

CREDENTIALS SUBMITTED

PRETORIA: Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe received, yesterday, in Harare credentials of Mubarak bin Salim Al Zakwani, as the Sultanate non-resident ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe. - **ONA**



HM ISSUES ROYAL DECREE ON GRANTING GOVERNMENT LANDS

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Thursday issued a Royal Decree No. 42/ 2021 concerning the granting of government lands. **>A6**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
4-year-old honoured for blindfold cycling

1 A four-year-old boy who covered a distance of more than a kilometre, while riding blindfolded on a bicycle in just 10 minutes has been honoured for his achievement by one of hockey's most well-known personalities in Oman. So unique was the feat accomplished by K Vishawasai, who was born in the town of Tirunelveli in India's Tamil Nadu state, that his efforts have been recorded in Kalam's World Records, which spreads awareness of uniquely talented individuals from around the world. For his inclusion, Vishawasai was honoured by SAS Naqvi, a former national team hockey player for India, who later went on to become the technical advisor of Oman's Olympic Committee. **>A5**

SPORTS
'9 clubs accept Super League a mistake'

2 European football body UEFA has confirmed that 9 of the 12 founding clubs of the European Super League have confirmed their commitment to UEFA. The body however has also said that these clubs face financial penalties. The three remaining clubs -- Real Madrid, Juventus, and Barcelona -- have refused to get reintegrated to UEFA and as a result, they face further punishment. "Those nine clubs acknowledge and accept that the Super League project was a mistake and apologise to fans, national associations, national leagues, fellow European clubs and UEFA," UEFA said in an official statement. **>A8**

MARKET
IATA hails G20 push to restart tourism



3 The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has welcomed the agreement by G20 ministers to support safe restoration of mobility by following G20 Rome guidelines for the future of tourism. "The G20 has the right focus and agenda to restart travel and tourism. The combination of vaccinations and testing are drivers to make travel broadly and safely accessible," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. The G20 agreements add important support to the building momentum to restore travel. Developments in recent weeks include a travel bubble opened between Australia and New Zealand. **>B1**

PEOPLE ADVISED TO FINISH THEIR SHOPPING WELL IN ADVANCE TO AVOID THE LAST MINUTE RUSH, OVERCROWDING AND POSSIBLE SPREAD OF COVID-19 INFECTION

BAN ON COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES COMES INTO FORCE

The ban on activities which began on May 8 will continue until May 15

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ruwi High Street wore a deserted look on Saturday, after the ban on commercial activities came into effect.

Shoe shops, garment stores, barbershops, beauty salons, jewellers, watch repair shops, mobile retailers, and many other busi-

nesses had their shutters pulled down, as part of the measures implemented by the Supreme Committee, to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The ban, which began on May 8, will run until the evening of May 15. As part of these measures, people are also not allowed to venture outside their homes.

Exceptions, however, have been made for some shops, offices, and people, who can continue to work under strict guidelines

Groceries, bakeries, halwa, nut, and confectionery shops, ice cream and juice parlours, meat, poultry and fishmongers, shops selling honey, dates, and spices, and fruits and vegetables shops remain open, as will hypermarkets, which are allowed to run at only 30 per cent capacity.

Health facilities -- including pharmacies, veterinary clinics, and opticians are also open during this week.

Home delivery and takeaway services can be run by restaurants

-- however, without allowing entry to customers, who are also denied entry into the offices of several other companies that can stay open to complete their day-to-day functions. Delivery drivers from restaurants must also be issued a pass allowing them to travel on the roads during this period.

These include private companies and institutions, transport and storage firms, consultancies, account and audit offices, Sanad centres, postal companies, organisations involved in construction and contracting, insurance agencies, law offices, translation services, and shipping and customs clearance agencies. **>A3**

TRAVEL

Big blow for Indians looking to return via Sri Lanka

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian nationals looking to return to Oman and other countries of residence can no longer travel through Sri Lanka, after the island country stopped issuing visas to them, thereby preventing them from completing their quarantine processes there before flying to their destination.

Since Oman had banned passengers flying directly from India, as well as Bangladesh and Pakistan, into the country, an alternative route had been set up, through which people could spend a 14-day quarantine period in Sri Lanka, and then leave for the Sultanate, where they would need to quarantine again.

However, Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority has decided to stop issuing visit visas to passengers arriving from India, taking away from them this route of leaving the country, further reducing the options available to those who wish to leave the subcontinent.

Circular

"In accordance with instructions received from the health authorities of Sri Lanka due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it is hereby directed that passengers travelling from India will not be permitted to disembark in Sri Lanka with immediate effect," said a circular signed by Captain Themiya Abeyawickrama, the Director General of Civil Aviation



and CEO of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka.

"The aforementioned restriction will be reviewed as early as possible, based on instructions from local health authorities," he added. A travel agent operating across the Sultanate said he had been fielding calls from passengers who had tried to frantically make last-minute changes to their bookings. Unfortunately, however, there are very few alternatives available to him.

"Sri Lanka has stopped issuing visas because they are concerned about the Indian variant of COVID-19 entering their country," said Faiyaz Khan, general manager for Travel Point.

"They are also dealing with the

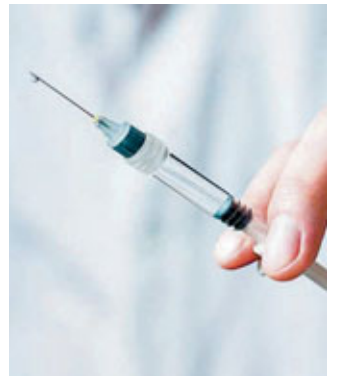
pandemic, and they don't want their hospitals possibly overwhelmed by this strain. They have also seen an increase in COVID cases lately.

"We had all the agreements lined up with the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, the packages were ready, we had many people willing to take them as well, but now we need to put all of this on hold until the situation can be resolved," he added.

One of the alternatives available to Indian nationals, he said, was the Maldives, but the Indian Ocean country also decided to stiffen visit rules for people travelling from India: passengers can quarantine there, but only on islands not inhabited by locals. **>A5**

TACKLING PANDEMIC

Schools and stadiums to be used as vaccination centres



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Schools, stadiums and other public places in Oman are to be used as centres to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine to people, the Minister of Health has said.

The plan to use these areas, as well as other public facilities such as the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) does fall under directives issued as part of the national vaccination drive, he added.

"Mobile vaccination campaigns will continue until the end of 2021, by which time more than 70 percent of citizens and residents will have been immunised," said Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi.

Speaking during a meeting of the coronavirus immunisation team, the minister, who is also a member of the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19, said people above 45 can now apply for vaccinations.

Having booked about 4.37 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, Oman is also expected to receive an additional 1.5 million doses through GAVI, the global vaccine alliance.

More than one million COVID vaccines are expected to arrive in Oman by June, with a total of 1.5 million people likely vaccinated by the end of next month. 100,000 doses from other companies are also scheduled by then. **>A5**

LOVE FOR NATURE

Omani boy turns saviour for dying nightjar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A 13-year-old Omani boy has been thanked by the Environment Authority for saving and nursing a nightjar that landed next to his home, because it was too exhausted to fly anymore.

Ali bin Ahmed bin Kofitan bait Saeed, who attends Usama bin Zaid School, lives with his family in Awqad in Wilayat Salalah in the southern Dhofar region. A keen nature lover, Ali's interest in wildlife -- especially in birds -- has been developed through watching



nature channels, as well as eagerly soaking up content on YouTube.

His love for animals has seen him set up a small area in his home where he keeps grains, water and pieces of meat for migratory birds in need of rest and refuelling. On the day Ali spotted the nightjar, he was playing outside, when he found the bird in the alleyway next to his home.

"It was very exhausted," he told the *Times of Oman*. "When I saw the bird, I remembered it feeds on chicken and meat, so it must be a bird of prey." **>A5**



Ramadan Special:
Show that you care

A4



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GUIDELINES

<FROM A1

People asked to follow protocols

Banks, exchange houses, and finance companies can also operate, with their customer areas closed to all except those who need to complete necessary transactions, while maintaining the protocols determined by the Central Bank of Oman.

Construction and contracting firms can continue to work at their field sites after 7 pm, provided they do not leave those areas until after 4 am the next day. The same rules are in place for employees in factories and warehouses and include those involved in loading and unloading goods in these areas.

With stores closing early and running at reduced capacities, Dr Ahmed Al Hooti, the head of economic research at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), asked people to finish their shopping well in advance, to avoid the possible spread of infection.

“We see that a lot of people put their shopping off until closing time, and then rush to the shops to complete last-minute purchases for their families,” he said. “When you have this sort of overcrowding, it can lead to a spread of infection, a rise in case numbers, and this will lead to stricter measures by the government – I am sure none of us want that.”

“During the Eid holidays, you have a lot of time in the morning, so please go then – plan your shopping in advance instead of being complacent and postponing it,” added Al Hooti, who is also an OCCI board member. “We all know the seriousness of this pandemic, so let us not take it lightly.”

Essential healthcare personnel, emergency vehicles, and those that provide electricity and water services are also permitted to move about during the period of the ban, as are employees at private hospitals, pharmacy workers, under Ministry of Health regulations, and those employed at airports and seaports.

Transport lorries weighing more than three tonnes, and water and wastewater tankers can also move on the roads. Employees in oil fields and those working the night shift at petrol stations, under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP) can also work during the hours of the ban. Tyre and vehicle repair services, and shops in these stations, can also function, but only up to three customers are allowed at any time. Shops that repair fishing boats and sell the relevant gear can also remain open.

Print and media publications whose employees need to work after the ban comes into effect must be issued a pass by the Ministry of Information authorising them to do so. Similar passes must be provided by the relevant bodies to health and safety inspectors, technicians, and judicial persons. Fishermen, beekeepers, and food labs are also permitted to work under the conditions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

The central market for fruits and vegetables, and all slaughterhouses are also free to operate, but at 50 per cent capacity.

First-of-its-kind contest for Omani law students



Reem Noor Al Zadjali released the results of a competition for all Omani law students studying in or outside Oman, where they were asked to draft a franchise agreement on behalf of the franchisor

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reem Noor Al Zadjali, founder of Reem Al Zadjali Lawyers and legal consultants, released the results of a competition for all Omani law students studying in or outside Oman, where they were asked to draft a franchise agreement on behalf of the franchisor.

Attorney Reem thought this competition would be a great idea to make students excited during the current situation of studying online and the current restrictions during Ramadan.

She added that this competition will also help students research independently and explore the terms and conditions in such an agreement.

The response and participation was overwhelmingly positive and exceeded expectations, said Attorney Reem Al Zadjali.



Second award was for Khalid Jamal Al Ghailani, currently a law student at university of Leeds , in the United Kingdom

Third award was given to Monthir Yaqoob Al Hashmi who is currently a law student at University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow , Scotland.

WEATHER

Citizens recount heavy rain, start assessing damages

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Citizens in North Batinah have begun taking stock of the impact caused by the fierce wind and rain that led to extensive damage to their homes and killed many of their livestock.

A tropical depression last Tuesday and Wednesday saw many of the wilayats of the governorate face the brunt of the weather, with 70-year-old Saeed bin Saif Al Saeedi admitting to being very terrified during the rainstorm.

“I don’t know where to start – I am still unable to believe what has happened,” said the native of Khaboura. “That night, all I wanted to do was protect my family, so that we would not get hit by flying objects: the sounds of lightning and thunder were also truly terrifying. I have not experienced a storm like that for the last 70 years.”

Saeed lost more than half his home in the storm, which he feels should be renamed a cyclone, due to the severity of the conditions. The kitchen, storeroom, and toilet were completely destroyed, while a part of the roof also blew away. Hearing the sound of hailstones hitting what was left of his ceiling, the doors, and windows, he and his family prayed they would survive the night.

“I could hear the sounds made when other debris fell to the ground: it felt like there was an earthquake going on,” he admitted. “The electricity went out as well, so my family and I got together in the dark, after I blocked the doors to stop the water from coming in.”

Although the storm only lasted an hour, to Saeed, it seemed like a lot longer. Several trees were uprooted by the storm, many of them falling over livestock: Saeed lost about 45 of his own sheep, an important source of his livelihood, as



well as above 30 date palms, as well as many banana and mango trees, whose fruit he sold to fruit and vegetable vendors.

“My own property, which is in the backyard of my home, had been completely blown off, while my vehicle has also suffered extensive damage,” he said. “Many camels have had to endure quite serious injuries, owing to the debris that hit them.”

Apart from debris that included pieces of stone and iron torn off from fittings, and portions of fences used to contain livestock, a number of electricity poles also fell over because of the impact of the storm, leaving many in the region without power.

“Our losses are valued at more than OMR7,000,” Saeed admitted. “I appeal for government support during unfortunate times, so that we can overcome these damages. We urgently need for others to stand by us at this time, particularly since there is a ban on shops being open, which means we cannot buy the necessities required to repair the heavy damage of the storms.”

“We had learned from media sources that an air depression was expected at night, but we were unaware of the strength of the wind,” he said.

“We wish this would have been included in the information we received, so that we could have taken the necessary precautions, and prevented such large-scale losses from happening.”

Another citizen, Ahmed bin Khamis Al Ghafri, who lives in Wilayat Suwaiq, also described the damage done to his property, calling the night of the storm ‘one of the toughest nights’ he has ever experienced, owing to the torrential rain, strong winds, and continuous hail. Many of the agricultural crops he grows to support his family have been destroyed, including the bananas and date palm trees which he harvests, as well as the fodder used to feed his animals.

“The storm blew out the main door of my home, as well as the roof of my vehicle shed,” he said. “The sounds of the wind, the thunder, and the sight of the lightning terrified my family.”

Ayman Al Shidi, from Saham, added, “The roof of my shed fell on my vehicle, causing damage. This is aside from the great damage caused to the property in my house. A number of fixtures were also torn off and landed in my yard.”

More than 100 electricity poles have been damaged by the storm, and technical teams are working to restore connectivity to areas affected in North Batinah, said Ibrahim bin Ali Al Farsi, the senior director of subscriber services as Majan Electricity Company.

“The electric substations have returned to service, while the main feeders have also been fixed in Saham and Khabourah,” he added. “This also includes the low-pressure feeders and faults in people’s properties.”

The Ministry of Defence has also supplied generators so that power can be restored to homes and offices while the repairs continue. Engineers and other personnel from the Sultan’s Armed Forces are also involved in fixing the power supply, clearing the roads of debris, and guiding water tankers deployed to remove floodwaters. Relief supplies have also begun being distributed to people affected, in the form of food parcels and household items.

**RAMADAN
PRAYER TIMINGS**

Dhuhr	12.08pm
Asr	3.32pm
Maghrib	6.44pm
Isha	8.01pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4.05am

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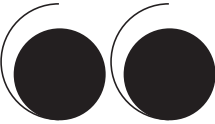


Ramadan

► IFTAR TIMING

6:44 pm

► RAMADAN WORDS



“To God belongs the future of the heavens and the earth, and all matters are controlled by Him. You shall worship Him and trust in Him. Your Lord is never unaware of anything you do.” (Quran, 11:123)



► HEALTH TIP

Break your fast with soup, then water, or fresh-squeezed fruit juice. This will hydrate your body. Eat the main course 10 or 15 minutes later.

► RECIPE OF THE DAY

Oneza Tabish



BAKED BREAD ROLLS

- INGREDIENTS
- 6 slices soft bread fresh
 - 1 tbsp. butter softened
 - 2 flakes garlic crushed
 - 1/2 tsp. crushed red chilli
 - salt to taste
 - 1 tbsp. grated cheese
- PREPARATION
- Roll the bread flat with the help of a rolling pin. Mix the salt, chilli, garlic in the butter.
 - Apply on all slices generously. Roll one slice tightly from end to end.
 - Brush all over with a bit of butter. Coat the roll with grated cheese by rolling in it.
 - Repeat for all slices. Cover rolls with a moist cloth. Place in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
 - Bake in a preheated oven for 10-15 minutes at 180c or till golden brown and crisp.
 - Serve hot with ketchup.

► GOOD DEED

SHOW THAT YOU CARE

“And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. And Indeed, Allah is with those who are of service to others -(Quran 29:70).” Showing that you care for someone helps the person to open up and feel comfortable enough to talk things through. Being there for someone can help them get through their day-to-day life. Call a friend or a relative to check how they are coping with the stress and anxiety related to the pandemic. Write a letter to someone who has made a difference in your life, regardless of how big or small.





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TALENTED INDIVIDUAL



Four-year-old honoured by living legend for blindfold cycling feat

Times News Service

NIZWA: A four-year-old boy who covered a distance of more than a kilometre, while riding blindfolded on a bicycle in just 10 minutes has been honoured for his achievement by one of hockey's most well-known personalities in Oman.

So unique was the feat accomplished by K Vishwasai, who was born in the town of Thirunelveli in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, that his efforts have been recorded in Kalam's World Records, which spreads awareness of uniquely talented individuals from around the world.

For his inclusion, Vishwasai was honoured by SAS Naqvi, a former national team hockey player for India, who later went on to become the technical advisor of Oman's Olympic Committee.

Despite his tender age, Vishwasai, who also has a little sister,



is a boy of many talents: he often displays a number of jaw-dropping skills with the bicycle, and has a tremendous memory, capable of recalling the names and brands of vehicles, just by looking at their logos. His repository of knowledge



also includes the names of fruits and vegetables not commonly known to many, as well as an impressive glossary of animals and birds, many of which are rather rare.

NATURE LOVER

Nursing bird back to health

< FROM A1 "I cut up some pieces of chicken and fed it during the entire day," Ali added. It was during one of Ali's feeding sessions that his father came home from work, and realising that his son had found the bird and was nursing it back to health, decided to call the local office of the Environment Authority to turn the bird over to their care, as they are best equipped to handle such cases.

"The next morning, I called the Directorate General of the Environment in our region," said his father, Ahmed. "They came over immediately, and thanked us for taking care of the bird."

For the young boy's efforts, he received a call from Dr Abdullah bin Ali Al Omairi, the chairman of the Environment Authority, which also made Ali's deeds public by sharing them on their social media sites. "I want to thank Dr Abdullah and the staff of the directorate in Dhofar," said Ahmed bin Kofitan bait Saeed.



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VACCINATION PROGRAMME

< FROM A1 95% people over 65 vaccinated

"More than 95 per cent of people in the age group 65 and above have been vaccinated," he said. "I regret, however, that not everyone above 60 has been immunised. I advise those who have not, to approach the immunisation centres to take these vaccines.

"Our national immunisation plan focuses on the fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, in terms of population density, and

prioritising infection-prone sections of society," he added. "These begin with people aged 65 and above, followed by those over 60."

The next phase of the segments targeted for vaccination include people above 45 years, pilgrims, workers at health facilities, government workers, the Royal Oman Police, the Sultan's Armed Forces, education and teaching staff, grade 12 students, people

operating in vital areas such as the oil and gas sector, ports, and airports. A number of private sector establishments have also been targeted as part of this phase of the vaccine drive.

"About 90 per cent of government healthcare workers have received the first dose of the vaccine, and steps are underway to vaccinate workers in the private health sector," added Al Saidi.

AIR TRAVEL

< FROM A1 Not many travel options

"Maldives is unfortunately a very expensive proposition for many Indians right now, so they have cancelled their flights or postponed them for the next month, in the hope that things will get better by then," Khan said. "We had looked at Nepal as another alternative, but after the spike in cases there, all domestic and international air travel has been banned by that country as well, so there not a lot of options left for people."

"It's not just Indians travelling to Oman: we get requests from people travelling to other countries as well. Indians in the UK, for example, used Turkey as a quarantine location, before flying onward, but the British authorities have put Turkey on the red list, so no flights are allowed from there. Armenia is another option that is being considered by Indians flying onward into Europe, the USA and Canada."

Khan added that tour companies were waiting to see whether other GCC countries like the UAE or Qatar would once again allow in Indians. That would give them the chance to isolate there for two weeks before coming to Oman. While Qatar is allowing passengers to transit, visas are not being issued to those looking to complete their quarantine there before flying to their next destination.



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GOVERNMENT RESIDENTIAL LANDS

His Majesty issues Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Thursday issued a Royal decree reading as follows: Royal Decree No. 42/ 2021 on granting government lands.

Article (1) stipulates that granting government residential lands shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in the Annex attached to this decree.

Article (2) states that usufruct-based granting of government commercial, residential-cum-commercial, industrial and agricultural lands shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in Royal Decree No. 5/ 81 on regulating land use and development in Oman.

Article (3) states that the terms and conditions stated in the Annex attached to this decree shall apply to Government Residential Land Entitlement Applications that are submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning prior to the enforcement of provisions of this decree.

It also stipulates that the terms and conditions stated in the above-mentioned Royal Decree No. 5/ 81 shall apply to applications for entitlement to government commercial, residential-cum-commercial, industrial and agricultural lands (applications) that are submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning prior to the enforcement of provisions of this decree.

Article (4) states that the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning shall issue decisions necessary for the implementation of provisions of this decree. Till such time, the existing decisions shall continue to be enforced without prejudice to the provisions of this decree.

Article (5) cancels the System (law) of Entitlement to Government Lands promulgated under Royal Decree No. 84/ 81, as well as all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (6) says that this decree shall be published in Official Gazette and enforced on the day following its date of publication. - **OMA**

India reports 401,078 new COVID-19 cases in last 24 hours

NEW DELHI: India reported 401,078 fresh COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, according to the union health ministry.

With this the country has recorded over 400,000 daily cases for the third consecutive day. The cumulative number of cases in the country has now gone up to 2,18,92,676. India registered 3,18,609 discharges in the last 24 hours, pushing the overall recoveries to 1,79,30,960.

The country's death toll has reached 2,38,270 following 4,187 deaths in the last 24 hours.

At present, India has 37,23,446 active coronavirus cases. A total of 30,04,10,043 samples had been tested up to May 7, of which, 18,08,344 were tested on Friday, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) informed. As many as 16,73,46,544 vaccination doses had been administered in the country up to May 7.

Tamil Nadu announces lockdown for two weeks

Amid rising COVID-19 cases, the Tamil Nadu government on Saturday announced a 'complete lockdown' for two weeks from May 10 to control the spread of the disease.

According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office on Saturday, the lockdown will come into effect at 4 am on May 10 and will be in force till 4 am on May 24. In order to help people prepare for the lockdown, all shops and establishments are being allowed to stay open from 6 am to 9 pm on May 8 (Saturday) and May 9 (Sunday), it said.

As per the statement, all shops except those selling grocery, vegetables, meat and fish are banned from operations and are allowed to function only from 6 am till noon. **ANI**



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EMERGENCY USE

WHO approves China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use

GENEVA: World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced on Friday that the body had authorised the emergency use of a COVID-19 vaccine made by China's Sinopharm.

It is the first non-Western vaccine to gain WHO emergency use approval.

"This afternoon, WHO gave emergency use listing to sign off on Beijing's COVID-19 vaccine, making it the sixth vaccine to receive WHO validation for safety, efficacy and quality," Ghebreyesus said.

The WHO had already given such approval to vaccines developed by BioNTech-Pfizer, Astra-Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna.

The WHO listing means the Sinopharm vaccine could eventually be included into the COV-AX initiative in the coming weeks or months. The UN-backed scheme aims to provide vaccines to poorer countries.

"This expands the list of vaccines that COVAX can buy and gives countries confidence to expedite their own regulatory approval and to import and administer a vaccine."

The jab would then be distributed via UNICEF and the WHO's regional office in the Americas.

To date, Sinopharm has made very little data public, only publishing what it says are efficacy numbers for its two vaccine shots — one developed by the Beijing Institute of Biological Products and the other by the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products.

A document reviewed by Reuters news agency, however, showed that the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts, or SAGE, a separate group of WHO experts, voiced concern this week over Sinopharm data on the risk of serious side-effects in some patients after receiving the vaccine but said it was confident in the vaccine's ability to prevent disease. **ANI**





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The Oman Charitable Organization has the pleasure of announcing the start of this year's Ramadan Iftar Program. We kindly seek your participation for the sake of the needy families in Oman during this holy month. All are requested to join in such a humanitarian and benevolent cause by sending your donation through,

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Organizational Dependency	Board of Directors
Department/ Management	Executive Management
Job titles that are supervised by this position	All positions that report to it in the organizational structure
General Description (Specialty) of the Position	Fully responsible for the day-to-day management of the company. Responsibilities include strategic planning, organizing and general development, in addition to raising the company's reputation in the Omani marketplace and sustainably increasing its profits, while maintaining and safeguarding the funds of the policy holders, maintaining the solvency of the company and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the CMA. The CEO is also responsible for the integration of work and employees and the implementation of the work plan and budget, in addition to the development and improvement of the quality of policies and work procedures.
Functions and Responsibilities	1. Participate in the development of the company's strategy and objectives for endorsement and approval by the Board of Directors. 2. To develop annual, short- and medium-term plans to implement and achieve the company's Board of Directors approved strategy and objectives 3. Ensure the Directors are properly informed and that sufficient information is provided to the Board periodically to enable the Directors to form appropriate judgments and or make decisions 4. Divide the main objectives into sub-objectives for each department in a way that achieves the main objectives of the Company. 5. Participation in the development of the executive plans for the departments and the procedures and methods for achieving these goals 6. The adoption of executive plans and programs after reviewing them and verifying them, in addition to the initial adoption of the planning budgets. 7. Ensure that the company's operations comply with the insurance supervision and control regulations and the legislation adopted by the CMA. 8. Ensure effective internal controls and management information systems are in place. 9. Ensure the integrity of all public disclosures by MIC. 10. Ensure the implementation and delivery of the contractual obligations of company 11. Accreditation of the expenses of the company from purchases and expenses in a manner not inconsistent with the powers delegated and approved by the Board of Directors. 12. Review and checking the procedures followed by the department managers and ensure that they conform to approved policies and standards of the company and to recommend the necessary improvements as required. 13. Maintaining and developing the company's relations with key stakeholders including the CMA, the relevant governmental departments, customers and reinsurers. 14. Ensure that the rights and welfare of employees of MIC are properly provided for in accordance with applicable laws and other relevant provisions
Requirements of competency	1. FCII with 7 years' experience, of which 4 are in management or ACII with 10 years' experience, of which 5 are in management 2. University Bachelor's degree with 12 years' experience in the insurance sector, of which 5 are in - Management or -Technical management for insurance business or - Risk management
Points of contact and coordination	All external stakeholders and contacts (government authorities, CMA, clients, reinsurers) and all divisions in the company
Work environment (office/field)	Office

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DREAM DRIVE WINNERS

Lulu Oman recently announced the sixth set of winners in its Dream Drive 2021 promotion. The eRaffle draw held on May 4 at Nizwa picked Mohammed Hammed as the winner of the spectacular Nissan Patrol.

MARKET
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VISUAL AD COMPETITION

Winners of the 'best visual advertisement competition' for student companies have been announced. Under the auspices of the Zubair Corporation, Injaz Oman had recently announced a competition for the best visual advertisement for student companies.

IATA welcomes G20 push to restart tourism

The combination of vaccinations and testing are drivers to make travel broadly and safely accessible

GENEVA: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has welcomed the agreement by G20 tourism ministers to support the safe restoration of mobility by following G20 Rome guidelines for the future of tourism.

"The G20 has the right focus and agenda to restart travel and tourism. The combination of vaccinations and testing are drivers to make travel broadly and safely accessible," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director-General.

"Moreover, Prime Minister Draghi's promise that Italy is ready to welcome back the world and encouragement to book holidays should be an inspiration to other world leaders. It captures the urgency that is needed to move forward quickly and safely in restoring the freedom to travel," he said.

The G20 agreements add important support to the building momentum to restore travel. Developments in recent weeks include a travel bubble that opened between Australia and New Zealand.

The European Commission and



G20 GUIDELINES: The G20 Rome guidelines call for working with industry and international partners to provide and share information to inform policies and decisions on safe mobility. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

the European Parliament each announced efforts to welcome vaccinated travellers and travellers from low-incidence countries to Europe. The UK is pursuing a gradual resumption of international travel from May 17.

Italy announced it is planning to implement the European 'green certificate' in May to facilitate opening borders. And France is planning to reopen its borders to international tourists with a 'health pass' from June 9.

The G20 Rome guidelines call for working with industry and interna-

tional partners to provide and share information to inform policies and decisions on safe mobility.

They call for pursuing opportunities to agree to common international approaches to COVID-19 testing, vaccination, certification and information on travellers to enable lifting of inbound and outbound border restrictions.

The guidelines call for exploring ways to promote the use of digital traveller identity, biometrics and contactless transactions to facilitate safe and seamless travel.

Besides, they call for providing

accessible, consistent, clear and updated information to travellers to encourage and facilitate travel planning and journeys.

In addition, they call for maintaining and improving the connectivity, safety and sustainability of transport systems.

"While these are all important steps that build momentum towards re-opening the travel and tourism sector, we need more," said Walsh. "People want to fly and exercise the freedom to travel that has been denied by government restrictions." -ANI

72% of data and analytics executives lead in digital transformation initiatives

DUBAI: Seventy-two per cent of data and analytics (D&A) leaders with digital initiatives are either leading or heavily involved in their organisation's digital transformation initiatives, according to Gartner, Inc.'s sixth annual Chief Data Officer (CDO) survey.

"The results indicate that more organisations now understand the synergy between building a data-driven business and leading digital transformation," said Debra Logan, distinguished research vice president at Gartner. "D&A strategy is a business strategy infused with D&A thinking; it has a primary role in digital business strategy, affecting everything the organisation does."

Gartner analysts presented these findings during the Gartner Data & Analytics Summit 2021, which is taking place virtually in the Americas through Thursday.

While only 24 per cent of respondents said they are leading digital transformation efforts, the boundaries between CDOs and chief digital officers are becoming more and more blurred. CDOs are increasingly being asked to take on more strategic objectives and lead digital transformation initiatives as the digital business itself transforms to business as usual.

While data quality (51 per cent), ROI from D&A investments (44 per cent) and data sharing (43 per cent) are D&A leaders' top objectives, their role will not be seen as valuable unless they focus on stakeholders' KPIs.



Debra Logan

"It's not enough to manage data and create insights," said Logan. "These activities must deliver measurable business outcomes."

"Data sharing is the way to optimise higher quality data and more robust data and analytics to solve business challenges and goals," said Logan. "Data sharing is an important KPI and a business necessity. It accelerates digital business transformation."

Gartner predicts that by 2023, organisations that promote data sharing will outperform their peers on most business value metrics.

CDOs who have business-facing KPIs and multiple business partners are 1.7 times more likely to be effective at consistently producing clear business value by successfully demonstrating ROI from the D&A investments. They are also 2.3 times more likely to be effective at reducing time to market and 3.5 times more likely to be effective at data monetisation.

CHIP SHORTAGES



Auto sector urges US Congress to help fund its computer chip needs

WASHINGTON: The US auto industry and United Auto Workers union on Friday urged Congress to tie billions of dollars in government funding to boost semiconductor production to help fill the needs of automakers forced to slash production because of chip shortages.

Congress "should prioritise production of the semiconductors necessary to assemble vehicles here in the United States. This will ensure that motor vehicle manufacturers have a fair share of chips needed to meet consumer demand," said the American Automotive Policy Council, Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association and UAW on Friday in a joint statement.

Tech companies and other industries have repeatedly urged the administration not to pick "winners and losers" or attach conditions to funding to address the chip shortage, Reuters reported.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said the US motor vehicle and parts sector lost 27,000 jobs in April.

The letter seen by Reuters said the US motor vehicle industry is estimated to have lost over 330,000 production units as a result of the chip shortage.

Carmakers across the world curbed output, hampering attempts to recover from the pandemic, due to a shortage of chips used in everything from computer management of engines to driver assistance systems.

The global chip shortage hit automakers hard after many cancelled orders when plants were idled during the coronavirus pan-

demie. At the same time, demand for chips boomed from consumer electronics makers churning out premium devices for people spending more time at home.

Automakers have warned the chips crisis could last until 2022 and have pressed the US government to act.

Ford Motor Co (FN) last week warned the shortage may slash second-quarter production by half and for 2021, cost it about \$2.5 billion and about 1.1 million units of lost production.

President Joe Biden has proposed \$50 billion to boost US semiconductor production.

The letter urged the government to "include specific funding for semiconductor facilities that commit to dedicating a portion of their capacity to motor vehicle-grade chip production."

On Friday, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers and Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute urged Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo to ensure chip supplies are "fairly allocated across industry sectors."

The groups said they were "dismayed" Raimondo said she was seeking to prioritise automakers. "We simply ask for fairness so that the health, safety, comfort, productivity, and other needs of Americans can be met," they wrote.

The department did not immediately comment. Raimondo told MSNBC Friday that the auto chip crisis was a factor in April's jobs report. The auto sector shed 27,000 jobs in April. -BNA

UN REPORT

Acute food insecurity soars to 5-year high

BRUSSELS: The number of people facing acute food insecurity and needing urgent life and livelihood-saving assistance has hit a five-year high in 2020 in countries beset by food crises, an annual report launched by the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) has found.

GNAFC is an international alliance of the UN, the EU, governmental and non-governmental agencies working to tackle food crises together.

The stark warning from the 2021 Global Report on Food Crises shows that conflict or economic shocks that are often related to COVID-19 along with extreme weather are continuing to push millions of people into acute food insecurity.

The report said that at least 155 million people experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels across 55 countries/territories in 2020, marking an increase of around 20 million people from the previous year.

Of these, around 133 000 people were classified in the most severe phase of acute food insecurity in 2020 in Burkina Faso, South Sudan and Yemen where urgent action was needed to avert widespread death and a collapse of livelihoods. At least another 28 million people faced an emergency level of acute food insecurity in 2020 - meaning they were one step away from starvation - across 38 countries/territories where urgent action saved lives and livelihoods and prevented famine from spreading.

A total of 39 countries/territories have experienced food crises during the five years that the



GLOBAL REPORT: The stark warning from the 2021 Global Report on Food Crises shows that conflict or economic shocks that are often related to COVID-19 along with extreme weather are continuing to push millions of people into acute food insecurity. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

GNAFC has been publishing its annual report. The population affected by high levels of acute food insecurity increased from 94 to 147 million people between 2016 and 2020.

Additionally, in the 55 food-crisis countries/territories covered by the report, over 75 million children under five were stunted (too short) and over 15 million wasted (too thin) in 2020.

Countries in Africa remained disproportionately affected by acute food insecurity. Close to 98 million people facing acute food insecurity in 2020 - or two out of three - were on the African continent. But other parts of the world have also not been spared, with countries including Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and Haiti among the 10 worst food crises last year.

While conflict will remain the

major driver of food crises in 2021, COVID-19 and related containment measures and weather extremes will continue to exacerbate acute food insecurity in fragile economies.

Economic hardship

"One year after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the outlook for 2021 and beyond is grim. Conflict, pandemic-related restrictions fuelling economic hardship and the persistent threat of adverse weather conditions will likely continue driving food crises," said the European Union (EU), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) - founding members of the Global Network - together with USAID in a joint statement

released with the report.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the fragility of the global food system and the need for more equitable, sustainable and resilient systems to nutritiously and consistently feed 8.5 billion people by 2030. A radical transformation of our agri-food systems is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

GNAFC emphasised the need to act urgently and decisively and called for the international community to mobilise against hunger.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the foreword of the report, "Conflict and hunger are mutually reinforcing. We need to tackle hunger and conflict together. We must do everything we can to end this vicious cycle. Addressing hunger is a foundation for stability and peace." -ANI

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB's tax hub to enhance international cooperation

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a hub to create an open and inclusive platform to promote strategic policy dialogue, improve knowledge sharing and strengthen coordination on tax policy and administration among ADB members and development partners.

The Asia Pacific Tax Hub will maximise regional and international resources to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and international tax cooperation in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs).

"Domestic resource mobilisation has emerged as a major strategic priority for our DMCs at this moment. It will be vital in the effort to address debt sustainability and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

The lack of a pan-regional tax community has been a unique and significant shortcoming for Asia and the Pacific, he said.

The hub will support DMCs on three main building blocks: preparation of medium-term revenue strategies, roadmaps for automation of tax administration and proactive participation in international tax initiatives.

Through the hub, ADB will

coordinate closely with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support DMCs as they formulate country-specific medium-term revenue strategies.

It will conduct needs assessments to prepare roadmaps for the automation of tax administrations in DMCs, and support their implementation in collaboration with development partners and leading countries. -ANI

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Procurement, Warehouse & Logistics

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Contact: 91257663
E-Mail: waqasmehar1@gmail.com

Senior Accountant

Indian Male 34 years Bcom having 13 yr exp as Accountant and Senior Accountant looking for suitable placement. Having Valid Visa, NOC & Oman driving license.

Contact no: 95516352
Email: jerry_4985@yahoo.com

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I MUFFADDAL BURANUDDIN (holder of Indian Passport No. U0773255) S/o BURHANUDDIN R/o BLDG NO. 2 FLAT NO. 411, FAKHRI COLONY, BHAYANDER W, THANE -401101, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA and presently residing in RUWI, MUSCAT, P.O. BOX 3425, PC-112, SULTANATE OF OMAN intend to change my name from **MUFFADDAL BURANUDDIN to MUFADDAL BURHANUDDIN AT-TARWALA** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box No. 1727, Postal code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

Administration & Public Relations

Female, Omani nationality, available to work having 06 years' experience in administration and public relations. Highly motivated, good communication and interpersonal skills, fluent in English and Arabic with a passion to learn and grow and very adaptable. Fluent in Arabic and English. Very professional with a positive attitude.

Contact Ebty420@gmail.com, Tel : 9337 9044

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

31 years Experienced Civil Engineer in which 20 years in Oman with valid driving license and NOC looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 95538353
Mail: camudhan38@gmail.com

Logistics and Operations

Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.

Contact: 79639093
Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

HR & Administration

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.

Contact 92474376

Sr. Sales HVAC/MEP/Industrial Products

With 10+ years of experience in Sales and Business development of HVAC / Mechanical / Industrial products in Oman market. Hold DL and available immediately.

Contact: 93843068; mabcoman@yahoo.com

Project Director / Contracts Administrator

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

Please contact – 78022980

Accounts & Audit

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JOB WANTED

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Indian, male (24), BBA Qualified, certified management accountant (CMA) US. # 79173310, 78360051. mohammednafis.aps@gmail.com

Part time Accounts doing up to finalization seeking Job GSM : 79102100

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD D/MAN

Autocad draughtsman looking for a job. (release available). Contact 95157045

DRIVER

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

ADMIN/HR

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

Indian female 8 yrs exp. Exe secretary, Admin Asst, Coordinator. Contact 92243552

Indian Male B.Com. 33 Years' experience in Oman, Worked as an Office Manager, Executive Personal Assistant, Accountant, Steno-Secretary, seeks Job, NOC & D/L available. Contact 92558734

Indian Female 33, 7+ yrs Exp in GCC, Admin, logistics, Cust Relations, VLD D/L Looking for suitable opening. Contact 71574232, 92686168

Indian male (25) BBA., LLB.(hons) / experience in administration and operations seeking for suitable job. Contact: 79896282, 78265859
Email: harisuneeethan96@gmail.com

Indian Lady Lawyer with 3 years of corporate in house practice in Oman looking for new opportunity. Contact 92640225

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

EDUCATION

Indian female English teacher. B.A, M.A, B.Ed in English language and Literature. Diploma in computer application. 6 yrs of experience in English language teaching. IELTS band score is 6 in academic. Seeking suitable positions in schools. Contact 78149789.
Email jeffeenajeffy@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

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

IT

Indian female, 26 years, Software professional (MCA), having nearly 4 years exp. in India seeks suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit. Contact 78037607

ENGINEER

Sr. Quantity Surveyor - Civil / Estimation with 12+ years of experience in commercial and residential & infrastructure projects in Oman, NOC available. Seeking for suitable position. Contact no. 94163357, email: gravl_gct@yahoo.co.in

Civil & MEP Drafting/Engineer 14 years experience in GCC. Contact 95249206

B.E Civil - Structural Engineer with 2 years of experience. Sound knowledge in Residential and Commercial projects. Currently on Visit. Contact 94459529

Indian Male, B.Tech (Civil Engineer), total 6+ Year Experience included 3 years in Oman. Valid Oman D/L. Experience in Government & Private Projects looking for suitable positions in reputed Firms. Valid visa/NOC available. Join immediately. Contact 96354303.

Mechanical Diploma Engineer with 23 years of Gulf Experience in Cranes/ Instrumentation/ Office Coordination and Technical support with LMV Driving License on employment visa is looking for suitable job, NOC Available. Can Join immediately. Email: krishbaghel@gmail.com
Contact 97520825

LOGISTIC

Logistic officer with 15 yrs experience in oman seeking for immediate placement.NOC/local release available. Contact 95271413

MANAGER

Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experienced, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact 95598477

19 Years' experience in Earth Moving, Paving, Asphalt Equipment aftersales Manager Looking a job for the Suitable position; Contact No. 79554758

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

FOC Splicing Network Supervisor. Indian, Male. Exp10 yrs in GCC, seeking from India. Contact +91 87787 26083.
Email: leninkumar34@gmail.com.

SALES / MARKETING

Indian male (30) MBA with Oman experience (FMCG and other) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on visit. Contact +968 7975 5795

Indian, BA, looking for a placement 12 yrs Experience in FMCG with Oman DL. Contact 97898905
Email karthilchy@gmail.com

1 year experience in SM Management, Marketing and Content Writing. Looking for opportunities in Marketing (Digital), Brand Development. Advertising, HR. Contact 92866372

26, Indian male with 3 yrs of experience having valid D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales/marketing field. Contact 95858181

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male procurement, purchase officer having Bachelor degree in Mechanical engineering, 5 yrs experience in UAE in Electrical & Construction company & having UAE D/L. Looking for suitable job. Contact 98227904.
Email: nrangra@rediffmail.com

MARKET

Ford Escort with enticing benefits

The Ford Escort is a stylish and modern car featuring Ford's Design DNA, blending comfort, performance and looks together in perfect ergonomic harmony



and service 5 years / 1,00,000km and registration. (Conditions apply. For more details, customers are advised to visit their nearest Ford showroom.)

The Ford Escort is a stylish and modern car featuring Ford's Design DNA, blending comfort, performance and looks together in perfect ergonomic harmony. The five-bar upper grille sits proudly between the headlamps, extending outboard to merge into the

fenders, harmonizing with the full width lower grille. The halogen Signature headlamp design offers exceptional lighting performance and includes levelling.

At the rear, the signature LED tail lamp design extends into the deck lid, giving the car a sense of absolute refinement. Twin integrated reverse lamps and separation of the fog lamps into the rear fascia give the rear design a sense of symmetry and balance.

CREATIVE

Winners of Z-Corp sponsored 'best visual advertisement competition' announced

MUSCAT: Winners of the 'best visual advertisement competition' for student companies has been announced. Under the auspices of the Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp), Injaz Oman had recently announced a competition for the best visual advertisement for student companies. The competition was held as part of the ninth edition of the Injaz Oman's Student Company Programme. 40 students companies are participating in the Student Company Programme competition for the year 2021.



The 'best visual advertisement competition' aimed to identify the best visual advertisement for services and products offerings of student companies participating in the programme. It also intended to encourage creativity and communication skills among young people and highlight their power of visual communication. The competition intended to broaden the skills of students at universities and colleges in the field of marketing the products and services that they provide and stimulate their creative ideas by keeping pace with the modern world of advertisement.

The winners of the 'best visual advertisement competition' will receive a cash prize of OMR 300 and a glass shield.

The videos submitted by the student companies were evaluated by a jury represented by many experts from the video and production industry in Oman including Muhammad Al Kharousi, a film director at Emaq, Muhammad Al-Jabri, a film director at Thawani Company, and Sultan Al-Qamshoui, a film director.

The criteria for evaluating the best advertisement included a level of innovation and creativity. Interpretation, originality, clarity of the theme, quality of artistic com-

position and overall writing based on the product advertised were the other measures used to assess the advertisements. The videos, which were put up on Instagram account on May 2, were also voted by audiences for three days.

Commenting on the competition, Khaula bint Hamoud Al Harthy, Executive Director of Injaz Oman, said: "At the outset, we thank the student companies for participating in the Student Company Programme and the competition. We received lots of extremely creative entries for the competition. We were pleased to see the great level of innovation and creativity shown by the participating students. The focus of this competi-

ERAFFLE DRAW

Lulu picks 6th set of winners of Dream Drive promotion



MUSCAT: Lulu Oman recently announced the sixth set of winners in its Dream Drive 2021 promotion. The eRaffle draw held on May 4 at Nizwa picked Mohammed Hamed as the winner of the spectacular Nissan Patrol.

The other winners in the draw were Kumar who won the Ikon 55" Smart TV, Al Husaibi took home the Ikon Double Door Refrigerator while Ravindran won the Ikon Cooking Range; Rafi and Zainab won the Ikon Washing Machine, Ikon Freezer respectively.

In the earlier fifth draw which was held on April 28 at the Mall of Muscat, Abdul Hakeem Juma Abdullah Al Junabi won the Nissan Patrol with five other winners taking home amazing gifts from Ikon. Kumar won the Ikon 55" Smart TV; Sulaiman won the Ikon Double Door Refrigerator; Shihabudeen won the Ikon Cooking Range; Alabri took home the Ikon Washing Machine, and Mullan-thala won the Ikon Freezer.

Shabeer K.A., Regional Director - Oman, remarked, "We are happy to see the great traction that this year's Dream Drive promotion is making, in spite of the challenging times. We congratulate all the winners and thank all our customers for participating in this promotion. We genuinely hope and believe that we have been able to

capture the spirit of Ramadan in its true sense. We are extremely happy to bring cheer and happiness to many and take great pride in being an integral part of the Omani society," he added.

Lucky draw

To be part of this promotion, all you need is to purchase products worth RO10 at any of the Lulu outlets. With every single receipt of RO10, customers are eligible to be part of lucky draws to win these amazing gifts. There are two more Nissan Patrol and other gifts to be won through the remaining two draws to be held for the promotion which ends on May 19.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BankDhofar participates in supporting OCO's Iftar programme initiatives

MUSCAT: Reiterating its support to the community and extending its social responsibility initiatives during the holy month of Ramadan, BankDhofar has collaborated with the Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO) to support the organisation's Iftar programmes.

Commenting on the initiative, Ahmed Said Al Ibrahim, Chief Operating Officer at BankDhofar, said, "Ramadan is a month of giving and sharing, thus, we joined hands with Oman Charitable organisation and supported their efforts in the iftar campaign. This initiative which, falls within our CSR programme, translates our endeavour to give back to the community, through taking part in various initiatives."



CSR is an important pillar of BankDhofar's operations; environment element, community development and social have always been among the priorities and interests of the bank.

BankDhofar continues to deliver on its commitment by in-

novating strategic sustainable CSR programmes, initiatives, activities and potential investment opportunities; ensuring lasting positive benefits aimed at strengthening ties with the local community. The bank provides support to several charitable organisations and social activities and initiatives.

SPECIAL SERIES

812 Competizione, 812 Competizione A: Two interpretations of Ferrari's Racing Soul

MARANELLO: The 812 Competizione, the new limited-edition special series car derived from the 812 Superfast, was presented to media, clients and fans all over the world. In the course of the event, which was broadcast live on Ferrari's social media channels, the wraps were also whipped off the 812 Competizione A, a spectacular Targa-top version, again a limited series and a homage to the Prancing Horse's glorious open-top tradition.

The presentation took place in a very special venue, the recently-opened GT Sporting Activities Department located alongside the Fioranotrack, further strengthening the inextricable link between Maranello's road-going sports cars and the peerless racing DNA developed as a result of over seven decades of success on the world's circuits.

The launch began with the 812 Competizione completing several



laps of the circuit to give viewers a full appreciation of the car's forms in this dynamic and high-performance context in addition, of course, to hear the unmistakable sound of Ferrari's iconic naturally-aspirated V12.

After the hot laps Enrico Galliera, Ferrari's Chief Marketing & Commercial Officer officially presented the car and then unveiled

the 812 Competizione A.

This duo of cars is dedicated to a very exclusive group of collectors and enthusiasts of the noblest of Ferrari traditions, which focuses on uncompromising maximum performance. The innovative technological concepts applied to the engine, vehicle dynamics and aerodynamics have raised the bar to new heights.

FRESH AND FROZEN CHICKEN

Omani brand Dhofar Poultry sets new benchmark for freshness

MUSCAT: Recognised as the pioneers in its field, Dhofar Poultry Company (DPC) has maintained its promise of delivering the highest quality fresh and frozen chicken in the Sultanate. With a steady increase in its customer base over the years which stands as a testament to the rising popularity of its products, DPC is currently the fastest growing Omani brand in the segment.

DPC owes its thriving success to the consistency it has maintained in ensuring its products meet the highest standards of unfaltering quality, unique taste and utmost freshness. Special care is also taken so that all the birds are slaughtered by hand as per Islamic rites, thus guaranteeing consumers 100% halal chicken.

"We believe that to bring a nutritious and tasty meal to the ta-



ble, the process must start at the grassroots level. DPC takes into consideration several parameters that start right from the environment the birds are raised to the kind of feed they are given. While the Dhofar region provides the ideal climate for raising chicken, we ensure that the birds receive an all-organic diet comprising of natural grains that are free from

any animal additives. This ensures that DPC's chicken products are always high on nutritional value," said Salim bin Taman Al Maashani, CEO of Dhofar Poultry.

The feed for the birds comprises soya and maize which is rich in vitamins, minerals and fibre. The strategic location of the facility also ensures stringent biosecurity protocols that ensure to prevent and control the introduction and spread of infectious agent to the birds. With the right food and water management, ideal living temperatures and daily monitoring to ensure the birds are free from diseases, DPC takes great efforts to maintain the highest quality products.

Al Maashani said, "Our focus on rearing quality chicken is complemented with our state-of-the-art units like the hatchery, the broiler and a special processing plant."

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Promotion valid from 25th February 2021 to 24th May 2021. Raffle draws on 25th March, 26th April and 25th May 2021. Three draws in total. Winners will be intimated in 7 days from the draw date. Pictures shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Customers to retain purchase receipts and scratch coupons to claim the gift. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Terms and conditions apply.

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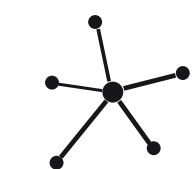
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