

HM SENDS CONDOLENCES TO EGYPT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Abdel Fattah el Sisi of Egypt on the death of Field Marshal Mohammad Hussien Tantawi, former Minister of Defence and Chief of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President el Sisi, the deceased's family and the people of Egypt. His Majesty prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in peace in Paradise and grant his family fortitude to bear the loss. **-ONA**



HM RECEIVES THANKS FROM KAZAKHSTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on victims of the explosion at an ammunition depot in Jambyl Province. In the cable, President Tokayev expressed his utmost appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for his heartfelt sympathies to him and the families of the victims, and for His Majesty's noble feelings. **-ONA**



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MEETING

On behalf of HM, Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar receives Ethiopian ambassador



MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al Said received in his office yesterday Dr. Ayrorit Mohamed Yassin, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Sultanate, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty.

The ambassador expressed her thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the support extended to her from His Majesty, the government and the Omani people, which facilitated carrying out

her assignments. The ambassador also wished His Majesty good health and a long life. She also wished the Omani people further progress and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan.

Sayyid Fatik expressed his utmost thanks for the ambassador's efforts exerted to serve the relations between the Sultanate and Ethiopia. He wished the ambassador success in her future duty.

He also wished the Ethiopian people further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Muscat armed baghla model on display

1 The National Museum has put on display a model of Muscat armed baghla (1253-54 AH/1838 CE). The model took four years to manufacture and is made of pear wood, ebony, linen, canvas, metal and brass, at a scale of 1:25. This model embodies Oman's perfection and craftsmanship in ship-building. The baghla was the largest deep-sea trading and cargo vessel of the Arabian Gulf, and the most ornate of the big Arabian ships. She was fitted with two or occasionally three masts. **>A3**

MARKET PDO starts production at Yibal Khuff facility

2 Petroleum Development Oman's (PDO) Yibal Khuff Project (YKP) has started production, marking a key milestone for the landmark facility. The installation's first sour wells were opened earlier this month introducing sour oil to the YKP Central Processing Facility, and the project has already started exporting crude oil to the main oil line. The plant's capacity will be ramped up over the coming months. Spanning an area of 1.68sqkm, YKP is the second largest, and most technically complex project in PDO's history. **>B1**

FEATURE Al Mouj Muscat Marathon on Feb 11, 12



3 Al Mouj Muscat Marathon, the biggest running event in Oman, is all set to take place in 2022, bringing to the fore the importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle. While the 2021 event could not be held due to the pandemic, the latest edition comes at a time when people are reassessing their lifestyle choices while opting for a healthier approach. The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon will be held over the weekend of February 11 and 12, 2022 at Oman's leading lifestyle and leisure destination. **>B6**

2021-2025

Digital version of five-year plan launched by Ministry of Economy

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy (MoE) has made available the digital version of the 'Strategic Programmes Folder', one of the most important documents of the 10th Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025) which lists result-based mechanisms for effectively implementing the Plan and also achieve objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The Folder lists 430 Strategic Programmes divided as per the Plan's four broad themes and 12 priorities, in addition to the priorities of developing the youth sector and information and communication technology, which were introduced during the development of the 10th Five-Year Development Plan.

Themes and programmes

The first theme, 'Man and Society' includes 156 programmes, the second, 'Economy with a Competitive Structure' lists 165 programmes, the third and fourth themes 'Sustainable Environment' and 'State with a Responsible Administrative Apparatus' list 56 and 53 programmes, respectively.

Approved methodology

The Strategic Programmes Folder was prepared as per the methodology approved by MoE. While the Sultanate has good experience in developing strategic plans overall, it was felt that some of these were not delivering desired results. This prompted MoE and its working groups to adopt result-based planning to ensure that strategic objectives of the long-term vision and the medium-term development plan are linked to specific and tangible outcomes for citizens. **>A6**

BACK TO SCHOOL

NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF



Isolation rooms in school clinics and a COVID-19 reporting hotline are among new safety measures in the guidelines

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new hotline has been set up between schools, healthcare providers and education supervisors in the governorates across Oman as part of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

The hotline will be used to report on new infection cases, as well as provide measures schools are taking to protect their students and staff, now

that many campuses have reopened for physical classes.

Many steps

The step is one of many taken by the Ministry of Education to safeguard people in schools from spreading or being infected by the virus, with another important measure being the setting up of isolation rooms in school clinics, for students and staff who might have symptoms associated with COVID-19. The setting up of the

hotline and isolation room are among the guidelines released by the ministry that schools are required to follow.

Supervisory committees

Developments in schools are monitored by supervisory committees in each governorate, set up by the local Directorate General of Education.

According to the ministry guidelines, these committees are required to "hold a meeting with school administrations to discuss the preparation mechanism for the school year, according to alternatives approved to operate schools, and develop a plan for field visits to follow up on the implementation of recommendations, precautionary and preventive measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus."

They are also required to coordinate with the Directorates General of Health services in governorates and spread awareness over precautionary and preventive measures against infection. This is to be done in the form of displaying posters illustrating the importance of adhering to COVID protocols, as well as printing information that students of younger age can understand.

Physical distancing

School staff are also required to "put emphasis on commitment to physical distancing on school buses, while using facilities, washing hands with soap and water, wearing masks before getting into the bus and at school, prevention of sharing stationary with other students, and encouraging students to bring their meals and water from home." **>A6**

LOGISTICS PIONEERS

DHL CEO conducts virtual road show in Oman

MUSCAT: DHL, the pioneers in logistics is serving its customer in Oman for the past 42 years. Deutsche Post DHL CEO Frank Appel conducted a virtual road show for his employees in Oman. The road show was attended by 220 employees from DHL's Global Forwarding and Express divisions. Being one of the market leaders in Oman, DHL offers various products and services, such as air freight, sea freight, road freight, warehousing and industrial projects to its customers. The road show ended with an exclusive interview with TOO.

Frank Appel outlined the Group's strategy and expansion plans in Oman. Recently, DHL announced an investment in Muscat International Airport for a new facility of its Express division, and the DGF division is looking forward to re-open their branch in Duqm soon. The interview was also attended by the country managers Roy Scaria (DHL Global Forwarding) and Moustafa Osman (DHL Express).

During the interview, Frank Appel mentioned Deutsche Post

DHL Group's financial results for the second quarter of 2021. While the global economy had experienced an unprecedented downturn last year, all of the Group's divisions made a pivotal contribution to accelerate the recovery of global trade. "Our entire team performed brilliantly in an environment that remained challenging, enabling us to achieve an outstanding result in the second quarter of 2021," he said.

Speaking about the Group's strategy 2025 "Delivering excellence in a digital world", he mentioned that the four most important trends which have been impacting logistics in recent years will also shape the industry going forward, these are globalisation, digitalization, e-commerce and sustainability.

DHL in Oman has increased the frequency of its flights to Muscat to five days a week now and as demand goes up, the company will definitely adjust their services and add more flights, the CEO confirmed.

Frank Appel said that Oman is well connected to the world



Deutsche Post DHL CEO Frank Appel

through DHL Global Forwarding's ocean freight services, and also because DHL Express has established hubs in all major airports globally. When asked whether we can see some DHL logistics training centres in Oman to support the local communities, he mentioned that while the company doesn't have dedicated training centres in the country, the divisions welcome trainees from colleges and universities, making sure that they become trained and adept in logistics once they walk out of DHL's door (and hopefully

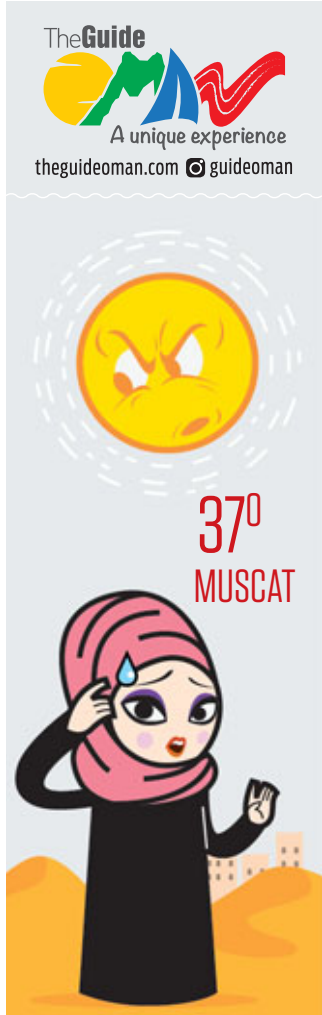
come back when they have completed their studies). "Our inside training department facilitates such trainings. And of course, DHL Oman also participates in the Group-wide Certified initiative. With this unique approach we provide a lifelong learning and engagement journey for our employees, with the aim of creating a team of "certified" divisional experts with a best-in-class culture," he added.

Regarding DHL's involvement in the shipping vaccines to Oman, the CEO said since the global

vaccine campaign began in December 2020, DHL has safely delivered more than 1 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to more than 160 countries, playing a key role in the global vaccination roll out - Oman was amongst those countries, with DHL Express handling the distribution of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines to Oman.

More than 9,000 life sciences and healthcare specialists work across DHL's dedicated global network. They ensure that pharmaceutical and medical device companies, clinical trials and research organisations, wholesalers and distributors, and hospitals and healthcare providers are connected across the value chain, from clinical trials to point of care, and every step in between. DHL's healthcare industry portfolio includes 150+ pharmacists, 20+ clinical trials depots, 100+ certified stations, 160+ GDP-qualified warehouses, 15+ GMP-certified sites, 135+ medical express sites, and a time-definite international express network covering over 220 countries and territories.

See also >A4





OMAN



PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr	12:05pm
Asr	3:31pm
Maghrib	6:09pm
Isha	7:19pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:41am

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On other pages

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National Front to boycott talks on Mandal issue - Page 5

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OPEC to focus on impact of rising oil supplies - Page 7

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Soviet Defence Minister plans big military shake-up - Page 10

Johnson ready for record - Page 11

Weather

Clear to partly cloudy skies will prevail over the Sultanate. Some cloud developments are likely over the mountains of northern Oman in the afternoon/evening. Morning low clouds are likely along the coastal areas.

South coast will experience moderate southerly winds during day and light northerly at night.

North coast will experience light to moderate southwesterly winds during day and light northerly at night.

Sea will be slight to moderate with a maximum wave height of 2.0 metres along the southeastern coast and 1.25 metres along the northern coast.

Maximum temperature for the Muscat area is 34°C and minimum temperature is 25°C. Relative humidity is 50%-90%.

Tide will be high at 08:07 p.m. and low at 02:17 a.m. It will be high again at 08:28 a.m. and low at 02:56 p.m.

For the Salalah area, maximum temperature is 29°C and minimum temperature is 23°C. Relative humidity is 70%-90%.

Tide will be high at 07:11 p.m. and low at 01:32 a.m. It will be high again at 08:07 a.m. and low at 2:13 p.m.

TEMP	MAX	MIN
Socatra	36	27
Baramulla	44	28
Khasab	34	27
Sohar	33	28
Saiq	39	28
Masirah	31	23
Thumrait	39	21
Jafaf Dhoofar	25	16
Haima	43	24
Marmul	43	24
Fahud	42	28
Al-Halliyat	28	23
Madha	38	25

De Cuellar term ends on Dec. 31

UNITED NATIONS — Javier Perez de Cuellar has ruled out the possibility of his staying on as U.N. Secretary-General after his term expires at the end of this year.

"I am leaving this office in three months and 10 days," he said at his annual news conference.

Earlier this year, French diplomats had floated the idea that perhaps Perez de Cuellar should stay on another year or two to scrap up various disputes around the world and provide more time to choose his successor.

Soviet officials showed some support for that idea, but in recent months the French appear to have become reconciled to Perez de Cuellar's departure at the end of the year.

Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian career diplomat, has run the world organization for 10 years.

The security council intends to recommend his successor by the end of October. The council's selection must then be approved by two-thirds of the General Assembly.

GCC Oil Ministers meeting in Jeddah

NUCOSIA - The Oil Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) opened talks in Saudi Red Sea port city of Jeddah yesterday, three days ahead of an OPEC meeting in Geneva.

The GCC groups Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. Only Oman and Bahrain are not members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Qatar's Transport Minister, Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Manna, addressed the opening session.

The agency, received in Cyprus, said his speech covered the "latest developments in key producing areas which can influence the supply and demand balance of oil during the winter months."

He was apparently referring to the turmoil in the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, following last month's

abrupt coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I am confident that the exchange of views in this meeting will bolster steps taken to stabilise the world oil market," Manna said.

He added that the market would be influenced by what he termed developments in oil exports from the Gulf region, a reference to a UN decision to let Iraq sell 1.6 billion dollars worth of oil over the next six months to

fund purchases of basic commodities.

OPEC member Iraq has been under UN-sponsored economic sanctions since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The GCC Oil Ministers are also to review the results of meetings held by the Oil Marketing and Refining Directors in GCC states, the sources said.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al-Raqaba said earlier he would demand during the

meeting a return to oil production quotas which were in effect before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August last year.

"We must agree on the issue of a production ceiling ahead of the OPEC conference which, in turn, must restore the quota system that was in effect before the invasion of Kuwait," Raqaba said.

The London-based Lebanese daily "Al Hayat", quoting GCC sources, said that an Iranian pro-

posal for raising the price of a barrel of oil to 21 dollars would also be discussed by the GCC Oil Ministers.

The Omani delegation at the talks is headed by the Minister for Petroleum and Minerals, Said bin Ahmed al-Shanfari, who left Muscat for Jeddah yesterday.

The meeting will review the situation in the world oil market and follow up studies on joint projects, Oman News Agency reported.

- DPA

Cables for His Majesty

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has received congratulatory cables on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday from King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco, King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Yasser Arafat, President of Palestine and the President of the Republic of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Geyoom.

His Majesty replied to the leaders "thanking and wishing them, their nations and all Muslim countries peace and prosperity."

His Majesty the Sultan also received similar cables from Sheikh Hamed bin Mohammed al-Sharqi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council, and Ruler of Fujairah, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Hamed bin Seif al Sharqi, Deputy ruler of Fujairah and from Ministers, Advisors, dignitaries and citizens. - OGA

Mideast talks: US, Moscow to send out invitations

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State James Baker is considering ending preparatory talks for a Middle East peace conference after his latest tour of the region failed to yield a breakthrough, an aide said yesterday.

A senior State Department official said it was possible that Washington and Moscow would simply send out invitations. It was then up to those invited to decide if they wanted to attend the conference, to be held under the aegis of the two superpowers.

The "Washington Post" newspaper reported yesterday that Baker would have talks with regional Foreign Ministers on the periphery of the United Nations General Assembly session due to open in New York on Monday. He would also await the outcome of a meeting in Algiers on Monday of the Palestinian National Council, the Palestinian Parliament-in-exile.

Hana Ashrawi, a Palestinian activist from the Israeli-occupied territories, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) yesterday, the National Council would take a responsible decision.

Ms. Ashrawi, who had a surprise meeting with Baker in Amman the day before, stressed that the Palestinians did not wish to set "preconditions", but had rightly requested certain "conditions".

Source close to the Palestinian amman General Manuel Noriega. "At that time, the Justice Department announced... that this was an isolated incident, and there was no evidence at all that BCCI was a global banking entity was involved," Carter said.

The Carter Centre has not accepted any funding from BCCI for approximately 18 months, he said. "We will never, obviously, accept any (additional) funds from the bank," Carter said.

Though Carter claims BCCI contributions amounted to less than 4 per cent of total funding for the Centre's Global 2000 programme, IRS records indicate that BCCI donated about 41 per cent of funding in 1989, and 60 per cent of the programme's funding in 1988, according to the "Daily News", a suburban Atlanta newspaper.

Global 2000 is a charity that seeks to eradicate hunger and disease in developing countries.

Carter said he met with him in Plains in 1982. The banker said he wanted to give "between 10 and 25 per cent of the total profits of the bank for humanitarian and benevolent causes. He did not want to control how the money was spent."

The first programme BCCI funded was an effort to eradicate guinea worm disease, Carter said. - AP

But it is more than that. Independence is a political act against which there is no argument."

Twelve Soviet republics have broken with Moscow or declared their independence — many to protect the local leadership from the chaos in the Kremlin after last month's failed coup.

Soviet leaders are bogged down in efforts to resolve ethnic violence that has accompanied a general upsurge in nationalism.

Dispute

Armenians are at the center of the bloodiest conflict, a territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in neighbouring Azerbaijan populated mostly by Armenians.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Karabakh President Nersisyan Nazarbeyev, acting as mediators in the conflict, prepared to fly to Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, after talks in the Azerbaijan capital Baku.

"It would be naive to expect quick results from this trip. The process of reconciliation is long and complex and we have to recognise this reality," Nazarbeyev told Tas news agency in Baku.

Yeltsin and Nazarbeyev, joined by Soviet Interior Minister Viktor Baranikov, were due in Yerevan, for talks, part of a whirlwind diplomatic effort that includes a new proposal from President Mikhail Gorbachev. Press reports say Gorbachev will call for restoration of regional authority, local elections, dismantling of armed groups and negotiations under Moscow's sponsorship between warring militants.

- Reuters

Army pounds Croatia with tanks, planes

ZAGREB — The Yugoslav army rejected a Croatian offer to defuse the country's widening conflict yesterday and pounded the breakaway republic with tanks, guns and planes.

The Croatian Presidential Office said Federal Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic rejected an offer from President Franjo Tudjman to lift partially a blockade of army barracks in Croatia if the army halted its massive offensive.

Heavy fighting was reported in eastern Croatia where hundreds of army tanks lightened a ring of steel around the Croatian towns of Vukovar, Osijek and Vinkovci.

Federal warplanes twice bombed the Adriatic port of Sibenik and artillery pounded the Dalmatian coastal highway in a bid to cut it and isolate the town, Croatia's Information Ministry said.

People rushed to shelters in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, as air raid sirens wailed, but there was no immediate attack.

Tudjman offered on Friday night to ease the blockade of army barracks as his forces reeled on the first day of the offensive launched by hundreds of army tanks and thousands of troops.

Tudjman said he would restore supplies of water, electricity and food to the army bases, besieged for a week, if troops halted their onslaught at midnight on Friday.

Tudjman's Foreign Policy Adviser Mario Nobilo said Kadijevic's refusal meant the army wanted to continue massive attacks to force Croatia to surrender.

"He is again repeating his previous position, namely demanding that we surrender practically and then he would withdraw. He is saying: 'You do it first and then we will consider,' Nobilo told Reuters.

"This is just an excuse for unselective retaliation against civilian targets," he said.

Tanjug news agency said Kadijevic replied to Tudjman that the Croatia blockade breached a European Community (EC)-sponsored ceasefire accord brokered by former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

The ceasefire should have gone into effect on Wednesday.

It included lifting the blockade of all army installations in Croatia but Tudjman had never implemented this, Kadijevic said in a letter.

"In the meantime your armed formations have continued to attack and blockade Yugoslav Army facilities," he told Tudjman.

"From the time when the ceasefire was to have come into force until 1300 (on Friday) they have taken 32 buildings... twelve members of the Yugoslav Army have been killed and 19 wounded," Kadijevic added.

He said he only received Tudjman's letter 20 minutes before the Friday midnight deadline he proposed. However, the Army was ready to negotiate as soon as Croatia set its obligations under the ceasefire.

The Croatian Presidential office said the republic's government would meet in emergency session later to consider its response to the army's thrust into its territory.

Kadijevic told British ITN Television on Friday that the Croatia blockade had exhausted the Army's patience and it had launched the offensive to relieve the blocked barracks.

International appeals

The onslaught drove the last nail into the coffin of the EC peace accord and the mounting violence prompted international appeals for the United Nations to intercede to end the conflict.

The huge offensive began on Friday morning with tanks and other army vehicles moving from the Serbian border to encircle the eastern Croatian towns of Vukovar, Osijek and Vinkovci.

Croatian Radio said Croatia forces blockaded two nearby villages while guns pounded a nearby bridge to cut the coastal highway and isolate the city.

The radio station at Split, Croatia's main Adriatic port, issued a desperate appeal to the world to stop the war.

"The cities of Zadar, Sibenik and Split are every day bombarded by the Yugoslav Air Force and attacked by the army and from the sea," it said in a broadcast monitored in Italy.

"We are without water and without any lights. Our ports, roads, airports are closed off. Call your Ministers. Stop the war in Croatia," the Radio added.

But the conflict appeared likely to spread as people in Bosnia-Herzegovina blocked army columns rolling through to Croatia.

Bosnia's Presidency ordered a mobilisation of the republic's forces and demanded that the troops, mostly reservists from Serbia and Montenegro, withdraw. - Reuters

Discovery of Iraqi efforts to produce

As in past years, the resolution urged Israel to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection to ensure it was not developing atomic weapons.

Just before the Iraq vote, Baghdad's chief delegate, Rahim Akil, accused the IAEA of attempting to become a "spying agency."

He was alluding to suggestions that the organisation be given access to satellite surveillance and intelligence files of individual member nations, to help beef up its policing of suspect nations' nuclear activities.

Akila previously told the conference his country had voluntarily revealed violations in its nuclear activities, and he accused the West of waging a political campaign against Baghdad.

Sentiment to strengthen IAEA inspection powers grew with a ruling by the agency that Iraq violated both the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and an inspections for possible misuse of civilian nuclear facilities for military goals.

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YUGOSLAVIA - Croatians wait anxiously in an underground shelter for the all clear signal during an air-raid alarm in Zagreb yesterday. - Reuters wirephoto

Charges likely against 18 BCCI employees

LONDON — Abu Dhabi authorities are likely to bring charges against 18 former employees of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International who were arrested in an inquiry into BCCI's past activities begun in December by a special Abu Dhabi committee of investigation, the statement said.

The shareholders are working on a restructuring plan with BCCI's receiver, the accounting firm Touche Ross. They are to report to a British High Court on December 2.

Illegal activities

ATLANTA — Former US President Jimmy Carter said he never disavowed the Bank of Credit and Commerce International was involved in illegal activities when his charities accepted millions of dollars from it.

Some of Georgia's best-known political figures, including Carter, his former Budget Director Bert Lance, former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and State Sen. Culver Kidd, had ties to BCCI.

The Carter Centre reportedly received a total of \$8 million from BCCI founder Agha Hasan Abedi to help finance programme.

Carter said he first learned of criminal activity at the bank two

years later when BCCI was accused of laundering money for Panamanian General Manuel Noriega. "At that time, the Justice Department announced... that this was an isolated incident, and there was no evidence at all that BCCI was a global banking entity was involved," Carter said.

The Carter Centre has not accepted any funding from BCCI for approximately 18 months, he said. "We will never, obviously, accept any (additional) funds from the bank," Carter said.

Though Carter claims BCCI contributions amounted to less than 4 per cent of total funding for the Centre's Global 2000 programme, IRS records indicate that BCCI donated about 41 per cent of funding in 1989, and 60 per cent of the programme's funding in 1988, according to the "Daily News", a suburban Atlanta newspaper.

Global 2000 is a charity that seeks to eradicate hunger and disease in developing countries.

Carter said he met with him in Plains in 1982. The banker said he wanted to give "between 10 and 25 per cent of the total profits of the bank for humanitarian and benevolent causes. He did not want to control how the money was spent."

The first programme BCCI funded was an effort to eradicate guinea worm disease, Carter said. - AP

But it is more than that. Independence is a political act against which there is no argument."

Twelve Soviet republics have broken with Moscow or declared their independence — many to protect the local leadership from the chaos in the Kremlin after last month's failed coup.

Soviet leaders are bogged down in efforts to resolve ethnic violence that has accompanied a general upsurge in nationalism.

Dispute

Armenians are at the center of the bloodiest conflict, a territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in neighbouring Azerbaijan populated mostly by Armenians.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Karabakh President Nersisyan Nazarbeyev, acting as mediators in the conflict, prepared to fly to Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, after talks in the Azerbaijan capital Baku.

"It would be naive to expect quick results from this trip. The process of reconciliation is long and complex and we have to recognise this reality," Nazarbeyev told





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Muscat armed baghla on display



DEEP-SEA VESSEL: The baghla was the largest deep-sea trading and cargo vessel of the Arabian Gulf, and the most ornate of the big Arabian ships. She was fitted with two or occasionally three masts and was distinguished by ornamental projections that resembled the quarter galleries found on European line-of-battle ships of the 12th -13th century AH/18th -19th century CE.

A model of the historic ship displayed by the National Museum embodies Oman’s ship-building heritage

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Museum has put on display a model of Muscat armed baghla (1253-54 AH/1838 CE).

The model took four years to manufacture and is made of pear wood, ebony, linen, canvas, metal and brass, at a scale of 1:25. This model embodies Oman’s perfection and craftsmanship in ship-building.

The baghla was the largest deep-sea trading and cargo vessel of the Arabian Gulf, and the most ornate of the big Arabian ships.

She was fitted with two or occasionally three masts and was distinguished by ornamental projections that resembled the quarter galleries found on European line-of-battle ships of the 12th-13th century AH/18th-19th century CE.

The stem-post curved gently upward to a stem-head which was topped with a bollard-shaped decoration – a further form of ornamentation peculiar to the baghla.

Although the baghla was predominantly a merchant vessel, it could also be effectively armed for use in warfare.

This model represents an armed baghla, measuring approximately 40 metres long and 45 metres high, fitted with ten 12-pounder Blomefield pattern cannons.

In the early 13th century AH/19th century CE, the Blomefield was regarded as the most efficient breaching weapon.

Oman has had a long relationship with the sea. With an extensive coastline, the story of Oman’s past is in many senses a maritime history. For millennia, fishermen sailed along its coasts for their livelihood.

Omani traders carried goods across the seas as early as the third millennium BCE, and by the Islamic Period, they were part of a vast trading network that extended from China to East Africa, the single longest maritime trade route at the time.

Maritime empires

In the last four centuries, Omanis had established two maritime empires that connected Oman with the Arabian Gulf, Makran Coast and East Africa. All of this activity has shaped the maritime culture of Oman. As Omanis braved the seas, they became excellent navigators and produced a rich navigational literature. They developed an active tradition of boatbuilding, using the materials and tools available to them to build a wide variety of vessels.

Today, Oman continues its relationship with the sea. It has modern navy, prosperous seaports, and leads the region in historical reconstructions. This sea-craft is a symbol of Oman’s interaction with the rest of the world.

TRAVEL

Oman Air resumes thrice a week service to London from today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate, will resume flights between Muscat and London (Heathrow) starting today (22 September, 2021).

The flights will operate three times weekly on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, departing Muscat at 14:25 local time and arriving in London at 19:10 local time.

Flights from London will depart at 20:50 local time and arrive in

Muscat at 07:15 local time on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

All flights are scheduled to operate with Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Comprehensive safety

Oman Air will maintain its comprehensive safety programme throughout all elements of the travel journey to ensure that guests fly confidently.

Masks are required when guests are on board the aircraft and in Oman’s airports. Distancing is

maintained while guests board and exit the aircraft, which are carefully cleaned after each flight and at the end of every day.

Cabin crew all wear a full set of personal protective equipment, meal service has been modified to further ensure safety, and a number of other measures have been implemented to ensure that the airline’s guests and crew are safe at all times.

Guests who are planning to travel to Muscat should visit the

Civil Aviation Authority website, caa.gov.om, to ensure they are prepared to comply with requirements to enter the Sultanate.

Guests travelling to the UK should ensure they are aware of official requirements to enter or transit through the country.

Guests departing from Oman should also ensure that they are aware of all pre-departure requirements and requirements during their flights, which are provided at omanair.com.



PUBLIC PROSECUTION

Penalty for abusive writings, spreading offensive rumours



MUSCAT: The Public Prosecution Department has issued a statement outlining penalties awarded to people found guilty of abusive writings or spreading offensive rumours or publishing news attributing criminal acts to certain individuals or establishments.

The statement reads as follows: “In light of findings from social communication platforms and, given the steady rise in the rate of abusive writings, offensive rumours and attribution of criminal acts to certain individuals or establishments and, since circulating matters via social communication platforms is not an official method of reporting and may negatively impact investigations,

the Public Prosecution Department hereby incriminates the publishing of abusive or offensive news aimed to provoke public opinion. It asserts that such behaviour is considered a crime that deserves imprisonment for a maximum of three years and a fine of OMR3,000.

The Public Prosecution Department affirms that it will take legal action against all those who get involved in abusive writings or rumours and those who promote, circulate or instigate or help in such criminal acts, irrespective of their forms and types. The legal action will be undertaken in accordance with current laws and legal systems in the Sultanate.” -ONA



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GLOBAL LOGISTICS LEADER DHL LINED UP FOR MORE INVESTMENTS IN OMAN

Deutsche Post DHL Group CEO Frank Appel shares his Group's strategy and expansion plans in Oman in an interview with Abdulla Al Rubai, Senior Broadcast Journalist, Oman TV and Ms. Garima Bhandari, Programme Director, Times of Oman

Q : We understand that you, Dr. Appel, have an MSc in Chemistry and a PhD in Neurobiology. You are one of the most successful leaders, what is your secret for success in logistics and leading one of the best brands, DHL?

This is a good question, may be the secret is that in my career I always focused on things, which were in a way I had a flair for and perhaps that is why I was probably doing things better than others. In addition, I also had some luck when getting into the different jobs. Finally, and as it often happens in life it was the combination of the two elements, performance and good fortune. Studying Chemistry as a scientist was comparatively easy for me, and I was probably a good consultant as well. It seems that I have the necessary people skills in working with teams and transforming people's inputs and strength into solutions. And, in addition, as a leader and a manager-cum-mentor I have the ability to create momentum in teams. Therefore, I would say it was a combination of the right teams at the right moments and right places.

Q : Oman is having Vision 2040, where logistics plays a major role. Oman is aiming to become among top 10 logistics hubs by the year 2040. We understand that DHL started a brand new facility at Muscat International Airport, is there any other investments line up for Oman?

Yes, you are right, we have signed off on a new facility at the airport. In addition, we are also planning investments for DGF, for our expansion in Salalah. For Oman to become a major logistics hub, you have to attract companies to set up or move their businesses here, for example, by providing the right infrastructure and border processes. For air freight services your country might be in a more difficult situation, but for ocean freight shipments you are geographically well positioned, here you could aim to become a gateway to Africa, Middle East and potentially for Europe. Of course, you also need people with the right skillset for logistics jobs. As a Group, we monitor what is happening in Oman, but we cannot create the demand ourselves, we usually follow and support companies who are using Oman as a transit place or setting up new facilities in Oman. If our business grows here, we will definitely invest more in Oman.

Q : Can you please explain your Group Strategy 2025?

We always develop strategies, which last for a couple of years, because we believe that our employees need certainty and guidance. Our current strategy, "Delivering excellence in a digital world", covers four elements. Our purpose, 'Connecting people, improving lives', comes first. This objective was vividly demonstrated in the last quarters, as we shipped many Covid-19 vaccines around the world. I am always proud to see our DHL planes delivering the vaccines, and I am very happy that our team transported vaccines to Oman. Together with the purpose, I strongly believe that every company should have a clear vision, which in our case is that we want to be "The Logistics Company for the World". As a next 'level', we have our mission in making the life of our customer easier. We call this 'Excellence, simply delivered in a sustainable way'. Our third element focuses on doing what we are best at: 'strengthen our profitable core'. Fourth and finally, all this is framed and supported by our dedication towards digitalisation. And, while these are the key building blocks of our Group strategy, it is supported by our different business divisions who create their business strategies based on our overall Group direction.



Roy Scaria, Country Manager
DHL Global Forwarding, Oman



Moustafa Osman, Country Manager
DHL Express, Oman

Q : While interacting with your employees, we have heard the most motivational word at this current period of pandemic "Covid bonus". How did your company manage to pay a Covid bonus in 2020, while we understand that another one is coming in 2021? This places DHL on a different level: whose brain is behind this and how did your company manage to absorb the cost in this difficult period.

The trigger behind that decision have been our colleagues around the world themselves, because they have done a fantastic job in 2020 and 2021. When COVID-19 hit us, we realised there were three things that are important: health and safety for all our colleagues, excellent service for our customers, and collecting cash in a way that enabled us to pay our people and suppliers. That has worked extremely well in 2020; the energy level of our organisation was just excellent. Since it was clear who had done all this hard work, it was important to let our employees participate in the success. Moreover, we wanted to treat everyone absolutely the same, irrespective of the salaries they earn and where they work.

This year, we have been performing very well again, breaking our records once more, knowing again, who is responsible for that. Our colleagues are doing such an outstanding job for our customers, that we are doing the same again this year, paying a Covid bonus to all employees. We think this is very well deserved, they are working extremely hard under tough conditions such as wearing masks and keeping distance, while delivering to many households. We are doing this because we appreciate their hard work.

Q : Women in Leadership initiative in DHL: can you please elaborate on this and what's the target for the coming 5 years?

We do not claim to be perfect here, but we have made very good progress. Gender diversity is very important as it makes the company and us all better. I am very happy that also in Oman we have three women in our senior team. Although in some countries we already have a 50-50 ratio between men and women, gender equality is something that still takes some time to be established globally.

Historically, our industry was not very attractive for women, although that is changing now. Men, stereotypically, are fond of airplanes, ships and trucks, which

is why they are more interested in logistics. However, women are well suited to manage complex problems. That is important in our industry too, which, therefore, becomes appealing to women as well. I am happy to see this, because that also generates more interest in our company from women.

Our objective is to have at least 30 percent women in our top team by 2025 – we are now at 23 percent. We made very good progress over the last year. Nevertheless, to get to that objective, you need to hire many more women in leadership positions. I am optimistic that we can make the target.

Q : We understand that DHL is spending millions of Euros for Corporate Social Responsibility. Can you please give us a brief on the current projects?

When it comes to climate change, the logistics industry is part of the problem. We are emitting carbon dioxide through our operations, just like our competitors. We must understand that global warming is a threat to humanity. There are big efforts needed towards making sure the temperature of the planet does not rise. We have seen, just over the last 12 months, the consequences this can have, with the flooding, droughts, and other natural disasters related to global warming. We need to work on this issue, this is our responsibility. That is the reason why we already launched a strategy in 2017 to become carbon-free by 2050. Moreover, in March of this year we even accelerated our ambitions through a new sustainability roadmap, confirming that the Group will invest EUR 7 billion in climate-neutral logistics by 2030. While we have our zero emissions plan for the last five years now, we want to significantly reduce our absolute carbon emissions by 2030. A lot of this is based on the Paris Climate Agreement, where we are trying to meet expectations, based on science-based targets.

The sustainability issues draw our special attention to electric vehicles and green energy. This is part of our commitment; this is not just about throwing money at the problem, but about sending a clear signal to society, to our people, and to our customers, that we are serious in reducing our carbon footprint. Unfortunately, ships and airplanes to a major extent, cannot yet be operated electrically in the near future. Therefore, we need a clear roadmap about how to take this forward – we see that as part of our job.

Q : We are seeing DHL airplanes touching Muscat Airport five days in a week, will we see DHL ships soon?

You will definitely see more DHL airplanes soon, but yet we do not know exactly when. The reason is that we will adjust the number of rotations to the growth of our business. We already took the opportunities to grow our business and we increased our rotations quite a bit. However, flying seven days a week does not make sense, because we are not picking up enough volume on certain days, so it is better to add conventional airlift when needed. As mentioned before, we cannot generate the volumes ourselves, the country has to create the right conditions, attract investments, establish proper trading and customs procedures and promote education to grow the right talent. This all helps to increase demand and business, leading to higher trading volumes, which allows us to fly more aircrafts into and out of Oman.

Q : DHL is one of the pioneer organisations in the logistics industry, can we see some DHL logistics training centres in Oman to support the local communities here?

We have multiple programmes in our company to develop our people. We call this suite of programmes 'Certified'. It is very important that we are all certified specialists for what we are doing, because our industry is quite complex, with specific characteristics in the different logistics areas. If you have a proper school education, a college or university degree, this helps, but we have to build up additional knowledge inside our company. We are working together with some universities in Oman to find the right talent, and then invest to further develop these applicants through our programmes. In addition, we organise internship trainings for university students. We make sure that they enjoy logistics once they walk out of our door to complete their studies, and we have many cases where they have joined back DHL as our employees.

Q : Can you please share DHL's digitalization initiatives? We often hear from that DHL got the best system and network, does this support DHL to improve on the market share?

When we talk about digitalization, we have to understand what the intention of digitalization is. We believe in the following three objectives. At first, we want to improve the experience of our customers when they are in contact with us – for example during the booking, shipping and tracking processes. Secondly, we make the jobs for our people easier, for example when they communicate with us through mobile apps, or receive news about latest developments. Finally, digitalization helps to improve operational efficiency.

For all of this you need to have a very good IT infrastructure, consider the latest trends and topics such as Block Chain, Internet of Things, APIs, or Data Analytics, and you have to establish solid IT governance. This is why I am managing the Data Analytics Force of our Group, while the more specific programmes are developed within our different divisions.

Only recently, our German postal business deployed a system, which allows us to track each letter through a QR code. Our Express division introduced a programme to optimise the flying hours of aircraft. And, in our supply chain business, we deployed many robots to support our employees in automating warehouse operations. Based on a very comprehensive agenda, we will invest EUR 2 billion until 2025, resulting in annual savings of EUR 1.5 billion from this. We believe that digitalization is the game changer for any industry, including our own.

Q : One more question on digitalization: don't you lose your talented people while overdoing in digitalization?

One of the biggest myths about digitalization is that people will lose their jobs. In our company, we will lose about one-third of our current jobs by 2030, but at the same time our Group will be 50 percent bigger, and as a result there will be more jobs than before. These will be different, but better jobs. What we need to do is change our mindset. Therefore, we are looking for colleagues who are willing to change, although that is a challenge, because people usually don't like too much of a change.

Q : We understand that you have delivered as a courier to your customer for a day. Can you share your experience on this?

I do that on a regular basis – not so often in the last few months, because I don't want to create additional health and security protocols. What I have always experienced, whether as a courier, or in the warehouse, or in forwarding – all the jobs we do, are very rewarding. If you like to work with people, then working as a courier is a fantastic job. Our job is to connect people and improve their lives, and our frontline employees experience that every day when they are in direct contact with our customers. We are really doing something that makes a difference for others.

Q : How feasible is it for DHL to pursue a green policy, given that most goods are transported by airplanes that consume a lot of fuel?

I believe we will be able to get this problem under control a lot faster than we expect. We have natural resources – a lot of sun, plenty of water, enough wind, and enough carbon dioxide. We can use carbon dioxide, solar energy and water to make sustainable fuels. As a society, mankind has for hundreds of years always found appropriate solutions.

For example, batteries to store energy from wind and solar are a good interim step, but we will need to find other ways. The economy has to become circular. We take water and sun to produce fuel, which when you burn it, splits up into water and carbon dioxide again, allowing you to reuse these elements over and over. I am therefore very optimistic that in the mid to long term, most of the fuel we need will be produced by converting power to liquid. Perhaps we will move towards sustainable aviation and natural fuels for trucks, maybe by using hydrogen. It will take some time to scale that up, but I am very confident that humanity will accomplish this.





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AL SARB

Spring season begins in Dhofar Governorate

SALALAH: The spring season began in Dohfar Governorate on Tuesday. The season, locally called “Al Sarb” continues for three months and ends on 21 December every year.

Sunshine, moderate weather, low humidity and stable sea conditions mark the spring season in the Governorate of Dhofar where breathtaking scenery adorns the mountains, plains and deserts.

Once the reigning fog dissipates, the first sign of Al Sarb season, tourists flock to Dhofar to enjoy the fine weather, the cool breeze and watch colourful flower beds in the making.

Al Sarb is also a harvest and business season during which farmers, fishermen, livestock breeders, honey traders and tourists engage in a marvellous exchange of benefits. -**ONA**



HARVEST SEASON: Al Sarb is also a harvest and business season during which farmers, fishermen, livestock breeders, honey traders and tourists engage in a marvellous exchange of benefits. -**ONA**

ASMED

Pact signed to manage, operate incubator at Sohar University

MUSCAT: The Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) yesterday signed an agreement with the University of Sohar to establish, manage and operate an incubator dedicated to converting industries’ entrepreneurs at the university.

Cultivating firms
The agreement also provides for the development of 10 new small

and medium enterprises.

It is a way of cultivating firms capable of delivering top technical and administrative performance in the field of converting industries. The aim is to ensure an entrepreneur’s sustained practice of business.

Wide range of training
It covers a wide range of training, consultancy, marketing, design-

ing and planning services.

The hands-on practices also include electing equipment, communicating with potential suppliers, establishment of knowledge-transfer networks, gaining property rights and realizing innovation in the industrial sector.

The agreement was signed by ASMED Chairperson Halima Rashid Al Zar’eya and Prof. Barry Winn, President of Sohar University. -**ONA**

MARKETING OUTLETS



Omani honey sales top OMR49,000

MUSCAT: Three tonnes of Omani honey worth OMR49,423 were sold during the period from 24-31 August 2021 through marketing outlets and the electronic platforms “Asal Oman” and “Al Nahaal”.

Fifty-five beekeepers from various governorates participated in the marketing outlets, as they showcased a variety of Omani honey with a total quantity of 8 tonnes.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources strives to set up marketing outlets to sell Omani Honey. This drive comes within the efforts exerted by the Ministry to support beekeepers. -**ONA**



U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS

The U.S. Embassy Muscat is auctioning used household and office Furniture, furnishings, appliances, computers and IT equipment by online auction.

Interested bidders may view the auction items online starting on Sept 20, 2021 by going to <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>. Bidding will open Sept 22 at 09:00. Bidders must first register on the site before placing a bid.

All items offered for sale will be sold as is, where-is. “As is, where is” means that there is no warranty, either expressed or implied. Bidding closes on Sept 27 at 14:00.

Successful bidders will be notified on Sept 28. At that point, they must make full payment of all lots won. Payment instructions are listed in the “How to pay for your items” section in the “How it works” link on the auction page. Full and complete payments must be received in the U.S. Embassy bank account no later than Oct 4.

Successful bidders with fully paid lots may collect their goods on Oct 9 at the Ghala warehouse.

Tender Notice

Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), announces following E-Tender for 2021:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Deadline for Specifications Request	Deadline for tender bids	Tender Price
19/2021	Renewal On Site Annual Maintenance Contract Service for Huawei Network Equipment	27 Sep 2021	07 Oct 2021	25 OMR

Interested companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender document from the E.Tendering website: <http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scanned copy of bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2%) of the Tender value validity for (120) days from the deadline for the tender bids and addressed to the Public Authority for Social Insurance. And original document of the same should be submitted later directly to the Administration Department - Purchase and General Services Section / Third Floor, PASI Head Office in Bawshar.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender inquiry : All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at E-Tendering system (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering system inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel : **+968 24402200** , E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

PASI is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other tender that may be received

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Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education

CALL FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAAQA) will be undertaking a General Foundation Program (GFP) Quality Audit of Oman Tourism College (OTC). All higher education institutions in Oman delivering a General Foundation Program undergo GFP Quality Audit. The purpose of GFP Quality Audit is to inform the public about the quality of GFPs and to help institutions to prepare students for their higher education studies. The GFP Quality Audit involves undertaking a Self-Study by the institution of its GFP resulting in a GFP Quality Audit Portfolio, followed by external review by a GFP Quality Audit Panel resulting in publication of the GFP Quality Audit Report.

As part of its deliberations, the GFP Quality Audit Panel invites submissions from interested persons. Submissions may cover any issue relevant to the GFP Quality Audit. A submission will be received by the GFP Quality Audit Panel only under the following conditions:

- It must be sent by email to rabiee-RD@oaaa.gov.om by no later than 28 September 2021.
- It must include the name, position, organisation (HEI, workplace, etc.) and contact details of the person/s making the submission. This information will be treated in confidence. Anonymous submissions will not be considered by the GFP Quality Audit Panel under any circumstances.
- The person/s making the submission must be willing to participate in a telephone interview should the GFP Quality Audit Panel consider such a discussion to be necessary.
- The submission should address aspects of the Oman Tourism College’s activities that will assist the GFP Quality Audit Panel in forming conclusions about the HEI’s GFP. It should contain specific evidence for any claims being made. Vague statements or allegations will not be pursued by the GFP Quality Audit Panel.
- The submission should not refer to personal grievances or single out individual members of staff (the GFP Quality Audit Panel has no mandate to address grievances).
- The submission (excluding any particular corroborating evidence) should be no more than 1,000 words (two sides of an A4 page in length).

All submissions are confidential in the sense that the GFP Quality Audit Panel needs to be able to use the information provided in submissions, but will not reveal their source.

If the GFP Quality Audit Panel chooses to investigate, it will be only as part of the overall GFP Quality Audit, and not in terms of the details of a particular complaint. The GFP Quality Audit Panel will not make any response or report to the person(s) making the submission.

Staff and students of Oman Tourism College may wish to contact Mr. Abdullah Al Naabi for further information about the College’s preparations for the GFP Quality Audit (Office number 24512345, or email Abdullah.ali-naabi@otc.edu.om). For more general enquiries about the OAAAQA or the GFP Quality Audit contact Dr Jenny Walker on **24121648** or visit www.oaaa.gov.om.



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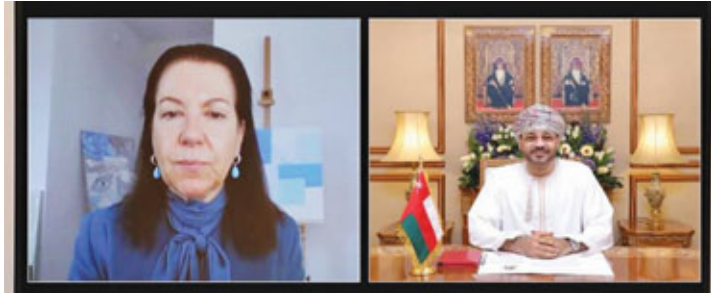
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Sayyid Badr reviews areas of cooperation in combating terrorism



MUSCAT: On the sidelines of the meetings of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, held a virtual meeting with Michele Coninsx, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee.

The meeting tackled the United Nations' efforts related to the strategies for combating violent extremism.

The meeting also reviewed the best international practices in the field of combating all forms of terrorism and existing cooperation between the Sultanate and the United Nations. — **ONA**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



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STUDENT SAFETY

<FROM A1 Schools should notify parents regarding health guidelines

Executive committees need to be set up in schools to follow up on health protocols, create clear and specific work plans to implement them, make sure school facilities can accommodate students, implement all necessary updates of the Supreme Committee, hire companies to sterilise the school and provide sanitary supplies, make sure there are enough thermometers to check students' temperatures, and effectively deal with suspected-confirmed cases of COVID-19.

"They should also notify parents of health guidelines regarding student safety before the start of the school year though appropriate means, use available media to spread awareness of the school community and surrounding community on how to deal with the pandemic, and use the parent council in spreading awareness in the light of the pandemic," added the guidelines.

Additionally, the entry and exit of students from the building must be done through measures following the health protocol, and single-use cups must be available to those who use water coolers. Students who feel ill must immediately inform a teacher.

In case a student is confirmed to have been infected with COVID-19, they must isolate at home, along with the rest of their family members for two weeks, until they are found to be infection-free. This



process must be coordinated with school management and student affairs committees. Should students not follow these rules, they will be penalised in accordance with school regulations.

In case a student or employee does develop COVID symptoms, the Directorate General of Education will take a decision on treatment in coordination with healthcare authorities in that governorate. Parents of students are also requested to make sure their children follow the required measures, and inform them of their importance.

Procedures to confirm the presence of COVID-19 are performed by a school nurse. In case a nurse is unavailable, a member of staff must give the student in question a mask and call their parents to take them to the nearest health centre.

Rules have been drawn up for administrative and teaching staff as well. These state that all bus drivers who come to school to pick up students must have been vac-

inated against COVID-19, as well as all cleaning staff working on the premises.

"All workers in the school must take precautionary and preventive measures from COVID-19," said the guidelines. "In case a teacher feels any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, they should not enter the school and must inform management of their case, ensure their safety till symptoms disappear, ensure they wear masks before entering the school, and bring a personal hand sanitiser."

Teachers and staff must also "make sure students follow precautionary measures, monitor students and identify suspicious cases in terms of appearance of symptoms, inform the associated committees, spread awareness to students about the importance of maintaining precautionary measures at the start of class, ensure precautionary measures are taken during meetings, and prohibit unnecessary groupings of teachers."

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

<FROM A1 'Participatory planning'

For example, improved public services will lead to higher living standards, a more attractive investment and business climate, a competitive economy on the local and global levels and creation of new job opportunities for Omanis.

This result-based mechanism will also contribute towards protecting the environment, fighting climate change, and promoting sustainable use of resources. Finally, these outputs overall will lead to administrative, institutional and legislative development that will create jobs, boost productivity, enhance participation and achieve good governance.

For the Plan's development, the Ministry's and the Plan's working groups were keen on applying a "participatory planning" approach and included a larger number of participants representing relevant government agencies, the private sector and civil society. This approach has made all parties equally responsible for implementing the Plan's Strategic Programmes, achieving their goals, and providing resources to address the challenges that may face implementation.

The Plan's working groups held total of 195 events including workshops and coordination and consultative meetings with focus groups. These were attended by 1,900 participants.

While developing the Strategic Programmes, the working

groups used best international approaches and practices such as selecting a specific goal from Oman Vision 2040. Once the goal was chosen, the team provided a simplified description for it and listed the best methods (collectively called a Strategic Programme) to achieve it.

The team then identified the main entity responsible for its implementation. The final step was estimating the programme's cost and implementation period.

This methodology ensured that the rules of good governance were applied in managing the programmes and their allocated resources.

Performance-based budget

The 'Strategic Programmes Folder is an important step in the transition towards performance-based budget which links the available current or development funding to outputs and tangible results. It also links the assessment of the state's administrative apparatus (individuals and institutions) performance with specific and actual programmes and results.

The Ministry is currently reviewing a follow-up and evaluation mechanism to publish a document listing performance indicators.

For this, the Ministry and the Plan's working groups are paying great attention to follow-up and evaluation principles to ensure that the Programmes are

implemented as planned. To this end, they have developed specific input and output indicators, which will also measure the final impact of the Strategic Programmes, in conjunction with performance indicators of Oman Vision 2040.

It is worth noting that Ministry of Economy, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Follow-up Unit for the Implementation of Oman Vision 2040, has prepared a simplified methodology to assist relevant ministries and stakeholders in transforming Strategic Programmes into annual plans and specific projects.

The Ministry of Economy and the 10th Five-Year Development Plan's working group are leading an ambitious programme to develop the strategic planning system by adopting result-based planning and gradual shift towards programme-based and performance-based budgeting.

These initiatives come within the framework of Oman's efforts towards achieving digital transformation, with the aim of raising efficiency of public spending, upgrading public services and utilities, improving the management and economic leadership of the Sultanate's resources, and strengthening the principles of governance, transparency and accountability to place Oman among developed countries. — **ONA**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Oman's central bank raises OMR192mn via treasury bills

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR192 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from September 22 until December 22, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.814 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.810 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.74663 per cent and 0.74802 per cent, respectively.

The treasury bills are short-term



highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The CBO acts as the Issue Manager and provides the add-

ed advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

Furthermore, the treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. — **ONA**

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Omani Cricket Club gears up to host World Cup qualifiers

The event will be hosted by the Sultanate from 17 to 21 October 2021, at the club's stadiums in the Wilayat of Al Amerat



MUSCAT: The Omani Cricket Club (OCC) announced its full readiness to receive the participants of the T-20 Cricket World Cup qualifiers.

The event will be hosted by the Sultanate from 17 to 21 October 2021, at the club's stadiums in the Wilayat of Al Amerat.

Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of Omani Cricket Club said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the club has completed all preparations to host these qualifiers in which the Sultanate,

the Republic of Bangladesh, Scotland and Papua New Guinea will take part.

He also asserted that Oman's national cricket team is working hard to win one of the two posts to qualify for the second round that will take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after the end of the qualifiers.

He further explained that the Sultanate's hosting of these qualifiers has many economic and tourism advantages as some sectors

will directly benefit from the event, such as hospitality, transportation, aviation and health care.

The tournament's live and recorded television coverage will positively impact tourism by attracting a global audience.

He added that 16 national teams will attend the T-20 World Cup qualifiers, according to the classification of the International Cricket Council (ICC), of which 8 qualified for the second round, namely: India, South Africa, Pakistan, New

Zealand, Australia, West Indies, England and Afghanistan.

On the other side, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Namibia and Netherland will play the first round qualifiers in the UAE this month. Two teams will also qualify for the second stage with the two teams that will qualify from the Sultanate group. Therefore, 12 teams will play in the second round, divided into two groups, shortly after the end of the first stage qualifiers which will continue until November 8. **ONA**

COMMENTARY

Morgan will have to lead from the front



Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

IPL kicked off on Sunday with a blockbuster game between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings but Monday's match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore is nothing short of being an El classico.

The reason being this match is between two heavyweight captains Virat Kohli of India and Eoin Morgan of England who are touted as favourites to win the T20 World Cup which is immediately after the World Cup. Both the captains would like to get off to a winning start specially Eoin Morgan whose team KKR which has just two wins out of seven games and need to win at least 5 more games to have a realistic chance of making it to the playoffs. Whereas Virat Kohli's team RCB has five wins and two losses out of their seven games.

Eoin Morgan has said that his team has nothing to lose and now are a dangerous side for any team facing them. Moreover, this might be a timely break for KKR after the struggles in India in the first phase of the tournament where they were struggling to get their team combination right.

The main issue KKR faced was that their openers could not get them to a quick fire start where both Nitish Rana and Shubman

Gill failed to complement each other. Their average power play score was below 40 which is way too less in the shortest form of cricket. Morgan will have to bring the same brand of fearless cricket in KKR as he does for team England if they have to reach the playoffs.

Rahul Tripathi for me along with Nitish Rana would be an ideal choice for opening the batting and if an early wicket falls then it has to be Sunil Narine who had a terrific CPL.

Most importantly it has to be the skipper Eoin Morgan who needs to play the anchor role where other players can bat around him especially dangerous players like Andre Russel and Dinesh Kartik to do the finishing job with a flourish. And Eoin Morgan himself is a dangerous player when he spends some time at the crease and has solid strike rate of 138.

It's about getting the right start and if skipper Morgan can lead from the front and get the right finishing from Dre Russ and Dinesh Kartik, KKR would be hard to stop.

In the first leg played in India, RCB had got the better of KKR when Glen Maxwell and Mr. 360 AB De Villiers had both gone berserk and taken the game away from KKR. Can Eoin Morgan's team turn it around in Dubai, time will tell but Eoin Morgan leading from the front will be a big boost for team KKR in the team doing well.

FOOTBALL

Pressure builds on Koeman as Barcelona rescue late point

BARCELONA: Ronald Koeman "won't answer any more questions about the future" after Ronald Araujo's injury-time header rescued a point for his poor Barcelona side against Granada.

It did little to paper over the cracks of another poor home display as the pressure continues to build on Koeman.

Centre-back Araujo, playing as a makeshift striker, found the



net right at the end of a half Barca dominated.

Granada had led from the second minute through Domingos

Duarte's header.

But having been humbled by Bayern in the Champions League last week, it will do little to lift spirits, as questions continue to be asked about Koeman's future as Barcelona boss.

And Granada will be disappointed not to have picked up a first win of the season and second victory in two seasons at the Nou Camp after dealing so well for so long with the home side's

aerial bombardment.

The final whistle was met with whistles by the home crowd, who were disappointed with the result and unimpressed by the hosts' direct style of play.

In total, Barca sent over a remarkable 45 open-play crosses in the game in search of an equaliser, with only a Sergi Roberto poked shot and Araujo header superbly saved by Luis Maximiano to show for their first-half efforts. **ONA**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2021 reaching \$72.99, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 45 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$72.54. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM30 index ended lower by 0.03 per cent to close at 4,310.85 points. MSM Sharia Index closed at 590.15 points, down by 0.09 per cent. Bank Nizwa was the most active in terms of volume while Ominvest was the most active in terms of turnover. > **B2**

Production begins at PDO's Yibal Khuff landmark facility

Spanning an area of 1.68sqkm, Yibal Khuff Project is the second largest, and most technically complex project in Petroleum Development Oman's history



STRATEGIC VALUE: Yibal Khuff Project is of a high strategic value towards meeting Oman's growing medium and long-term oil and gas demands, as well as reducing PDO's net non-associated gas import. - Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman's (PDO) Yibal Khuff Project (YKP) has started production, marking a key milestone for the landmark facility. The installation's first sour wells were opened earlier this month in-

roducing sour oil to the YKP Central Processing Facility, and the project has already started exporting crude oil to the main oil line. The plant's capacity will be ramped up over the coming months. Spanning an area of 1.68km², YKP is the second largest, and

most technically complex project in PDO's history - with COVID-19 adding another layer of complexity over the past two years of construction and commissioning activities. YKP is of a high strategic value towards meeting Oman's growing medium and long-term oil and gas

demands, as well as reducing PDO's net non-associated gas import. The mega project will be delivering, when fully operational, five million cubic metres of gas per day and around 20,000 bpd of crude. PDO Managing Director Steve Phimister said, "The YKP coming

on stream is a source of great pride for PDO. Despite the challenging environment and scale of this project, the project team was able to stay the course and deliver the project with an amazing HSE record, exceeding 46 million Lost Time Injury-free manhours. Both company and contractor staff has shown outstanding dedication and commitment to overcome many hurdles to reach this stage of the project." Around 1,200 Omanis have been employed on-site in the construction of the facilities, with a further 200 nationals deployed as fully qualified welders. Around \$400 million were also awarded to Omani companies for the provision of goods and services. This project has achieved several significant firsts, including the first to deliver the tallest column ever fabricated for PDO in Oman. This 'Made in Oman' acid gas recovery unit absorber stands at 48 metres high, four metres in diameter, and weighs 291 tonnes. It has also delivered one of PDO's first steam turbine generators, taking

the heat from some of the facilities' processes and using it to generate steam. The plant will be able to generate 13MW of electrical power, supplementing the 45MW of the Yibal Khuff Power plant. YKP Project Manager Munir Al Hammadi said, "In addition to safety, the project team maintained quality as another main driver throughout the execution of the project, ensuring an elaborate Quality Assurance and Control scheme was in place resulting in world-class quality delivery of the project. The project is also considered the first to allocate a scope for SMEs while ensuring the full development of the deployed 200 Omani welders including their re-deployment to other projects. It is worth highlighting that this team of Omani welders have managed to complete the highest diameter welds in the project. "We are very proud of this milestone and thank all the teams as well as individuals who stood up to the challenges to achieving this major milestone."

HSBC SURVEY

Rising ESG concern drives push for sustainable financing in Middle East

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Environmental and social issues have become almost universal concerns of major issuers of capital markets securities in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey region, according to the findings of an annual survey by HSBC. A full 97 per cent of issuers in the region who responded to the HSBC 2021 Sustainable Finance and Investing Survey said they had increased the attention that they pay to environmental and social issues over the past year. And in one of the starkest findings of the survey, 45 per cent of issuers said that they were already seeing the impact of climate change on their business or activities - up from just 7 per cent a year ago. Gareth Thomas, Regional Head of Global Banking for HSBC in MENAT, said, "The survey results reflect what we are seeing on the ground, that issuers and investors are valuing sustainable finance. The green agenda is here to stay and sustainable finance is pivotal to safeguarding the future of our planet. It is imperative that both investors and issuers in the Middle East continue to engage on the topic to better understand how they can capture the economic as well as environmental and social benefits."



SURVEY: A full 97 per cent of issuers in the region who responded to the HSBC 2021 Sustainable Finance and Investing Survey said they had increased the attention towards environmental and social issues over the past year. - File picture

The annual HSBC survey gathers opinions from more than 2,000 capital market issuers and institutional investors, asset allocators and asset owners worldwide, covering 19 industry sectors. It showed that 48 per cent of issuers in the Middle East rank environmental and social issues as "very important" and that, while only 6 per cent of issuers have set targets for their net-zero commitments, 78 per cent are working towards doing so. The survey shows that two of the most powerful driving forces for why both regional issuers and investors care about environmen-

tal and social issues is the same belief that it is right to care about the world and society (42 per cent), together with increasing regulatory demands for them to pay greater attention (42 per cent). The survey demonstrates three clear factors that underpin these influences. For issuers, rising pressure from employees (46 per cent) and customers (40 per cent) to care about these issues, together with regulatory demands (45 per cent), are the main reasons prompting their engagement and commitment. For investors, regulatory demands (36 per cent) and their belief it is right to care (51 per cent) are

primarily underpinning why these issues are important, together with a recognition that paying attention to these issues can improve returns and reduce risk (42 per cent). About a fifth of investors in the region say they have a firm-wide policy on responsible investing or ESG issues and 36 per cent say they intend to develop one. Investors in the region are, however, experiencing some challenges, which may be slowing their embrace. Top among those issues this year is a shortage of expertise and qualified staff - 44 per cent of investors say this is a problem for them, up from 26 per cent last year.

APPOINTMENT

Datamount Oman appoints Haitham Zadjali as Deputy CEO

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Datamount Oman, a leading data centre service provider headquartered in Muscat, has announced the appointment of Haitham Yousuf Juma Al Zadjali as its Deputy CEO. Haitham Al Zadjali took over his new role on September 19 with 20 years of experience in the government and private sector in the areas of financial management, advisory and technology project management and corporate governance. He has held senior management positions in several companies as a member of the boards of directors and the presidency and membership of committees in the financial and investment sector, oil and gas, electricity, and others. A graduate from Osmania University in India and post-graduate in Management Studies from the University of Waikato in New Zealand, Haitham would be responsible for the core business development and enhancing the scale of operations of Datamount. Abdul Hakeem Al Muslahi, the CEO of Datamount says, "We welcome Haitham Zadjali as our Deputy CEO. We are confident



that with his broad knowledge of finance and leadership skills, he would be able to take the Company closer to its vision of becoming the leading Data Centre service provider in the country. The team is excited and looks forward to working closely with him and learning from his expertise." Al Zadjali added, "I am excited about my new responsibility as the Deputy CEO of Datamount. Datamount is on the path of development and the team and management have warmly welcomed me. I look forward to working with each one of them and together we aim to put the strategic business plans to action for the company to achieve its corporate objectives."

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Payment systems experiencing intermittent interruptions: CBO



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) said that some of its payment systems are experiencing intermittent interruptions in view of a technical issue since early morning on Tuesday. The CBO has affirmed in a statement that the specialised teams are working on the issue and the services will be resumed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, CBO has directed the banks and payment services providers to process certain payment services via other alternative payment networks. - **ONA**

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• A good understanding of quality assurance, procedures and protocols.
• Excellent communication skills both verbally and written English/ Arabic.
Key Skills Required:
• Excellent co-ordination skills
• Strong presentation and communication skills, verbal and written.
• Effective planning, management and organizing skills.
• Strong interpersonal skills to work with internal teams and external suppliers and customers.
• Must possess neat and pleasant grooming habits.
• Proactive approach to problem solving.
• Change orientated to make business improvements.

If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at **oman2020marketing@gmail.com**

WE ARE HIRING
SPACE MARKETING for Online Directory
Responsibilities:
• Contact potential clients to describe advertising opportunities. This usually takes the form of cold calling over the telephone but may involve face to face contact as well.
• Contact existing clients to arrange the placement and design of advertisements they have agreed on and ensure an ongoing relationship.
• Research client needs and explain the benefits of buying advertising space, responding to any objections.
• Explain pricing costs to potential clients and negotiate a fee, if necessary.
• Account manage an existing client
to ensure their needs are satisfied and they are happy with the service.
• Work with production teams to ensure that agreed advertisements are carried in the right place and at the right time.
• Track purchases and keep record of sales, contacts and deals.
• Work to maximize sales and meet targets.
• Deliver sales reports to management.
Key Skills: Excellent telephone manner, ability to persuade clients, outgoing, and sociable
Education: Any degree, candidates with marketing background will be preferred.
If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at **oman2020marketing@gmail.com**

Freelancers and Part-timers Required
FREELANCE SALES AGENTS AND PART-TIME TELECALLERS for a reputed organization
Requirements
• Consulting with clients to understand their needs
• Guiding prospective clients through the sales process
• Providing excellent customer service
• Managing client relationships, satisfaction and expectations
Key Skills
• Availability and prompt response, ability to persuade clients, and Excellent telephone manner
Work Location Work from Home
Timing Flexible (target based)
• Calling active and budding clients to encourage the purchase of items.
• Recording all successful and unsuccessful attempts to close sales.
• Superb interpersonal, research, and record-keeping skills.
At Office
4 hours
If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at **oman2020marketing@gmail.com**

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classifieds@timesofoman.com
Tel: 24726666
Ext: 465 / 431 / 456

CONNECT

JOB VACANCIES

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Salesman Spare Parts

Mechanic
(Brake Lining, Fixing)

Diesel Mechanic

Expats Candidate, Must have at least 3 years of Experience in similar field.

Forward your CVs to
Email: elmech@altaher.com

PARTNER NEEDED

Required Investing Partner to Start a Construction Company & also to Start Various other Construction Related Businesses, for a Very well Experienced Senior Engineering Professional.

Please Contact
E Mail: requiredpartners@gmail.com
Mob: 98976595

Urgently Required

Indian Cook

For Private Family, with experience in Arabic and Indian cuisine.

Please contact
99735820

REQUIRED KEY ACCOUNTS SALES EXCECUTIVE

Urgently required, **Key Accounts Sales Executive** with FMCG experience and Oman D/L.

Email:
createlife058@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

A leading company **requires Executive office Assistant (Female-only Omani)** with experience in related field. Well versed with English, basic communication skills, computer knowledge. Send the resume at: hr.mus18@gmail.com

BEAUTY/HEALTH

Wanted Assistant Beautician.
Contact 97581236

MEDICAL

Urgently required well experienced General Practitioner/Family Physician, M.D Microbiologist, Gynecologist, Orthodontist, Nurses & Lab Technicians. Preferably with MOH License. Salalah, Oman. Contact +968 95773456
Email: hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com

Wanted MOH licensed Female nurse for immediate appointment in a reputed Clinic at capital region. Pls Contact . 99335361

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking For **Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter and Office Staff.**
Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

MANAGER

A Real Estate company requires Supervisor for property maintenance, with minimum 5 years experience in Oman , well versed with Arabic and English (speaking) , holder of valid. Omani Driving license. Please send CV to: m.elgazery@ap-oman.com / mail@abdullamukadam.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Looking for Optics Tehnician with experience,speak Arabic & English.
Contact +968 95766844

NOTICE

I Sandeepkumar Subhash Sheregar (holder of indian passport no. S3095741) son of Subashchandra Annayya Sheregar having permanent residence in #306/7 kavari nilaya manjunatha sheregar house near chakreshwari temple kodi kundapura Udupi Karnataka -576217(complete postal address in india) and presently residing in PO BOX 946 code 133 Al Khuwair Muscat Sultanate of Oman (complete postal address in oman)intend to change my name from **SANDEEP-KUMAR SUBHASA SHEREGAR** (old name) To **SANDEEPKUMAR SUBASHCHANDRA SHEREGAR** (new name) for all practical purpose any objection towards my name may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat diplomatic quarters Al Khuwair Pbox 1727 postal code 112 Ruwi Sultanate of Oman.

SALES/MARKETING

Available vacancies for **Young and Energetic Salesmen** in the field of textile trading for well reputed company to recruit urgently.
Email: sendcv.om@gmail.com

Wanted for reputed Company in Oman, **Marketing Executive** - 02 nos Urgently required young and energetic marketing executive with Omani driving license for a reputed fiber-glass company in Oman.Please share the cv to: hrrmct2019@gmail.com or 96500844

Urgently required young & energetic **Sales Executive** with Omani DL for a reputed MNC. Location - Muscat, Contact 96545020

JOB WANTED

Experience HSE (Omani)

Bachelor's degree from applied science of nazwa & Iosh, NEBOSH holder.
5 years experience in HSE

Contact +96897006343
Email: abdulaziz.9222@hotmail.com

GM/CEO (Civil Main Contracting firm)

Indian (BE Civil 30 yrs Gulf experience in Construction of Hotels / Hospitals / Industrial Projects looking for job.

Call/Whatsapp 00971527960054
Email: QSCIVIL@YAHOO.COM

GM/CEO (Civil Main Contracting firm)

Indian (BE Civil 30 yrs Gulf experience in Construction of Hotels / Hospitals / Industrial Projects looking for job.

Call/Whatsapp 00971527960054
Email: QSCIVIL@YAHOO.COM

JOB WANTED

HR/ADMIN

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

CONTACT 79285929

GROUP FINANCE MANAGER

with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement

Contact 92578435
Email: 1974KSD@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male Accountant available for instant joining: Having B.com higher grade graduation with 6 years of acquaintance and comprehension on major accounting platforms,well versed in Microsoft and profound communication skills, NOC Available.

Contact No: +968-94649272
Email: sherin.am01@gmail.com

Graduate in B.A

Specialized in Marketing & Advertising, Content Copywriting and Graphic Designing, excellent communication & technical skills.

Indian female with valid driving license currently on family visa. Looking for suitable placement.

Contact 92550471/96736832

Projects Manager

Indian Male, having 12 years of Experience in Oman, presently working as Projects Manager, NOC available.

Contact 92636569
Email: nisarg_shah35@yahoo.com

Business Management

Syrian Female seeking suitable placement with Bachelor in Business Management, 6 years experience in Accounting, Finance, Administration, Office Coordinator with excellent communication skills in Arabic & English. Family Visa with valid D/L.

Pls contact 91917771

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP Manager

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

Contact: +96899075683
allirod1975@gmail.com

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Also having Experience in Education Industry (India) in a senior Management Position. Presently in Muscat (family visa).

Contact 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies.

Contact Number # 78556829

SR CIVIL ENGINEER / PROJECT MANAGER

Graduate male over 23yrs exp in Oman & India Handled Ministry & Pvt Projects looking for suitable job. DL & NOC available.

Mob: +919150861939
email: sanja_bala@yahoo.co.in

HSE/ PRO/ADMIN/DRIVER/DEBT Collection

Omani 37 yrs, second secondary, 6 courses in health and safety, public relation and debt collection, Driving license for 19 yrs. Languages known Arabic, English. Resident in al Khuwair.

Contact 99340475
Email: saidzadjali@gmail.com

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

Senior Management

Indian Male, 45 Yrs. MBA Marketing, having 20+ years experience (7 yrs Gulf) looking for suitable Senior Management position in Purchase, Contracts, Supply Chain Management. Oman DL & NOC available.

Contact No. 97228393

ADMIN / FINANCE

Indian male, MBA (Finance), having D/L, 22 years exp in finalization in Accounts, Internal auditing, MIS and Admin in various sectors. 15 years exp in Gulf & 13 Years in Oman looking for a suitable SR position.

GSM: 96974637
Email: goutam14b@gmail.com

Management Professional with Business Development Experience

Looking for suitable placement

Worked in Diversified Business Conglomerate, Oil & Gas and Construction Industry. Long journey in Oman with progressive career growth. Professional experience in Sales, Administration, Business Development, Project Management and Overall Company Management. Dual Masters in Oil & Gas Management and International Business with PMP Certification. NOC with Local Transfer is available.

GSM: +968 9943 8477 / e-mail: harimct@gmail.com

Chemical Engineering

Knowledge of quality control, process control, simulation, refinery operations with GCC resident visa and a valid GCC D/L. Currently doing Nebosh IGC course seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 72201210/93379169
Email: waasifkaruthedath@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male 39 years, B.com, having 14 years Gulf experience as Accountant. Looking for suitable placement. Having Oman driving license and NOC available.

Contact: 97998397
Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

OPERATIONS AND INVENTORY CONTROLLER

INDIAN MALE WITH +20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN SUPPLY CHAIN, PURCHASE, SALES & DISTRIBUTION, MIS, INVENTORY & CREDIT CONTROL SEEKS PLACEMENT.

CONTACT 94619442, vineeth33@yahoo.com

Chemist (Quality Controller) (BSC. Chemistry)

25 Years Exp in Testing and analysis of raw, intermediate & finished products, Calibrating lab instruments, compiling reports. Looking suitable placement. Having Oman driving licence.

Contact No. Oman-96359802, India+91 9400032844, Email: mollythomas53@rediffmail.com

INDIAN HSE ASSISTANT

Indian Male, 24 Yrs. Diploma in fire and safety. Having 2 years' experience in India. looking for HSE assistant jobs. Currently available in Oman. NOC available.

GSM 92166848 / 94110108

ADMINISTRATION

39-year Indian HR professional (MBA-HR) 14 yrs Exp (HR/SAP/Admin) with Oman DL & NOC. Seeking suitable openings in Human Resource & Admin jobs.

Contact: +968-78539053
Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Experienced Senior Accountant (15 years in Oman) looking for senior-level post. Ready to join immediately. NOC available. Contact 78581435

Part time Accounts doing up to finalization seeking Job
Contact 79102100

43 yrs Male B-Com 19 yrs of Exp in Accounts (17 yrs in Oman) until finalisation. Currently working in a reputed company. Contact 95349498

Female ACCA qualified member, 4+ years work experience in Oman, D/L, NOC available, looking to join a finance or accounts team. Contact 95785272

Male, CFA level 2 candidate, 3+ years work experience in Finance sector, D/L, NOC available, looking to join a finance team. Contact 96902962

Indian male Senior Accountant with 18 years of experience in accounts and finance up to finalisation with Tally ERP 9 & Focus, holding a D/L. Contact 99716207

Indian male Accountant with 8 years exp in GCC (4 Years in Oman), doing up to finalization of Accounts, Looking for suitable placement, Oman D/L & NOC available, Mob: 93849217, Email: ishaque150@gmail.com

Accountant, B.com with 6 years experience in Accounts and Logistics in Oman, seeks immediate placement. NOC available. Please Contact 95308342 or Email: jithujithin05@gmail.com

Indian Male M.Com with over 19 years of experience in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening. NOC available. Contact 92334161
Email: sibumat@yahoo.com

Accountant, Indian Male B.com. 26 yrs old, 3yrs experience in Oman. Experienced in tally, now in Employment visa. NOC available. Contact 94601607

Canadian, male, Economics and Finance graduate, 3years experience in Canada as retail manager in a well reputed company. Seeking suitable placement. Contact 94203032
E-mail: abdul.azzu@gmail.com

CPA qualified, ACCA professional level accountant with 7 years experience available for finance/senior accountant position in Muscat, Oman. Contact 99254310
Email: maazsarwar_@hotmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Indian Female MBA (HR), PGDBM, B.E. 7 Yrs. of experience in HR & Administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L. Looking for suitable placement. Call 92474376

Indian male having 20+ years' experience in Oman seeks suitable job in HR/Admin. Contact 95425764

Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years rich Oman experience in EPC, Media, Healthcare, Aviation. NOC. Contact 99283938

Research & Administrative Assistant, Recruiter and Co-ordinator, M.Sc in Sustainable Development with 12 plus years of experience, Female, Indian, looking for employment. Contact 98260708.

Indian Male MBA, working since 16 years in Oman with Tech. Documentation, Leasing / Admin Coordination experiences looking for suitable placement with D/L (Own Car) and NOC. Contact 79859447

Indian female having 14yrs experience to handle Admin/Secretary/ Executive Secretary/Accountant-Office Co-ordinator or any suitable office post. Resume will be send on request. Contact 78548002

Indian Female, Msc. (Mathematics) looking for suitable job position. Ready to join immediately, currently in Oman. Contact 91169195
Email: jeenabinoj@gmail.com

ENGINEER

B Tech, Mechanical Engineer, 32 Indian Male, having 7+ years experience in Technical Sales, Design and Execution in Oman. Currently on visit visa. Looking for a suitable position. Contact 99654650

B.E civil engineer having 13 yrs Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact 72132426

Indian male BE civil engineer 4+ yr experience in site execution, quantity survey, autocad. NOC available. Contact 94194752

B.Tech Mechanical Engineer Graduated (2021) from VIT-Vellore(TN) India looking for suitable job to build a career while contributing to the organisation. Contact 78525667 / 24992407

B.E civil engineer having 13 yrs of Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact 91731098

Graduate Civil Engineer having 25 yrs+ exp. seeking suitable placement (Consultancy/Contracting firm)-exp in buildings (commercial/residential/head quarters) infrastructure ,waterline, refinery/plant. available to join immediately. Omani D/L & NOC is available. Contact 92671539

B.Tech, Civil & MBA, 4yrs experience in Oman as a service coordinator/sales post. Currently working Oman. Contact 79275813

Structural Engineer 7 yrs consultancy exp. In Oman with D/L. Contact 94340408

DRIVER

Looking for driving job with NOC. Contact 97095200

Indian Driver (Kerala) looking for driver job. Contact 79896629

HOSPITALITY

Srilankan with 5 yrs experience in Rotana Dubai as Room attendant seeks job in housekeeping,office boy,helper,roomboy,watchman.Contact 92806514

IT

Lady Informatics Engineering, website development and design for both (frontend and backend)with platform WordPress, 2 years experience, available visa in Oman, GSM 96097995

Over 13 years retail experienced IT professional looking for suitable placements in IT technical/inventory positions. NOC available. Can join immediately. Contact +91-9847731912, dino.davis2@icloud.com

IT, Profession MCA, MBA-System & Network administration with 15 years of GCC experience, looking for suitable openings. Contact 92640206
Email: afdcruz21@gmail.com

HSE Advisor

Omani HSE Advisor, 5 yrs experience seeks placement.

Contact +96879990740
Email: mundhirsaidalrashdi@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

MEDICAL

A Senior general physician with valid MOH licence, data flow, prometric, ACLS BLS certificates looking for a suitable placement in Muscat area. NOC available from current employer. Whatsapp 91465358

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Inventory, purchase, sales Indian male 30, having 8 years experience in retail, F&B operations, accounting and various other skills, NOC available. Contact 96219904
Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

Purchase, Procurement,Logistics & Stores professional, more than 25 years experience having very good knowledge in Construction, Mechanical & Commercial materials, looking for immediate openings. NOC & DL available. Contact 99276414. Email: shettigarthulsidhar@gmail.com

Indian male, B.Com 11 years purchase & procurement experience in Oman with valid D/L & NOC looking for a suitable position. # 94038075

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* Subject to space availability



LIFESTYLE

SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT USING THESE 5 TIPS



Have you ever had a night where you are exhausted but end up staying wide awake in bed, waiting for your alarm clock until it goes off? Difficulties falling or staying asleep isn't an uncommon issue — far from it. Never forget that sleep is vital to the health of your body, allowing your system to heal and reset, before the next day.

If you're one of the many adults who has trouble sleeping, and are instead left tossing and turning every night, then don't ignore the situation. It's important to prioritise your sleep, as it can have an impact on all other facets of your life — including your health. Don't let yourself view sleep as a luxury, as this is far from the case.

Whether you feel guilty sleeping rather than working, or if you overthink at night and can't fall asleep, here are some tips to help you fall asleep and stay asleep.

1 Stop scrolling on your phone and turn off the TV

You've probably heard this one many times before, yet many people simply don't abide by it. After all, considering how integrated our tiny pocket computers can be in our day-to-day lives, it may be second nature to thoughtlessly begin scrolling through social media. Still, the truth is that this can seriously impair your ability to sleep, even more than you might realise.

Why is this, though? Well, both your cell phone and other screens (such as TV or computer screens) emit something known as blue light. When your brain is exposed to blue light, you're effectively tricking it into thinking that it's still daytime. Even if you're unaware of this happening, late-night screen time is essentially forbidding your brain from powering down. Instead, it's being continuously forced to power back up, whenever you're entrenched in what's on your screen. Your mind is effectively being told to keep you awake — obviously, this is incredibly counterproductive, if

you're trying to sleep better and fall asleep more easily.

Once the evening arrives, try to begin limiting your use of electronics. If you need something new to do that can actually help relax your mind and prepare you for sleep, consider picking up a book or going on a long, leisurely walk. Around an hour before bedtime, try to avoid electronic devices and screens, entirely. This way, you're giving your brain the time it needs to power down and fall asleep with ease.

2 Cut back on caffeine or other foods that limit sleep

This is another one that you've probably heard many times before, but still might not be taking all that seriously. So, it's certainly a point worth reinforcing since it can take a genuine toll on your ability to fall and stay asleep.

To start, caffeine consumption can do significant damage to your sleep schedule, especially when consumed close to bedtime. If you can, try your best to either cut back on or cut out caffeine for the sake of better sleep....

Caffeine, as many of us know

all too well, is meant to keep our minds sharp and alert. If you're drinking a cup of coffee in the morning to wake yourself up and prepare for the day, it's probably not the best idea to consume caffeine throughout the rest of your day, especially in the evening. As the day rolls on, try to begin limiting your caffeine consumption — even if it's still hours before you'll be heading to bed.

Even if you feel that caffeine doesn't affect you, you could be surprised to discover the impact it's actually having on you and your sleep. Try cutting it out of your diet and see how that impacts your sleep.

Additionally, try to avoid heavy meals too close to bedtime. Simply consuming a heavy meal can keep you awake, and should be avoided in the evenings, for the sake of your sleep. You should give your body a little time to process your final meal before hitting the hay.

3 Plan out your sleep schedule

Having a consistent sleep schedule can do wonders for the quality of sleep you're getting — perhaps even more than you

might have realised. Establishing a routine can be incredibly useful when it comes to training our bodies to fall asleep at the proper time.

Not sure where to start? Try developing a consistent sleep schedule, and giving it a shot for just two weeks. Determine the time you'd like to be in bed, and then stick to it, each and every night. You'll also need to pick a consistent time to wake up each morning. Even on the weekends, it's a good idea to stick to this set schedule, in order to really drive this routine home. You'll be thanking yourself for this during the weekdays, when it's easier than ever to fall asleep and stay asleep, due to your commitment to a sleep schedule. If you like to snooze late on weekends, this can be a little tough but necessary for your health.

In truth, the human body thrives on schedules and is easily able to develop and adhere to routines. Take full advantage of this fact, whenever you're searching for an easier way to fall asleep each night.

Most importantly, according to experts, it takes a minimum of two weeks to effectively start or break a habit. So, if you're going to

strive for a more consistent sleep schedule, don't give up after just a few days if it isn't helping you to sleep any better. Try sticking to your new sleep routine for at least a couple of weeks, rather than trashing the idea within a week.

4 Try meditation or journaling

Some people may roll their eyes at this idea, which is unfortunate because, in reality, meditation and journaling can be incredibly simple and effective ways to improve the quality of the sleep you're getting (and many other facets of life).

As you probably already know, when we're trying to fall asleep, it's all too easy for our brains to begin digging up random (and sometimes stressful or unpleasant) thoughts. These thoughts can be anything, from your plans for tomorrow, to what you forgot to do today, to that one confusing comment someone made this morning, to why you still hate your high school significant other, and so on. These thoughts might not have plagued you during the daytime, but as you're drifting off to sleep, they seem to come out of nowhere.

Don't let these thoughts bounce around in your brain, overwhelming you and making it far more difficult to just fall asleep. Instead, try dumping all of these hectic thoughts onto paper, before you even lie down to go to bed. By writing down all of your thoughts, you're helping yourself to clear your mind, so that you no longer need to ruminate so aggressively. This can help you to fall asleep more peacefully and without so much interruption.

Journaling can also be therapeutic, which is yet another reason it's a habit worth taking up, for your own health and wellness. If you're feeling upset or distraught about something that happened to you in the past, so much so that you can't seem to stop thinking about it, writing it down can help you to process it. Then you'll be able to feel better as you work to process trauma or negative emotions, as well as sleep better. Really, it's a win-win.

Meditating can have a very similar effect as well. All it takes is ten minutes or so of meditation to help calm a person down, helping them to enter a freshly relaxed state. Once you're in this relaxed state, it may be easier for you to quiet your mind and fall asleep.

5 Give aromatherapy a shot

If you've never tried out essential oils and a diffuser, then now might be the perfect time to give it a shot. Certain essential oils, such as lavender and sage, have been shown to aid in sleep and relaxation. In fact, there are a number of studies showing that lavender can help improve sleep quality, as well as alleviate various symptoms associated with restlessness and even mild insomnia.

All you need to do is get a hold of a diffuser and add in some lavender oil. Alternatively, you can mix lavender essential oil with water. Put this diluted, but fresh-smelling, mixture into a spray bottle, and spritz it around your bed each night.

FEATURE

AL MOUJ MUSCAT MARATHON SET TO TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 11 AND 12, 2022

AL MOUJ Muscat Marathon, the biggest running event in the Sultanate, is all set to take place in 2022, bringing to the fore the importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle. While the 2021 event could not be held due to the pandemic, the latest edition comes at a time when people are reassessing their lifestyle choices while opting for a healthier approach. The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon will be held over the weekend of February 11 and 12, 2022 at Oman's leading lifestyle and leisure destination.

The details of the new edition have been unveiled at a press conference attended by representatives from Al Mouj Muscat, Oman Sail and Sabco Sports. The vibrant and ever-growing lifestyle destination, Al Mouj Muscat, pledged its support for the sixth time as title sponsor, based on a commitment to further contributing to tourism and sport tourism in the Sultanate, providing an avenue for SMEs to stimulate their income and showcase their products and services to a wider audience, as well as complementing the promise of vibrant lifestyle to residents.

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat said, "The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is a great match for our values to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for both residents and visitors of Al Mouj Muscat. In 2022, runners from across Oman and around the world will enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the destination and be a part of a festival which will cater to a variety of ages, fitness levels and experience."

Leading agency

Oman Sail has passed the baton to Sabco Sports, the Sultanate's leading sports agency to take the renowned sporting event to the next level and continue its positive trajectory of growth.

"Oman Sail took over management of the annual Al Mouj Muscat Marathon in 2017 from Muscat Road Runners, and successfully registered in excess of 10,000 runners from over 100 countries last year. It has planted the seeds of growth, nurturing its appeal with recognised international standards and based on a commitment to benefit the local private sector we have given the management to leading sports entity, Sabco Sports," said Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, CEO, Oman Sail. "Al Mouj Muscat Marathon has built a reputation and a loyal fan base within Oman, and we are confident that the upcoming edition will bring even more members of the community to start running and get fit and will also attract an international audience to visit Oman and experience an authentic experience," he added.

Over the years, the event has seen a steady increase in the number of participants making Muscat Marathon one of the most anticipated events of Muscat's sporting calendar. Al Mouj Muscat Marathon will continue to be the torchbearer of health and fitness, encouraging more people to get into an active lifestyle while directly aligned with Vision 2040, which aims to set up a culture of sustainable healthy society where health is everyone's responsibility.

The 2022 Al Mouj Muscat Marathon will feature seven race distances: Marathon – 42.2km; Half Marathon – 21.1km; 10km; 5km; 3km; 2km and 1km. The Marathon, Half Marathon and 10 km will be held on Friday, February 11, while the 5km and Kids' races are scheduled to held on Saturday, February 12.

The 2020 edition had close to



The 2022 Al Mouj Muscat Marathon will feature seven race distances: Marathon – 42.2km; Half Marathon – 21.1km; 10km; 5km; 3km; 2km and 1km. The Marathon, Half Marathon and 10 km will be held on Friday, February 11, while the 5km and Kids' races are scheduled to held on Saturday, February 12.



11,000 participants, and the 2022 Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is expected to attract a large number of participants. The organisers are diligently working towards creating an environment where all safety protocols are in place during the event and in close coordination with the government authorities who are taking all

measures to ensure Covid-19 is under control in the country by the end of the year. The marathon will be open only to fully vaccinated participants.

"Sabco Sports and Sabco Group are proud to be working with Oman Sail and Al Mouj Muscat on continuing to build the Muscat Marathon into a world class event that

inspires the country to a healthier and more athletic lifestyle," said Sayyid Aymen Al Busaidi, Vice Chairman of Sabco Group.

All information about Al Mouj Muscat Marathon as well as registration details are available on www.muscatmarathon.om.

ROUND-UP

Dhofar Automotive signs agreement with Juventus Football Academy

The agreement stems from the extension of the international Juventus shirt sponsorship with Jeep until 2023/24



MUSCAT: Dhofar Automotive, the official distributor of Jeep vehicles in the Sultanate, announced a sponsorship agreement with the Juventus Football Academy in Oman, which began in September, for one year.

The Juventus Football Academy is the largest international academy that trains children on the

skills of football, a popular sport in the Sultanate. The agreement stems from the extension of the international Juventus shirt sponsorship with Jeep until 2023/24.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Biju Luckose, Head of Sales & Marketing at Dhofar Automotive, said, "The Jeep brand, with its legendary four-wheel drive capabilities and vast history, has proven itself as an icon that expresses freedom. The ability to push boundaries and determination to succeed in everyday tasks are values that have brought Jeep and Juventus together for eight seasons.

"As the world gradually takes steps to return to normal, we are pleased to be a part of an effort to encourage a way to move forward and start again, while ensuring that our customers stay true to

their passion. The renewal of our contract sponsorship with Juventus is a testament of our role towards enriching the spirit of passion and freedom by supporting and motivating young children to practice their beloved sport through physical and mental development on the field."

"Throughout our sponsorship, football fans within the Sultanate will see the Jeep logo tagged on the Academy players' clothes as well as visibility at Juventus Academy Oman's stadium in Al Khuwair and Al Mouj Seeb, stands and dressing rooms.

"This is in addition to our Jeep models being displayed during matches, events, and other activities. Moreover, our sponsorship aims to showcase the incredible driving features of the Jeep brand, across our wide range of models, all of which are renowned for their strength and tenacity off-road. We look forward to enabling the public to enjoy their favourite sport in an atmosphere that is fun, passionate, and exciting, which are values upheld by Jeep, while also showcasing the brand's extraordinary features," he added.

Operational in the Sultanate for 8 years, the Juventus Academy's objective of producing 'people before players' are based on developing a generation of professional players by focusing on young children. The academy has trained over 15,000 players, preparing to develop their skills to build a football foundation that contributes towards increasing the number of football players and professionals.

Highlighting this step and the support extended by Dhofar Automotive, Davis Rizzolo, Director from Juventus Football Academy in Oman said, "At Juventus Academy, we have seen the immense success of our activities through our partnership with Jeep. This has led to widespread interest among Jeep owners to follow and be a part of our various training programs. We would like to warmly thank Dhofar Automotive for its sponsorship and look forward to its success. Through our collaboration, we can motivate a new generation to take up and practice their favourite hobby, develop skills and create future professional players."

COMPETITION

Injaz Oman picks 'Student Company' programme winners

MUSCAT: Injaz Oman announced the names of the winning companies in the 10th of the 'Student Company' programme and competition on September 20.

The ceremony was held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center (OCEC) under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahr Al Said, Special Envoy to His Majesty the Sultan, alongside many highnesses and excellencies, as well as senior officials from the public and private institutions participating in the programme.

The final results of the competition are as follows. On the college level, sponsored by the Zubair Corporation, T2C company won the award for the Best Student Company in the Sultanate for 2021

to represent the Sultanate in the regional competition, sponsored by The Zubair Corporation. Korea Motiv won the award for the best sustainable product, also sponsored by The Zubair Corporation, and Thaara winning the award for the best innovative product, sponsored by Boeing.

On the school level, sponsored by Ominvest, Hirfa won the award for the Best Student Company, Ajwan won the award for the best sustainable product and Purex won the award for the best innovative product. For the sub-awards category sponsored by Boeing, Boon was the winner of the 'Elevator Pitch' award, which saw an innovative demonstration of the idea in just 90 seconds.



Commenting on The Zubair Corporation's sponsorship of the competition, Rashad Al Zubair, Chairman of the Corporation's Board of Director's stated, "Supporting and nurturing entrepreneurs has always

been a key strategic objective of The Zubair Corporation, reflecting our role and contribution to society. Therefore, our initiative to sponsor this competition, organised by Injaz Oman, seeks to promote and spread the culture of entrepreneurship among youth in the Sultanate."

"Through our partnership with Injaz Oman, we are keen to support participating student companies and enable them to transform their ideas into projects that can be implemented on-ground. We extend our warmest congratulations to all the winners and wish them a bright future towards further progress and achievements," he added.

Khawla Al Harthiya, CEO of Injaz Oman, said, "This year, we witnessed fierce competition from the participating student companies. Despite the difficult conditions imposed over this year due to health conditions, we were able to overcome the current situation by utilising modern technologies. This way we were able to help students present their projects and encourage them to develop their creative ideas."

"Thankfully, we are conducting the ceremony to honour the winners, whose victories were well-deserved, alongside all the participating students and organisers. We congratulate all the winning companies of the 10th edition of the programme and wish them continued success," she added.

The jury panel for the competition this year included several specialised experts, namely Adel Al Hubaishi, Executive Manager of the Zubair Small Enterprise Centre (Zubair SEC), Majid Al Amri, CEO of Thawani Technologies, Abdullah Al Saidi, CEO of Nafath Renewable Energy and Abdullah Al Abri, CEO of Makers of Progress.

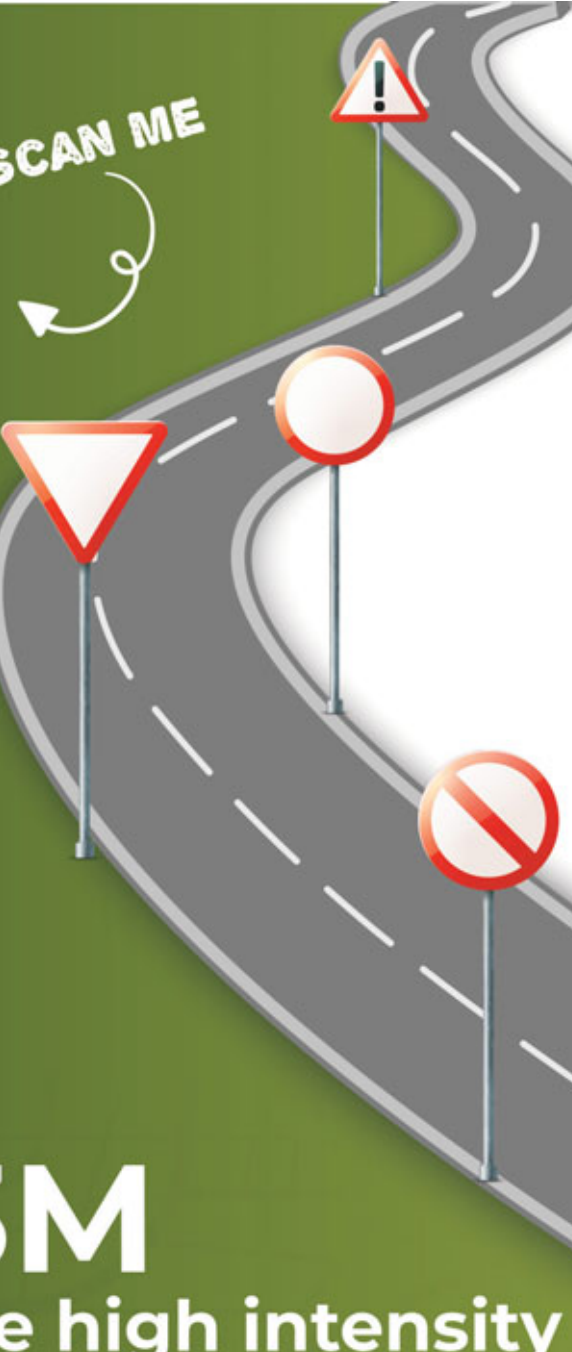


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ROUND-UP

BP Oman and Outward Bound Oman conclude ‘Discovery Course’ initiative

The course aimed to equip 320 young Omanis, both females and males, from the ages of 13 to 15 with critical skills that enable self-confidence and development using a series of exciting activities

MUSCAT: In partnership with BP Oman, Outward Bound Oman, a not-for-profit educational training provider, has concluded the ‘Discovery Course’ programme with a closing ceremony held under the

auspices of His Highness Sayyid Faher bin Fatik Al Said. The ceremony was also attended by Bill Murray, British Ambassador in Oman and Eng. Yousof Al Ojaili, President of BP Oman. The



course was a one-day course in the new Outward Bound Oman Muscat Training Centre in Al Khoudh. The course aimed to equip 320 young Omanis, both females and

males, from the ages of 13 to 15 with critical skills that enable self-confidence and development using a series of exciting activities. Shamsa Al-Rawahi, BP Oman

Social Investment Manager, commented, “We believe our youth are gifted with great talents that we can nurture and grow. Our partnership with Outward Bound Oman began in 2014 and grew over the years to develop the skills and talent of 1,832 young Omanis through 68 various self-development related courses targeting different groups.” Mark Evans, Executive Director of Outward Bound Oman, further added: “Oman was the first country in the Arabic speaking world to embrace the Outward Bound style of learning, and what a great success it has been in helping develop the talent of nearly 17,000 people. Many of them are supported by BP Oman’s visionary social in-

vestment programme. With our third national training centre due to open next month, we will gain the capacity to train and develop further talent. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with bp Oman in the coming years to support His Majesty’s vision to prepare young Omani people to enter the workplace.” Outward Bound Oman was first established in the UK in 1941 and now operates in 33 countries around the world with Oman being the first Arabic speaking nation to set up an Outward-Bound operation. Since its establishment in 2009, it has delivered training for nearly 17,000 individuals, helping them become more confident and capable individuals in society.

PRIVILEGE BANKING

Bank Muscat’s Al Jawhar Privilege Banking well received by customers

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat’s Al Jawhar Privilege Banking continues to be well received by the bank’s customers across the Sultanate. Designed to elevate Privilege Banking to unparalleled heights, Al Jawhar opens a world of opportunities with a number of services and benefits that makes the banking experience truly rewarding for its exclusive clientele in Oman. Speaking on the occasion, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, said, “As a prolific innovator of banking products and services in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat has been continuously launching new products and services in response to customer feedback and global banking trends. Our Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers enjoy an excellent banking experience based on Recognition, Rewards and Solutions. We request all our valued customers to take full advantage of these innovative services and features, and look forward to warmly welcoming new customers to the joys of Privilege Banking in the future.”



Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the ‘VISA Xperience App’ on their smartphones. They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of OMR800, the chance to win a fixed salary prize of OMR 500 every month for a year as well as other exclusive and high-value Al Mazyna prizes that are especially reserved for them in the new 2021 Al Mazyna scheme. Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers who maintain a minimum balance of OMR 10,000 in their accounts are eligible to win one

of the 20 monthly prizes of OMR 5,000 each. Al Jawhar customers are also eligible to participate in the special draws for 10 prizes of OMR 20,000 each during the Mid-year and End of Year draws. In all, 340 high-value prizes worth more than OMR 2.1 million have been reserved for Al Jawhar customers in 2021. Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit cardholders will be delighted to know that they will receive 1% cashback as a reward for their local and international purchases. They can also make high-value purchases from a number of local merchants and pay for these purchases in 12 monthly instalments at 0% interest through the bank’s Easy Payment Plan. Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit Cardholders can access 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to the lounges at Muscat and Salalah airport. Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit Cardholders are also eligible for a complimentary Dragon Pass and a ‘Meet and Greet’ service with a 15% discount at over 450 global destinations. Al Jawhar VISA credit cards

allow customers to enjoy the best in class complimentary travel insurance which include includes travel accident insurance as well as insurance for lost baggage and money, cancellation, travel delay, delayed baggage, personal liability, legal expenses and loss of passport and access to free medical and legal referral services worldwide. To extend more innovative benefits to its customers, Bank Muscat has been conducting several special promotions earlier this year. These included a waiver of first-year fees on primary and supplementary Al Jawhar Platinum credit cards as well as a referral scheme, which gave customers a chance to earn up to OMR 5,000 by simply referring friends and family members for Al Jawhar Privilege Banking. The bank is also offering discounts on annual rental fees on safe deposit lockers to all existing and new Al Jawhar customers. Going forward, the bank has announced that it will continue to innovate and launch new features and services to benefit its Privilege Banking customers even more.

EUROPEAN PRODUCT DESIGN AWARD 2021



MC20 wins ‘Product Design of the Year’

MODENA: The MC20 has received the award for ‘Product Design of the Year’ 2021 from the European Product Design Award. The new Maserati super sports car also was honoured with ‘Top Design Winner’ in Transportation/Auto/Truck/Mobile Home and ‘Winner in Transportation/Other Transportation Design’ categories. The European Product Design Award is a design competition created to recognize the efforts of talented international product designers. Thousands of design projects from every corner of the

globe are vetted and evaluated by the jury panel to select the most aesthetically exciting, functional, and innovative products. Klaus Busse, Maserati Head of Design, said, “Our mission was to design a car that would be remembered in the future as the model that launched the Maserati New Era. And I think we’ve achieved our goal with MC20. We are honoured to receive this coveted accolade, which recognises the work of an entire team, who have made a wholehearted commitment to this unique project.”

SUPPORT

Sohar International to be ‘Digital Transformation Partner’ at New Age Banking Summit Oman

MUSCAT: Leading innovation in Oman’s banking industry with effective futuristic strategies; Sohar International is slated to be the Digital Transformation Partner at the New Age Banking Summit Oman. In line with Oman Vision 2040 which emphasises promoting digitalisation in the country, Sohar International has leveraged technological advancements to innovate its processes, introduce new products and increase customer engagement. The bank’s customer-first approach is underlined by a strong digital transformation roadmap that ensures the highest levels of security in all its banking transactions. The sixth edition of New Age Banking Summit Oman will be held today this year at the Majan Ballroom in Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Muscat. The event, which will be hosted by Sheikh Salim bin Mustahail Al Mashani and supported by Oman Banks Association, will honour Tahir Al Amri, Executive President, Central Bank of Oman as the chief guest and keynote speaker. The event will also be attended by senior-to-mid level bankers, Fin-

tech experts, finance and investment professionals, insurance experts and business consultants. Commenting on Sohar International’s sponsorship of this relevant event, Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International said, “Oman’s banking sector has been transforming in sync with the path-breaking changes seen globally with the adoption of new technologies to better customer service. The New Age Banking Summit is a great platform that brings together industry stalwarts to discuss and enlighten the audience of the many facets of change that the banking and finance industry is presently undergoing. As the Digital Transformation Partner, Sohar International will be seen sharing from its experience of implementing key technological projects that have not only contributed internally to automate and create efficiencies but more importantly towards the overall experience of customers and stakeholders in general. In fact, our Transformation Division has been created to enable positive change underscored by the bank’s vision of digitalisation.” The event will feature a panel

discussion on the topic ‘Driving Innovation and Transformation in Financial Services’ which will witness the active participation of Ewan John MacLeod, Chief Transformation office, Sohar International. Addressing the changing financial services landscape due to rapidly altering market dynamics, the panel discussion will focus on digital transformation to meet the evolving needs of customers, discuss business sustainability and ways to achieve financial inclusion. “With our vision set firm, we aim to continue to play a pivotal role in Oman’s economic development by supporting events and forums such as the New Age Banking Summit Oman, that are vital to the business sector, and overall economic landscape of the nation in the long run. Our sponsorship and participation in the event is in tandem with this philosophy and has helped provide us, as well as the industry, with salient insights and updates. We endeavour to continue to be a catalyst in enhancing the community’s well-being and development in various fields; while providing them with ‘winning’ propositions to achieve any goal,” added Ahmed Al Musalmi.

PROMOTION

Win your new Kia Cerato with benefits

MUSCAT: Kia in Oman recently launched the new 22 MY Cerato. The new Cerato is sports-inspired and driver-centric, built on Kia’s experience-orientated platform. With a modern, cutting-edge appearance, the new Cerato’s introduction sees a facelifted, sport-inspired design that brings the brand’s advanced safety functions and hi-tech features to a car with a dynamic stance. The new Cerato is now available with the year’s most exciting campaign from Kia. Win your new Cerato back instantly through the Scratch & Win offer, or pay only 50% for your car back, or a chance to double your cash gift or win periodic services up to 100,000 km and yes VAT is on us which can be used as part of down payment. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details.) The campaign is valid until December 28. Available in 2 variants 2.0/1.6L, the refreshed Cerato utilises full LED headlights which appear as slender lines with the radiator grille to underline the redesigning of the face of the model, defining the car’s sporty exterior. At the rear, strong horizontal lines add a



bold appearance with depth to the fluid exterior design. Under the hood, Kia’s new and significantly improved 3rd generation powertrain engines support Cerato’s fuel-efficient drive. Inside the Cerato, drivers can enjoy the best of comfort and technology, with a high-resolution 8-inch display screen and a 4.2-inch colour TFT LCD cluster for an improved, convenient driving experience. With the car’s new and improved IT connectivity thru Android Auto & Car Play, Kia’s new multi-connection Blue-

tooth & voice recognition allows for a wire-free user experience. The model also features Remote Ignition providing advanced solutions to everyday inconveniences. Along with noise and vibration being significantly reduced at the source point, the Cerato’s hi-resolution wide screen increases user visibility with its User-friendly Graphic Interface to support the driver on his travels. The Cerato’s large display also supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto respectively, providing the ideal driving environment on the road.



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