

SPONSORSHIP PACTS FOR MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP SIGNED

Sponsorship agreements for the qualifiers of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup were signed today in the headquarters of Oman Cricket Club. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted by Oman during the period from 17-21 October 2021. **>A5**



NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR MONITORING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Authority yesterday signed an agreement with Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation for a project to develop the national programme for monitoring the environment and the detection of surrounding air quality in the Sultanate. The project comes as part of the country's 10-Year Plan (2021-2040), the first leg in Oman Vision 2040. **>A5**



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MAXIMUM DAYS WITH NO COVID DEATHS SEEN IN SEPTEMBER



Covid - 19 Casualties

Over 2.8mn vaccinated against COVID-19 in Oman



MUSCAT: As many as 2,896,271 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Oman with the first jab since launching the National Immunisation Campaign in December 2020 till yesterday (26 September), reaching 82 per cent of the target segment.

The number of those who received two jabs of COVID-19 vaccine stood at 2,050,716 comprising 58 per cent.

The total number of administered doses stood at 4,946,987.

Meanwhile, the ministry of health continues vaccinating the target segments against COVID-19 in all governorates of the Sultanate as vaccination centres witness a good daily turnout.

September has witnessed 11 days without deaths, including a full casualty-free week

Times News Service

MUSCAT: September 2021 has seen the maximum number of days on which no deaths from COVID-19 have been reported, according to an analyst in Oman.

Although 31 people have so far died from the COVID-19 in September, two more than in January of this year, September has also

witnessed 11 days without deaths, including a full week during which no casualties were reported. Conversely, January 2021 had only four days with no deaths: the 11th, 12th, 13th and 20th.

September, on the other hand, saw no deaths on the 4th, 12th, 14th, and the 26th, in addition to the period from the 17th to the 23rd.



Ibrahim Al Maimani

"September 2021 remains the lowest in terms of the daily death rate, although it recorded 31 deaths because no deaths were recorded for 11 days, including seven consecutive days," said Ibrahim Al Maimani, a social activist and data analyst, speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*.

Worst month

In terms of deaths, he added that June 2021 is considered the worst, when 755 people succumbed to the disease, followed by July (736), April (344) and May (324).

COVID deaths in Oman were comparatively low in January and February of this year, with 41 people dying in the second month of

2021, before rising to 108 in March and then tripling in April (344) and May (324).

Deaths were at their highest in June (755) and July (736), before dropping sharply to 228 in August and falling to just 31 so far this month.

This month, recoveries also outpaced new infections: "1,373 people tested positive from the beginning of the month until Sunday, at the rate of 51 infections a day," explained Al Maimani. "This is far lower compared to last month, when we had a daily rate of 185 new infections. Similarly, we have seen 5,013 people recover from the virus this September – an average of 186 recoveries a day." **>A4**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Oman to feel the heat of global warming

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Northern towns and cities in Oman, such as Sohar, Seeb, Sur and Khasab have experienced the highest temperature rises in the country owing to global warming, an Omani researcher has said.

Yaseen Abdulrahman Al Sharaabi, the director of the Centre for Environmental Studies and Research at Sultan Qaboos University, added that the weakest impact in the country, due to global warming, was felt along the southern coastal region.

"The country's climate has witnessed obvious changes over the past three decades, which is consistent with the conclusions

of recent studies of the Arabian Peninsula and the neighbouring regions," he said. "Between 1980 and 2013, meteorological stations throughout Oman showed evidence of warming."

"The average annual temperatures have increased by about 0.4 degrees per decade," added Al Sharaabi.

"This increase shows great variation across the country ranging from 0.1°C per decade around Salalah to about 1.1°C per decade for every decade all over Sur. There is also clear evidence that the highest temperatures in the Sultanate - the maximum and minimum - have increased over the past decades."

>A4



New cable car project coming up near Oman-UAE border

A3



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HEALTHCARE

Omani researcher finds new way to identify asymptomatic COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A researcher from Oman has found new ways to diagnose COVID-19 in patients who are asymptomatic, or have mild symptoms, which can help them seek treatment early.

The research, which also aims to find out why some COVID patients develop worse symptoms than others, was conducted by a team led by Dr Asma Al Balushi, an infectious diseases specialist, during her fellowship training programme at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, in collaboration with researchers in Oman. Her findings were based on the ELISA antibody test, which in addition to PCR tests, throat swabs and blood sample collections were done on people confirmed to have COVID-19. Research was conducted by visiting their homes, after securing permission from the Ministry of Health.

Once these samples were collected, researchers used them to compare the vital signs of these



Dr. Asma Al Balushi

patients with those who had been admitted to hospital for more severe cases of the virus.

"The most important finding of this research is that ELISA and PCR testing can be used to detect those who are infected with the coronavirus, but do not show any symptoms," said Al Balushi. "Some of these patients had the

symptoms after two or three days of testing, and some remained asymptomatic. This is very important as it increases awareness of people and enhances early recognition of COVID-19 cases," she added. "People can, therefore, be cautious and follow the precautionary measures more strictly and reduce the transmission of the virus. It must be noted that some people did not show a significant immune response, thus antibody testing by ELISA was negative."

Among these test subjects, different inflammatory markers have been studied to know which markers are correlated with disease severity in COVID-19 patients. Genetic testing of the human genome, especially the ACE-2 genome, was also performed.

Asma Al Balushi added that this project helped to recognise patients who might deteriorate earlier by performing special blood tests and inflammatory markers that reflect the immune response to fight the virus. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Sultanate's pavilion at Dubai ready for guests

1 Mohsen Khamis Al Balushi, Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Commissioner-General of the Sultanate at Expo 2020 Dubai, confirmed the Sultanate's full readiness for this global event which kicks off on Friday October 1. The Omani pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai is divided into five sections **>A3**

WORLD Indian farmers' union holds protests

2 Indian farmer unions held a nationwide protest on Monday to mark one year since the parliament passed three farm laws that they say threaten their livelihood. The 10-hour protest began early morning with farmers blocking state and national highways as well as train tracks. **>A7**

MARKET Al Mouj Muscat helps boost Oman tourism

3 The UN's World Tourism Day on September 27 this year champions the social and economic benefits of tourism, with Oman's Al Mouj Muscat a shining example as a sector leader. Tourism is a key pillar of Oman's drive towards sustainable and diversified economic growth. **>B1**



OMAN



PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:03pm
Asr.....3:27pm
Maghrib.....6:03pm
Isha.....7:13pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:43am

TIMES



OMAN

Chief Editor RANA N. PARVEZE

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MUSCAT, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1975

PRICE BAIZAS 200

RECORD NUMBER OF SURRENDERS IN AUGUST

INSURGENTS EXPRESS LOYALTY TO H.M. THE SULTAN

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

It has almost become a routine now with the communist insurgents to surrender every now and then begging apology and loyalty to H.M. Sultan Qaboos. This time they have come in a much more number than ever before. And the men who have come forward to lay arms this time have been occupying key positions with the communist guerrillas, it was learnt. This is unquestionably another proof of fastly deteriorating so-called influences of the communists in this part of the world.

It has been officially announced that a total of 35 dissidents came over to the Government during August. This is a record for any one month since surrender figures were first kept, and brings the total to 1,179. Many handed in weapons and ammunition on coming over.

Official statistics show that in almost every case dissidents gave as their reasons for leaving the terrorists their disillusionment with communism and their unwillingness to take part in terrorist repressive measures against the Dhofari people.

Police to launch public coordination campaign

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

Royal Oman Police have decided to start a massive campaign in order to make it more familiar and closer to general public interests so that it could be more and more useful to the citizens.

According to a police spokesman a fortnightly program on Television shall be started from October 2, which will include crime report, police interviews and other activities. A similar programme shall be relayed from Radio also.

In addition it has also been planned to paste wall posters to help educate the people about road safety and how to make best use of the police services. These posters will also be carrying emergency numbers of all the police stations.

Another attempt on Ford's life

ESCAPES UNHURT

San Francisco :

(By our Correspondent)

President Ford narrowly escaped death monday when a 45-year-old woman leftist militant fired several shots at him outside San Francisco's St. Francis Hotel at a range of 10 to 15 meters.

A San Francisco police officer had seen shining metal in the dense crowd around the hotel entrance and instantly struck the hand of the woman as she fired, with her 38 caliber pistol bullet to strike the street only inches from the President's limousine.

Millions of American television viewers saw the President's departure from the hotel—and brushing with death.

They saw the President ducking as shots were fired. Secret Service agents showed him into the waiting car while shielding him. The car sped away.

It was the third attempt on Mr. Ford's life in California this year, but the first in which bullets were actually fired.

H.M. Sultan Qaboos Greets King Khalid

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has sent a congratulatory telegram to King Khalid on the occasion of the National Day of Saudi Arabia.

ROYAL DECREE

Omantel Administrative Council formed

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

H.M. Sultan Qaboos on thursday issued Royal Decree No. 46/75 for the nomination of Oman Government's representatives on the Administrative Council of Oman Telecommunications (Omantel).

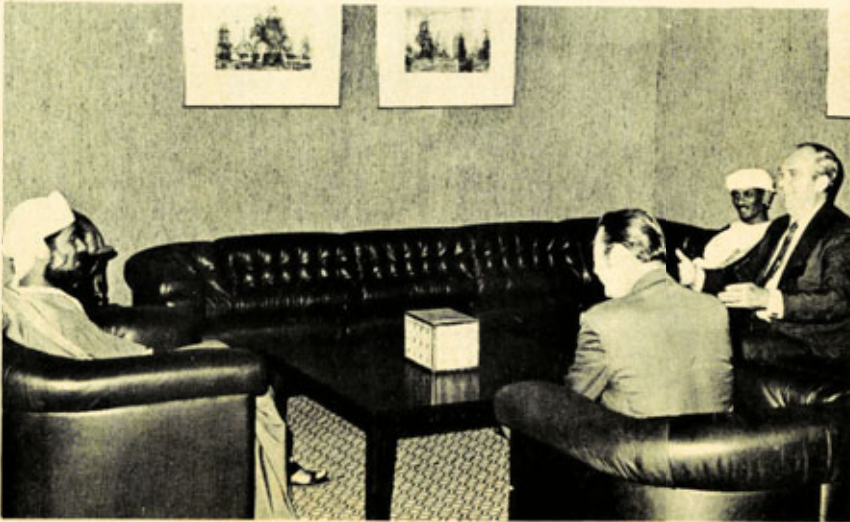
Mr. Abdul Hafez Salim Rajab, Minister of Communication will be the Chairman while Messers. Salim Nasir albu-Saidi, Under Secretary Ministry of Communications, Noor Mohamed Director Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones and Mrs. Nashiah Saud al-Kharoosi shall act as members.

Syrian Parliament rejects Sinai accord

Damascus :

(By our Correspondent)

The Syrian People's Council (Parliament) has unanimously rejected and denounced the Egyptian-Israeli second disengagement agreement, saying it represented a defeat.



Shell International Middle East Chief called on H.M. Sultan Qaboos. The Minister of oil H.E. Mr. Saeed Ahmad al-Shanfari and the PDO Chief were also present on the occasion.

Photo : Mohamed Mustafa.

PDO

Oman's oil exports during August

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

The export of crude oil from Oman during the month of August was 11,377,897 barrels at 60°F.

It was learnt that the oil was exported on 16 tankers.

Increase in oil prices likely this week

Vienna :

(By our Correspondent)

Major oil exporting countries are expected to raise the oil prices this week. Iranian Interior Minister Jamshid Amouzegar said wednesday.

Dr. Amouzegar said Oil Ministers of the 13-nation organisation of OPEC would refuse to extend the current price beyond September 30.

He declined to comment on the new prices to be effective from October but said that Iran would propose not to increase oil prices beyond 15%.



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Omani pavilion all decked up to receive visitors

Over the next six months, the Sultanate’s pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai will host a series of Omani events in scientific, artistic, cultural, economic and other fields

ENTRY POINT: The design and content selection take the visitors of the Omani pavilion on an educational and recreational journey, which is also interesting and entertaining. -ONA

MUSCAT: Mohsen Khamis Al Balushi, Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Commissioner-General of the Sultanate at Expo 2020 Dubai, confirmed the Sultanate’s full readiness for this global event.

He noted that the Omani pavilion is all set to receive visitors of Expo 2020 Dubai, which comes under the slogan “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”. As many as 191 countries, as well as regional and international organisations will participate in the Expo.

Al Balushi said in a statement that Expo 2020 Dubai, to be part of the global march towards innovative solutions for challenges facing humanity and highlighting concepts and principles of sustainable development to ensure a bright future for the coming generations. The participation is also a step towards maximising Oman’s desired gains at all levels, most important of which is the economic, social and cultural, Al Balushi added.

The participation also aims to introduce the Sultanate as a distinct tourism and business destination, as well as highlighting the Omani identity and the rich

ancient Omani heritage, promoting investment opportunities in various sectors, and communicating and interacting with the international community in various fields.

The pavilion is inspired by the frankincense tree, which played a leading role in promoting Omani trade in the ancient civilisations, as the design tells the story of Oman throughout history.

The pavilion is divided into five sections that simulate in their content the life cycle of frankincense, syncing with the three sub-themes of Expo 2020 Dubai, which are Mobility, Sustainability and Opportunity.

Young Omani competencies from the Innovation Factory Company carried out the designing, manufacturing and implementation of devices, equipment and technologies that will be used in telling and reviewing the content of the pavilion’s story.

The design and content selection take the visitors of the Omani pavilion on an educational and recreational journey, which is also interesting and entertaining.

Over the course of six months, the pavilion will host a series of Omani events and participations, including scientific, artistic, cultural and economic seminars on

various topics. In addition, certain weeks will be specified for fields that have the potential to maximise economic gains such as the Omani Products Exhibition, the SMEs Exhibition, and the Omani Investment Week, in which the concerned authorities will take part and preview promising investment opportunities in Oman.

The participation will also include several initiatives, including participating in the Women’s Pavilion to celebrate Omani Women’s Day next October, and organising a cruise onboard “Oman Youth Ship 2” in addition to the Sale Outlet that where more than 2,000 types of goods and products of nearly 400 SMEs for artisans, productive families and rural area’s women will be displayed and sold in this global event.

It is noteworthy that the Expo is one of the oldest and most important global events in terms of the magnitude and the interest of global media. It consolidates public understanding about human achievements in various societal sectors on various national, regional and global levels. It is also a successful communication channel between different peoples and civilizations to consolidate sustainable development and global peace principles. -ONA

COMING SOON: The tender for the work will be floated in the fourth week of September 2021 and is expected to be finalised by mid-November 2021, with construction to be completed by mid-November 2022.

New cable car project coming up near Oman-UAE border

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new cable car project that will show visitors the rugged beauty of the region of Hatta near the border between Oman and the UAE is currently under construction. The Dubai Mountain Peak project features cable car rides across a 5.4 km cable that will take visitors to Umm Al Nisour, the highest peak in the emirate that stands at 1,300 metres.

On top of the mountain will be erected a circular observation deck from where people can enjoy uninterrupted views of the rocky terrain, interspersed with mountain lakes, for miles around. They can also explore the mountains around them through hiking paths that are also being laid out.

The project is one of six new developments slated for Hatta, which has been earmarked as a new tourism destination in the UAE. Other projects include the construction of 200 holiday homes to support domestic tourism, as well as the Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls project, both of which will be implemented by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA).

Cable cars will pass over the

Hatta Dam, which is also under construction, and forms a major component of the waterfalls being designed. The upper slope of the dam will be used to create a natural waterfall, which will cascade onto a waterway, collected at the end, and then pumped back into the top of the dam. The stream formed by the waterway will be home to fish bred within, which will improve the quality of visits to the area. The area near the waterway will also be used to create recreational spaces and restaurants.

Updates on the project were recently provided to Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, the MD and CEO of DEWA, when he visited the sites for the two projects, reported WAM. Nasser Lootah, Executive Vice President of Generation at DEWA; Khalifa Al Bedwawi, project manager, and the project team accompanied Al Tayer.

During the visit, Al Tayer was briefed by the project manager on the latest developments related to the engineering designs of the Dubai Mountain Peak project, the time plan, and the challenges at the site and how to overcome them. Specialised international consultants have been appointed to en-

sure the project is implemented according to the highest international standards of quality, safety, and security.

“The projects will contribute to overall development in the Hatta region, especially the Dubai Mountain Peak, which includes the construction of a 5.4-kilometre cable car to transport tourists to the summit of Umm Al Nisour,” he said.

“At 1,300 metres above sea level, it is the highest natural summit in Dubai,” he added. “The project is expected to be a major tourist attraction in the UAE. The cable car route passes over the Hatta Dam lake and the upper dam lake, which are parts of the Hatta pumped-storage hydroelectricity plant currently under construction, as well as over the mountains. The route ends at the summit of Umm Al Nisour mountain.”

Al Tayer also reviewed the progress of the Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls project. The project started in May 2021. The tender for the work will be floated in the fourth week of September 2021 and is expected to be finalised by mid-November 2021, with construction to be completed by mid-November 2022.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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24,147 REACH

A total of 77 people were on board the flight.



Story on a passenger plane making an emergency landing



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

634 VIEWS



Video story on firefighters douse a fire



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

13,300 VIEWS



Morning Minute video



Story on a passenger plane making an emergency landing



Video story on firefighters douse a fire



Morning Minute video



The Morning Minute video had 13,300 views and reached 29,000 people on Facebook.



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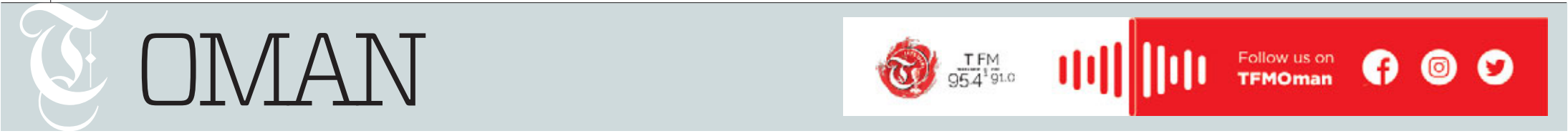


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76TH SESSION OF UN

Oman committed to achieving UN’s noble goals of international peace and security, says Sayyid Badr

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, has affirmed its continuous commitment to the main fundamentals and principles of its foreign policy.

Oman’s foreign policy advocates good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, respect for international laws and charters, support for co-operation among countries and the enhancement of opportunities for internal dialogue.

The Sultanate also stressed its conviction on the need to resolve differences in a spirit of harmony and tolerance that has always been the mainstay of the country’s human civilisation. Oman believes that harmony and tolerance lead to better and more lasting results than could be achieved by conflict and strife.

This was stated in the Sultanate’s speech delivered by Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi before the 76th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

Sayyid Badr reiterated the Sultanate’s continued cooperation with the UN Secretary General and all member states with the prime aim of achieving the UN’s noble goals, notably establishing and consolidating international peace and security.

In the speech, Sayyid Badr also highlighted the efforts exerted by the Sultanate while dealing with coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

He said that “Crises and challenges are also opportunities for nations to test their readiness and enhance their capabilities. Despite the great challenges and hurdles posed to our daily lives by Covid-19, the pandemic did not discourage us, neither did weaken our resolve to confront it or address its impacts and repercussions.

“In the Sultanate of Oman, the availability of vaccines has had a significant positive effect in strengthening our drive to address this pandemic. This consolidated our hope to eradicate the pandemic and experience a gradual return to normal life,” said Sayyid Badr.

“Through preventive measures and by conducting the National Immunisation Campaign (covering all targeted age-groups), my country has been able to curb the spread of the epidemic and cut down the number of infections deaths and cases of hospitalization. This helped us resume to normalcy all economic, commercial and social activities and opening



UN ADDRESS: The Sultanate’s speech delivered by Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi before the 76th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. -ONA

all sorts of travel, while at the same time adhering to preventive and precautionary measures,” Sayyid Badr added.

“As we continue our efforts to tackle this pandemic, we call upon the international community to strengthen cooperation and solidarity. We also urge vaccine producing and donor states to do their best to ensure an equitable distribution of vaccines to all countries and peoples, especially those in less developed regions suffering sharp shortage of medical facilities and capabilities. The aim is to sustain international cooperation and societal interdependence and to ensure decent life for people everywhere,” said Sayyid Badr.

“We seize this opportunity to offer a word of sincere appreciation and admiration to those in charge of health systems, especially frontline teams in all countries of the world. We value the tremendous efforts and great sacrifices made by international organisations for the sake of all humanity,” said Sayyid Badr.

The rest of the speech reads as follows: “We, in the Sultanate of Oman, are part of this interconnected world with which we share common interests and destiny. We are pleased with what pleases the world and regret what is harmful to it. Therefore, we strive with all

our energies and capabilities to contribute to the advancement of peace at all regional and international levels. We are committed to our position of clarity, frankness and objectivity. We are also firm in our adherence to our values and principles. We uphold a balanced and constructive approach in dealing with all issues.

“From this standpoint, my country supported and welcomed positive developments that resulted from Al-Ula summit held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We appreciate the success of reconciliation efforts led by the State of Kuwait.

Palestinian people

“We also affirm our support for the fair cause of Palestinian people and their legitimate demands for independence from Israel. We support Palestinian people’s right to establish their own independent state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the international law, relevant Security Council Resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

“As for the Yemeni crisis, my country will go ahead with its persistent efforts and will continue to work with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Nations (UN) envoy, the United States envoy for Yemen and the Yemeni parties

concerned, with the aim of ending the war by reaching a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire respected by all sides, as well as full resumption of humanitarian efforts to provide the needs of the brethren in Yemen, especially medicine, healthcare, food, fuel and housing.

Political settlement

“We add our voice to all who believe in the need to reach a comprehensive political settlement to crisis in Yemen in a manner that restores to its people a return to security, stability and normal life, while at the same time safeguarding the security and interests of the countries of the region.

“In the meantime, we hope that the Vienna talks over Iran’s nuclear programme will lead to results that achieve the desired consensus among all parties because we strongly believe that this will be in the interest of the region and the entire world.

“Like the rest of world countries, we have followed up the recent developments in Afghanistan. Here, we would like to express our hope that all Afghan parties would work towards reconciliation and advance the higher interests of the Afghan people and their aspiration for security, stability, economic and social de-

velopment as well as measures to establish positive relations with neighbouring countries and the international community.

“My country condemns all forms and manifestations of terrorism and supports all efforts and strategies aimed to eradicate this negative phenomenon which contradicts religious and human values, clashes with civilized ethics and threatens global security and stability.

“The Sultanate also calls for eliminating threats to international maritime trade. It urges full adherence to treaties, agreements and the international law to ensure freedom of navigation in a manner that secures the flow of trade between countries and enhances opportunities for economic growth. We appeal to all member states to fulfil their commitments made under relevant treaties and disarmament agreements, in particular treaties on denuclearization and removal of weapons of mass destruction in order to secure global stability.

“My country has sought to translate its international commitment towards the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG 2030) by integrating its three SDG components (economic, social and environmental), as well as the goals of the Sultanate’s development strategies and plans. We view this as a major pillar of Oman Vision 2040 and its executive plans.

“We are fully aware that the road to sustainable development remains a long and difficult one and that, to meet our obligations, we have to depend on our ability to face challenges, and this requires solid international and regional cooperation. Towards this end, we recognize that renewed commitment to social justice serves as the real foundation for work at both levels of national and international policy. Here, we welcome and support investment and economic diversification programmes, which constitute key priorities of development plans in the Sultanate of Oman. This will contribute to maximizing benefits and imparting opportunities to our partners and society.

Climate change.

“Like other countries of the world, the Sultanate of Oman attaches great attention to the risks posed by climate change. They are hazards that affect environmental, agricultural, economic and in-

frastructure systems. To counter climate change and limit its increasing negative effects, the Sultanate of Oman has implemented the draft National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change, which includes reports on the expected impacts on development sectors and sets out plans for appropriate adaptation. My country has recently submitted the second Nationally Determined Contributions Report on reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“The world has been witnessing new transformations brought about by scientific and technological progress, which makes it incumbent upon us all, once again, to emphasise the importance of strengthening global partnership in order to maximise the benefits to be gained from advanced technologies. It is also necessary to keep pace with technological progress within the context of SDG and to confront the challenges of the modern age, a byproduct of which is the threat to the climate.

“There is no doubt that women have a great role to play, alongside men, in building a social fabric that ensures the proper upbringing of young people upon whom the hopes of nations rest. You are well aware that young people are the hope of the present and the mainstay of the future and countries rely upon their young generations for their development. Therefore, it has been essential for governments to place youth on top their priorities, and to provide everything that would advance young people’s capabilities. I emphasise my country’s commitment to enabling women and youth to acquire knowledge and all possible capabilities, and to ensure their active participation in the process of construction, development, innovation and prosperity.

“In conclusion, Your Excellency the President, we observe that the international community faces pressing issues that must be addressed with international cooperation to attain the goals of stability, harmony and prosperity as aspired by humanity. Hence, we believe that consolidating the true concept of partnership and common destiny among all peoples and societies is the most appropriate means to achieve these goals and enhance the esteemed status that the United Nations aspires for and seeks to sustain.” -ONA

IN SEPTEMBER

<FROM A1 Patients in ICUs decline

Hospitalisation numbers have also dropped significantly in September: 112 people were admitted to hospital for COVID complications in August, compared to about 43 until Sunday, 26 September.

In terms of patients admitted to intensive care units, 54 people were sent to ICUs in August, and that decreased by 59 per cent to 22 admissions in September.

“We have also seen that over the last 24 hours, the numbers of patients hospitalised fell below 15 since the start of the month, and below 10, compared to the past week,” said Al Maimani.

Backing up Al Maimani’s observations, the Royal Hospital reported on Wednesday, 22 September, that for the first time in 18 months, it was devoid of any patients in its COVID-19 department.

The last patient who had been admitted because of the virus had left the hospital on that day. Royal Hospital has since then not seen any new admissions of COVID patients to its facilities. So far, nearly 2.9 million people have been vaccinated against COVID-19, as of Sunday, 26 September.

According to figures from the Ministry of Health, this represents 82 per cent of the target population. 2,050,716 people have been administered two jabs of COVID-19.

A total of nearly five million doses have been used, with the ministry continuing to vaccinate all those eligible, to stop the spread of COVID-19, with vaccination centres continuing to witness good turnouts. An average of 45,000 doses a day were provided in August, compared to about 43,000 so far this month.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

<FROM A1 Study will promote and enhance level of research

Knowing these markers and which ones to use to predict patients’ deterioration and disease progression can be used to prevent further deterioration by implementing early interventions while managing these people.

This reduces the load on intensive care units and might even prevent death. The findings of this study can also help specialists in formalising the guidelines for doctors taking care of COVID-19 patients. Therefore, unnecessary tests can be removed from the guidelines, and spending can be

better organised. “Studies like ours have their value on national and international levels”, said Al Balushi said. “They promote and enhance research levels in the country to compete with other countries with high research level to provide scientific

CLIMATE CHANGE

<FROM A1 Minimum temperature in all governorates rose

Statistical studies show that the change in the average maximum temperature ranges from -0.6°C per decade around Sohar to about 1.2°C per decade, in the surroundings of Khasab.

The same studies also show that the change in the annual minimum temperature ranges from 0.2°C per decade around Seeq to about 1.7°C per decade in the vicinity of Sur.

In general, the average minimum temperature increased in all the governorates by about 0.5°C per decade.

There are also other noticeable trends that include a clear rise in the maximum temperature at night in all parts of the country, while the cases of high temperatures during the day were clearer in the north of the Sultanate.

Precipitation patterns have changed during the past three decades, but changes were much less severe than the changes in temperature. There is a large variation in rainfall from year to year and it witnessed high fluctuations during the ‘80s and ‘90s. Finally, rainfall, in general, witnessed a decrease between 1980 and 2013.

Future Temperatures

Al Sharaabi indicated, “The country’s future climate will be significantly different from its historical patterns. By the middle of the 21st century, annual averages of maximum temperatures overall will experience a significant increase regardless of the future climate pathway used. In the best case, maximum temperatures are expected to rise by at least 2°C along the southern coastal regions.”

“The worst case forecasts indicate an increase in maximum temperatures by 4°C in the interior and northern governorates, including Musandam,” he added. “It is expected that the eastern and south eastern coastal regions will witness the least change in the expected maximum temperatures. The maps also show that the maximum temperature will increase from the coastal eastern regions to the interior western regions throughout the country and across all representative concentration pathways.

He continued: “So, towards the end of the 21st century, annual maximum temperatures will continue to change dramatically,

In the worst-case maximum temperatures are expected to increase by 1°C compared to their mid-21st century counterparts, exceeding historical levels by up to 5°C, for all the interior regions of Oman, as well as some coastal areas in the northern parts of the Sea of Oman and the western parts of the Arabian Sea.”

According to best-case scenarios, it is not expected that the maximum temperatures will increase in the late 21st century in most regions of the country. Rather, it is expected that some areas in Al Hajar Mountains, far north and near Ramlet Umm Al Hait in the western Dhofar Governorate will witness a decrease in temperatures of up to 0.5 degrees Celsius.

By the middle of the 21st century, annual averages of minimum temperatures overall will experience a significant increase regardless of the future climate pathway used, and in the best-case scenario, a minimum temperature increase of at least 2°C is projected for all southern coastal regions along the Arabian Sea, as well as the southern border of the Sea of Oman.

materials to understand diseases. This attracts experienced people from all over the world to collaborate with researchers from our country”.

This research was conducted in collaboration between the Ministry of Higher Education, Research

and Innovation (MoHERI), Ministry of Health, the Royal Hospital, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, the Royal Liverpool University Hospital in the United Kingdom, the Central Public Health Laboratories, and the National Genetic Centre in Oman.

In a worst-case scenario, minimum temperatures are expected to rise by 1.5°C compared to mid-21st century levels - or a total of 5.5°C above the historical levels - in the northernmost regions of the Hajar Mountains. Most regions of the Sultanate will have an increase in minimum temperatures ranging between 0.5 and 1°C above the levels recorded for the middle of the 21st century.

In the best cases, the minimum temperatures are expected to decrease from the middle of the 21st century to the end of the 21st century for most regions of the Sultanate. It is even expected that some regions in the interior parts of the Sultanate will witness a decrease in the minimum temperature of up to 1.5°C.

Future changes

“The change in the average annual precipitation shows different results in light of the expected climatic changes. In a best-case scenario, the change in annual precipitation is projected to be between 0 and 10 mm per year in most regions. In the worst case, average annual precipitation will

decrease by up to 10 mm/year in most areas. Only areas near the southwestern and eastern coasts experience an additional 0 to 10 mm/yr change,” Prof Al Sharaabi stated.

Annual rainfall

By the late 21st century, average annual rainfall will have changed significantly across the country. Under the best-case scenario, average annual precipitation is expected to decrease at a rate of up to 10 mm per year in the interior regions, south of the Hajar Mountains, while the average annual precipitation remains the same as it was in the middle of the 21st century or a slight increase in the Hajar Mountains region.

As for the worst case, the average annual precipitation in most areas will decrease by up to 10 mm per year, compared to the levels of the middle of the 21st century, but in specific parts of the Dhofar Governorate, the average annual rainfall remains the same as it was in the middle of the 21st century. The average annual rainfall will remain the same as it was in the middle of the century.

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T20 WORLD CUP

ICC Men's T20 World Cup sponsorship pacts signed



SIGNING CEREMONY: The agreement was signed by Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of the Oman Cricket Board and CEOs and representatives of the sponsoring companies. -ONA

AL AMERAT: Sponsorship agreements for the qualifiers of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup were signed on Monday at the headquarters of Oman Cricket Club.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted by the Sultanate during the period from 17-21 October 2021. The tournament will see the participation of the national teams of Oman, Bangladesh, Scotland and New Guinea.

The signing ceremony was attended by Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and Basil Ahmed Al Rowas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth.

The agreement was signed by Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of the Oman Cricket Board and CEOs and representatives of the sponsoring companies. -ONA

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Agreement signed to monitor air quality

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority yesterday signed an agreement with Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation for a project to develop the national programme for monitoring the environment and the detection of surrounding air quality in the Sultanate.

The project comes as part of the country's 10-Year Plan (2021-2040), the first leg in Oman Vision 2040.

The programme aims to protect the environment and human health and support sustainable development goals, besides enhancing the Sultanate's position in international environmental indexes and data and indices of Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

It incorporates the Environmental Performance Indicator

and international economic competitiveness reports.

The programme also supports other priorities in Oman Vision 2040, like the priority of health, the development of governorates, scholarly research and innovation, and information to assist the government in taking objective decisions based on solid methodical grounds.

The programme will help meet the obligations set for joining regional and international conventions and the requirements of UN organisations specialised in health, environment and society issues.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, and Ahmed Al Habsi, General Manager of Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation. -ONA

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Oman celebrates World Tourism Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism celebrated on Monday along with the other countries the World Tourism Day (WTD) by organising a workshop on the security and safety requirements for Adventure Tourism.

The event coincided with the issuance of the Ministerial Decision No. 24/2021 on addition of the activity of organising adventure

tourism tours to the activities of the travel and tour offices.

The participants reviewed the procedures necessary for the security and safety requirements for the activities of adventure tourism. The procedures were presented by the personnel concerned at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. -ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



JOINT COOPERATION

MSC, Indian Navy ink pact

MUSCAT: The Maritime Security Centre (MSC) and the Indian Navy Forces signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the MSC's HQs in Al Murtafaa Camp yesterday.

The MoU was signed by Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), Head of the Maritime Security Committee, whilst it was signed from the Indian side by Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff in the Republic of India.

The MoU aims at enhancing the existing joint cooperation between the MSC and the Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in the fields of maritime security and information exchange between the two friendly countries in order to maintain safety in the maritime navigation against various hazards.

After the signing ceremony, the Indian military official toured the MSC's facilities. -ONA

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Tender No.	Tender Name	Last date for Tender document sale	Last date for Tender Clarification	Last date for bids submission	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
ORC/09/2021	Construction Project of Mudhairb Distribution Center	14/10/2021	28/10/2021	18/11/2021	RO. 300/-

- Grade "A" construction companies, having minimum of 10 years experience in the Sultanate of Oman and have relative experience of similar projects "construction of foodstuff warehouses and accommodation building having total built up area of 20,000 sqm" along with experience in steel structure and HVAC systems.
- CD's containing the tender documents, detailed BOQ and guidelines for preparing the tender may be collected on any working day from **Sunday to Thursday between 9:00 AM & 16:00 PM** from "The Tender Committee, Oman Refreshment Co SAOG, Al Ghoubrah South Opp. Avenues Mall"
- The Tenders are to be submitted in sealed envelope separately as "Technical" and "Commercial" and to be signed, stamped, and addressed to Oman Refreshment Tender Committee and marked with Tender Number & Name. Company profile & work experience to be included.
- At the time of buying tender documents, payment receipts will be handed upon receipt of ID card copy and two business cards of the company's representative.
- All tenderers should submit with their offers a Tender Bond in the amount of not less than 1% of the Tender value, valid for 90 Days from the date of Tender Submission obtained from a local bank in the Sultanate of Oman, and addressed to Oman Refreshment Company SAOG. Any bid without tender bond will be rejected.
- For tender clarification, please email to orcenders@pepsioman.com with subject being Tender Number & Name before 28/10/2021, any clarification after the mentioned date will not be considered.
- The submission date/time shall be on or before the deadline specified in the above table. Any proposal submitted after the given date/time will not be considered.

ORC is not obliged to accept the lowest or any bid, and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reason

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WORLD TOURISM DAY

ROHM launches new digital 360 degree tour

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) has launched a new digital 360 degree tour of the Opera House and House of Musical Arts on the occasion of world tourism day, featuring members of the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra and the First Royal Band for Music & Folklore.

With stunning footage from the main areas, the opera house has created an exciting new way to explore the world class performance space housed within the incredible buildings and beautiful architecture.

Heralded in the region as a beacon of cultural exchange and admired worldwide for its national identity and artistic integrity, the Royal Opera House Muscat is a very special place to visit.

The virtual tour will open the opera house to a host of new eyes



STUNNING FOOTAGE: The virtual tour will open the opera house to a host of new eyes across the world. -ONA

across the world.

Everyone is invited to take a glimpse through the doors, up the stairs, along the red carpet and into the magic of the auditorium of both the Royal Opera House Muscat and the House of Musical

Arts, taking in the splendour, design details and inspiring artistry on the way.

The experience of exploring the interior is now accessible to people who may not have been inside the opera house before, those who

may never had the chance to visit and to those who are planning to travel to Oman. The new 360 tour will complement the existing guided tours which have been running successfully at the opera house since it opened in 2011.

Omani musicians accompany the tour with soft classical music as each image offers the chance to explore the space through 360, enabling a wonderful immersive voyage of discovery. Each tour features cameo performances from members of the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra and the First Royal Band for Music & Folklore.

The 360 tour reflects the ROHM's policy to embrace new technologies in the development of this wonderful cultural asset, so that anyone, anywhere can enjoy the opera house. -ONA



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SUCCESSFUL LANDING

Passenger plane lands despite landing gear failure

KATHMANDU: An aircraft of domestic carrier Buddha Air has made a successful landing at Tribhuvan International Airport on Monday morning despite

landing gear failure. The aircraft was unable to land at the Biratnagar Airport and was diverted to Kathmandu. A total of 77 people were on board the flight. **ANI**

EXCHANGED VIEWS

Defence Secretary General meets Indian Naval Chief



MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa Camp yesterday Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff in India and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate.

The two sides exchanged views on several military matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of Royal Navy of Oman, the Indian Ambassador to the Sultanate, Defence Attaché at the Indian Embassy in Muscat and the delegation accompany-

ing the guest.

Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) received in his office at Al Murtafa Camp Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed fields of the existing maritime cooperation between the RNO and the Indian Navy, as well as exchanging views on several matters of common interests. The meeting was attended by a number of the RNO senior officers and the Defence Attaché at the Indian Embassy in Muscat. -ONA



SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PARTY WINS

Germany's left-leaning SPD narrowly wins election against Angela Merkel's CDU

BERLIN: Germany's left-leaning, Social Democrats Party (SPD) won in the German federal election with over 25 per cent votes, but uncertainty remains over the next leader as results showed that the party won narrowly.

According to the Federal Returning Officer, with all 299 of Germany's electoral districts reporting, the SDP won 25.7 per cent of the vote, beating out the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the centrist-right, Conservative Party of Chancellor Angela Merkel, which took 24.1 per cent, reported CNN. The results show that there is still uncertainty over who will be the next leader of Germany. Merkel, who over 16 years cemented her position as one of the world's most successful political leaders, will stay in the job until a coalition deal is negotiated.

Both the SPD and the CDU with its coalition partner, the Christian Social Union (CSU), have said they want to begin coalition negotiations to form a new government.

Likely coalitions in Germany will either see the SPD or CDU/CSU forming a government with the Green Party, which took 14.8 per cent of the votes and the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), with 11.5 per cent, reported CNN.

SPD leader Olaf Scholz said voters wanted him to be the next chancellor.

"Many citizens have put their crosses next to the SPD because they want there to be a change in government and also because they want the next chancellor of this country to be called Olaf Scholz," he said in remarks at his party's headquarters.

The 63-year-old politician has served as the vice-chancellor and German finance minister in Merkel's grand coalition government since 2018, earning him increased visibility as he navigated Germany's economic response to the



GERMANY VOTES: The results show that there is still uncertainty over who will be the next leader of Germany.

pandemic, reported CNN.

"Pragmatism, optimism, unity that is what we will show because that is what counts, and I am sure the citizens will also be happy post-election about their decision," Scholz added.

By contrast, the CDU leader Armin Laschet told supporters, the party "cannot be content with this result," while noting that the final result remained unclear.

The party had campaigned on a

message of stability for the country after Merkel, seen as a steady pair of hands over the past nearly 16 years, steps down. But it is now coming to terms with what it itself called a bitter night of losses.

Meanwhile, Greens' leader Annalena Baerbock said the party "led a campaign as we have never before experienced in this country -- around the clock, until last night, the last second."

Environmental concerns and

economic worries have emerged as key issues in campaigning, with the former fuelled by the deadly floods that devastated parts of Germany this summer, reported CNN.

The Alternative for Germany (AfD's) lead candidate for chancellor, Alice Weidel, put on a brave face after exit polls showed a drop in support for the far-right party. Preliminary official results put the count at 10.3 per cent of the vote, down from 12.6 per cent in 2017. **aw**

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

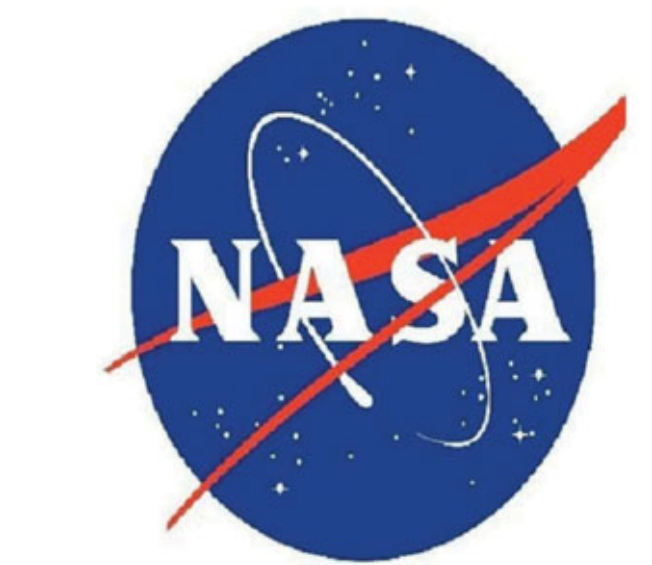
NASA, Boeing helping Russia in trying to find cause of cracks on space station

MOSCOW: Engineers from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are helping Russia in its investigation into the possible causes of cracks and air leaks at the International Space Station (ISS).

Paul Hill, a member of NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, said at a Sunday panel meeting that the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, the Langley Research Center, the panel itself and the Boeing company are all conducting engineering analyses of the issue.

According to Russian Rocket and Space Corporation Energia, persistent air leaks on the ISS could be the result of welding errors made inside the Zarya and Zvezda modules three decades ago.

Energia's First Deputy General Designer Vladimir Soloviev told Sputnik at the end of last month that Russian cosmonauts found cracks in the oldest module of the ISS, Zarya, and warned that the earlier discovery of through cracks in the Zvezda module means that the Zarya cracks could



start to expand.

Soloviev said that Russian cosmonauts were going to install highly sensitive vibration sensors inside the Russian segment of the ISS in the hope of finding the cause of air leaks.

A small air leak was first de-

tected at the ISS in September 2019. The crew have since identified and sealed two cracks but air continues to leak, which, nonetheless, poses no threat to those on board the space station, according to Russia's space agency Roscosmos. **ANI**

ADVENTURE CALLS

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Superb second place in rain for Al-Zubair and Soucek at Monza

The Lechner Racing Porsche 911 GT3 R crew started out on slicks and opted to pit straight away for wet tyres and the strategy paid off

Times News Service

MONZA: Al-Faisal Al-Zubair and Andy Soucek overcame the wet and demanding race conditions to seal a hard-earned second place in the second International GT Open race at Italy's Monza circuit on Sunday afternoon.

The Lechner Racing Porsche 911 GT3 R crew started out on slicks and opted to pit straight away for wet tyres and the strategy paid off with another useful haul of championship points and a podium finish. Chilean driver Benjamin Hites and Italian team-mate Fabrizio Crestani overcame the wet and challenging race conditions to seal victory by 8.372 seconds in the Rinaldi Racing Ferrari 488.

Michele Beretta and Frederick Schandorff rounded off the podium places in their Vincenzo Sospiri Racing Lamborghini be-



GT OPEN: Damp conditions and light drizzle were present at the start and Al-Zubair and Guidetti pitted from the rolling start to put wet weather tyres on their cars.

hind Al-Zubair and Soucek. They remain firm favourites to clinch the International GT Open title at the final race meeting.

Al-Zubair said: "This weekend was good, especially the second race starting P9 after the rain in qualifying. This really put us on the back foot but we knew we had a strong car if the rain came down. Coming out on the formation lap on slicks seemed like the right call. But, just before the race started, we pitted for wet tyres. This was the best call and, ultimately, made the race for us from P9 to P2.

"We are very happy with this. We did not expect a P2 in the second race after starting so far back. The team did an amazing job when we came into the pits. We jumped three cars in the pit itself due to the team's pit stop, which was great. I am now looking forward to the next race in Barcelona in one month."

The Lechner Racing Porsche lined up in ninth position for the second of the weekend's races with pole position going to the Inception Racing McLaren of Joe Osborne and Nick Moss. Jacopo

Guidetti qualified the Reno Racing Honda NSX in second place.

Damp conditions and light drizzle was present at the start and Al-Zubair and Guidetti pitted from the rolling start to put wet weather tyres on their cars. Yuki Nemoto managed to pass Osborne to take the lead with Gerhard Tweraser moving up to third.

After the pit stop, Al-Zubair and Guidetti rejoined in 18th and 22nd places, as several of the other front-runners also opted to pit in the difficult conditions. Osborne regained the lead on the second

lap, with Loris Spinelli moving up to second place and Al-Zubair climbing back to 13th heading into lap three.

Spinelli opted to pit soon after and Cup runner Daan Pijl inherited a surprise lead in his Bonaldi Motorsport Porsche. Al-Zubair's early pit stop decision was proving to be a good one and the Omani climbed to eighth position.

When Marcus Paverud pitted, Al-Zubair moved up another place to seventh and was the second of the Pro runners behind Fabrizio Crestani. The rain intensified as the leaders headed into lap five with Crestani moving up to fourth and Al-Zubair and Schandorff starting to reel in the Cup cars ahead from sixth and seventh positions.

Al-Zubair and Schandorff moved up to fifth and sixth on lap six but Pijl and Mateusz Lisowski continued to fend off a charging Crestani at the head of the leader board until the Pro class car moved into the lead heading into lap seven. Schandorff passed Al-Zubair to take fifth, but the Lamborghini and the Porsche continued to reel in the Cup cars running ahead.

Both Schandorff and Al-Zubair overtook the leading Cup cars and moved into second and third positions behind Crestani with 44 minutes of the race remaining.

Pro class cars held the top six positions heading towards the halfway point, with Crestani leading Schandorff by 6.922 seconds and Al-Zubair locked in a tussle with

Giacomo Altoe for third place.

Both Al-Zubair and Schandorff pitted immediately afterwards for driver changes and Soucek and Beretta took over for the remaining 34 minutes of the race from 14th and 15th places.

Once the driver changes were completed, Soucek and Beretta settled into third and fourth behind Benjamin Hites and Federico Leo with 24 minutes of the race to run in difficult track conditions. Soucek managed to overtake Leo on lap 17 to snatch second and began to hunt down Hites.

The gap was 23.404 seconds when a safety car came out under the yellow flag to allow for debris and a stricken Lamborghini to be removed from the circuit. Racing resumed under a green flag with 12 minutes left of the race and Soucek, Leo and Beretta tightly closed in behind leader Hites.

The rain had stopped but there was still a lot of standing water, as the leading quartet held station until Leo slipped down to sixth and Beretta and Baptiste Moulin moved up to third and fourth.

Hites led Soucek by 5.806 seconds after 22 laps with nine minutes of the race to run. But the chasing trio were not able to hunt down the Ferrari over the closing laps and Hites reached the chequered flag 8.372 seconds ahead of Soucek, with Beretta in third and Marco Bonanomi crossing the finish line in fourth. The last two races in the International GT Open calendar take place in Barcelona on October 23-24.

FOOTBALL

Barcelona bounce back against Levante

BARCELONA: Early first-half goals from Memphis Depay and Luuk de Jong and a late strike from the returning Ansu Fati helped Barcelona snap a three-match winless streak with a 3-0 win over Levante at the Camp Nou.

Poor efforts in their previous two Spanish La Liga Santander contests made Sunday's encounter a pivotal one, and Barcelona responded with a very solid effort, which included a much-anticipated return from Ansu Fati, who scored in the waning minutes to top off a bright day for the Blaugrana.

Suspended head coach Ronald Koeman sent out a starting XI that had youngsters Nico Gonzalez and Gavi in the mix in midfield while Eric Garcia returned to his post at centre-back.

After suffering through their last several matches in terms of scoring goals, Barcelona got an early break when Nemanja Radojica fouled Memphis Depay in the area, which the Dutchman clinically converted to give his side a 1-0 lead.

Levante were making things easy for Barcelona in attack and Luuk de Jong then opened up his Barcelona account by receiving a pass from Sergino Dest and hammering a right-footed finish past



Levante goalkeeper Aitor Fernandez for a 2-0 advantage.

Barcelona were enjoying their football and Gerard Pique could have easily made it three had he connected on a cross from Memphis. That was then followed by chances for both Memphis and Gavi.

The good vibes continued into the second half, and the Camp Nou was even more delighted at the hour mark when Riqui

Puig was brought on for Philippe Coutinho.

The cheers were even louder in the half when Ansu Fati made his long-awaited return from his meniscus injury in the 80th minute, replacing Luuk de Jong while Ronald Araujo and Yusuf Demir came on for Oscar Mingueza and Gavi.

Barcelona's triple substitution led to some switching off from their

defence and after Jose Luis Morales fired wide for Levante, Marc Andre ter Stegen had to produce a big save to stop Alex Cantero from scoring and maintain the two-goal advantage. All that was lacking was a dream return for Ansu Fati, and the 18-year-old promptly delivered with a fierce right-footed strike that wrapped up the three points and made it 3-0, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported. **ONA**

MANCHESTER UNITED

Ronaldo's second United debut was like Caesar entering Rome: Alex Ferguson

MANCHESTER: Legendary Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has described Cristiano Ronaldo's second debut for the Red Devils as "Caesar entering Rome".

United pulled off one of the biggest signings this year by resigning Ronaldo from Juventus on deadline day, 12 years on from his initial departure to Real Madrid. Upon his return, Ronald scored two goals against Newcastle United at Old Trafford and this game was even attended by Ferguson, who had earlier described Ronaldo as his son.

"It's fantastic. You saw on that Saturday that it was like Caesar entering Rome after victory. I came, I saw, I conquered. It was fantastic. I mean, for anyone who is a United fan, we could have had a million people in there, without doubt, as there were so many outside, hundreds outside. It's one of these things. When he was here



as a kid, his learning process was very, very quick," Ferguson told the club's official podcast, as reported by goal.com.

"A lot of people said he was a diver and there was a little spell of that but, after that, he was attacking defenders and all he needed

was a nudge and he would waltz by them. He would attack with unbelievable speed. I think the increasing knowledge of his game -- I think he was born with a desire," he added.

Further talking about Ronaldo, Ferguson said: "He sacrificed himself to be the best. I remember we were playing Arsenal on the Saturday and it was pouring with rain at Carrington. I said to him, and you know he would always practice after training, and I said, 'In. We've got a game tomorrow and it's too wet. The ground is too soft.'

"So I went into my office, looked out of the window and what did he do? He went on the astroturf. I had no argument! I couldn't say anything to him. He's beat me," he added.

Ronaldo has taken his tally to four goals in four appearances since his debut against Newcastle. **ANI**

CHESS

Chess tournament to be organised

MUSCAT: An Open Rapid Chess Tournament will be organised at the food court of Panaroma Mall from 1pm on October 1.

The board chess tournament is being held after nearly two years. Interested players may

send their entries by WhatsApp to 71549460. The tournament is open to fully vaccinated people only. There will be prizes for winners. The vaccination certificate is a must to enter the premises of the Mall.

COMMENTARY

David Miller, the ideal partner for Sanju Samson



Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

Rajasthan Royals will play against bottom placed Sunrisers and have a good chance to collect 2 points against a side which has got just one win in 9 games and are yet to win in the UAE. But for that, captain Sanju Samson needs support from the rest of the team members as he forged a lone battle in their last loss against Delhi Capitals, in which no other batsman gave him the support to chase down the target of 154.

Currently Rajasthan Royals are placed at seventh position with 8 points, with 4 wins and five losses after 9 games and will have to win at least more games to reach to 16 points which gives them a realistic chance of making it to the playoffs. Rajasthan Royals' fate is

in their own hands and one player who plays a key role in supporting Sanju Samson is David Miller from South Africa, who has a lot of experience of playing more than 300 plus T20 games as well as a strike rate of 140.

David Miller can be very destructive on his day and has played many memorable innings for his old IPL franchise Punjab Kings. During one of the special innings where he scored a match winning innings he was quoted as saying, "When it's in the arc, it's out of the park and when it's in the V, it will be in the tree." This has become a punch line for David Miller the killer.

Will David Miller give Sanju Samson the support, only time will tell but David Miller has all the shots in the book and can turn a match on its head on his day.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2021 reaching \$76.16, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.27 from the price of Friday, which was at \$74.89. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 2.8 points, comprising an increase by 0.07 per cent to close at 3,931.35 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 3,928.52 points.

Oman's GDP exceeds OMR15bn in second quarter of 2021: NCSI

The share of crude petroleum from petroleum activities was OMR3.72 billion in 2021, which is an increase by 11 per cent from the end of the second quarter of 2020



NCSI DATA: There was also a rise in petroleum activities by 8.7 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2021. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 10.1 per cent to reach market prices OMR15.30 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2021 compared to OMR13.89 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2020, according to

the data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

There was also a rise in petro-

leum activities by 8.7 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2021, registering OMR4.42 billion compared to OMR4.07 billion at

the end of the same period of 2020.

The share of crude petroleum from petroleum activities was OMR3.72 billion in 2021, which is

an increase by 11 per cent from the end of the second quarter of 2020 when it stood at OMR3.35 billion.

The activities of natural gas dropped by 2 per cent, reaching OMR705,400 million compared to OMR719,800 million by the end of the second quarter of 2020.

Total non-petroleum activities went up by 11.1 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2021 when it reached OMR11,456,100,000 compared to OMR10,309,500,000 at the end of the same period in 2020.

Service activities came at the forefront of non-petroleum activities, reaching OMR7,912,600,000, rising by 11 per cent compared to OMR7,130,600,000 in the second quarter of 2020.

The activity of communication decreased by 6.8 per cent at the end of June 2021.

Moreover, public administration and defence activities also went down by 0.6 per cent.

Meanwhile, transportation and storage activities went up by 23.3 per cent. Real estate, vocations, technology, and administration services rose by 21 per cent. An increase was also witnessed in

the wholesale & retail trade by 19 per cent, financial and insurance activities by 11.5 per cent, other services by 7 per cent, residency activities and food services by 1.1 per cent.

Industrial activities reached OMR3,122,300,000 by the end of the second quarter of 2021 compared to OMR2,785,100,000 by the end of the second quarter of 2020, comprising a rise of 12.1 per cent.

A rise was also witnessed in the mining and quarrying by 7.7 per cent, manufacturing by 34.2 per cent, other manufacturing industries (including refined petroleum products manufacturing) by 43.3 per cent, the value of basic chemicals activity by 20.7 per cent, electricity & water supply and sewage by 7.6 per cent.

However, construction activities went down by 3.3 per cent compared to the end of the second quarter of 2020.

The activities related to agriculture and fisheries rose by 7 per cent to reach OMR421,200 million by the end of the second quarter of 2021 compared to OMR393,800 million by the end of the second quarter of 2020. - **ONA**

AL BURJ CEMENT

Oman Cement Co. develops new high quality product

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cement Company (OCC) has developed Al Burj Cement, one of its high-quality cement products and started selling it commercially. This comes as part of the company's efforts to promote the industrial sector in the Sultanate.

OCC strives to develop cement products that achieve the sustainability of manufacturing operations by conducting more research and innovating new products that keep up with the requirements of the construction and building operations in the country and matches developments in the construction sector.

The production of this new type of cement is considered to be a significant contribution by OCC to achieve self-sufficiency of cement products in the Sultanate and to keep abreast with the requirements of urban development in the country, in addition to optimising the usage of natural resources.

Al Burj Cement is distinguished from other types of cement by its physical properties such as high smoothness and less porosity, which makes it more resistant to salts and elements harmful to concrete. This product is environmentally friendly as it contributes to rationalising the usage of raw materials during the manufacturing process. This in turn results in preserving the stock of natural resources.

On this occasion, Dr Hilal Saif Al Dhamri, Director General of Manufacturing at Oman Cement Company said, "The production of Al Burj Cement started after the success of practical experiments at the company's laboratories and testing it by a selected group of our main customer. In addition, the Directorate General of Standards and Metrology at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion ensured that our new product fulfils the needs of our customers and the specifications approved by the Directorate. Al Burj Cement also meets the European specifications No: "EN197 BS/EN 42.5N".

"By developing the new product, Al Burj Cement, in its laboratories after conducting a series of research and studies, OCC aims to keep abreast with new developments in the cement industry and to provide new innovative solutions in the construction



sector," he added.

"Al Burj Cement is an Omani product manufactured from local raw materials. We have decided to manufacture it due to the availability of these raw materials locally. This product is demanded by the local market, and OCC targets marketing Al Burj Cement in the regional market. We have named our new product Al Burj because OCC is keen to highlight Omani historical sights," Dr Al-Dhamri explained.

General Manager of Manufacturing at OCC pointed out that the company is studying and following up the trends of international markets in the field of construction to supply the Omani market with high-quality products that align with the changes in global markets. He stated that OCC seeks to strengthen its linkages with international research institutions and to participate in specialised events abroad to identify the latest developments in the constructions field and present the Omani experience in manufacturing cement.

Al-Dhamri demonstrated that OCC seeks to identify the needs of the market through its practical experiences with its customers who provide the Company with their viewpoints about its products to achieve the biggest possible value for construction projects.

It is worth noting that OCC comes at the forefront of cement companies in terms of providing high-quality cement products thanks to its vision that aims to use the latest technologies in the cement production industry.

JOINT PROJECT

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) signed a land reservation agreement for the green hydrogen project of Hyport Duqm Company, a joint project of alternative energy between OQ and the Belgian DEME Concessions.

According to the agreement, Hyport Duqm will now continue to move forward with the early engineering works and site data collection to establish a Green Hydrogen and Ammonia project in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad).

The agreement was signed by Dr Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) and on behalf of Hyport Duqm by Dr Salim Al Huthaili, OQ Alternative Energy CEO and Chairman of Hyport Duqm Company and Alain Bernard, Chairman and Managing Director of DEME Concessions.

The project will be established in part of the land already allocated for the renewable energy



PARTNERSHIP: The agreement was signed by Dr Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) and on behalf of Hyport Duqm by Dr Salim Al Huthaili, OQ Alternative Energy CEO and Chairman of Hyport Duqm Company and Alain Bernard, Chairman and Managing Director of DEME Concessions. - *Supplied picture*

projects, in an area of 150 square kilometres and is located in the southern part of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. Thus, ideally located along the windy and sunny Omani coast and the Arabian Sea. This strategic land will accommodate both onshore wind and solar PV farms with a combined capacity of 1.3 GW, which will be developed in subsequent expandable project phases.

Hyport Duqm is currently completing the installation and commissioning of 4 meteorological wind masts and 2 meteorological solar stations within the site to confirm Duqm's excellent solar and wind conditions which are available throughout the year and which form the basis of successful green hydrogen to green ammonia project.

The Hyport Duqm project fits

well in the Sultanate's strategy of developing the Al Wusta Governorate, while also contributing to achieving the renewable energy and other targets of the Oman Vision 2040.

Commenting on the land reservation agreement, Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, pointed out, "Opaz welcomes this project in the Special Economic Zones at Duqm. It aspires to be a pioneering project that will introduce green hydrogen and green ammonia to the country, which will lead the diversification beyond hydrocarbons efforts and contributing to Vision 2040."

Salim Al Huthaili, CEO - Alternative Energy at OQ commented, "The land reservation agreement is yet another milestone in the development of this important project. The Special Economic Zone at Duqm will be a global Green Hydrogen hub combining power, manufacturing and logistics activities while focusing on the effort of decarbonisation and electrification."

WORLD TOURISM DAY

Al Mouj Muscat boosts tourism growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The United Nation's World Tourism Day on September 27 this year champions the social and economic benefits of tourism, with Oman's Al Mouj Muscat a shining example as a sector leader.

Tourism is a key pillar of the Sultanate's drive towards sustainable and diversified economic growth in line with Oman Vision 2040.

As part of its strategy, in 2006 the Oman Government established Al Mouj Muscat as the country's first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC), working in partnership with leading developer Majid Al Futtaim. With the aim of becoming the country's premier leisure and lifestyle destination, today the multi-award-winning Al Mouj boasts annual footfall of over 3.9 million people who visit for holidays, discovery, culture and high-profile events.

As well as the draw of its pristine oceanfront setting, Al Mouj Muscat has invested in creating tourism assets that have global appeal including Al Mouj Golf, Al Mouj Marina and The Walk. At the 400-berth Al Mouj Marina, 17 independent tour operators hosted close to 1,900 sea



tours annually, a figure set to grow when pandemic travel restrictions ease, Oman's exceptional marine life will ensure small and medium sized enterprises can continue to grow and meet demand for unique ocean adventures.

The global popularity of golf is another area where Al Mouj Muscat has capitalised on opportunity. The 2020 Oman Open took place last year at Al Mouj Golf, the third year it has hosted the event, and the stunning ocean side course gaining global coverage. This sector is extremely lucrative, with golf travel typically combined with cultural and touring excursions.

Visitor numbers are further boosted by world-class events sponsored by and held at Al

Mouj Muscat. the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is in its sixth year of sponsorship and now attracts over 10,000 runners from over 100 countries, once more raising Oman's profile and promoting it as a prime travel and sports tourism destination among international audiences.

The hospitality industry is also flourishing within Al Mouj Muscat. Several international hotel brands such as Kempinski Muscat and Mysk Al Mouj by Shaza are currently operating providing a total of 580 rooms. This number is soon to drastically increase with new properties in the pipeline, such as St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat and Rotana Al Mouj Muscat, which will soon bring the total to 2500 rooms.

"Oman Vision 2040 sets out the ambition for our country to become a top-of-mind destination for vacations, culture and discovery as well as high-profile events," explains Al Mouj Muscat's CEO Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani. "We know that local, regional and international tourists create significant in-country spend, which in turn boosts employment, creates a destination of opportunity for local and international investment and fosters an environment where independent businesses can grow. It is why we have worked tirelessly to create a tourism ecosystem which balances the need of the local economy, the environment and Oman's long-term goals.

"World Tourism Day recognises the important contribution the sector can make around the globe and I am proud to say that Al Mouj Muscat is a dynamic and diverse community where people, families and businesses large and small thrive. In this year, as in every year, we will continue to champion tourism and enterprise and actively continue working towards the realisation of Oman's 2040 Vision by making a significant contribution to the nation's economic diversification."

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

The trading value stood at OMR3,916,250 comprising a surge by 313.1 per cent, compared to the last session



MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 2.8 points, comprising an increase by 0.07 per cent to close at 3,931.35 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 3,928.52 points.

The trading value stood at OMR3,916,250 comprising a surge by 313.1 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR947,997.

The report released by MSX

pointed out that the market value went up by 0.063 per cent to reach about OMR21.99 billion.

The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached OMR357,000, comprising 9.11 per cent. The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached OMR126,000, comprising 3.21 per cent. The net non-Omani investment increased by 5.90 per cent to OMR231,000. — **ONA**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	3,936.49	3,928.93	3,931.35	3,928.52	2.83	0.07	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,254.67	6,236.95	6,246.55	6,239.37	7.17	0.11	
Industry Index	6,212.84	6,128.78	6,203.46	6,126.26	77.20	1.26	
Services Index	1,683.79	1,678.79	1,678.79	1,677.81	0.98	0.06	
MSX Shariah Index	581.44	579.37	580.57	579.37	1.20	0.21	
MSX TR INDEX	4,731.25	4,722.17	4,725.08	4,721.67	3.41	0.07	

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,998,120	3,916,250	456	21,985,156,478	10	11	20	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST MD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	638,147	87,976	29	0.142	0.142	0.140	0.140	0.136	0.004	2.941	0.140	0.137	0.140	0.100	33,180,000
OM0000000505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	97,746	49,842	17	0.510	0.510	0.500	0.510	0.500	0.010	2,000	0.510	0.470	0.520	0.100	28,050,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	131,600	59,309	10	0.448	0.460	0.440	0.450	0.442	0.008	1,810	0.460	0.460	0.470	0.100	99,000,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	29,526	22,840	4	0.760	0.780	0.760	0.772	0.760	0.012	1,579	0.780	0.756	0.776	0.100	121,590,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	6,099	1,899	2	0.310	0.314	0.310	0.312	0.310	0.002	0,645	0.314	0.310	0.314	0.100	252,024,967
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,171,164	963,518	40	0.442	0.444	0.442	0.444	0.442	0.002	0,452	0.442	0.442	0.444	0.100	1,587,066,808
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	2,120	551	2	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0,000	0.260	0.258	0.260	0.100	52,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	47,590	18,275	13	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.000	0,000	0.384	0.372	0.384	0.100	23,502,441
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKETING	3,000	2,100	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.672	0.672	0.000	0,000	0.700	0.688	0.700	0.100	46,368,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	2,104,627	947,078	34	0.448	0.450	0.448	0.450	0.450	0.000	0,000	0.450	0.406	0.450	0.100	106,384,500
OM0000003398	SOFARI INT. BANK	11,015	1,013	5	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0,000	0.092	0.092	0.096	0.100	273,083,731
OM0000003620	VISION INSURANCE	308,000	24,332	13	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0,000	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	7,900,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	23,673	8,997	7	0.384	0.384	0.380	0.380	0.382	-0.002	-0,524	0.380	0.380	0.382	0.100	247,358,807
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,267,792	141,345	53	0.110	0.113	0.110	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0,893	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.100	22,200,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	10,000	960	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1,031	0.096	0.096	0.100	0.100	8,640,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	145,600	107,827	13	0.748	0.748	0.740	0.740	0.748	-0.008	-1,070	0.748	0.700	0.748	0.100	555,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	232,745	13,309	15	0.055	0.058	0.055	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1,724	0.058	0.058	0.059	0.100	17,507,341
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	77,775	17,144	11	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.220	0.224	-0.004	-1,786	0.220	0.210	0.220	0.100	72,791,996
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	78,200	76,324	4	0.980	0.980	0.976	0.976	0.986	-0.010	-2,038	0.976	0.900	0.976	0.100	875,472,200
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	28,000	3,902	2	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.142	-0.003	-2,113	0.140	0.139	0.142	0.100	11,815,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	2,858,163	1,084,357	51	0.388	0.388	0.370	0.380	0.402	-0.022	-5,473	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.100	38,000,000
Total	21	10,262,582	3,632,897	325												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	21,433	37,543	14	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.595	0.155	9,718	1.750	1.750	1.750	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	57,531	4,718	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.002	2,500	0.082	0.079	0.082	0.100	12,753,133
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	1,144,050	105,247	7	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.002	2,222	0.090	0.091	0.092	0.100	184,028,777
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	102,625	19,086	4	0.185	0.186	0.185	0.186	0.185	0.001	0,541	0.186	0.184	0.186	0.100	302,426,022
OM0000001132	OMAN NAT. ENG.	118,150	11,151	12	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0,000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	12,220,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	57,644	8,320	5	0.144	0.145	0.144	0.145	0.145	0.000	0,000	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.100	4,867,860
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,000	76	1	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0,000	0.076	0.077	0.082	0.100	9,500,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P.	1,500	329	2	0.225	0.225	0.216	0.239	0.239	0.000	0,000	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.100	9,943,660
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	138,300	7,883	9	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0,000	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	19,901,231
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	118,100	13,700	4	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0,000	0.118	0.113	0.118	0.100	353,569,469
OM0000002804	ASAFIA FOODS	4,000	1,376	1	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.382	0.382	0.000	0,000	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.100	45,840,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	328,645	21,297	12	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.065	0.000	0,000	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000002281	TANGER FINANCE	34,200	2,317	6	0.075	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0,000	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.100	18,763,660
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	32,344	3,073	6	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0,000	0.095	0.089	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	33,650	1,683	5	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0,000	0.050	0.050	0.055	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000004933	AL SUWAYD POWER	2,285	117	1	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.052	0.000	0,000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	37,140,130
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	5,000	227	4	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.046	0.000	0,000	0.046	0.044	0.046	0.100	67,279,667
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	103,069	10,536	10	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-9,971	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.100	17,850,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	432,492	32,966	25	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1,299	0.076	0.076	0.078	0.100	15,426,970
Total	19	2,794,038	281,553	130												

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STOCK MARKET

Asia shares hesitant as oil hits 3-year highs

SYDNEY: Asian shares got off to a cautious start on Monday as a jump in oil prices to three-year highs could inflame inflation fears and aggravate the recent hawkish turn by some major central banks.

Oil pushed past its July peaks as global output disruptions forced energy companies to pull large amounts of crude out of inventories, while a shortage of natural gas in Europe pushed costs

up across the continent. Brent added another 62 cents on Monday to \$78.71 a barrel, while US crude rose 71 cents to \$74.69.

“We forecast that this rally will continue, with our year-end Brent forecast of \$90/bbl vs. \$80/bbl previously,” wrote analysts at Goldman Sachs in a client note, a media reported.

“The current global oil supply-demand deficit is larger than we

expected, with the recovery in global demand from the Delta impact even faster than our above-consensus forecast.”

Such an increase could stoke speculation that global inflation will prove longer-lasting than first hoped and hasten the end of super-cheap money, favouring reflation trades in bank and energy stocks while bruising bond prices. — **BNA**

OIL COMPANY

Adnoc Drilling Company IPO bookbuild raises over \$1.1 billion

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) announced the successful completion of the bookbuild and public subscription process for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Adnoc Drilling Company PJSC.

It confirmed the previously announced increased offering size from 1,200,000,000 ordinary shares to 1,760,000,000 ordinary shares (Offer Shares), equivalent to 11 per cent of total issued share capital, and an offer price of AED2.30 per ordinary share, resulting in gross proceeds of over \$1.1 billion to Adnoc, upon settlement.

The offering was multiple times oversubscribed, with significant demand from UAE Retail Investors and Qualified Institutional Investors. Total gross demand for the IPO amounted to over \$34 billion, implying an oversubscription level in excess of 31 times in aggregate.

Following the completion of the subscription period, the size of the First Tranche (reserved for UAE Retail Investors) was set at 10 per cent; the size of the Second Tranche (reserved for local, regional and international Qualified Institutional Investors) was set at 86 per cent; and the size of the Third Tranche was set at 4 per cent. — **WAM**

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FOR RENT

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2BR Flats at Ghobra, near Taste of India	260-OMR	225 OMR
2BR with Split, next to Indian School, Ghobra.	250-OMR	200 OMR
2BR flats at Bowsheer, near Al Ameen Mosque.	250-OMR	225 OMR
2BR flats at Qurum, next to Baba Saleem Restaurant.	275-OMR	225 OMR
3BR with Maid Room, Pool & Gym at Al Khuwair.	570-OMR	500 OMR

Call Nishan: 9806 2392 / WhatsApp: 72582888

1BR flats next to Indian School, Darsait.	190-OMR	170 OMR
1BR with Balcony & Split a/c's at Rex Road.	210-OMR	180 OMR
3BR with Split a/c's + Parking at CBD.	450-OMR	400 OMR
2BR Spacious flats with a/c's opp. Al Falaj Hotel	250-OMR	220 OMR
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2BR in Darsait, near Noor Mosque	240-OMR	185 OMR
3BR flats with Split a/c's & Parking at Al Falaj	325-OMR	265 OMR
2BR flats at Darsait near SPAR.	275-OMR	225 OMR
1BR Flats with 2 Toilets at CBD.	210-OMR	140 OMR
Spacious 2BR Flats at MBD with Split a/c's.	290-OMR	265 OMR

Call Rifaquat: 99338627/ WhatsApp: 72582888

2BR Flats at Seeb, Al Hail & Mawellah	225-OMR	190 OMR
1BR Flats at Mawellah, near Holiday Inn	200-OMR	160 OMR
1BR flats at Mabella, with Split a/c's.	200-OMR	150 OMR

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ON MONTHLY / WEEKLY / DAILY BASIS
FULLY FURNISHED 1 BHK APARTMENTS
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next to Al MAHA Petrol Stn.

TEL. 99382489, 99263443

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New Twin Villa containing 10 rooms, 10 toilets, multiple majlis and two fully equipped kitchens with fully designed interior decoration recommended for management staff.

Interested call: 99411607 / 92466266

M.V. SALE

Jeep Grand Cherokee, Model 2009200K KM, good condition, Price RO 1350 & **Nissan Kicks**, 2019 full Automatic, 4 cylinder, 24.000 Kms driven, Price RO 5,450. Contact 92948999

Room rent starting from 60 to 200 R.O 02 (Two) rooms starting from 120 R.O
With accessories and include with following services:

1. 24-hour electricity & water service. 2. Water & Electricity bill are included with rent. 3. We have electrician & plumber for repairing & fixing any problem. 4. Clean the site morning & evening every day. 5. Site is monitored by the latest IP camera. 6. An Omani supervisor always observing site security.

Contact No: 93910079, 93817042, 99321944 • Address: Wadi Al Lawami, Nursery, after NMC medical, Seeb, Muscat

FOR SALE

For Sale Running Clinic & Pharmacy in Ghala. Contact 99207592

Running GP clinic for Sale near Barka. Contact 95702124

Optical shop for Sale - Good running, fully furnished luxury optical shop having good profitable business at prime location Barka is for sale. Contact 1 94076789

FOR RENT

BARKA GODOWN AVAILABLE FACILITIES

Block-G. No of Godowns - 8 (675 sqm per godown)

1. Road facility - 500mtr from Express way and trailer and truck approachable.	3. Full secure CCTV.
2. 1350 sqm each warehouse. Total 10,000 sqm available.	4. Labour Accomadation.
	5. Fire and Safety.
	6. Toilet Facility.
	7. Telephone and Internet.

Contact 99453198 / 99069777

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2&3 BHK Flats & Villas / 6 BHK villas + maids room, garden, shared gym/swimming pool & Children play area.

Al Khuwair
2 BHK spacious flats (prime location).

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Darsait
1 & 2 BHK Flats.

Ruwi
2 & 3 BHK spacious flats (Prime locations).

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2 & 3 BHK Flats With A.C.

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For viewing please call 24694088, 99316410, 92841690 or email us on: hartc@omantel.net.om

FOR RENT

3 BHK Duplex (With Maid Room)
Split A/Cs, Free Unlimited Broadband WiFi, Security access system, & Secured car park

Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

Contact: 99657906 or 24702141

FOR RENT

Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Ducted VRF A/Cs. Free central gas, Built in wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured car park.

Next to Sri Lankan School Wadi Kabir

Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment and Transport for Office also available

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

FOR RENT

Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Panasonic VRF A/Cs, Free central gas, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured Car Park.

Behind Mazoun Complex, Ruwi

Fully Furnished Apartment Also Available

Contact: 96707247 or 24704141

FOR RENT

Deluxe 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Split A/Cs, Fixed wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, Free Unlimited Broadband WiFi, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system & Secured car park.

Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment and Transport For Office Also Available

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

ADVERTISE WITH US

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JOB VACANCIES

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Responsibilities:

- To manage operations and production of the restaurant.
- To liaise with the respective Government/ Statutory Authorities to procure the necessary licenses and documentations.
- To lead the operations and production team to deliver within specific standards and schedules required.
- To manage overall costs including material, equipment, manpower, etc.
- To manage production planning, forecasting, purchasing and stock control.
- To maintain and improve the overall performance of the restaurant on a regular basis including cost analysis and monitoring of processes.
- Provide on-job coaching and guidance to team members, managing their performance to ensure a smooth operation
- To work along with the Marketing team to develop Marketing Strategies and Promotion plans to successfully market the restaurant in the relevant media platform.
- Manage and supervise the food & beverage staff to ensure maximum utilization of the manpower allocated.
- Ensure strict compliance with all relevant Hygiene and Safety legislation and requirements.
- To maintain close, professional and effective links with all external contractors/suppliers to ensure that they deliver to mutually accepted

agreements and highest quality levels.

- To handle responsibilities for the special orders made at the restaurant. It involves all planning associated with each event, right through to delivery.

Educational Qualifications & Experience:

- Post Graduate/Graduate or equivalent qualification.
- Minimum 05 years of experience in a supervisory level at F&B, Catering, Hotels and Hospitality establishments.
- Knowledge of food hygiene and Health and Safety requirements.
- 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**

Used Bio Medical Equipments For Sale

- 1) Operation Theatre Equipments
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- 6) Other General clinical items

Contact: Tel: 99515261

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Khyber Indian Speciality Family Restaurant
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- > Beef Fry
- > Kerala Chicken Curry
- > Kerala Chicken Fry
- > Appam
- > Egg Roast
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Ext: 465 / 431 / 456

CONNECT

JOB VACANCIES

A Leading Foodstuff Company is Looking for the Following Staffs

1. Accountant (2 to 3 Years Experience)
2. Sales Executives (MBA - 2 to 3 years Experience with valid Driving License).
3. Store Helpers
4. Salesman (Van Sales)
5. Store keeper
6. Purchase Manager

Send CV: recruitmentfoodservice@gmail.com

A REPUTED COMPANY IN MUSCAT SEEKING SMART & QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR

SALES ENGINEER

Requirements:

- MALE EXPAT
- SMART, ENERGETIC, GOOD LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION
- BE/B.TECH IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- VALID OMANI/GCC LICENSE
- AUTCAD/ ENGINEERING PLAN & DESIGNING
- MINIMUM 2 YEAR EXPERIENCE IN TRANSPORT/HEAVY LIFT OPERATIONS

Qualified candidates may send us your updated CV with new color photograph to:
business5831@gmail.com
Selected Candidates will be called out for a personal interview.

SITUATION WANTED

Need **Office Assistant** and **Accountant** for a reputed Heavy Equipment Parts Company in Ghala.

Office Assistant should have good knowledge of computer and communication skill.

Accountant should have good knowledge of accounts with 2 years experience.

Only Indian and Filipino can apply, send CV at: postresume.parts@gmail.com

REQUIRED

A First Grade Construction Company in Oman looking for suitable candidates for the following Positions.

1. **Project Engineer – Civil**
2. **Site Engineer – Civil**
3. **Office Admin/Accounts**
4. **Sales Executives/Sales Engineer**

Please share your updated CVs to:
Email: vacancyforyou7@gmail.com
GSM No. 94145797

Reputed medium size organization wishes to recruit

Pest Control Sales/Supervisor
Experience 3 - 5 years

Candidates with Omani driving license who can obtain local release should be confident to take charge of division independently may send their CV to **visionjobs20@yahoo.com**

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

Urgently Required

Indian Cook

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

Please contact
99735820

JOB VACANCIES

ADMIN/HR

Urgently required a front office Female admin with good communication skill for an Musical Institute in capital area, part time job. Interested please mail: [window4job@gmail.com](mailto>window4job@gmail.com) along with photo.

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

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: hrmct2019@gmail.com or 96500844

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgent requirement for Medical Centre in Muscat, Oman, Required: Internal medicine (Physician), Gynecologists, Staff Nurses, X Ray technician, Pharmacist, Medical Insurance Co Ordinator, Lab technician. Kindly drop your cv to: halawadikabir@gmail.com

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

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Female, Senior Accountant. Available for part time accounting and audits. Contact 97019955

Part time Accounts doing up to finalization seeking Job. Contact 79102100

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

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. # 95785272

Senior Accountant with 21 years experience having DL available for immediate joining, NOC available. Contact 95060390

Accounting Manager/Chief Accountant, 12 years' experience in Oman - MIS - Budget- Planning - Finalization-Tax Returns etc., have NOC looking for suitable position. Contact 95570425 (Call/WhatsApp)

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

SERVICES

Disinfection & Sterilization Treatments. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289
Email: sales@oceancentre.co

Pest Control Treatments - Cockroaches, Ants, etc. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289
Email: sales@oceancentre.co

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

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

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JOB WANTED

GROUP FINANCE MANAGER

with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement

Contact 92578435
Email: 1974KSD@gmail.com

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

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

FINANCE MANAGER

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

Contact Number # 78556829

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

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

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

HSE Advisor

Omani HSE Advisor, 5 yrs experience seeks placement.

Contact +96879990740
Email: mundhirsaidalrashdi@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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IT/ HR / ACCOUNTS

Indian Male MCA 15Yrs Exp in Oman, Seeking a job in IT, HR, Payroll, Accounts or any suitable post. NOC & D/L available.

Contact: 95297497

HR/ADMIN

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

CONTACT 79285929

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 Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

HSE OFFICER

Indian HSE Officer, diploma in Mechanical Engineering & Diploma in fire and safety engineering. NEBOSH, OSHA AND QA/QC Holder. 5 years Experience in HSE seeks suitable placement.

Contact 7974 3601

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

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

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

JOB WANTED

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. Contact 92474376

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

Indian Male, MBA, BCOM having 7 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 95388417. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

10 years experienced Female Architect with Urban planning experience seeking for a job. Contact 78009870

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Tunisian Bachelor's Degree in Design, looking for project manager post, 10Yrs experience managing sites in gulf, skills Acad, 3D, Adobe. Contact 97441102

ENGINEER

B.Tech Civil Engineer With 11.5 yrs Exp, Seeking Suitable placement (Construction/Consultancy), having Omani D/L and NOC available, Contact 78365008

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 Electrical/MEP Engineer, having 13+Yrs experience in construction industry is looking for suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 97238959.

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

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

HOSPITALITY

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

MEDICAL

Female Pharmacist approved by MOH, 4 years experience, ready for immediate join. Contact 94533602

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

SALES/MARKETING

7 years experienced Sales officer looking for the suitable job. NOC and Oman D/L available. Contact 98424254

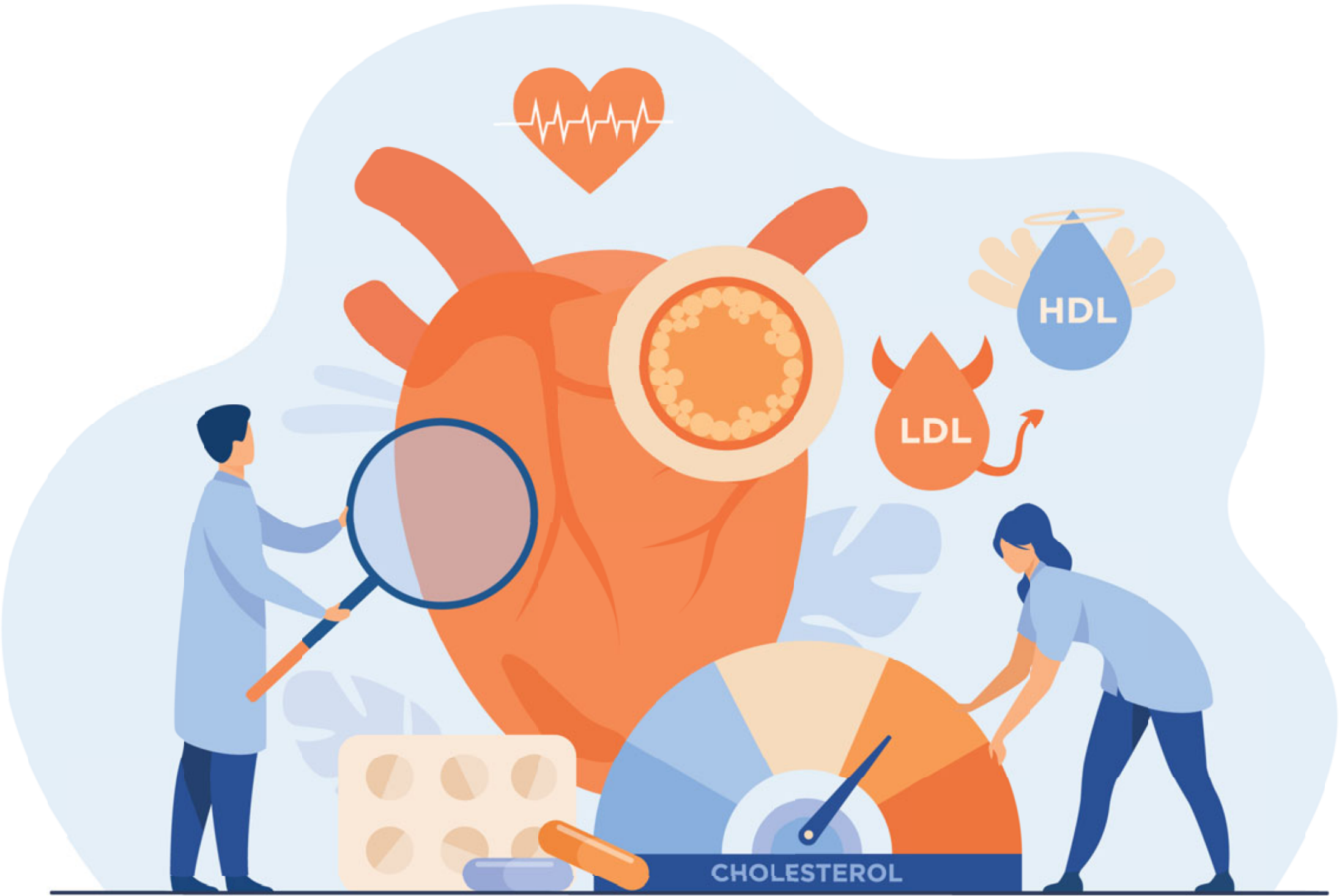
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TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF CHOLESTEROL



Research indicates that nearly 38 per cent of US adults aged 20 years or older have high cholesterol, which puts them at a higher risk for heart attack and stroke. But high cholesterol can be “silent.” “If you have high cholesterol, you’d never know it, because it causes no symptoms,” Janet S. Wright, MD, FACC, director of CDC’s Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention in the US said. “That’s why it’s so important to get your cholesterol levels checked regularly.”

You’ve probably heard of high cholesterol. Let’s make sure you have the facts about what it is, who is at risk, and how to prevent high cholesterol.

IS ALL CHOLESTEROL BAD? Cholesterol is a fatty, waxy substance that is made by your liver and is also found in certain foods. Cholesterol, which travels through the blood on proteins

called lipoproteins, is necessary to make hormones, protect nerves, and more. But the risk of heart attack and stroke rises when a person has high levels of the bad cholesterol, known as LDL (low-density lipoproteins), or low levels of the good cholesterol, known as HDL (high-density lipoproteins). HDL removes cholesterol from your bloodstream back to your liver and out of the body. The higher your HDL lever the lower your risk for heart attack and stroke.

Over time, high levels of LDL or low levels of HDL can cause deposits in walls of arteries throughout the body. This “plaque,” a mixture of fat, calcium, cholesterol, and more, can cause the artery to gradually narrow, limiting blood flow to the organ. The plaque can also suddenly rupture, closing the artery and causing organ damage, such as a heart attack or stroke.

So, you want to keep your total cholesterol and LDL levels low and your HDL high. A healthy total cholesterol level is below 200

Cholesterol, which travels through the blood on proteins called lipoproteins, is necessary to make hormones, protect nerves, and more.

mg/dL. Depending on other risk factors you have, you should aim for an LDL level of 100mg/dL or lower, and an HDL level of 40mg/dL or higher for men and 50 mg/dL or higher for women. Regular blood cholesterol checks can help you manage your levels.

WHAT CAUSES HIGH CHOLESTEROL? Certain health conditions can in-

crease your risk for high cholesterol. They include:

- Type 2 diabetes.
- Obesity.
- Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH), a genetic condition causing a very high LDL.

Lifestyle choices can also increase your risk. These include:

- Diet high in saturated and trans fat.

- Low physical activity.
- Smoking tobacco.

Age and family history also can increase your risk.

CAN YOU PREVENT HIGH CHOLESTEROL? Regular cholesterol checks will help you keep your levels under control. Your doctor may recommend diet and exercise and possibly medicine, to help you achieve control.

Eat a diet rich in fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. The more colourful your foods, the better. Get protein from low-saturated fat sources, such as fish and chicken, beans, nuts, and seeds. Eat less of foods that are high in saturated fats, such as red meat, cheese, and butter. Choose low-fat dairy or fortified soy products.

Regular physical activity is vital to control your weight, lower triglycerides (a type of fat that is harmful if present in high levels), and increase HDL cholesterol. The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends that adults get 150 to 300 minutes of

moderate physical activity each week. Also, small amounts of physical activity add up, so take brisk walks, ride a bicycle, or use the stairs to increase activity.

“Smoking harms many parts of the body, including the heart, brain, and blood vessels all over the body. Tobacco use speeds up that plaque formation in the arteries, increasing the risk for heart attack and stroke,” said Dr. Wright. “Quitting at any age can lower your risk for heart disease. My advice is simple: If you don’t smoke, don’t start. If you do smoke, quit.”

High triglycerides, combined with low HDL or high LDL, can increase your risk for heart attack and stroke.

Finally, your doctor may prescribe a medicine, usually a statin, to control cholesterol levels if you have heart disease, a family history of heart disease, diabetes, or have been unable to manage cholesterol with diet and exercise alone. Work with your health care team to find the best ways for you to control cholesterol. **-BPT**

FEATURE



Oman Sail team claims second place at Marina Militare Nastro Rosa Tour

MUSCAT: Oman Sail team finished the Marina Militare Nastro Rosa Tour in Italy in second place after powering through tough conditions to claim the silver medals. An excellent first week which saw the team leading at the halfway stage was followed by a solid second week against very strong competition. The team from France took the gold ahead of Oman, with Italian Luna Rosa team in third.

The event was a showcase for offshore and inshore racing in identical DIAM24 crafts around the Italian coastline starting in Genova a month ago. The tour then visited Rome, Gaeta, Napoli, Brindisi, Bari, Ravenna and concluded in Venice.

Starting strong, the crew notched up two first place finishes in their opening three races. This form continued as overall performance improved, culminating in an excellent performance on day one in Naples where they won all three races.

The second week began in Brindisi after a week of recovery and work in the gym. Conditions were difficult as winds changed but the team finished in second overall, although did have to contend with a disqualification in the

final race of the day for a minor infraction. The remaining races included two inshore races and a 50 nautical mile coastal race, which the team coped with well, finishing third overall. They improved the following day with a second-place finish in Bari before heading to Ravenna for a short race, where they finished sixth, and a long 76 nautical mile coastal race where they finished fourth.

Venice hosted the finale and the team started well before succumbing to another disqualification in the last race of the penultimate day. They battled back on the final day but could not make the leap into first. The team had been scheduled to withdraw after racing at Brindisi in order to begin training in Switzerland, but the run of excellent performances resulted in the team remaining in Italy to complete the final race.

Nasser Al Mashari, Oman Sail team captain, said, "To finish second in our first event back after a long break is extremely impressive. Originally, we were not intending to finish, so to end the Tour in second has exceeded all expectations. I am proud of the entire team. It was great to get back on the water and test ourselves in

the DIAM24. The in-port races and offshore legs provided a difficult test at times but we learned together and this bond will be valuable in our next adventure at the Star Sailors League in Switzerland. After that the team will return home to face visiting crews in Oman. It's a busy season but we're glad to be back sailing again."

Training for the Star Sailors League Finals began on 21 September. Team Manager Hashim Al Rashdi, Yassir Al Rahbi, Waleed Al Kindi, Musab Al Hadi, Ahmed Al Hasani, AbdulRahman Al Mashari and Raad Al Hadi were already in Switzerland preparing for the race against 12 teams from around the world.

Team Captain Nasser Al Mashari, Hussain Al Jabri, Ali Al Balushi, Haitham Al Wahaibi and Akram Al Wahaibi will now join them as they prepare to battle it out in a series of Inshore Races for the Sir Roland Symonette Trophy, the first major international tournament for Oman's team of elite sailors post-pandemic.

Crews from the Nastro Rosa Tour are due to take part in Sailing Arabia - The Tour 2021, starting in Mussanah on 24 November and ending in Muscat on 5 December as a busy winter season of sailing in the Sultanate comes to a close.



ROUND-UP

Own Lexus GX SUV with exclusive benefits

The Lexus GX is versatile, playing a dual role as a city vehicle and one that is purpose-built for off-road trips too



MUSCAT: The powerful Lexus GX is bold, luxurious, capable and engineered to take you places without a worry. The Lexus GX is now available with Free Service 4 Years / 40,000 km (Whichever is earlier), and 1 Year Free Registration. The campaign is valid up to 21st October 2021. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

The Lexus GX is versatile, playing a dual role as a city vehicle and one that is purpose-built for off-road

trips too. The GX is equipped with a 292-horsepower 4.6-litre V8 producing 44.7 Kg.M. of peak torque. Utilizing the technology of the Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (KDSS), the GX 460 enhances handling and ride comfort by helping to keep the vehicle level in both on and off-road conditions. When the GX encounters an uneven surface, one compressed cylinder causes fluid to flow to the other cylinder, helping the vehicle to keep all four wheels on the ground. The system works without any ac-

tion needed by the driver. Thanks to an Off-Road Package featuring Multi-Terrain Select, tackling tough terrain is equally as easy. Adding extra peace of mind is GX's Lexus Safety System+, completing Lexus' milestone of equipping models with active safety equipment. A TORSSEN® torque-sensing limited slip centre differential distributes power under most driving conditions and changes the ratio as needed based on wheel slip. The four-wheel drive system offers a low

range for slow speed off-road driving. With Downhill Assist Control (DAC), Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), Active Traction Control (A-TRAC), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and available Crawl Control, the GX can roam unpaved roads, trails, and steep inclines with confidence. Multi-Terrain Select allows you to choose from multiple surfaces such as loose rocks, mud and sand, moguls, and more to optimize drivability. Activated with the press of a button, the available Crawl Control system is designed to automatically maintain an optimal slow and steady pace over demanding landscapes. Bolstering this mission is the Lexus Safety System+ suite of technologies that includes Pre-Collision System, Lane Departure Alert, Intelligent High Beams and High-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000 km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

SUPPORTING SPORTS



Sohar International signs pact with Oman Cricket Academy

MUSCAT: With the bank's purpose of promoting the spirit of 'Winning' and bringing positive socioeconomic change by promoting Oman as an International Sporting Destination, Sohar International has signed a sponsorship agreement with Oman Cricket Academy. The agreement was signed on September 27 at the Oman Cricket Academy and witnessed the presence of Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, President of the Oman Investment Authority and Basil bin Ahmed Al Rawas, Undersecretary for Sports and Youth as the chief guests. Representing Sohar international was Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer and representing Oman Cricket Academy was Pankaj Khimji, Oman Cricket chairman. Also present at the event were Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, and key board members of the Oman Cricket Academy who appreciated the initiatives led by Sohar International in this regard. Speaking about promoting Oman as a future sporting destination, Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International said, "With the bank's vision of becoming a world-leading Omani Services Company, our association with such global sporting event reiterates our passion for the country, our insight for its socio-economic development. The Oman Cricket Academy has played a paramount role in promoting cricket in Oman. Today the Oman team is not just competing against teams from around the world, but the Oman Cricket Academy is set to host different countries for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. Sohar International is indeed proud

and will continue to back such exemplary academies and teams. To provide a winning experience to all, Sohar International has always been at the forefront of helping individuals achieve their aspirations with the youth being a key focus area. When it comes to different sporting activities, we believe that Oman has a young generation that is zealous, focused and determined to showcase their talents to the world. At Sohar International, it gives us great pride to be a part of their winning journeys. By extending support to such talented individuals, it also helps position Oman as a key sporting destination." With Oman as the co-host of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 and key tournaments set to start from October 17, the event is estimated to make a significant impact on the economic scenario of the country while being extensively covered on different media platforms. Sohar International seeks to actively support such events that will contribute to strengthening Oman's position on the map as well as showcase the various assets and infrastructural capabilities that the country is proud to offer. In addition, by supporting the academy which has played an instrumental role in developing cricket as a key sport in the country, the bank also seeks to provide an impetus to the academy to further promote cricket, popularise it amongst the youth and extend more opportunities to local cricket clubs. Committed to bringing positive socio-cultural and economic changes within the country, Sohar International believes that such sporting events are in line with the country's in-country value strategies.

SHABABIGAMERZ

Bank Muscat successfully concludes its first cross-platform eSports Tournament

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat has successfully concluded its first Bank Muscat eSports Tournament (ShababiGamerz) with the grand finale being held recently at the bank's head office. The cross-platform tournament was a roaring success with as many as 2,304 registrations from wilayats across the Sultanate. A total of 1,724 players including many as young as 13 years took part in the two electronic games - Fifa and Fortnite - at the tournament. The online Fortnite game saw 700 players battling it out, while 1,024 players competed in the Fifa tournament. Marwan Mahmood Al Raisi, Jaifar Nasser Al Balushi and Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Balushi emerged as the top three winners in the FIFA game while Muhanad-Hafeedh Al Shanfari, Ahmed Muneer Al Raisi and Sulieman Yahya Al Mashari emerged as the top players in Fortnite. The first



prize winner took home OMR 500, while the runner up and the second runner up took OMR 300 and OMR 200 respectively in the tournament. Through the tournament, Bank Muscat continues to reach out to Omani youth to support them in demonstrating their skills across various fields. Inspired by the excellent response from the youth, the bank hopes to make the tournament an annual exercise.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, Deputy General Manager - Institutional Sales and Product Development, said: "It is my great pleasure to thank all the players who took part in the tournament for making the best use of this opportunity to showcase their talent and skills. Electronic and computer games have become very popular with Omani youth and I would like

to especially congratulate the winners for their excellent display of skills, and for further bettering the standards of the game. "I hope that we will be able to see more Omani competitors take part in the world championships of various electronic games in the future. It is particularly noteworthy that electronic sports and games in the Sultanate have received a further boost after the formation of the Oman Committee for Electronic Games and Sports under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and we thank the Government of Oman for the strong support to the youth, who are the future of the nation." As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate and line with its customer-centric vision, Bank Muscat is always keen to provide a wide range of products and services that take into account the needs and aspirations of its different customers.

PREMIUM CAKES

Flora D'lite adds new categories to e-commerce site



MUSCAT: With the launch of www.floradlite.com last month, floral boutique retailer Flora D'lite joined the ever-growing market for ordering online which has gained popularity in the country. Fans of the retail outlet with its flagship store in Qurum have been delighted at the easy alternative to sending flowers and cakes to their friends and family throughout Muscat. Keeping up with the demand for more variety, Flora D'lite has announced the added inclusion of three new categories with more coming up soon. The first category is 'premium cakes' which offers five varieties of delicious flavours with cake décor and finishing that make them the perfect order for that special occasion. The second new introduction is Oman made chocolates created with premium Belgian chocolate and available in different flavours and quantities for convenience. These are packed on-demand in different sized gift boxes. The third is high-end make-up prod-

ucts for women from Polish brand Dr Irena Eris. "We have taken into consideration the feedback from our retail and online clients and the addition of these three categories offer more choice and will not stop here. There are more exciting announcements in the near future," said a spokesperson for Flora D'lite. "Oman, as a market has been an interesting blend and our presence in retail and e-commerce, is fortifying our fan base in the country. Our plans for expansion of the brand are also underway and we look forward to introducing more and more people to the Flora D'lite family." Customers booking through the website can expect offers of the month or even daily discounts on some products which will be uploaded as soon as available. Payments can be made online and from the convenience of one's home, office or even from abroad. During September the website has an offer of a 20% discount on all online orders.

CLASS-LEADING FEATURES

Elegant and suave Nissan Kicks is youth-centric charmer

MUSCAT: Offering an impressive array of class-leading features with equally attractive value Nissan Kicks continues to enjoy a top standing among youth in the country. Providing great features, technology, customised style and value that youth seek in a compact crossover, Nissan Kicks has been astounding them with their attributes. With a bold exterior look and a surprisingly spacious cabin, city-focused commuter Nissan Kicks combines emotion and practicality by blending familiar Nissan design signatures with striking modern themes. From a spacious interior that maximizes room with a flat floor design, to the high degree of craftsmanship apparent in every design element, Nissan Kicks gives youth the perfect excuse to stay out and have fun. A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), says, "The crossover demands attention for its dynamic styling and nimble performance and the Nissan Intelligent Mobility feature ensures seamless connectivity and advanced driver assistance features. Nissan Kicks has been impressing the youth with its excellent mileage, unique styling, roominess, personal technology, smart functionality, and advanced safety features." Nissan Kicks is a vehicle ideal for people located in urban areas and looking for a vehicle that provides technology, best-in-class fuel economy, and an overall great value proposition. Nissan Kicks is easily accessible and highly flexible. From 60/40 split rear seat to a liftgate that opens high enough for customers to stand under it's never been easier to make the most of every day. The embracing stance, pro-



vocative lines, attractive exterior styling, refined interior, enhanced connectivity and others feature make beats many other SUVs in its segment. Standard equipment is plentiful and includes driver-assistance features and popular infotainment techs such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Nissan also provides plenty of opportunity for personalization via a bold colour palette and many options and accessories. One thing that's missing that may raise the eyebrows of SUV buyers is all-wheel drive, but this SUV's urban focus puts more emphasis on fuel efficiency than off-road capability. Nissan Kicks continues to be popular since its introduction due to its stylish design and "Excellent" Rated GSO Fuel efficiency of 17.8Km/litre. Nissan Kicks' Dual Tone further augmented the style quotient of the innovative, stylish, and functional crossover. The range of Dual Tone available in SV and SL grades has created a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology within the segment.

Nissan Kicks guarantees a top-quality driving experience with its expressive style, personal technology, intelligent safety, efficient powertrain and strong value positioning. Nissan Kicks is a great hit with all age groups of car buyers particularly youth who value innovation, agility and contemporary fashion trends. The car's advanced chassis control technology allows it to deal with the rough and tumble of the urban jungle while the drivers will love the ease of parking thanks to the Around View Monitor and the amazing functionality of the 7-inch colour touchscreen. The newcomer is aimed squarely at urban driving environments and combines a robust exterior and elevated driving position with compact dimensions for agile performance and manoeuvrability. The body features an advanced aerodynamic design, which optimizes fuel consumption and minimizes noise. Nissan Kicks is also one of the first models to realize

the concept of Nissan Intelligent Mobility, initially presented at the Geneva Auto Show in 2016. **Simplify urban driving** Nissan Intelligent Mobility uses smart, relevant technology to make the driver's life easier while also making advances towards Nissan's long-term goal of zero-emission and zero fatality motoring. Nissan Kicks targets young people who are early adopters of such technology and who appreciate and embrace the way it can both simplify urban driving and connect them more easily to what matters. The Intelligent Mobility technology present in Kicks aims to reduce stress for drivers through innovations such as the Around View Monitor (AVM) and the Moving Object Detection system (MOD). Using four cameras, placed at the front and rear of the car and in both door mirrors, AVM creates a bird's eye 360-degree view of the car, which can be displayed on the central monitor and used as a parking aid. When the MOD system detects a moving object - a pedestrian, for example - a warning is sounded to alert the driver to the hazard and prevent a potential accident. Technology-loving Nissan Kicks owners will relish the convenience and simplicity of the suite of systems that are accessible via the centrally mounted 7-inch colour touchscreen. These functions include navigation, audio, and Bluetooth phone connections. Complementing the touchscreen, and ideally located in front of the driver, a further screen in the main cluster of dials relays information from the onboard drive computer, audio system and navigation systems, as well as displaying warnings.

ROUND-UP

Mohammad Al Farei appointed COO for Zubair Automotive Group

In his new role, he will supervise the group of companies under the umbrella of the Zubair Automotive Group, including General Automotive Company

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation has announced the appointment of Mohammad Yahya Al Farei to the position of chief operating officer (COO) for the Zubair Automotive Group, as of October 1. In his new role, he will supervise the group of companies under the umbrella of the Zubair Automotive Group, including General Automotive Company, represented by the Mitsubishi and Fuso brands, Dhofar Automotive Company, the official distributor for Jeep, Dodge,

Chrysler, RAM, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Mopar and International Heavy Equipment, which represents a large number of renowned brands in the world of heavy equipment and machinery such as Volvo, Bobcat and Renault Trucks. The group of companies also comprises Sayarti, provider of professional car care services, the Mega Body Shop, an integrated service facility for car bodies that provides a package of services including repair, painting and modi-



fication and extends its services for all models of various brands. Also included in the group is Zubair Leasing & Rental Company, which provides the best services and in-

novative car rental solutions for fleets and individual customers. Commenting on the appointment of a new COO, Rashad Al Zubair, the Chairman of The Zubair Corporation said, "Mohammad Al Farei was chosen for this position because he is one of the notable national competencies, who has worked within the Zubair Corporation for many years. During this time, he held a number of positions across the group companies and proved his management skills and ability to encourage change. This was proven with the companies under his management achieving outstanding milestones at all levels. We are completely confident that Al Farei will leave a significant impact on the automotive sector of the group's business, alongside implementing strategic plans to develop the business of the Zubair Automotive Group during the upcoming period." From his side, Mohammad Al

Farei, said, "The automotive sector is one of the largest commercial sectors in the Sultanate, both in terms of employment and sales. The recent years have undeniably posed a great challenge to this sector as well as others, due to the decline in the economy's performance caused by general recession and decline in oil prices, both of which are key contributors to the national economy. "The situation has also worsened with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have brought several sectors to a standstill. We hope that we have passed this stage with the new developments that are being communicated from concerned authorities. Accordingly, we hope that this sector will begin to significantly grow in the days to come. I will fully dedicate myself to preparing the Zubair Automotive Group to capitalise on this potential." "I would like to extend my

thanks and appreciation to the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation as well as the executive management for their confidence they have placed in me to manage this important sector of The Zubair Corporation. I look forward to working together with all the employees to enhance customer experience and provide exceptional services that meet their needs," he added. Al Farei holds a Master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a Master's degree in Management and Marketing from HECParis and a Master's degree in Finance & Investment from New York Stern University. He joined The Zubair Corporation in 1997 and supervised the operations of several institutions including Zubair Investment, the Bait Al Zubair Foundation, Jawahir Oman, PhotoCentre, Zeenah Marketing Agency and others.

RECOGNITION

Ahli Islamic triumphs at New Age Summit with 'Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking'

MUSCAT: Ahli Islamic, a popular choice for Sharia-compliant banking in Oman, has won with the 'Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking' Award at the Oman Banking and Finance Awards (powered by *Oman Economic Review*), held on the sidelines of the action-packed New Age Banking Summit, recently. This felicitation comes as a validation of Ahli Islamic's single-minded approach to retail banking, which has witnessed a sharp growth in the recent past, more so following the expansion of financial services for the retail client segment. According to Yousuf Al Rawahi, DGM and Head of Ahli Islamic, who received the coveted award from Tahir Al Amri - Executive President of Central Bank of Oman, this growth of Ahli Islamic is an outcome of a portfolio of comprehensive banking solutions and services that enabled the bank to reach a wider customer base across the Sultanate. He quantified the excellence award as recognition of the bank's capability to offer innovative banking products and services that introduced value



proposition and exceptional banking experience to its retail customers. Al Rawahi emphasised that Ahli Islamic will continue its offerings for new sharia-compliant banking products and services to be inclusive for youth, ladies, children, as well as high net-worth customers, expanded network of modern branches, and edge cutting electronic services to ensure customer convenience. Explaining further, he said, "What is noteworthy to mention here is Ahli Islamic's commitment to the economic and social

development of both individuals and the society. We aim to contribute to the banking industry by introducing new sharia-compliant products and solutions that cater for the financial needs of various customer segments and creating newer benchmarks for customer satisfaction - which is why we rely on customer engagements to realise our objective of 'partnering' with our customers. "We are indeed in the driver's seat of Islamic retail banking as demonstrated by winning Oman Banking & Finance Award, through

our distinctive services, customised products for youth, women and children, varieties of financing facilities including commercial financing for retail customers, expanding distribution network of 15 branches, efficient call centre services, and state of the art internet and mobile banking." The 'Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking' Award marks a new chapter in Ahli Islamic's success story, which has witnessed dramatic changes to make it one of the fastest-growing Islamic banks in the country. With an expanding portfolio of products and services, Ahli Islamic is on a fast trajectory to grow its retail banking offering. This reaffirms the bank's commitment to a customer-first approach, which is based on a systematic customer feedback process to continuously provide the enhanced retail offering. The bank's products & services are made available to customers through an expanding network of technology-enabled solutions and a growing branch network across the Sultanate of Oman.

ISLAMIC BANKING SERVICES

Maisarah Islamic Banking to mark Omani Women's Day with exclusive cash prizes

MUSCAT: Within the context of the Omani Women's Day, which is celebrated across the Sultanate of Oman on October 17 every year, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services - BankDhofar's Islamic banking window - revealed a special prize draw, exclusively made for women. These special prizes are guaranteed for each branch where one winner per branch is granted OMR 1,000 (10 winners from 10 branches) during the Omani Women's Day special draw which comes as part of Maisarah's efforts to promote the culture of saving among its customers nationwide. In addition to the expected profit of up to 2.5% per annum (subject to the weightages applicable for each month), the account - which is a personal saving account that is based on the Islamic concept of Mudaraba - allows customers to win cash prizes distributed from the shareholders' funds. Each



OMR 100 gives customers the chance to win cash prizes as per the terms and conditions of the scheme. Winners are randomly selected by an automated system in line with the approved procedures for the prize draws. Valid through 31 December, weekly prizes of OMR 100 each are

also granted to three winners from each branch, with a total number of 30 winners every week. Moreover, there are exclusive prizes for children in the monthly draws where one winner per branch is awarded OMR 100, with a total number of 10 winners every month. For Standard and Affluent

Banking customers, there are monthly prizes of OMR 500 each for one winner per branch, with a total number of 10 winners every month. Meanwhile, Priority Banking Customers have the chance to win OMR 2,000 each for one customer from every branch, with a total number of 10 winners every month. There are also Mid-year Grand Prizes where three lucky winners from across the Maisarah branch network will win OMR 1,000 in the children category, OMR 5,000 in the Standard and Affluent Banking category, and OMR 10,000 in the Priority Banking category. Moreover, in the Year-end Mega Prizes, three lucky winners from across the Maisarah branch network will win OMR 2,000 in the children category, OMR 10,000 in the Standard and Affluent Banking category, and OMR 100,000 in the Priority Banking category.

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT



Oman International Hospital welcomes medical students from Portugal for elective rotation

MUSCAT: Oman International Hospital (OIH) has welcomed two senior medical students (MD6) and a faculty member from the University of Porto (UoP), Portugal as part of its affiliation agreement with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto and Idealmed Global Healthcare Services (IGHS), the international operator of Oman International Hospital. The University of Porto, founded in 1901 and the second-largest university in Portugal with excellent research facilities, enables its students to visit, stay and study at OIH in an elective clinical rotation within their integrated studies cycle. Beatriz Bernardes, one of the visiting sixth-year medical students state, "The OIH, I can say, is world-class not only because of the modern and well-equipped installations but also due to its staff, who are always available to help and take care of people. On the other hand, Oman is simply stunning, and its people are so full of warmth and friendliness. I thank everyone for this valuable opportunity to be visiting Oman International Hospital as part of my medical studies." "Visiting and spending my days at Oman International Hospital, its dedicated healthcare providers and staff, as well as its facilities is a remarkable experience. The welcoming environment, professional medical, nursing and allied health staff and the homely feeling will surely provide every patient with the most comfortable and assuring experience. Besides, I am overwhelmed by the simplicity and hospitality of Omani people here" stated

José Paiva, another visiting student from the UoP. "As Professor of Surgery Department at Faculty of Medicine of University of Porto and Member of the University Council of the University of Porto, I can say with great satisfaction that I welcome this collaboration between OIH and Up, which will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries. It is an honour and a huge privilege to have students from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto doing elective clinical rotations at OIH. I have no doubt that this affiliation in the very near future will be extended to other areas of medical and academic," Professor Dr João Araújo Teixeira, Associate Professor of Surgery from the University of Porto and one of the most noted General Surgeon's in Portugal, stated. Dr José Alexandre Cunha, Chairman of IGHS said, "These students are the future of medicine and IGHS is glad to support them with out-of-the-box training, knowledge and experience to shape them into better medical professionals. Through these affiliations, we aim to make OIH not just a hospital but an international medical destination for learning, knowledge-sharing and innovation. We look forward to signing agreements with local Universities and welcoming students. With the OIH's affiliation aligning with the University of Porto, IGHS has expanded its network of partners, which includes several companies with international presence and educational institutions such as the University of Coimbra.



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