not winning those points.” The chase for that elusive record-equalling 24th Grand Slam now moves to Wimbledon for Serena. “I’m kind of excited to switch surfaces, but historically I have

done pretty well on grass. I have done pretty well on clay too,” continued the seven-time Wimbledon winner. “Just not this particular season. I don’t know. I don’t think I’m going to play a warm-up.” The world No.22, Elena Rybakina will now battle out with No.31 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the last eight. **ANI**

WITHDRAWAL



Roger Federer withdraws from French Open

PARIS: Swiss tennis maestro Roger Federer on Sunday withdrew himself from the ongoing French Open, tournament organisers confirmed. “The Roland Garros tournament organisers have learned that Roger Federer has withdrawn from the fourth round of the tournament,” read an official statement. Speaking about his decision, Federer said: “After discussions with my team, I have decided I will need to pull out of the Roland Garros today. After two knee surgeries and over a year of rehabilitation it is important that I listen to my body and make sure I do not push myself too quickly on my road to recovery.” Federer on Saturday had stormed into the fourth round of the ongoing French Open. He defeated German lefty Dominik Koepfer in a grueling 7-6(5), 6-7(3), 7-6(4), 7-5 battle to reach the last 16 of the tournament. The 39-year-old began well as he served smartly. But his 59th-ranked German opponent immediately showed that the game was not going to be a cakewalk as he hit heavy groundstrokes on both wings to keep the Swiss back. The German tennis player took the second set to break Federer’s rhythm. But after battling hard the Swiss tennis maestro got over the line as he won the next two sets to sail into the fourth round. **ANI**

ENGLAND VS NZ

Sibley, Root help Engand walk away with draw

LONDON: Skipper Joe Root and Dominic Sibley helped England walk away with a draw against New Zealand on Day Five of the first Test here at the Lord’s Cricket Ground on Sunday. Chasing 273, England got off to a steady start as openers Rory Burns and Sibley saw off the new ball and the duo kept the Kiwi pace attack at bay. The run-scoring was slow, but both batsmen ensured that they keep the good balls out. The 49-run opening stand was finally broken by Neil Wagner in the 24th over as he dismissed Burns (25). Zak Crawley (2) failed to leave a mark with the bat as he was sent back to the pavilion by Tim Southee, but Sibley and skipper Root ensured that England entered the tea

break on Day Five with eight wickets in hand and the score being 56/2. Root along with Sibley frustrated the Kiwi bowlers and they kept the opposition at bay. Root (40) might have been dismissed by Wagner but in the end, Sibley (60*) along with Ollie Pope (20*) ensured that the hosts walk away with a draw. For New Zealand, Wagner returned with two wickets while Southee took one wicket. Earlier, resuming Day Five at 61/2 and a lead of 164, New Zealand got off to a bad start as the side lost Neil Wagner (10) pretty early on off the bowling of Ollie Robinson. Ross Taylor next came to the crease and he started playing aggressively, indicating that New

Zealand was looking to score quick runs and declare their innings. The fourth-wicket partnership of 31 runs between Taylor and Latham was ended by Stuart Broad as he dismissed Latham (36), reducing New Zealand to 105/4. Taylor’s (33) cameo came to an end in the 45th over as he was sent back to the pavilion by Mark Wood and this ended the 28-run stand for the fifth wicket between Taylor and Henry Nicholls. The left-handed Nicholls departed after playing a 23-run knock, but Colin de Grandhomme (9*) and BJ Watling (15*) took the visitors to lunch with the score at 169/6 and the lead was extended to 272. New Zealand declared their innings and as a result, England was set a target of 273. **ANI**

SUSPENSION

Robinson suspended from international cricket over controversial tweets

LONDON: England and Sussex bowler Ollie Robinson has been suspended from all international cricket pending the outcome of a disciplinary investigation following “historic” tweets he posted in 2012 and 2013, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Sunday (local time). Announcing his suspension, the ECB said he will not be available for selection for the second Test against New Zealand starting at Edgbaston on Thursday 10 June. Robinson will leave the England camp immediately and return to his county, the ECB said in a statement. Earlier, England debutant Ollie Robinson has “unreservedly apologise” for the “racist and sexist” tweets he posted over eight years ago as a teenager. Robinson admitted that he is “ashamed” of

making the racist remarks as his tweets from 2012-2013 resurfaced on social media. “On the biggest day of my career so far, I am embarrassed by the racist and sexist tweets that I posted over eight years ago, which have today become public. I want to make it clear that I’m not racist and I’m not sexist,” the 27-year-old had said in a statement released by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). “I deeply regret my actions, and I am ashamed of making such remarks. I was thoughtless and irresponsible, and regardless of my state of mind at the time, my actions were inexcusable. Since that period, I have matured as a person and fully regret the tweets,” he added. ECB chief executive officer Tom Harrison had earlier reiterated

ated that the board has a “zero-tolerance” stance to any form of discrimination and said they will initiate a full investigation as part of their disciplinary process. “I do not have the words to express how disappointed I am that an England Men’s player has chosen to write tweets of this nature, however long ago that might have been,” said Harrison. “Any person reading those words, particularly a woman or person of colour, would take away an image of cricket and cricketers that is completely unacceptable. We are better than this. We have a zero-tolerance stance to any form of discrimination and there are rules in place that handle conduct of this nature. We will initiate a full investigation as part of our disciplinary process,” he added. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by August 2021 reaching \$70.35, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil declined by 3 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$70.38. - OMA

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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,967.11 points, up 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.30 per cent at 567.06 points. Al Maha Marketing, up 6.67 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 5.37 per cent, was the top loser.

GCC banks slash cash dividends highlighting impact of COVID-19

Banks slashed cash dividend payments by almost half, from \$14.6 billion for FY-2019 to \$8 billion for FY-2020, according to a new report

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The impact of COVID-19 was apparent on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) banking sector that recorded high provisions during the fourth quarter of 2020, according to a new report. "As an ongoing effect of the pandemic, banks slashed cash dividend payments by almost half, from \$14.6 billion as cash dividend for FY-2019



RESEARCH: This was also the second consecutive year of dividend cuts, one of the first since the financial crisis after FY-2019 dividends were cut by \$3.9 billion. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

to \$8 billion for FY-2020," the Kuwait-based research and investment firm Kamco Invest said.

This was also the second consecutive year of dividend cuts, one of the first since the financial crisis after FY-2019 dividends were cut by \$3.9 billion. The cuts also came

as a result of restrictions from regulators in exchange for relaxations on the capital front.

On the business side, lending growth continued for the fourth consecutive quarter in the first quarter of 2021.

Gross loans (excluding Kuwaiti

banks) reached \$1.43 trillion at the end of Q1-2021, registering a quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) growth of 3.5 per cent.

However, aggregate net loans (including Kuwaiti banks) grew at a much slower pace of 1.8 per cent q-o-q to reach \$1.52 trillion. UAE was the only country in the region that reported a decline in net loans by 0.7 per cent, whereas the rest of the GCC reported q-o-q growth.

Meanwhile, customer deposits showed growth across the board reaching \$1.89 trillion at the end of the quarter with a q-o-q growth of 2.3 per cent.

The faster pace of growth in customer deposits against net loans resulted in a lower loan-to-deposit ratio that reached 80.2 per cent.

Total banking sector assets

Total banking sector assets continued to climb for the fourth consecutive quarter reaching a new record high of \$2.51 trillion. Growth was seen across the board with Omani banks reporting the biggest q-o-q percentage increase in total assets at 3.2 per cent, al-

though the Sultanate remains the smallest banking industry in terms of listed bank total assets of \$81 billion at the end of Q1-2021.

UAE banks continued to account for the biggest share of the regional banking balance sheet with total assets of \$818 billion followed by Saudi Arabia at \$673 billion.

Meanwhile, the stability in oil prices at over the \$65 per barrel level has somewhat alleviated concerns related to government revenues and estimates now point to much lower funding requirements.

That said, the government's spending plans remain intact and as a result break, even oil prices are above the current oil price for all the GCC countries, barring Qatar, according to the IMF.

Sovereigns are also looking for private participation in the economic activity as seen from several public private partnership (PPP) projects awarded recently.

This, according to us, would augur well for GCC banks, especially given the unutilised lending capacity with one of the lowest loan-to-deposit ratio of 80.2 PPP.

Nevertheless, the unwinding of banking-related COVID-19 relaxations would present new challenges for the sector during 2H-2021.

Net profits

GCC banking sector net profits witnessed remarkable recovery during Q1-2021 backed by growth seen across the region. Profits reached \$8.4 billion during the quarter, up 62 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) and 14.2 PPP sequentially. Out of 59 banks in the region, merely 6 reported a q-o-q decline in profits during Q1-2021 while 17 banks reported a y-o-y decline.

The improvement was mainly led by a 41 PPP or \$2.5 billion q-o-q drop in loan loss provisions (LLP) that reached a six-quarter low level of \$3.6 billion in Q1-2021.

This was partially offset by a decline in the topline as banks continue to deal with the low-interest-rate environment.

At the country level, aggregate profits for banks in Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain more than doubled q-o-q, whereas Saudi Arabian banks reported profit growth of 34.0 per cent.

TECHNOLOGY

5G already changing smartphone use in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The impact that 5G is already having on smartphone users worldwide including Oman and what they expect the technology to deliver in the future is been highlighted in a new report by Ericsson ConsumerLab.

Indoor coverage is one of the focus areas to emerge from consumer research, with one-in-five 5G users already reducing Wi-Fi use on their phones indoors because of the benefits of 5G mobile connectivity.

The report - Five Ways to a Better 5G - is the result of the largest global 5G consumer study to date. Covering consumer sentiment and perception in 26 markets - including Oman, the Ericsson ConsumerLab study methodology is representative of 1.3 billion smartphone users globally, including 220 million 5G subscribers.

The report explores key trends behind the adoption, use and perception of consumers with and to-



Photo used for illustrative purpose only

wards 5G. Highlighting the broader consumer readiness for 5G, 20 per cent of respondents in Oman affirm having a 5G phone but are still on a 4G network.

Another key report finding reveals that in Oman, 35 per cent of 5G potential users are expecting innovative data offerings from a 5G plan. The report also highlights how 5G is already beginning to trigger new user behaviours. In addition to reducing Wi-Fi use, early adopter 5G users also spend an average of two hours more on cloud gaming and one hour more on augmented reality (AR) apps per week compared to 4G users.

COVID-19 lockdowns and movement restrictions mean that the vast majority of 5G early adopters' regular experiences with the technology have been indoors. As a result, early adopters indicate that indoor coverage is two times more important than speed or battery life in delivering satisfactory 5G experiences.

The report also outlines five ways for communications service providers (CSPs) to meet consumer expectations both in the immediate and longer terms, including: Addressing the knowledge gap

by educating and better marketing the value of 5G to consumers. In Oman, 20 per cent more smartphone users would have taken up 5G had the knowledge gap been addressed.

Ensuring consistent quality of indoor and outdoor 5G coverage

Adapting to network requirements for new 5G services

Focusing on consumer intent to envision new 5G use cases

Accelerating the availability of existing and new use cases through ecosystem partnerships

Jasmeet Singh Sethi, Head of ConsumerLab, Ericsson Research, says, "So far, analyses of 5G network experiences have mostly focused on 5G speeds and availability based on independent network measurements. But it is equally important to understand how 5G early adopters perceive that experience. With Ericsson ConsumerLab's five recommendations and insights, CSPs can encourage 5G adoption and meet consumer expectations."

Asia's oil giants will be key to global climate fight

HONG KONG: Asia's carbon-cutting will be critical to the effort to reduce global warming as the region releases more carbon dioxide than the rest of the world combined, S&P Global Ratings said on Monday.

Policy advantage

The region does have one big policy advantage: its governments typically control at least one national oil company (NOC).

S&P expects the NOCs will set the pace in Asia in slashing carbon emissions even if this undermines their profits and credit standing.

"Asian NOCs will likely find it difficult to transition to an entirely new business model," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Danny Huang.

"They may strand assets in the process, and they probably will not be as successful in renewable energy, carbon capturing, electric

vehicle recharging, and they like, as they are at making and selling fossil fuels."

Moreover, the transition could happen much more quickly than we now anticipate - say in five to 10 years instead of 10 to 20 years. A fast transformation may be messy and disruptive.

Carbon neutrality

Yet the move to carbon neutrality is one of the biggest policy challenges facing any nation. In Asia, much of the burden rests on the shoulders of the NOCs. Many have already committed to targets that outpace the government's carbon goals.

"The firms are simply the most obvious and effective lever that states can pull in achieving net-zero emissions. But what is good for the planet may not be good for credit metrics or ratings on NOCs," said Huang. -ANI

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

Global energy investment to rebound by nearly 10%

PARIS: Global energy investment is set to rebound by nearly 10 per cent this year to 1.9 trillion dollars, reversing most of last year's drop caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but spending on clean energy transitions needs to accelerate much more rapidly to meet climate goals, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

With energy investment returning to pre-crisis levels, its composition is continuing to shift towards electricity. 2021 is on course to be the sixth year in a row that investment in the power sector exceeds that in traditional oil and gas supply, according to the World Energy Investment 2021 report.

Global power sector investment is set to increase by around 5 per cent in 2021 to more than 820 billion dollars, its highest ever level, after staying flat in 2020. Renewables are dominating investment in new power generation capacity and are expected to account for 70 per cent of the total this year.

And that money now goes further than ever in financing clean electricity, with a dollar spent on solar PV deployment today resulting in four times more electricity than ten years ago, thanks to greatly improved technology and falling costs.

"The rebound in energy investment is a welcome sign, and I am encouraged to see more of it flow-

With energy investment returning to pre-crisis levels, its composition is continuing to shift towards electricity

ing towards renewables," said Fatih Birol, the IEA's Executive Director. "But much greater resources have to be mobilised and directed to clean energy technologies to put the world on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Based on our new Net Zero Roadmap, clean energy investment will need to triple by 2030."

While renewables dominate new power investment, and approvals for coal-fired plants are some 80 per cent below where they were five years ago, coal is not out of the picture. There was even a slight increase in go-ahead for coal-fired plants in 2020, driven by China and some other Asian economies.

Upstream oil and gas investment is expected to rise by about 10 per cent in 2021 as companies recover financially from the shock of 2020, but their spending remains well below pre-crisis levels. The new report highlights the diverging strategies among different oil and gas companies.

The majors are holding oil and gas spending flat on aggregate in 2021, despite recovering prices. Meanwhile, some national oil companies are stepping up investment, raising the possibility of increased market share if demand continues to grow.

Qatar's decision to move ahead with the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) expansion, and to include carbon capture technologies in this investment, is a strong signal of its intent to maintain a leadership position in LNG.

There are signs in the latest data that spending by some global oil and gas companies are starting to diversify. IEA analysis last year highlighted that only around 1 per cent of capital spending by the industry was going to clean energy investments. But project tracking to date in 2021 suggests that this could rise to 4 per cent this year for the industry as a whole, and well above 10 per cent for some of the leading European companies.

The anticipated 750 billion dollars to be spent on clean energy technologies and efficiency in 2021 is encouraging but remains far below what's required to put the energy system on a sustainable path. Clean energy investment will need to triple in the 2020s to put the world on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, thereby keeping the door open for a 1.5 degrees Celsius stabilisation of the rise in global temperatures. -ANI

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RFI # 67	Auction of Dismantle & Sale of used Mobile ,Fixed, Transmission, Switching & Power Equipment from Omantel Salalah Warehouses /Site – Dhofar Region for different places : 8 Sites for Sale 20 Sites for Dismantle & Sale	<table><tr><td>A</td><td>Madinat Salalah</td><td>13-06-2021</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>East Salalah</td><td>14-06-2021</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>West Salalah</td><td>15-06-2021</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>East Al Badiya</td><td>16-06-2021</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>North Al Badiya</td><td>17-06-2021</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>West Al Badiya</td><td>17-06-2021</td></tr></table>	A	Madinat Salalah	13-06-2021	B	East Salalah	14-06-2021	C	West Salalah	15-06-2021	D	East Al Badiya	16-06-2021	E	North Al Badiya	17-06-2021	F	West Al Badiya	17-06-2021	20 June 2021
A	Madinat Salalah	13-06-2021																			
B	East Salalah	14-06-2021																			
C	West Salalah	15-06-2021																			
D	East Al Badiya	16-06-2021																			
E	North Al Badiya	17-06-2021																			
F	West Al Badiya	17-06-2021																			

The invitation to this Bid is open to all international and Local Contractors specialized in this field.

- Bidders who are interested to participate in this auction are requested to submit their pre-qualification details online (RFI No 67) on Omantel e-tendering system (<https://tenders.omantel.om>). Companies that are not registered on tendering system are requested to register themselves in order to qualify/participate in the e-auction.
- The auction will be conducted online on Omantel eTendering platform at <https://tenders.omantel.om>. The date and time of e-Auction shall be informed to shortlisted bidders based on evaluation of pre-qualification submissions.
- A maximum of 2 participants will be allowed per vendor to enter the premises during the site visit.
- Shortlisted bidders will be requested to submit a bid bond or certified cheque valid for 90 days from the date of submission addressed to GM-Procurement & Contracts Omantel, prior to the date of e-auction.
- The details of the e-auction and the required registration/training will be provided to the shortlisted bidders before the e-auction.

For auction enquiries, requests for clarifications and site visit, please don't hesitate to call us on 98080350 / 99293599.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Maha Marketing, up 6.67 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 5.37 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,967.11 points, up 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.30 per cent at 567.06 points. Al Maha Marketing, up 6.67 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 5.37 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Madina Takaful were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,164 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR 5 million, with more than 28 million shares changing hands. Out of 54 traded stocks, 25 advanced, 8 declined and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, Domestic investors were net buyers for OMR680,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR675,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR4,000.

worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,241.86 points, up 0.18 per cent. Muscat Finance, Oman & Emirates Holding, Taageer Finance, Oman Arab Bank and Al Batinah Development were up 3.77 per cent, 3.39 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 2.56 per cent and 2.44 per cent respectively. Ominvest was the only loser by 1.26 per cent.

Industrial Index closed at 5,620.26 points, down 0.52 per cent. Gulf International Chemical, Jazeera Steel Product and Raysut Cement were up 1.82 per cent, 1.06 per cent and 0.68 per cent respectively. Voltamp Energy, Oman Cables Industry, Al Anwar Ceramic, National Aluminum Product and Al Maha Ceramic were down 5.37 per cent, 2.02 per cent, 1.71 per cent, 0.72 per cent and 0.58 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.00 per cent closing at 1,683.39 points. — **United Securities**

MAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	3,973.26	3,964.57	3,967.11	3,965.51	1.60	0.04
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,241.87	6,221.99	6,241.87	6,230.53	11.34	0.18
Industry Index	5,649.40	5,615.62	5,620.27	5,649.40	-29.14	-0.52
Services Index	1,687.54	1,666.68	1,683.39	1,666.68	16.71	1.00
MSX Shariah Index	567.29	565.90	567.06	565.37	1.69	0.30
MSX TR INDEX	4,771.04	4,760.59	4,763.65	4,761.72	1.92	0.04

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
27873.964.....	4.668.015.....	1.164.....	21.356.188.120.....	25.....	8.....	21.....	54.....

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 7

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRANS	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (D)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST TRD	LAST OFF	PUR VALUE	MARKET %
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000300	AI MAHA MARKETING	8,958	57,733	4	0.640	0.640	0.640	0.640	0.600	0.040	6.667	0.640	0.612	0.636	0.100	44,180.00
OM0000000190	MUSCAT FINANCE	621,558	34,283	25	0.055	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.053	0.002	3.747	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.100	16,893.40
OM0000000096	AL GEDERA RESOURCES	30,000	12,682	0	0.1414	0.1426	0.1414	0.1414	0.1402	0.0012	0.848	0.1414	0.1423	0.140	4,288.00	
OM0000000110	NATIONAL GAS	74,600	11,584	9	0.153	0.153	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.002	1.385	0.153	0.151	0.153	0.100	13,005.00
OM0000000398	SOHAR INT BANK	318,137	26,396	7	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.827	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	226,426.00
OM0000000276	JABARA STEEL PROF	618,800	235,744	44	0.378	0.386	0.378	0.378	0.384	0.006	1.598	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.100	47,711.00
OM0000000172	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,695,507	489,111	142	0.099	0.107	0.099	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	20,800.00
OM0000000152	OMAN NYSTE FIN	1,922,509	201,647	68	0.105	0.106	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	24,885.00
OM0000000118	RAVIT COMEST	17,200	5,079	2	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.002	0.285	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.100	2,294.00
OM0000000296	BANK MUSCAT	184,478	749,861	53	0.404	0.408	0.402	0.406	0.404	0.002	0.495	0.404	0.402	0.404	0.100	1451,236.00
OM0000000398	OOREDOO	1,844,786	74,886	9	0.406	0.406	0.406	0.406	0.404	0.002	0.495	0.406	0.406	0.408	0.100	254,283.37
OM0000000118	AL FALAJ MILLS	95,510	45,657	0	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.384	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.100	58,900.00
OM0000000207	AL OMANYA FINIS	242,874	29,388	14	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.121	0.122	0.100	35,324.156
OM0000000200	AHLI BANK	180,319	20,376	7	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.111	0.100	220,312.94	
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIA UN	1,456,356	14,854	63	0.102	0.102	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.103	0.100	9,000.00
OM0000000418	VEON INSURANCE	140,700	10,271	7	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.073	0.070	0.070	0.072	0.100	7,898.00
OM0000000505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	247,270	84,394	31	0.344	0.344	0.340	0.342	0.344	0.002	-0.581	0.342	0.340	0.342	0.100	18,810.00
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	421,430	385,508	42	0.776	0.776	0.778	0.778	0.778	0.000	-1.000	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.100	594,000.00
OM0000000398	OMAN AIR	62,880	10,748	0	0.319	0.319	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.005	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.100	10,748.00
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	497,665	180,497	20	0.422	0.426	0.422	0.422	0.428	-0.006	-1.402	0.422	0.422	0.424	0.100	96,765.00
OM00000002168	AL ANBAR CEMENT	134,910	156,990	19	0.468	0.468	0.460	0.460	0.468	-0.008	-1.709	0.460	0.460	0.480	0.100	101,200.00
OM0000000107	OMAN CLBERS INDSTR	565,426	547,281	25	0.984	0.984	0.946	0.946	0.968	0.008	-0.020	0.968	0.964	0.968	0.100	86,829.00
Total	22	34,570,518	3,489,008	632												

Parallel Market

[illegible]**FITCH RATINGS**

India's bank privatisation plans can face hurdles amid COVID

MUMBAI: The Indian government's plan to privatise two state-owned banks in the current financial year (FY22 ending March 2022) can face delays amid renewed challenges for the banking sector, Fitch Ratings said.

The plan which was announced in the Union Budget speech on February 1 is part of the government's broader divestment goals for FY22. It includes privatisation of several other non-financial state-owned entities as well as a

listing of wholly-owned Life Insurance Corporation. Fitch said political support in favour of legislative changes to the Act which are required in order to go through with the sale can be a significant hurdle for the government. -ANI

MADAYN INDUSTRIAL ACADEMY

Workshop on EFQM excellence model, Kaizen strategy organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A workshop on the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) excellence model and the Japanese Kaizen strategy was organised by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn, represented by Madayn Industrial Academy.

This was conducted as part of a series of workshops held along the lines of the agreement signed by Madayn with the European Business Centre for Training and Development to lay the groundwork for Madayn to obtain 'Committed to Excellence – C2E' certification.

Dr Khamis Al Muniri, Director General of Madayn Industrial Academy, stated that the programme aims to disseminating continuous improvement concept and practices (Kaizen) and enhancing comprehensive quality and application of EFQM standards in Madayn.

This workshop came as part of an extensive programme that will continue for one year to disseminate advanced awareness on the European Foundation for Quality Management Excellence Model and the Japanese Kaizen Strategy within Madayn.

“Achieving these shall qualify Madayn to obtain European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Certification through organising a series of workshops to spread awareness on Kaizen and EFQM within Madayn and gear Madayn up for excellence award,” Al Muniri pointed out.

Delivered by Dr Munthir Al Qaderi of the European Business Centre, a workshop was delivered to highlight several related topics including an introduction

to the project, its components and the action plan. The workshop also reviewed the theoretical background related to quality, development, change, continuous improvement, maintenance management, and waste management in the work environment.

This workshop came as part of an extensive programme that will continue for one year to disseminate advanced awareness on EFQM Excellence Model and the Japanese Kaizen Strategy within Madayn.

OFFICIAL DATA

China's foreign trade up 28.2% in five months of 2021

BEIJING: China's total imports and exports expanded 28.2 per cent year on year to reach 14.76 trillion yuan (about \$2.31 trillion) in the first five months of 2021, official data showed.

This marks an increase of 21.6 per cent from the same period in 2019, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said. Exports jumped 30.1 per cent from a year earlier while imports climbed 25.9 per cent in yuan terms.

Exports and imports increased 23.6 per cent and 19.2 per cent, respectively, compared with the data registered in the first five months of 2019.

In the January-May period, the trade surplus increased 56.2 per cent year on year to reach 1.32 trillion yuan.

In the first five months, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations remained China's largest trading partner, followed by the European Union and the United States, the GAC data showed. During the period, the growth rates of China's traded value with the three trading partners stood at 29.2 per cent, 28.7 per cent and 41.3 per cent, respectively. China's trade with countries along the Belt and Road rose 27.4 per cent year on year to reach 4.36 trillion yuan.

In May alone, the country's imports and exports rose 26.9 per cent year on year basis. **xinhua**



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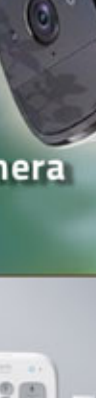


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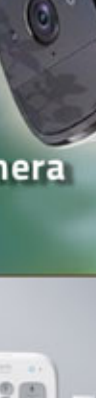


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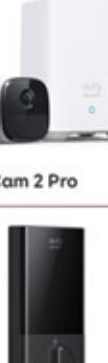
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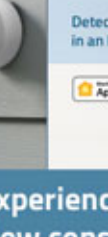
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Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Contact Mundhir l-Rizaiqi trading. L.L.C # 24810137, 99450130

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTS

Heavy Equipment Spare Parts Co. hiring - **Accountant** with experience & good skills (Indian & Filipino National only).
Send CV - vacany.aro@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Urgently Required an **Inventory controller** (Indian male). Minimum 3 years experience is required in retail or wholesale. Contact 79361277
Email hr@kameliashopping.com

Required experienced **Female graduate with commerce background** for private office in Muscat. Interested candidates may forward their cv's to info@alasalaintil.com

A leading company requires **Office Co-ordinator (Female)** with experience in related field. Send the resume at hr.mus18@gmail.com

Looking For Office Staff.
Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

Heavy Equipment Spare Parts Co. hiring **Office Assistant** (Pakistani & Indian National Only).
Send CV - vacany.aro@gmail.com

CATERING

Urgently wanted **Young Experienced Cook**. Fluency in English, Knowledge in Indian & Continental Food is must. Contact 99466062

HOSPITALITY

Urgently wanted - **Experienced Bakery Chef** and **Bakery helper**. Knowledge and Experience in Bakery and Pastry products. Speaks English, Locally required. Contact 99466062

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Required Lift Technician who can attend breakdown calls.
Contact 24786889

MEDICAL

Urgently required a Male Nurse for an Industrial Clinic with valid MOH license & NOC can contact: 98256531/ 99107632

Urgently required Nurse with MOH license at Al Khabourah. High salary and free accomodation.
Contact 99048170

Urgently required **Arab speaking gynecologist, family physicians, dentists/ lab technicians (general & molicular), nurses, pharmacists and microbiologist (doctor)** with experience in molicular microbiology. candidates with MOH license are preferred.
Email: hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com.
Whatsapp no: +968 95933456

Needed female lab technician for GP clinic in Salalah. Contact 99082092

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently require a Florist for a flower shop in Barka. # 92061841

Need of Software Developers (Male or Female) in .net, oracle, SQL, PLSQL, sales person (IT Hardware & software) & Accountants with 0-10 Yrs. experience.
Email: it.cv.omani@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Required indoor Sales person (M/F) for sports showroom. Call/ Whatsapp 99321960 (9am-1.00pm & 5pm-7 pm only)

Required Salesman with 3 years experience preferably in furniture, Oman driving license and knowledge of Arabic and English. Kindly send detailed CV to: organization.omani.furniture@gmail.com

Available vacancies for young and energetic **Salesman** in the field of textile trading for well reputed company to recruit urgently.
Email sendcv.om@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Internal Auditor, 7 years of experience in internal auditing in reputed firm of Oman with driving license looking for an opening: 94767318/ ajeejobs@gmail.com

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

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

Indian Male, B.Com, MBA, 10yrs exp. in accounts & export coordination with NOC & DL. Mob 98747867

16 Years experienced Sr. Accountant looking for suitable position, last 10 years in Oman. Knowledge of MIS Reporting, finance & accounts up to finalization. Experience in trading, logistics & construction industries. Contact 98042943
Email: cb3415@gmail.com

Sr. Accountant Sri Lankan 20+years Oman experience seeks placement. Contact 99630192

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Young BCA graduate with 2 experience in graphic designer, Photoshop, adobe xd, 3d max with valid Omani D/L, seeks suitable placement. Contact 94137452

ADMIN/HR

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

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

Indian Male, BBA, With 8 Yrs Experience in Property Maintenance & Management with DL. Contact 95865329

Indian, Female with 12 years Oman experience. Good communication skills looking for Office Coordinator/ Administrator position. Contact 91469220

Indian female, 8 years experience coordination, exe secretary, admin asst. Contact 92243552

Omani male 15 yrs experience in the field of Public relation & good communication skill looking for a suitable placement. Contact 97407500.
Email khalidoman017@gmail.com

Indian male with 17 years experience in Oman with reputed companies / International school / vehicle service showroom familiar with bank / embassy related works looking for vacancy of messenger / driver / merchandiser etc. Contact 92847256

Experienced expat lady looking for secretary or any office jobs.
Contact 94551898

Indian Lady lawyer with 3 years of corporate in house practice in Oman looking for new opportunity in law or administration or both. # 92640225

Smart Indian, Excellent English, double Masters, Male, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience - Airports Project, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate joining & NOC. Contact 99283938

B.Tech in Civil Engineering having 25 yrs+ Exp (18 yrs in Oman) Expertise in consultancy for buildings, building construction, project management, infrastructure, oil & gas plant. seeking a suitable placement for Sr. project manager, manager-projects, resident manager for consultancy. Available to join immediately, valid Omani D/L -NOC is available. Contact 92671539
Email: pvmmani_2006@yahoo.com

Sr. Quantity surveyor - Civil / Project Engineer with 13 years (Oman-11 years, India-2 years) experience in Building projects, water supply projects , sewerage projects & roads, NOC available. Seeking for suitable positions. Contact 94163357
email: gravi_gct@yahoo.co.in

MS Electrical Engineer, 8yrs of experience as Manager Projects (Sales & Execution) of Lighting, Solar Systems & Electrical ELV in Oman. Contact 91293519, nomer987@gmail.com

MEP Mechanical Engineer with 2 years Experience. Contact 79027224.
Email mhmddsalah6a@hotmail.com

Electrical Projects Engineer, 8 year experience in Oman CEP of (OETC, MAZZON, MAJAN, MEDC and TAN-WEER). Contact 91261025

DCE 18+years in oman has only experienced in Consultancy done major projects, hospitals, governments projects, Contact 96163786

DRIVER

Bangladeshi looking for driver job, 4 yrs experience. Can speak Arabic & Hindi. Contact 97625632

Looking for driving job, 4 yrs experience, Can speak English, Arabic & Urdu. Contact/Whatsapp 95283531

Looking for a driver job (16 years experience in Oman). # 93092377

Oman Nationality 30 year, male, 5years experience in Mechanical Engineer with Certificate Courses - (IOSH, HSE, FIRE WARDEN, FIRST AID CPR AED) looking for job in suitable sectors, valid D/L.
Contact 91443339.

BSc. Electrical Engineer more than 10 years experience, DCRP Protection level 4. Contact 79494296

HSE adviser iosh certified with 4 years experience.
Contact 94070019. Email: mubashirosmen89@gmail.com

Indian male, 28yrs, B.Engg Elec & Comm, 3yrs exp in GCC in oil & gas and telecom sector seeking for suitable job. Contact 72636188

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

Female M.Tech engineer in electrical power system & power electronics. Currently available in Oman. Seeking for suitable position. Contact 78080418, 93293849

Indian male B E civil engineer 4 yr experience in site execution ,QS. autocadd. Noc available. Contact 94194752

Electrical Engineer 6yrs experience HV-LV transmission line distribution with D/L, & have 4 CEP from distribution company NOC available on request immediately. Contact 93952055

Project Manager/Engineer (Electrical) with 10 Years Experience in Oman at (Primary & Distribution Substations and OHL) Tendering, Estimation and Execution, Oman D/L & NOC Available. Contact 99092164
Email: Awiloooo18@gmail.com

Safety officer (engineer), 5 years experience in GCC, two years in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid D.L. Contact 79318246

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Sr Accountant/Financial Controller
(M.COM) Indian Male 32 Year. 11 Years Exp in Finance/Accounts/ VAT/Budget/Payroll Software SAP, Excellent in SAP/MS Office/ MIS. Looking suitable placement having Oman driving licence & NOC.
Contact 94684007
Email: vveer555@gmail.com

Senior BSc Civil Engineer
(Having valid Engineering Visa with Oman D/L with more than 24 years experience including more than 10 years in Oman (Buildings and Roads) worked for the consultants and contractors available with release for immediate recruitment.
Contact: 96753667
Email ID: mohamedishahan@gmail.com

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

HR / Admin
Female with 13yrs of experience in HR/Admin field is looking for job opportunities. Available to start immediately.
Contact 79285929

PROJECT ADMIN/CEO OFFICE MNGMT/HR/OPS CORPORATE & MKTG. COMMUNICATIONS/ADMIN
Smart Indian, Masters, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp in Airport Projects, Hospital. Media in Project Coordination, Corporate & Mktg. Communication, CEO & Chairman Office Mngmt, Operations, Marketing. NOC, Immediate.
CONTACT 99283938

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

Finance Manager
BSc, MBA, ACCA, 20 years' experience in Financial Statements, Management Accounts, Risk management, SAP and VAT compliance. NOC available. Can start immediately.
Phone 90213906

Civil Engineer/Facility Manager
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise (7 years in Oman) in Civil Construction operation, Project Management, Facilities Management looking for suitable placement. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303
shiv60769@gmail.com

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

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

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

Diploma Engineer Civil
Experience 10 years Oman, 6 Pakistan. Multi stories Buildings, Ministry of education & Sports. ROP Fahud Road and Building work. TELECOM, ROP Green & roof top sites. PDO applicant licence & driving licence.
Contact 98921022
akhtarmahmood3137@gmail.com

Sr. Accountant (BSc, CA Inter)
Indian (male) with 10 years' experience in Accounting up to finalization. Tally, Focus and excellent in Excel functions. Oman DL.
Contact: 78072563

SR. ACCOUNTANT
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

Accounts/Finance/Audit Professional
ACCA,CIA, CRMA and Masters Degree with 9 years of diversified experience and valid Oman driving licence; looking for suitable opportunity in Finance/Accounting /Audit.
Contact No: +96891735780
Email: cia.acca1989@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)
CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.
GSM: 78259755

Software Professional
Indian female, 27 years, Software professional (MCA), having 4 years experience in MNC seeks a suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit visa.
Contact 78037607

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

JOB WANTED

HOSPITALITY
BSc Hospitality Management
Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia. Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry.
Contact 94575782
Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

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

Logistics Coordinator, Indian Male, Age 27, with 2 and a half years experience in supply chain and knowledge of ERP looking for a suitable placement. Contact 71423342
Email: zakwansheikh@gmail.com

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TRAVEL & TOURISM
Indian Male 26yrs, looking job for Traveling Agent in Oman, qualification Plus Two with IATA certificate experience 5year in KSA.
Contact 79168215
Email: Muheenpatgar08@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING
Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L, looking for suitable placement.
Contact 71790238

Indian with experience in FMCG retail Sales,purchase with D/L & NOC available for immediate joining.
Contact 91428535

Indian male kerala 31 with 6 yrs of experience in Oman[FMCG sales and other] Oman D/L looking for any suitable placement [now on visa].
Contact 78104649

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

MANAGER
Finance Manager, Indian: 22Yrs experience (UAE&Oman), looking Job Change. Contact 90473368

HSE Advisor/Manager With 14 yrs exp. 8 years in Oman with D/L. Expertise in Construction & COVID measures in large scale.Currently in Oman in a reputed company. Available in August. Contact 97477573.
Email hse.muscatoman@gmail.com

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ROUND-UP



A CHINESE WITH PASSION FOR PLANTING TREES

Zhang Yingshan walks across a river in a forest farm administered by Wumahe forestry bureau in Yichun City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. Throughout his life, Zhang Yingshan, 65, has worked with trees for over 45 years. Following the step of his father, Zhang became a forestry worker at the Wumahe for-

estry bureau in 1975. Nine years later, he opened the bureau's first family-run forest farm, planting 30 hectares of trees each year. From 1981 to 2011, Zhang and his wife Yan Yuping planted around a million trees on the ridge of the Lesser Hinggan Mountains. After retiring at the age of 55, he keeps inspecting trees and cutting down

weeds. "When I go into those forests and see how fast they grow, I'm really pleased," Zhang said. "Those trees are like my own children." The couple spends most of the time in a cottage deep inside the mountains, as it is convenient to plant and tend trees. "I will devote all of my efforts to the trees," Zhang said. -Xinhua



ROUND-UP

RE-OPENING

Tie the knot at Grand Millennium Muscat’s Crystal Ballroom

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat announced the re-opening of one of the largest ballroom in town. The hotel is excited to welcome you and your guests with their dedicated events team and exceptional resources. From delectable dining options to sophisticated design and décor, leave it with them to create memories that will last a lifetime in their idyllic venue. The Crystal Ballroom with its size of 1,181 sqm is one of the largest venues that can safely accommodate up to 300 people with proper social distancing. Each wedding is catered in-

house with personalized menus available from their talented and passionate culinary team. Starting from silver to gold packages that include 3 buffet menu selections inclusive of selected non-alcoholic beverages. Aside from this amazing offer, each package will have the advantage of using the Bridal preparation room adjacent to the ballroom with refreshments & shower facilities, groom’s waiting room, Majlis waiting room, and a complimentary night stay in the executive suite for the wedding couple with honeymoon set up, dinner served for the couple af-

ter the event and breakfast in the room for the bride and groom. “Our aim is to make the bride’s most important day very special and to provide the best unforgettable wedding experience. “I am proud to say that Grand Millennium Muscat provides the highest quality event location and exclusive customisable all-inclusive packages to every bride & groom. We promise to make their dream wedding come true,” Luca Medda, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Muscat and Millennium Executive Apartments Muscat.



Own a GAC Motor GS8 SUV with benefits

The GS8 with its stunning exterior makes a memorable impression on every opportunity



MUSCAT: Customers looking forward to owning the turbocharged, flagship SUV – the GS8 can avail exclusive benefits like manufacturer’s warranty of 5 years / 150,000 km, assured service of 5 years / 50,000 km (Whichever is earlier), a cash gift of OMR 2955, comprehensive 1-year insurance (Oman coverage) and ‘3M’ Window Tint (For 21 YM models). (Conditions apply. For more details, please visit any GAC

Motor showroom). The GS8 with its stunning exterior makes a memorable impression on every opportunity. The Exterior design looks muscular and sports an aerodynamic design. The New ‘Flying Dynamics’ Grille design with Chrome trims makes the car look wider and magnificent. A 2.0 Litre Turbocharged engine designed for low fuel consumption and quieter transmission powers it. Its powerful engine packs 320

Nm of Torque and 198 Horsepower. The gloss black finish on the D-pillar gives a floating roof appeal, giving it an elongated feel and adds a lot of style to the elegant SUV. The vertical Matrix-style Full LED headlamps with LED DRLs provide a greater light distribution, resulting in optimum visibility at night. LED DRLs creates a better vision and is comparable to that offered by Luxury Car brands. Sculpted 19” Split-spoke alloy

wheels offer easy manoeuvring and greater stability, both while adding a lot of oomph to the SUV’s stance. The LED Combination Tail lights are inspired by the Dual U-style Tunnel design and stand out boldly compared to other vehicles. The 10-inch HD Touchscreen with Apple CarPlay, Bluetooth connectivity, and other vital features makes for a wonderful way to stay connected while on the move. The screen is linked to a 360° Surround View Camera, assisted with Dynamic Guidelines & Lane Change Assist that provides greater convenience & makes driving hassle-free. Exclusive Three-Zone Air-conditioning system with Automatic Climate Control ensures you and your loved ones have a relaxing drive at all times. Dedicated rear A/C vents along with USB Charging ports keep the rear seat passengers at ease. New World Autos is the distributor for GAC Motor vehicles in Oman.

HEALTHCARE

Badr Al Samaa Hospital Sohar adds advanced CT Scan to its facilities

MUSCAT: Keeping pace with the growing demands for advanced healthcare infrastructure and following the vision of Badr Al Samaa healthcare group, Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Sohar added advanced GE Optima CT Scan system to its modalities. The honours to inaugurate the CT Scan was done by Guest of Honour of the event, Dr Najat Mohammed Issa Al Zadjali, Director of Directorate General of Private Health Establishments, North Batinah Governorate in presence of managing directors of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, Dr P A Mohammed and Abdul Latheef and all the members of the governing council of Badr Al Samaa. This newly launched CT Scan Optima series provides advanced visualisation techniques with real-time reconstruction and display. Dr Najat Mohammed Issa Al



Zadjali expressed her gratitude and happiness towards Badr Al Samaa management and staff for providing world-class treatment modalities at an affordable cost for the people of North Batinah Governorate. In a joint communiqué, managing directors of Badr Al Samaa

Group of Hospitals, Dr P A Mohammed and Abdul Latheef said the advanced CT System is capable of diagnosing many diseases with high clarity and accuracy. This will help the doctors with the timely diagnosis and treatment of our patients. Badr Al Samaa is not

stopping here and soon we will introduce MRI, Cathlab and Dialysis Centre at Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Sohar. They added that Badr Al Samaa is following its vision of being the most affordable, accessible and available private Healthcare brand of Oman. Sameer P T, CEO said that Badr Al Samaa aims to make available each and every service in Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Sohar so that people of this region will not have to travel and spend time and money unnecessarily. Manoj Kumar, Branch Head also added that the new CT Scan facility will be operated by well trained and experienced radiologists and CT Scan technologist for better outcomes. Adding to the experience of patients Badr Al Samaa has introduced a new appointment system which will curtail the waiting time for all services including CT scan.

ENSURING SAFETY

Khedmah adopts strict measures during COVID-19 pandemic

MUSCAT: Committed to maintaining the safety of its clients and employees, Oman Investment and Finance Company’s (OIFC), Khedmah, has adopted a set of procedures and precautionary measures in the wake of the ongoing pandemic. These efforts came in line with the directives of the Supreme Committee entrusted with undertaking measures to tackle developments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures taken by the company, to ensure the continuation of its business with high efficiency; included updating many of the services provided to clients, to meet their needs and ensure their safety. Seeking to create a safe working environment, OIFC was keen to implement many procedures such as introducing a new branch sitting layout in the waiting halls to maintain social distancing. Furthermore, measuring customers’ temperature while entering the branches, arranging the flow of people during entry and exit, providing hand sanitisers and



carrying out periodic sanitisation of the branches. To maintain social distancing and avoid public places, OIFC encourages its clients to utilise its hassle-free Khedmah app and benefit from the plethora of services it provides with a push of a button. Through the Khedmah app, users can pay and check electricity, water and telecommunications bills as well as making payment to the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI). Additionally, top-up phone, pre-

paid electricity, and entering electricity meter reading. The company also provides self-service machines available in many places across the Sultanate that deliver timely and seamless services. Harith Khamis Al Hinai, HSSE Manager at OIFC said, “The health and safety of our clients and employees are our priority. Hence, we at OIFC adhere to the highest standards of safety in our operations and services provided to customers. The applied measures and procedures had a

positive impact on the public and employee’s safety as well as the smooth running of operations.” “The company aspires to enrich customers experience by delivering easy and flexible services to them despite the current challenges. It seeks to meet their expectations by providing various effective digital solutions, including the electronic channels available around the clock. Through these channels, clients will be able to avail themselves of the services anywhere and at any time. Ulti-

mately, avoiding visiting branches to maintain public safety,” he added further. Seeking to encounter the challenges triggered by the pandemic and curb its spread, the company launched Covid-19 Prevention Guidelines Protocol to raise employees’ awareness about the virus and methods of dealing with it. In this regard, OIFC provided bulletins and conducted virtual awareness sessions. Additionally, the administration organised periodic field visits to branches to ensure the safe operation of the business and provide guidance to employees. The company also formed a Business Continuity Team that developed an efficient plan which includes several policies and precautionary measures to avoid any impacts that would disrupt operations, and that has helped them to prepare in advance for any decisions taken by the Supreme Committee. Hence, the company was able to continue its services and daily operations smoothly and conveniently.

Khedmah app was launched in 2016 as part of OIFC’s efforts to enhance its services and deliver an easy experience for all stakeholders across the Sultanate. The application provides an integrated and seamless platform that offer electronic payment solutions for establishments, citizens and residents. Through the application, users can pay and check electricity, water and telecommunications bills as well as making payment to the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI). Additionally, top-up phone, pre-paid electricity, and other services, through smartphones without the need to visit the company’s branches to pay or follow up on monthly bills. Established in 1979, OIFC is one of the leading Investment and Services Company and specialises in billing, collection & debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services in the Sultanate of Oman. The company’s various payment channels allow customers to easily pay their electricity, water and telecommunications bills.

BANK MUSCAT

Increase your savings to win big in Meethaq’s OMR300,000 Hibati mid-year draw

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat, invites all its Hibati savings account customers to increase their savings to get more chances to win a cash prize in its upcoming mid-year draw, which will be held in July 2021. In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and with its commitment to promote a healthy savings culture in Oman, Meethaq is offering a total cash prize money of OMR 300,000 for the Hibati Mid-Year draw to be won by Hibati savings account customers.



The draw will be broadcast live on social media channels of the bank to further increase the excitement and engagement of the bank’s customers. The Hibati Mid-Year draw is one of the two Grand draws in the Hibati scheme in addition to the End-of-Year draw. By simply maintaining a quarterly average balance of OMR 30,000, Hibati account holders shall be entitled to one entry to the Mid-Year draw and for every incremental OMR 30,000 average balance, customers would be getting an additional entry to the draw, thus increasing the chances of winning. Four grand prizes of OMR 50,000 each and one attractive grand prize of OMR 100,000 will be given away during the Hibati Mid-Year draw, which will see a total of OMR 300,000 being given away to 5 winners. Speaking on the occasion, Amor Said Al Amri, Meethaq Head of Retail Branches said, “We are delighted to announce the Hibati Mid-Year draw for 2021 and we invite all our valued customers to increase their savings to get more chances to win. The Hibati prize scheme has been constantly updated taking into account customer feedback from across the Sultanate over the last few years. “It must be noted that the scheme now provides more chances to win valuable prizes compared to previous years.” He thanked customers for their strong confidence in the Hibati

scheme and the various products and services offered by the bank.” Since its launch in 2018, the Hibati Savings Scheme has grown rapidly to become one of the biggest cash prize schemes in Oman offering special quarterly, National Day and Omani Women’s Day cash prizes. The Hibati scheme also features weekly draws which reward 100 winners every week. In total, cash prizes worth more than OMR 1.5 million are being given away to a record number of 5,331 winners in 2021. Based on the Sharia concept of unrestricted Mudarabah, the cash prizes offered under Hibati’s 2021 prize draw scheme are ‘Hiba’ (gift) from Meethaq to its customers and are paid out of Mudarib’s (shareholders’) own sources. The cash prizes are in addition to the profit share of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in the General Mudarabah Pool as per the declared profit rates. Customers with Hibati Savings Accounts enjoy the largest number of benefits in Oman which include competitive Mudarabah indicative profit rates, attractive cash prizes through draws, Visa Debit Card, no minimum balance charges and digital banking facilities. Meethaq ensures that each and every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.



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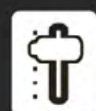


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