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KUWAIT NAMES ROAD TO HONOUR LATE HM

The State of Kuwait has named one of the prominent roads in the memory of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur. **>A5**



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HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Nguyen Phu Trong of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of his country's National Day. His Majesty expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Trong and the friendly people of Vietnam. **-ONA**



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CARRIAGE OF GOODS

HM issues Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Tuesday issued a Royal decree reading as follows:

Royal Decree No.114/2020 on the ratification of the Government of Sultanate of Oman's joining the "Convention on the Contract for International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR)", done at Geneva on May 19, 1956, and its Additional Protocol Concerning the Electronic Consignment Note, done at Geneva on February 20, 2008.

Article (1) endorses the Sultanate of Oman's joining the above-mentioned Convention on the Contract for International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) in accordance with the version attached to this decree, and declares that the Sultanate is not bound by the provision of Article (47) of the same agreement.

Article (2) ratifies the Sultanate of Oman's joining the above-mentioned CMR Convention's Additional Protocol Concerning the Electronic Consignment Note in accordance with the version attached to this decree, and it declares that the Sultanate is not bound by the provision of Article (11) of the same protocol.

Article (3) instructs the departments concerned to deposit the joining documents for the above-mentioned Convention and Additional Protocol in accordance with their provisions, without prejudice to the two reservations stated in Articles (1) and (2) above.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Work rules set for private institutions

1 The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation has issued a decision on the organisation of work in the private institutions of higher education. **>A3**

WORLD

US COVID-19 cases surpass 6 million

2 The total number of COVID-19 cases in the United States surpassed 6 million on Monday, according to the Johns Hopkins University. **>A6**

MARKET

12 tech packages to global players

3 Twelve technology licence packages were awarded to international technology providers. **>B1**

SUPREME COMMITTEE

COVID-19 infections down, but ICU occupancy rates still high

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The infections from COVID-19 have been decreasing in the governorates of the Sultanate but occupancy rates in the intensive care units remain high, the Supreme Committee tasked to deal with the COVID-19 said.

A statement by the Government Communication Centre said, "The committee reviewed the epidemiological situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Sultanate, which indicates a decrease in infection rates in most of the Sultanate's governorates, but the occupancy rate of beds in hospitals, especially the intensive care unit (ICU) beds, is still high."

"A number of countries around the world are witnessing a re-



markable resurgence of this disease following the opening of activities, and lack of vaccines or treatment for this disease," said the committee.

The Supreme Committee stresses that the best way to limit

its spread lies in adhering to preventive measures such as wearing masks, physical distancing, maintaining hand hygiene, and other measures of protection for an individual, family members, colleagues at work sites, and the rest of society.

In its meeting, the Supreme Committee also reviewed a number of topics related to the effects of the pandemic in various fields and directed the competent authorities to study them so that appropriate decisions are taken at a later time.

The Supreme Committee confirmed that all its decisions are based on the epidemiological data of the pandemic while minimising its negative effects on various sectors as possible.



SCHOOLS TO REOPEN WITH COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

Core subjects to be taught in the classroom, while other subjects can be taught remotely

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Schools in Oman could reopen to as low as just 16 students per classroom, according to plans devised by the Ministry of Education, to minimise the spread of COVID-19 among children and staff.

Once schools reopen, lessons will be taught to students in a blended format, which will com-

bine online learning with physical teaching in the classroom.

Abdullah Al Busaidi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, said, "The application of blended learning varies from one school to another, according to the student population of each school, so that the number of students within a class does not exceed 16, to ensure physical distancing."

With the aim being to achieve a physical distance of 1.5 metres between students, all core academic subjects will be taught in the classroom, while other subjects can be taught remotely.

Educational bodies will be offered the flexibility to adapt to the physical presence of students at school to suit their needs, and health protocols will be applied in all schools to ensure the safety of students.

In keeping with the measures introduced by the Ministry of

Education, Indian and Pakistan Schools have also developed study plans.

Batches

Mohammed Zia Ul Haq Siddiqui, chairman of the Steering Committee for Pakistan Schools said, "We have about 40 to 45 students per class, so we will be splitting these into two batches of students. The first batch of 20 will come in the morning, and the second will arrive in the afternoon. We have planned to cancel recess for the students, so that they can have a straight learning shift, say until 11 am, after which the afternoon shift comes in around 2 pm."

"If we still have some students who cannot be accommodated into either batch, we will have them in the school on alternate days, and the rest of the time, they can pursue online learning," he added. **>A5**

MAJLIS AL SHURA

Recommendations of joint panel on draft VAT law discussed



IN SESSION: The 13th ordinary session of the ninth term's first annual sitting was held under Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of Majlis Al Shura, on Tuesday. **-Supplied photo**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Majlis Al Shura discussed the recommendations of the Shura-State Council Joint Committee on matters of discrepancy in the Value Added Tax (VAT) Draft Law.

Earlier, the Council of Ministers had forwarded the VAT Draft Law to Majlis Al Shura, describing it as an urgent issue, and decided to send back the draft of the law to the State Council for completion of formalities.

The 13th ordinary session of the ninth term's first annual sitting

was held under Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of Majlis Al Shura, on Tuesday.

During the same session, the Majlis endorsed the view of the committee on Education and Research about an agreement on co-operation with the Government of Hungary. The cooperation agreement, in the field of higher education, was forwarded by the government to the Majlis.

The members also listened to replies sent by ministries about audit instruments proposed earlier by the Majlis members, including the allocation of certain oil and

gas activities as exclusive to Omani firms. They also listened to queries on procedures undertaken to repatriate non-Omani manpower, a proposal on developing Arabic language teaching and the suspension of the issue of wood collection and charcoal.

The members listened to a ministerial reply related to the economic and financial status of the mining sector, the challenges posed to this sector and its contribution to the Sultanate's Gross Domestic Product, in addition to the issue of crushers and quarries' mechanism of functioning.



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Data Sources Readership: IPSOS NRS 2017, Web reach: Effective Measure/Narrative, Google Analytics January 2020; Social media numbers verified online as of January 2020; *Whatsapp subscribers x 4 pass-on rate

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TIMINGS



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A statement issued online by The Kuwait Ministers Council



Kuwait names road after late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

A news story on Kuwait naming a road after late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos reached 52,772 people on Facebook with 4,966 engagements.



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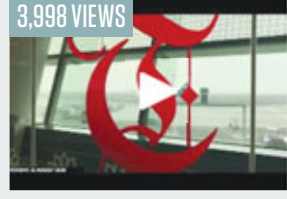
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The Maghrib Minute video on flights got 264 likes and 3,998 views on Instagram.

Work rules for private institutes announced

The ministerial decision prescribes work norms for private higher education institutions during the first semester of the academic year 2020-2021

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim bin Said Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation has issued a ministerial decision on the organisation of work in the private higher education institutions during the first semester of 2020-2021.

The decision stipulated in its first article, "Private higher education institutions shall organise work during the first semester of the academic year 2020-2021 as follows:

1. Working with the blended learning system, educational institutions will determine the cases that require students to attend the university campus, provided that the priority for attending the institutions headquarters is given to the following categories:
 - Foundation Programme students.
 - First semester students.
 - Students of programmes whose study plans include practical applications.
 - Students expected to graduate.
 - Students whose circumstances prevent the desired benefit from the distance learning

system for any reason that the educational institution appreciates, such as students with disabilities, students who are academically struggling, or others.

2. Educational institutions are obligated to provide an appropriate safe and healthy environment for students and their workers according to the controls contained in the guideline for the necessary precautionary measures to prevent and limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) approved by the Ministry.
3. Educational institutions will determine the courses that can be offered through e-learning and the courses that require class attendance, with appropriate evaluation methods that ensure the achievement of the learning objectives and outcomes specified for each course. Institutions may also mix e-learning (distance) and classroom face-to-face in courses that combine the theoretical and practical components at the same time, provided that these procedures are approved by the specialized academic councils and in accordance with the mechanisms followed in each institution separately.
4. Institutions must adapt the

current teaching and evaluation methods and methods to conform to the blended learning system and in line with international standards and good practices for this type of education.

5. Educational institutions are to be committed to developing the technical infrastructure for e-learning on an ongoing basis, and enriching the electronic content for all academic courses in order to ensure the achievement of the targeted learning outcomes and the efficiency of students' academic achievement, provided that the electronic content of the academic courses includes a mixture of synchronised and asynchronous lectures and the institutions specify the appropriate mechanisms to ensure student interaction in these lectures and their commitment to attend them on time.
6. Institutions may replace written exams with electronic tests, research projects, etc., provided that institutions take the necessary precautionary measures to ensure the quality of students' work, and verify the availability of technical and academic conditions that support the approved alternatives.

7. Institutions must continuously qualify and train the teaching staff on the methodologies of blended learning and methods of evaluating students' performance and following up on their levels in a way that guarantees the quality of the educational process while making use of the experiences of academic liaisons or any other bodies with experience in this regard.
8. Institutions should periodically survey the views of students and academics to ensure the effectiveness of the educational process through blended learning and provide them with various aspects of support, with the necessity to define open lines of communication to support students academically and technically, whether by phone or e-mail.
9. Educational institutions coordinate with the relevant authorities to provide practical training opportunities for students of applied programmes in accordance with approved study plans.
10. The educational institutions may cooperate with each other to overcome the distance learning process for students, through sharing the use of resources and facilities, and cooperating in the presentation of similar courses, and this shall be done by prior coordination between them and in accordance with the equivalent systems followed by each educational institution.
11. At the end of the first semester of the academic year 2020-2021, institutions submit a comprehensive report to the Ministry regarding its experience in applying blended learning and the accompanying challenges and treatments.
12. Institutions wishing to continue providing their programmes with the blended learning system after the end of the Corona pandemic, must submit a new application to license their programmes in the blended learning mode in accordance with the controls and conditions that the Ministry will issue later in this regard.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Public revenue centralisation to help achieve greater spending control

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance has said that combining various departments that record the sources of government income and spending will lead to improved control over public finances.

The ministry's Director of Media and Communication, Khalid bin Saif Al Busaidi, referred to circular number 18/2020, which stated that the plans to centralise the government's revenue record system would need to proceed as planned.

"The project to set up a single treasury account is one of several steps the ministry is working on to improve control over public spending and government revenues," he said, adding that other projects being set up to improve its capabilities include the government financial data management system, programme budgeting, and performance management systems.

Speaking to *Al Shabiba*, the *Times of Oman's* sister Arabic publication, Al Busaidi added, "The single treasury account project is a single key bank account or a set of linked bank accounts used for government revenues and thus spending shall be through a single government ac-

KEEPING COUNT: The project to set up a single treasury account is one of several measures the ministry is working on to improve control over public spending and government revenues.

count in the near future."

He added: "With the issuance of financial circular No. 18/2020, we proceeded with the first stage of implementing the centralisation of government revenues under a single account with the Central Bank of Oman. This aims to have all government revenues deposited in a single account, and the transfer of revenues from government bod-

ies to this single account with the CBO shall not take more than five working days from their collection.

"The single account would help the government manage cash flows, and spending in a more efficient way," Busaidi added. Compliance with collection of revenues shall cover all government, military and security bodies which shall transfer revenues

directly to the account of the Ministry of Finance. Revenues will not be deposited directly with the ministry, but shall be done through this account. Although revenues must be transferred to the ministry within five days of collection, there are exceptions to some government bodies that are allowed up to a week to deposit these into the required account.

TRIBUTES

Indian embassy opens condolence book for ex-president

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian nationals in Oman have been invited to sign a condolence book opened by their country's embassy to mark the death of former president Pranab Mukherjee.

The book is open for all to sign. Those who wish to sign it can visit the embassy between 2pm and 4pm on 1 September, between 10am and noon, and 2pm and 4pm on the 2nd, and from 10am to noon on the 3rd.

"The embassy expresses condolences on the passing away of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former president of India. A book of condolences has been opened at the Embassy of India," said the embassy in a statement.

Well-wishers to the family of the late president can also send in their wishes digitally, through a Google Form that can be accessed through the embassy's social media accounts. Those who fill in these messages must also provide their name and the nature of their job in Oman.

Mukherjee, who passed away at the age of 84, on 31 August, served as the 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.

Previously, he served as the finance minister on two occasions,

Well-wishers to the family of the late president can also send in their wishes digitally, through a Google Form that can be accessed through the embassy's social media accounts

in the governments of former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and Indira Gandhi.

An experienced politician, Pranab Mukherjee was also on different occasions India's external affairs minister of defence minister and the leader of the Lok Sabha, India's Lower House of Parliament, and Rajya Sabha, its Upper House.

The demise of the former President was confirmed by his son Abhijit, who said in a statement on the day of his passing,



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WILAYAT OF IZKI

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WHERE: Izki lies approximately 120 kilometres from Muscat. It borders Samail in the north, Manah and Adam in the south, Nizwa in the west and Mudhaibi in the east. One can find Oman's oldest historical ruins here. While Al Nizar, Sehma and Mokazza are some of the villages here, there are many ancient houses and mosques of archaeological significance.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: At the foot of Wadi Halfayn, below Nizar village, is Jarnan cave which is an important natural attraction in the wilayat of Izki. Falaj Al Malaki is one of the oldest falaj systems in the Sultanate. According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, 'Falaj Al Malaki is considered one of the largest Dawoodi Falaj as it has 17 branches that feed the falaj'. The Izki Fort and the local souq are known for their historical significance. While Wadi Mahram is known for its serenity there are few ancient towers that watch over the village from their hilltop perches.

FAMOUS FOR: Wilayat of Izki is known for many traditional industries and crafts especially spinning and weaving.



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WORLD



US COVID-19 cases surpass 6 million



CORONAVIRUS: By far, the United States remains the worst-hit nation, with the world's most cases and deaths, accounting for more than one fifth of the global caseload.

US COVID-19 case count rose to 6,002,615, with the national death toll reaching 183,203

NEW YORK: The total number of COVID-19 cases in the United States surpassed 6 million on Monday, according to the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns

Hopkins University. U.S. COVID-19 case count rose to 6,002,615, with the national death toll reaching 183,203, as of 11:28 a.m. local time (1528 GMT), according to the CSSE.

The hardest-hit U.S. state of California reported 706,731 cases. Texas and Florida both recorded more than 620,000 cases, followed by the state of New York with 434,100 cases. Other states with over 190,000 cases include Georgia, Illinois, Arizona and New Jersey, according to the CSSE. A return to campus for the fall semester has recently caused great concern over potential outbreaks among students across the United States.

Over 30 states have reported thousands of coronavirus cases on newly reopened campuses, including the University of Alabama, where more than 1,300 students have tested positive. US COVID-19 cases topped 5 million on August 9. By far, the United States remains the worst-hit nation, with the world's most cases and deaths, accounting for more than one fifth of the global caseload and death toll, followed by Brazil and India. **Xinhua**



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India's COVID-19 tally continues to rise at rapid pace

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 3,691,166, as the death toll rose to 65,288 on Tuesday, showed the latest data released by the federal health ministry. As many as 69,921 new cases and 819 deaths were recorded over the past 24 hours across the country. There are still 785,996 active cases across the country, while 2,839,882 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 43,324,834 had been tested till Monday as 1,016,920 tests were conducted on Monday alone. This was the third occasion in the country when more than 1 million samples were tested in a single day. India has entered the Unlock 4 with effect from Tuesday. Fresh guidelines to be followed during Unlock 4 were issued on Saturday. According to the new guidelines announced, schools will remain shut through September, though students of 9-12 standards have been allowed to approach their teachers at schools for guidance. Metro Rail services would be allowed to start from Sept. 7 in a graded manner, and public functions, or other congregations, would be allowed with a ceiling of 100 persons from September 21. **Xinhua**



Baltic states issue travel ban on Belarus President Lukashenko

VILNIUS: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia imposed travel bans on Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and 29 other officials on Monday, indicating impatience with the West's apprehensive approach. The three Baltic nations have been the most vociferous in their calls for the European Union, as well as others, to take action against Lukashenko after the Belarusian leader was accused by opponents and the West of rigging the August 9 election to prolong his 26-year rule. The sanctions target officials that the Baltic states believe were at the center of electoral corruption, as well as those believed to have played a key role in the violence against protesters since the poll.

Lead by example
“We said that we need peaceful dialogue and agreement between the regime and society, but we see that the regime is not ready for that,” said Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda. “We see that we need to move forward and to show an example to other countries,” he added. Lithuania has been hosting exiled Belarusian opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who fled there following the nationwide vote. Tsikhanouskaya is set to speak to the UN Security Council on Friday, at the request of Estonia, her spokesman said.



SANCTIONS: The three Baltic nations have been the most vociferous in their calls for the European Union, as well as others, to take action against Lukashenko.

Germany summons ambassador
Meanwhile, the German Foreign Ministry said it had summoned the Belarusian ambassador on Monday in response to the detention of foreign

journalists in Belarus. Authorities in Belarus stripped several reporters of their press accreditation on Saturday, with some reportedly facing expulsion from the country. Journalists working for news

agencies Agence France-Presse and The Associated Press, as well as British broadcaster BBC, German public broadcaster ARD and US broadcaster Radio Liberty, had their accreditation stripped from them.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass has already condemned the moves against the foreign media as “unacceptable,” and now the Foreign Ministry has acted in calling for urgent discussions with the Belarusian ambassador to Berlin.

Protests continue, US warns Russia
Three weeks of mass protests have ensued as a result of the controversial result to the election. Tens of thousands of protesters once again took to the streets in Minsk on Sunday, seeking to maintain the pressure on Lukashenko to resign. At least 140 people were arrested in the latest demonstration, according to Russia's RIA news agency, citing the Belarusian Interior Ministry. Lukashenko remains an ally of Russia and has constantly refuted suggestions of electoral fraud while claiming the protesters are backed by foreign powers. But Russia must respect the sovereignty of Belarus and the right of its people to elect their own leaders, the United States has warned. “The massive number of Belarusians protesting peacefully makes clear that the government can no longer ignore the people's call for democracy, and Russia must also respect Belarus' sovereignty and the right of its people to elect their own leaders freely and fairly,” said White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun last week said a Kremlin military intervention in Belarus would be “most unwelcome,” but added the US had no plans to intervene. He also urged Minsk to accept mediation from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. **DW**



Ministry of Defence
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

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B. Send the payment notice to the MOD Email: (STC.SG@MOD.GOV.OM)
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2. **For any inquiries contact the MOD on: (24332937) – (24336507) – (24336508)**

Facebook may ban Australians from sharing news articles

CANBERRA: After the Australian government said digital giants should compensate media houses for using their stories, Facebook has issued an unprecedented threat that it may ban the country's users from sharing news stories on its platforms. “Assuming this draft code becomes law, we will reluctantly stop allowing publishers and people in Australia from sharing local and

international news on Facebook and Instagram,” said Facebook's managing director for Australia and New Zealand, Will Easton, in a blog post. He also added that the proposed law required the company to choose between “either removing news entirely or accepting a system that lets publishers charge us for as much content as they want at a price with no clear limits.”

“No business can operate that way,” he said. Australia is planning to enforce some of the strictest limitations on the powers of digital giants like Facebook and Google, which would require the companies to pay for the content they use from local news outlets. The aim is to bring in more transparency into how the platforms use their algorithms to rank content. **DW**



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Biden, Donald Trump trade blame over violence in US cities

The former US vice president criticised violence in cities like Portland and Kenosha, which came amid protests against police brutality

WASHINGTON: Democratic 2020 presidential nominee Joe Biden and his Republican rival, sitting President Donald Trump, traded blame on Monday over violence in US cities.

“He’s supposed to be protecting this country. But instead he’s rooting for chaos and violence,” Biden said in a speech from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, referring to Trump. “He can’t stop the violence - because for years he has fomented it.”

The former US vice president went on to criticize violence in cities like Portland in Oregon, and Kenosha in Wisconsin, which came amid protests against police brutality and racial injustice.

“I want to be clear about this: Rioting is not protesting. Looting is not protesting. Setting fires is not protesting,” Biden stressed. “None of this is protesting - it’s lawlessness - plain and simple.”

“And those who do it should be prosecuted. Violence will not bring change, only destruction.



US VIOLENCE: In Kenosha, protests have erupted after 29-year-old African-American man Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back by a police.

It’s wrong in every way. It divides instead of unites,” he added.

Trump, in a tweet, said he has tuned in for Biden’s remarks, while accusing him of “blaming the Police far more than he’s blaming the Rioters, Anarchists, Agitators, and Looters.”

Tim Murtaugh, a spokesperson for the Trump campaign, issued a statement and claimed that people “won’t be safe in Joe Biden’s America.”

The remarks came two days after a motorcade of Trump’s supporters drove through downtown Portland, and confronted with people opposing racism and excessive use of force by police.

Local police said they were investigating a deadly shooting of reportedly one of the pro-Trump protesters amid the skirmishes.

In Kenosha, protests have erupted after 29-year-old African American man Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back by a police officer during an arrest a week ago, which grew chaotic and violent at times when a teenager opened fire and killed two of the protesters.

Earlier this year, 46-year-old African American man George Floyd died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes during an arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

His death sparked nationwide protests as well as social unrest in some U.S. cities.

Trump has largely focused on violent aspects of the protests and sought to highlight his “law and order” message in days leading to the November election by blaming the chaos and violence on Democratic governors and mayors and doubling down on his support of police officers. Biden, who has made improving race relations a pillar of his White House bid, has accused Trump of fanning the flames of hate and division and using the politics of fear to whip up his supporters. **xinhua**

CORONAVIRUS



Italy’s new coronavirus infections under 1,000 mark

ROME: The number of new coronavirus cases dropped back under the 1,000 mark as Italy reported a total of 996 new COVID-19 infections over the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Health reported on Monday.

New cases jumped over the 1,000 mark on Aug. 26 (1,367 new infections) and have continued above 1,000 until August 30 (1,365). As well, six patients died of COVID-19 on Monday, against another four who lost their lives on Sunday, while there were 117 recoveries on Monday, against an increase of 312 recoveries on Sunday, the Ministry of Health said.

The latest data pushes the total number of infections, recoveries and fatalities in Italy since the pandemic first began here in late February to 269,214 -- against a total of 268,218 on Sunday.

In its weekly COVID-19 monitoring report for August 17-23, the Ministry of Health noted that “an increase is confirmed in new cases reported in Italy for the fourth consecutive week ... The majority of cases continue to be contracted on the national territory” while 20.8 percent of the new cases were imported from abroad.

Also on Monday, a technical

institute in the city of Verbania in the northern Piedmont region said that it has shut down pending disinfection of its premises after a teacher tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Six students have been quarantined. The institute had been holding remedial classes since August 26, according to ANSA Italian news agency.

The news of the coronavirus case at the Verbania institute came as Italy prepares for the reopening of its schools on September 14.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte wrote on Twitter on Monday that “once again, Italy is on the frontlines to elaborate useful strategies to combat the coronavirus. Thanks to (Health) Minister Roberto Speranza, today 53 countries in dialogue with (the World Health Organization) WHO on safe reopening of schools. This is our priority today.”

Speranza also tweeted that the “right to health and right to education must walk hand in hand. Today, representing Italy, I promoted with the WHO a conference on the safe reopening of schools. This is the true priority in the coming weeks in all countries around the world.” **xinhua**

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Kenya cautioned against easing COVID-19 containment measures

NAIROBI: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday cautioned Kenya against relaxing measures aimed at containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO said in a statement issued in Nairobi that the decline in the number of total confirmed symptomatic and asymptomatic cases in the last three weeks is not an indication that there is a national decline of the disease.

It said while the decline is a welcome trend, it is important to interrogate if this is an indication of the country’s true flattening of the curve and how well it represents the national picture of the overall COVID-19 status.

“However, we caution against a too rapid interpretation that this decline in reported numbers already constitutes a true decline in the spread of the disease,” WHO



said. The UN health agency said the country had registered fewer laboratory tests in the last three weeks of decline.

It said the testing strategy was not adhered to strictly during the period in that low-risk groups were tested instead of the high-risk groups who include health workers and truck drivers. “Some laboratories supporting counties reported shortage of test kits and

or specimen collection kits and did limited tests for suspected cases and their contacts,” WHO said.

It noted that there has also been minimal contact tracing going in the recent past, which would have given more accurate transmission numbers and status.

It called for the use of its guidelines in interpreting such a decline to determine the level of epidemic control. **xinhua**

GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY

IATA calls for borders to reopen with relief measures to sustain airlines



GENEVA: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is calling on governments to work together to urgently find ways to re-establish global connectivity by re-opening borders and to continue with relief measures to sustain airlines during the COVID-19 crisis.

IATA’s call reflects deep industry frustration as government policies such as closed borders, travel restrictions and quarantines continue to annihilate travel demand. This was evident in a disappointing “peak (Northern Hemisphere) summer travel season” that saw minimal improvements compared to the May-June period, as four in five potential travelers stayed home, based on comparisons with the year-

ago period. “Protecting their citizens must be the top priority of governments. But too many governments are fighting a global pandemic in isolation with a view that closing borders is the only solution. It’s time for governments to work together to implement measures that will enable economic and social life to resume, while controlling the spread of the virus,” said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA’s Director General and CEO.

Specifically, IATA calls for governments to grasp the seriousness of the crisis facing the airline industry and its consequences for their citizens; and IATA urges governments to focus their attention on key issues like re-opening borders, continuing relief measures and global leadership.

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SPORTS



FOOTBALL

CYCLING

No Messi as Barca return to training

MADRID: Lionel Messi was missing on Monday as FC Barcelona held their first training session under new coach Ronald Koeman.

As expected, the Argentinian did not return along with the rest of his teammates for the start of pre-season training, after he refused to take a PCR test for COVID-19 on Sunday.

Messi's decision is another step in his plan to leave the club where he has spent the last 20 years, with the striker and his advisors taking the stance that his contract with Barcelona allows him to leave the Camp Nou on a free transfer this summer.

This opinion is not shared by Barcelona or the Spanish Football League (La Liga).

In a statement on Sunday, La Liga supported Barcelona, saying that anyone who wants to buy Messi will have to pay his 700 million euro release clause.

La Liga is not a disinterested party in this affair, given that the Argentinian is its biggest star and the league has already lost Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo in recent years.

The possible departure of the biggest name will see La Liga lose ground to the Premier League (especially if Messi moves to Manchester City) and make it harder to demand high fees for TV rights.

Koeman held his first training session with just 13 first-team professionals and six players from the Barcelona B-team, with others such as Sergio Busquets and



NO SHOW: As expected, the Argentinian did not return along with the rest of his teammates for the start of pre-season training, after he refused to take a PCR test for COVID-19 on Sunday.

Ansu Fati reporting for international duty in Madrid.

Ivan Rakitic was another absentee as the 32-year-old Croatian is in Sevilla for a medical ahead of a return to the club that he left to join Barca in 2014.

Ewan sprints to stage 3 win in Tour de France



PARIS: Australian rider Caleb Ewan produced a brilliant sprint finish to win the third stage of the Tour de France on Monday, as local favourite Julian Alaphilippe kept his lead in the overall standings.

It is Ewan's fourth stage victory after three on his debut last year.

"The guys did a great job keeping me at the front," Ewan said after winning the 198km ride from Nice to Sisteron.

The Lotto rider squeezed past Peter Sagan to get onto Irishman Sam Bennett's wheel before he kicked clear with tremendous speed with 50 metres to go.

Bennett finished second and European champion Giacomo Nizzolo took the final place on the podium. Three-time world champion Sage faded to finish fifth but snatched enough points to take the green point jersey from stage one winner Alexander Kristoff.

Alaphilippe crossed the line with the peloton and remained four seconds ahead of Adam Yates in the battle for the yellow jersey, with Marc Hirschi ranking third, seven seconds behind.

The race on Tuesday will be a hilly stage from Sisteron to Orcieres-Merlette, which covers 160.5 kilometres. *Xinhua*

Top seeds Djokovic, Pliskova into US Open second round

With the victory, Djokovic continued his flawless 2020 season, with a 24-0 win record



US OPEN: Top seeds Novak Djokovic and Karolina Pliskova, both reached the second round of the US Open after making short work of their respective opponents on Monday.

WASHINGTON: Top seeds Novak Djokovic and Karolina Pliskova, both reached the second round of the US Open after making short work of their respective opponents on Monday.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no spectators this year at New York's Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, with players' entourages limited to three people. Event organisers also introduced detailed protocols ensuring players and others have their faces covered and stay far enough apart from others at the venue.

Having just won the Western & Southern Open, also held at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, men's singles world number one Djokovic took a speedy 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 victory against Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia and Herzegovina to reach the second round.

"He's one of the quickest play-

ers on the Tour. He played some really good shots," 33-year-old Djokovic said after the match. "I was pleased to close out the second set and then stepped it up in the final set."

"I did struggle a bit with the semifinals and final back-to-back at the Western & Southern Open, but I had 48 hours. Not so much time, but still enough time to recover. I felt good on the court to-

clinical 6-4, 6-0 performance over Anhelina Kalinina from Ukraine.

Pliskova had stumbled at last week's Western & Southern Open, where she was upset in the opening round.

But the Czech returned to the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Monday with renewed confidence, and fired 26 winners and seven aces en route to victory.

Pliskova's compatriot Petra

Kvitova also needed just over an hour to dismiss Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania to advance into the next round.

Elsewhere, fourth seed Naomi Osaka of Japan overcame a second set slump to defeat compatriot Misaki Doi 6-2, 5-7, 6-2, while eighth seed Petra Martic of Croatia rallied to beat Tereza Martincova of the Czech Republic 5-7, 6-2, 6-4. *Xinhua*

WINNERS

CORONAVIRUS

Lyon win fifth Women's Champions League in a row with a win over Wolfsburg

SAN SEBASTIAN: A very familiar-looking final ended in a very familiar manner thanks to a very familiar face, as French champions Lyon edged out their German opponents to make it five Women's Champions League titles in a row. The final blow for the French side was struck by Sara Björk Gunnarsdottir, who played for Wolfsburg earlier in the competition.

That three of those five final wins have come against Wolfsburg is no mark of disrespect to the Women's Bundesliga winners, Jean Luc Vasseur's team are simply a class above the rest of the women's game, as they proved for large stretches on Sunday.

After Wendie Renard's aerial ability and Delphine Cascarino's jinking wingplay threatened Wolfsburg's defenses early on, it was Eugénie Le Sommer who eventually broke the deadlock. Cascarino's cross was only blocked as far as the French striker and, after Wolfsburg keeper Friederike



Abt kicked away a weak left-footed effort, Le Sommer blasted across her low with her right.

The German side looked to the prolific Danish forward Pernille Harder for inspiration but she struggled to see enough of the ball

as Lyon controlled the game. They took a huge step towards victory just before the break after another half-cleared Cascarino cross fell to Saki Kumagai. The Japanese international kept her cool and rifled a low, powerful shot an inch inside

Abt's left post from 20 yards. It was a goal in keeping with the champions' display.

Despite the wounds of previous defeat though, Wolfsburg were not prepared to lie down, and the women in green harried and chased their way back in to the game. Fridolina Rolfö was persistent enough to get a cross in from a tough spot on the left, Lyon keeper Sarah Bouhaddi spilt it and Alexander Popp was in the right place at the right time to head in from Ewa Pajor's mishit shot. Popp and Harder were among those trying desperately to carve out further opportunities. But Lyon managed to wrestle back control. In the end, it was a stroke of luck, and another questionable piece of goalkeeping, that allowed Gunnarsdottir to turn home Le Sommer's fierce shot from close range. While the identity of the third goalscorer will be frustrating for Wolfsburg, it's yet another final loss to Lyon that will sting more. *DW*

PSG report two suspected COVID-19 cases

PARIS: Two unnamed Paris Saint-Germain players have shown symptoms of COVID-19, the French Ligue 1 giants said on Monday.

"Two Paris Saint-Germain players are suspected to have COVID-19. Their condition is perfectly reassuring," a statement from the Champions League runners-up said.

French sports newspaper L'Equipe reported that the two players could be Argentinian duo Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes, who holidayed together in Ibiza after the Champions League final against Bayern Munich on August 23. The island is one of the regions in Spain that has been hit hard by COVID-19 in recent weeks.

The French champions are now awaiting the final results of

The French champions are now awaiting the final results of the tests and if confirmed positive, the duo will miss the trip to Lens on September 10

the tests and if confirmed positive, the duo will miss the trip to Lens on September 10 for their 2020-21 Ligue 1 season opener.

French football's governing body has ruled that a team must cancel its training if four or more positive cases are found, with the possibility that its matches could also be postponed. *Xinhua*

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2020 reaching \$45.31, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman declined 81 cents from the price of yesterday, which was \$45.74. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,780.25 points, up 0.22 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.40 per cent at 522.66 points. Oman & Emirates Investment Holding, up 2.08 per cent was the top gainer while Oman Flour Mills, down 4.50 per cent, was the top loser.

12 technology licence packages awarded to global players



Duqm Petrochemicals will become a significant player in the region, benefiting from its strategic location on the Oman eastern seaboard with direct access to international markets, said Shane Macnamara, Duqm Petrochemicals Project Directors



KEY PACKAGES : Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company (DRPIC), Duqm Petrochemical Project announced the awarding of 12 technology licence packages to international technology providers. - **File photo**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Twelve technology licence packages were awarded to international technology providers for advancing the front end engineering and design (FEED) progress by Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company (Duqm Petrochemical Project). At the heart of the project, the world scale mixed-feed steam cracker was awarded to Lummus Technology, as well as the natural gas liquids extraction and C4 block unit technologies including Butadiene, CDMtbe, and Butene-1 separation. The derivative unit technologies were awarded to UOP, (Aromatics), Scientific Design Company INC, (Ethylene Oxide Ethylene Glycol), Univation Technologies LLC, (Linear Low-Density Polyethylene), BasellPolyolefine GmbH, (High-Density Polyethylene), BasellPolyolefine Italia S.r.l, (Polypropylene), Linde

Aktiengesellschaft, (Air Separation Unit), Air Liquide Engineering and Construction, (Syngas) and OQ will provide shareholder proprietary technology for both the ethylene and propylene derivative OXO units. On this occasion, Dr Salim Al Huthaili, CEO of DRPIC stated “We are glad to reach this milestone of the project despite the challenges of COVID-19. The creativity and agility of the project team are remarkable. We are now looking forward to progressing towards the next stage in the project which includes working with the reputable international technology licensors to finalise the FEED and strive to achieve Final Investment Decision (FID) next year. We are also happy to report the good progress of the refinery construction again despite the COVID-19 challenges. “We thank our shareholders, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), OQ and project partners for their commitment and continued

support. Once completed, the Duqm Petrochemical Complex should significantly improve DRPIC’s contributions to our shareholders.” Shane Macnamara, Duqm Petrochemicals Project Director said, “Due to the increasing global demand for petrochemical products, Duqm Petrochemicals will become a significant player in the region, benefiting from its strategic location on the Oman eastern seaboard with direct access to international markets. Working with long-established technology licensors enables us to develop a world-class project empowering the future development of downstream petrochemical industries in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm.”

Strategic partnership

Moreover, Duqm Refinery along with the Petrochemical Complex will further enhance the strategic partnership between Oman and Kuwait, strengthening the rela-

tionships between the two countries under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Duqm Refinery and Petrochemicals Industries Co. (Company) Duqm Petrochemical Project is a grassroots petrochemical complex at Duqm on the Arabian Sea coast of Oman, approximately 600km south of Muscat. The Petrochemical complex will take a combination of feedstock from existing gas fields remote from Duqm in conjunction with feedstock from the new Company Refinery being built adjacent to the petrochemical site at Duqm. The gas will be processed through an NGL extraction plant located at Saih Nihayda and is then transported to Duqm along a new 250km pipeline. At the core of the complex is a Steam Cracker Unit (SCU) producing 1600 KTA of ethylene.

Downstream of this are multiple licensed units processing C4s, and SynGas as feedstocks to Aromatics, OXO, EOEG and Plastics units. The various products are packaged within the complex and then either trucked or piped to a Marine Export facility at the new Liquid Loading jetty at DUQM. The new Petrochemical facilities will be integrated into the wider facilities being developed by Sezad (Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm).

Joint venture

Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries LLC is a joint venture between OQ and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI). The project is located in Duqm, Al-Wusta Governorate, on Sultanate of Oman’s southeast coast. The project has a strategic location on the international trade route on the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. By its location on the international trade route,

Duqm Refinery will link international markets in the East and West through providing faster access to energy products for global markets, thereby increasing their economic viability. Intending to establish a world-class fuel refinery, Duqm Refinery aims to be a catalyst for economic growth and effectively contribute to the prosperity and wealth of the Sultanate in the future. On completion of the Duqm Refinery project, its refining capacity will reach 230,000 barrels per day for various types of crude oil, with diesel, jet fuel, naphtha and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) being the main products of the refinery. With its vital location in the Duqm Special Economic Zone, the Duqm Refinery will serve as a key driver for the growth of the region through providing investment opportunities for new projects in the region, which will, directly and indirectly, interfere with the refinery’s operations.

PROTECTION AT CRITICAL TIME

Bank Muscat offers special home insurance plans from AXA Insurance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Furnishing homes with treasured possessions can take a lifetime, but sometimes, accidents and disasters can happen when least expected. To provide maximum protection at this critical time when people all around the country are spending more time at their homes, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced the availability of home insurance plans through its special bancassurance partnership with AXA, a worldwide leader in insurance and assets management. These plans, which can be easily purchased online, offer excellent protection against unexpected loss or damage to property and personal belongings. Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, DGM – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat, said, “Bank Muscat is proud to join hands with AXA Insurance, which is one of the world’s largest insurers and provide an innovative home insurance plan for the benefit of all its customers. This bancassurance collaboration helps the bank enhance the value proposition to its customers. Our customers will be able to take advantage of the extra coverage provided by this plan, at extremely competitive rates, by easily purchasing the plan online from the comfort of their homes.” Franck Heimbürger, Chief Personal Lines Officer in AXA (Gulf) said, “AXA home insurance is the perfect solution to protect yourself from unexpected events that can take away the possessions you value the most. With more



“ Bank Muscat is proud to join hands with AXA Insurance, which is one of the world’s largest insurers and provide an innovative home insurance plan for the benefit of all its customers. This bancassurance collaboration helps the bank enhance the value proposition to its customers

Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani
DGM – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat

people working from home than ever before, we found that home protection has become crucial to individuals that are spending that extra time in their premises.

Competitive price

“This has also pushed us to enhance our digital journey to ensure that customers enjoy a tailored and seamless experience when buying, renewing and claiming AXA insurance products; all of which can be done completely remotely from the comfort of your home. Having said that, we are happy to offer this great plan at an affordable and competitive price, with home insurance policies starting as low as OMR1.8 per

month. Simply, choose the option that provides the best coverage for your unique needs, and rest assured that you and your loved ones will be protected against unexpected contingencies.” AXA’s home insurance plan provides great value for both homeowners and tenants. It offers protection for the building and its contents against fire, explosion, lightning, earthquakes, accidental damage and breakage of fixtures etc. It also offers worldwide personal belongings cover for valuables including passports, driver’s licenses, legal documents, jewelry, watches, music, sports and portable equipment, laptops or any item which customers might

carry outside their homes. AXA home insurance plan offers owner liability, as well as tenant liability to protect against any claim made against owners and tenants, and it also has a provision to cover the cost of an alternate accommodation in case a customer cannot stay at their home for a period of time following an unexpected event. Purchasing home insurance is now as easy as going to <https://www.axa.om/en/home-insurance-bank-muscat>, comparing and choosing the required covers, getting a quote from AXA and completing the purchase online, all from the relative safety and comfort of one’s home.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



SECURED FINANCIAL: Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the CBO on behalf of the government. - **ONA**

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR48mn

MUSCAT: Oman’s central bank raised OMR48 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from Wednesday, September 2 until September 30, 2020. The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.65043 per cent and 0.65075 per cent, respectively. Note that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 1 per cent.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the CBO on behalf of the government, which help the licensed commercial banks to gainfully invest their surplus funds, with the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo) offered by the Central Bank. Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government (MOF) may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

MARKET

MSM index ends higher



The trading value stood at OMR4,312,276, comprising a rise of 39.4 per cent, compared to the last session

MUSCAT: Muscat Securities Market (MSM) general index (30) added 8.4 points, comprising a rise by 0.22 per cent to close at 3,780.25 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 3,771.89 points.

The trading value stood at OMR4,312,276, comprising a rise of 39.4 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR3,093,967.

The report released by MSM

pointed out that the market value increased by 0.021 per cent to reach about OMR19.83 billion.

The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached OMR476,000, comprising 11.03 per cent. The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached OMR582,000, comprising 13.49 per cent. The net non-Omani investment dropped by 2.46 per cent to OMR106,000. - **ONA**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,781.96	3,772.33	3,780.25	3,771.89	8.36	0.22
Financial Index	6,142.74	6,126.36	6,137.92	6,125.98	11.94	0.19
Industrial Index	4,004.72	3,982.31	3,982.71	4,000.63	-17.92	-0.45
Services Index	1,581.91	1,578.69	1,580.27	1,579.00	1.27	0.08
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	525.36	522.66	522.66	524.78	-2.12	-0.40
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,305.64	4,294.68	4,303.69	4,294.17	9.52	0.22

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
6,166,520	4,312,276	402	19,831,987,833	9	10	22	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000000266 OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	37,917	23,699	13	0.624	0.628	0.620	0.624	0.620	0.004	0.645	0.620	0.620	0.624	0.100	468,000,000
OM0000000368 OOREDOO	450,077	179,704	77	0.398	0.404	0.398	0.400	0.398	0.002	0.503	0.402	0.400	0.404	0.100	260,377,692
OM0000000605 ALMAHA CERAMICS	66,260	13,853	12	0.208	0.210	0.208	0.209	0.208	0.001	0.481	0.210	0.208	0.210	0.100	11,495,000
OM0000000160 NATIONAL GAS	35,146	5,870	8	0.168	0.168	0.166	0.167	0.167	0.000	0.000	0.166	0.166	0.168	0.100	14,195,000
OM0000000148 RAYSUT CEMENT	1,100	340	2	0.316	0.316	0.308	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.308	0.308	0.316	0.100	63,200,000
OM00000001525 OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	60,000	5,770	3	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	19,200,000
OM00000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	97,944	5,080	11	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	15,971,609
OM00000001749 OMAN CEMENT	2,500	575	2	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.232	0.232	0.000	0.000	0.230	0.228	0.230	0.100	76,762,469
OM00000001772 AL ANWAB HOLDING	7,830	556	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	14,200,000
OM00000002796 BANK MUSCAT	1,081,014	411,915	41	0.400	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.100	1299,809,015
OM00000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	400	140	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.344	0.350	0.100	82,743,500
OM00000003398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	818,302	87,665	16	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	260,492,221
OM00000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	352,000	138,992	6	0.396	0.396	0.394	0.394	0.396	-0.002	-0.505	0.394	0.386	0.394	0.100	39,400,000
OM00000002176 AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	100,500	9,648	4	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	11,990,204
OM00000002077 AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SER	60,000	4,680	4	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.079	-0.001	-1.266	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	22,770,943
OM00000002440 AL SHARGIA INVESTMENT HOLDING	186,654	13,716	12	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,300,000
Total	3,317,646	902,204	213												
Parallel Market															
OM00000001681 OMAN AND EMIRATES INV. HOLDING	391,316	19,174	17	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	5,971,875
OM00000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	306,199	30,552	19	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.098	0.002	2.041	0.099	0.098	0.100	0.100	200,031,279
OM00000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	145,000	8,120	6	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.001	1.818	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.100	40,008,755
OM00000002168 AL ANWAB CERAMIC TILES	798,947	125,977	45	0.156	0.159	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.002	1.282	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	46,801,762
OM00000004420 BANK NIZWA	155,332	15,824	12	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.101	0.103	0.100	153,000,000
OM00000003000 ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAR	165,571	99,403	16	0.604	0.604	0.600	0.600	0.596	0.004	0.671	0.600	0.604	0.652	0.100	41,400,000
OM00000001152 OMAN NATIONAL ENGINE. INVT.	100	12	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.116	0.118	0.100	14,160,000
OM00000001483 NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	639	114	1	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.179	0.179	0.000	0.000	0.178	0.178	0.179	0.100	291,044,398
OM00000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	100	9	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.087	0.090	0.100	11,250,000
OM00000001806 MUSCAT INSURANCE	5,000	1,750	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.330	0.348	1.000	3,858,766
OM00000002028 GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	25,000	2,625	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	2,205,000
OM00000002275 SHELL OMAN MARKETING	43,414	36,294	18	0.836	0.836	0.836	0.836	0.836	0.000	0.000	0.836	0.836	0.000	0.100	79,420,000
OM00000002349 BANK DHOFAR	180,000	19,980	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.112	0.115	0.100	332,595,009
OM00000002572 OMAN OIL MARKETING	700	476	1	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.648	0.648	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.620	0.680	0.100	39,704,200
OM00000004788 AL MADINA TAKAFUL	45,000	3,465	3	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	13,475,000
OM00000004925 AL BATINAH POWER	198,660	10,927	11	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.100	37,118,809
OM00000007043 NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS.	5,000	1,620	1	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.326	0.326	0.000	0.000	0.324	0.320	0.326	0.100	86,390,000
OM00000007084 MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	500	54	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.105	0.108	0.100	16,799,443
OM00000002820 GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	43,387	2,994	7	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	4,900,182
OM00000003139 NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS	45,000	4,995	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.113	-0.002	-1.770	0.111	0.104	0.111	0.100	3,726,431
OM00000003521 GALFAH ENGINEERING AND CON.	221,288	11,507	14	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.053	-0.001	-1.877	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.053	0.100	15,078,993
OM00000002226 AL JAZEERA SERVICES	8,250	1,387	3	0.169	0.169	0.168	0.168	0.172	-0.004	-2.326	0.168	0.168	0.171	0.100	10,282,318
OM00000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	19,440	1,409	3	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.073	0.071	0.073	0.100	14,372,763
OM00000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	15,031	11,505	4	0.800	0.800	0.764	0.764	0.800	-0.036	-4.500	0.764	0.764	0.796	0.100	120,330,000
Total	2,818,874	410,072	158												

SOUQMАЗOON.COM

e-marketplace offers strategic support to SMEs across Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Souqmazon.com, an e-marketplace launched recently to primarily support SMEs and Omani products, has received positive success after receiving an encouraging response from the local market.

Offering immense value to shoppers in Oman, Souqmazon has recorded encouraging growth in its customer base within a month of launching of the platform. Souqmazon has also achieved an increase of SMEs registrations by 60 per cent.

Team Souqmazon's intensive marketing efforts during the soft-launch and post-launch phases to promote the platform and its vendors had driven the progress recorded in the early weeks. The team's constant endeavour is to help vendors promote their products by communicating special discounts and offers through Souqmazon's marketing campaign. Moreover, Souqmazon continues to play a major role in

guiding its vendors on how to best promote their products, run discounts and extend offers.

Understanding that customers want an overall experience that matches their standards for high-quality platforms, Souqmazon advises vendors on sales and promotions to encourage potential customers to buy their product.

While the Souqmazon app has achieved an increase in downloads, the e-marketplace has evoked growing traction on social media platforms too.

With a varied selection of products that are mostly sourced and produced in Oman, the portal souqmazon.com is devised to cater to the discerning taste of the evolving online shoppers.

Souqmazon works with several Omani organisations coming together to provide a seamless ecosystem that supports the souq's operations, delivering a secure and efficient selling and buying experience. Key stakeholders include Asyad Express (Logistics), Bank Muscat (Payment Gate-

GROWING TRACTION: While the Souqmazon app has achieved an increase in downloads, the e-marketplace has evoked growing traction on social media platforms too. - Supplied picture

way), Oman Data Park (Hosting) and Qaid Al Ard Modern Projects (Technology Partner).

Yaqob Salim Al Rawahi, owner of Karak Baitna which offers different flavours of Karak chai and is one of the vendors on Souqmazon says, "During these modern times, SMEs must keep abreast of the latest technology and adopt its efficacy to grow in their business. I am proud of being a part of this electronic platform which has Omani products, and which promotes local SMEs. As for my experience with Souqmazon goes, I have been able to save time and effort in the sales and management side of

the business. I appreciate the team at Souqmazon for being in touch with us always and would like to thank them for the same. I would like to invite all local vendors to join Souqmazon and experience their professionalism."

Jaffer Nasser Al Sawafi, a customer of Souqmazon said, "I prefer online shopping because it is convenient and easy. You can order from the comforts of your home and is of great help especially during the current COVID-19 situation. Having shopped through Souqmazon I must say it offers an easy to navigate, seamless, professional, and user-friendly shopping experience. It has a wide range of products and offers fast delivery and amazing customer service."

Lauding Souqmazon, Shatha Abdullah Al Jabri, Marketing Director at Meshan Date Sweets, one of Souqmazon vendors said, "I am delighted to be part of the impressive e-marketplace which offers buyers a safe interface for viewing and purchasing our products. The portal helps SMEs to save on costs

and reach out to customers across the country. The impact of COVID-19 has made online shopping more popular and we are fortunate to be part of a proficient and dependable platform which provides an ease to customers and opportunities to SMEs."

Mobile app

Souqmazon's desktop portal and mobile app have a secure payment gateway and provide all kinds of support through a well-established payment-gateway partner.

They offer a secure payment mode ensuring a seamless check-out experience and encrypted security for personal information. The Souqmazon app is available for download on Android and iOS platforms.

With an increasing number of vendors who have listed their products and started selling, Souqmazon is sure to help grow their presence in Oman. Additionally, Souqmazon offers strategic support to SMEs across Oman to sell their products online.

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GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT India reports steepest fall of April-June GDP in over 40 years

MUMBAI: India reported its steepest fall in headline GDP (Gross Domestic Product) numbers in 40 years by reporting 23.9 per cent contraction in the April-June quarter over the same quarter last year, according to the data shared by the country's National Statistical Office on Monday.

The combined index of eight core industries stood at 119.9 in July 2020, which declined by 9.6 (provisional) per cent as compared to the corresponding month last year while the cumulative growth during the five months from April to July declined by 20.5 per cent.

The contraction is a fall-out of the COVID-19 led lockdown in the country as India ranks third after the United States and Brazil for the total number of COVID-19 cases.

In the preceding quarter of January-March, India's GDP had grown at 3.1 per cent but had declined for the entire fiscal year of 2019-20 (April-March) to 4.1 per cent, the weakest since the global financial crisis, from 6.1 per cent in the preceding year of 2018-19.

In the first four months of the current financial year till July-end, India's fiscal deficit crossed the full-year budget target at 111.7 billion US dollars or 103.1 per cent for the current fiscal year, as per the government data.

"With the localised lockdowns

COMBINED INDEX: The combined index of eight core industries stood at 119.9 in July 2020, which declined by 9.6 (provisional) per cent as compared to the corresponding month last year while the cumulative growth during the five months from April to July declined by 20.5 per cent. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only.

arresting the recovery in many sectors, the pace of the contraction in the GoI's (Government of India) gross tax revenues recorded only a subdued improvement to 20 per cent in July 2020 from 23 per cent in June 2020, which was

led by excise duty, income tax and customs duty," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist with ICRA, a domestic credit rating agency.

"The GDP contraction numbers are much worse than expected and clearly shows the economic

recovery expectations are slower than believed," said Abhimanyu Sofat, Head of Research at IIFL Securities, a domestic brokerage house, adding that this could lead to further fiscal and liquidity stimulus. -Xinhua

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Contact details: 99377048

JOB WANTED

INDIAN MALE, EXPERIENCE
23YEARS (18YEARS GCC) IN
ELV/BMS/FIRE SYSTEMS,
SEEKS JOB WITH NOC.

**CONTACT 72144127,
RAMESH4974@GMAIL.COM**

ACCOUNT/ADMIN

Omani 6 yrs exp
in Account/Admin
with diploma.

**Contact 99340475
saidzadzali@gmail.com**

Piping / Stress Engineer

Indian, 36 male, Piping / stress Engineer, 13+years experience in onshore / offshore / pipeline in Oil & Gas. Knowledge in Caesar, AutoCAD, Mavis work, MsOffice, PDS looking for suitable job, join immediately.

**Contact no. 94342605;
shahahmed142@gmail.com**

SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR – CIVIL ENGINEERING

Very widely experienced both in Consultancy and Construction looking for a placement at top management level or on partnership.

**Contact: winnerdandd@gmail.com
Mobile/WhatsApp 95150850, 79163390**

CIVIL ENGINEER

Indian Male 30, BE Civil Engineer with 9 yrs exp. Knowledge of Autocad, MS Office & Project, looking for suitable job (joining immediately). With Oman DL.

**Ph. 79229118
Email: palankar.neal@gmail.com**

PLANNING ENGINEER had 13 years of experience in Oil and Gas, EPC, Construction Projects as Sr. Project Controller and Planning Engineer using Primavera (P6), worked with OQ, OGIC, PDO, OOCPE, BP, Tatweer Petroleum (Bahrain), BAUER. **NOC available.**

**Contact 95263661 / 90913876
Email narasimha42@gmail.com**

Contracts Manager / Project Manager

Indian Male BE Civil Engineer with 13+ Year's Experience in Oman, Knowledge in AutoCAD, MS Office, Staad Pro, Water Cad, 3D, Project scheduling, BBS & other softwares. Widely experienced all over construction field including landscape & irrigation, structural erection, portacabin, MEP, Consultation, Tendering, Bidding etc., looking for suitable placement. Ready to join immediately with D/L & NOC.

**GSM: 98446050
E mail:deneeshdaniel@gmail.com**

Senior Construction Professional Looking for Employment

Chartered Engineer (UK) with B. Tech (Civil) with over 18 years experience in Construction, Facility Management & Cost Management. Currently working as Assistant General Manager in a reputed Group in Oman. Seeking opportunities in a reputed company.

Contact Email - promanagement2000@gmail.com

Bsc In Civil Engineering, MBA in Project Management, PMP certified, having 14 yrs experience(12yrs in Oman) with experience of construction of 4 star hotel, Airports, commercial & residential buildings, factories, Oil stations, is looking for a suitable placement. Having Oman Driving licence.

Contact 99721926, tanvircivil@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Civil / MEP Draughtsman (Indian- aged 35) having 13 years of oman experience seeking a better placement. Valid oman driving licence. NOC available. Contact 98079806. Email shirshadbabu@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Inventory, Accounts & Purchase, Indian male 30, having 8 years experience with good knowledge and skills, looking for a suitable opportunity. NOC available. Contact: 96219904. Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

Senior accountant, Indian male, 16 yrs exp in accounts/finance upto finalization. 8 yrs exp in Oman. NOC available. Contact 79187945

Indian Male. M.Com with 10 years experience seeks job. Contact 92789440

Looking Accountant job Senior position, 10 yrs experience DL. Contact 79202007

Looking for accountant job, senior position, 10 yrs experience, DL also. Contact 79202007

Financial Manager, CMA (USA), CFA, MBA with 13 years experience as Financial Analyst and Accounts Manager with large corporates in India and Oman seeks senior position. Holds Licence and NOC. Available to join immediately. Contact: 92771782; daisonnjacob@yahoo.com

Accounts and Finance Manager with MBA Financial degree, 13 yrs in Oman & 15 yrs. in other countries seeking immediate job with Family status. Contact 99883983 or uthayakumaransaravanan@gmail.com

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of Civil Construction, interior fit- out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. Contact 95206259, 98857994

Part time Accountant doing upto finalization. Contact 99019491

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male, 12 Yrs. experience in Oman, seeks job for HR/Admin/Office Asst./Secretary. Contact 96992190 / 97841713

Omani male seeks PRO position with reputable company. 14 yrs experience, excellenct references.Clean driving licence. Fluent in Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact 92049106, 95422144

Seeking job in, Admin, HR & Recruitment, Business development, experience 17 + years in Oman at Senior level with valid D/L and NOC/ Release Contact 96238522

Indian Male with total 23+ years of experience, 16+ years in UAE in Property Management/ Office Administration/ Import & Export with excellent communication skills, holder of UAE driving license is seeking a suitable placement. # 71914993, masood_ki@yahoo.com

ARCHITECT

Architect/ Urban planner with 9 years experience in Oman seeking a job. Contact 96146645.

DRIVER

Looking job of driver with 9 years experience in Oman. #93191575

Looking job for driver, 5 yrs experience in Oman market. Languages known English, Arabic, Hindi. Contact 79163077

Looking for driving job, having 6 yrs exp. Knowing English, Arabic & Hindi. Contact 97133246

Looking for driving job, 3 yrs experience in Muscat. Contact 96196278

Looking for driving job with Car or without. Have 3 yrs experience. Contact 95283531

Looking for Driver Job. # 93227735

ENGINEER

Project Engr/Project Manager- Civil Engineering,15 yr Exp.in Building construction looking suitable position. Contact 93807689 or elayarajang@gmail.com

Electrical engineer, experience 12 year in Oman seeks job. Contact 98148034

BSc. Civil Engineer 12 years experience in construction and road works. Contact 99715328

Civil Engineer, Indian-male 49, Diploma Civil Engineer, Exp 29 years(17 years Oman). Looking suitable Job (Joining immediately) with Oman DL, Contact 96229731

HVAC Engineer/MEP Coordinator, BE Mechanical engineering having 9+ yrs of experience including 5+ yrs in Oman. Efficient in design, BOQ, project follow up, valid Omani DL. Looking for any full time/part time job. Contact 91690765

Planning Engineer (B.E Civil) with 6 years experience in Construction of Buildings/Infra/Roads with primavera/MS projects, looking for a suitable situation. NOC and D/L available. Contact 93314353

24, Indian male, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with Oman valid D/L. 1yr work experience in Oman, Can join immediately. Contact no. 79121923/99224057

B.Sc Civil engineer 30 yrs Oman experience in Project management & struture design,looking for suitable placement in consulting/contracting. Contact 968-99349578

Civil Engineer (Structural). Comfortable with drafting, design, estimation and site supervision. Currently on visit visa. Contact 78274434. Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Purchase engineer, Btech/MBA, NoC Available, Immediate joining, 3 years Oman experience, manufacturing/ Contact/Whatsapp +96891740462. Email eliaspallathra@gmail.com

Civil engineer 12 years experience in oman NOC available # 98047527

BSC. Electrical engineer 6+ years HV/LV experience, Doqmn Refinery exp.IOSH+6 Safety courses D/L, Contact 79474387

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

18+ years experienced in Pre-press and Graphic Designing with renowned commercial Printing Press and Newspaper Publisher, male expatriet looking for placement, residing in Muscat. Contact: 99663123 E-mail: deytapash@gmail.com

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs of experience.5yrs & 10 months of Oman experience.NOC available seeking suitable placement. Contact 91226236 Email: tonymxx@gmail.com

IT

Indian female having 8 yrs experience in the field of software testing and administration looking for a suitable job. Contact no : 91711326

IT operations manager in a field of IT service management with 12+ years of experience is looking for suitable position. Presently in Malaysia. Contact no:+60163721367. Email id:azmat.aly@gmail.com

PURCHASE/LOGISTICS

Senior Procurement Engineer, M.tech-Civil, Looking for a job, NOC Available, Immediate Joining, Indian Male, 38yrs, have over 16+ years UAE& Oman experience. E. syedkamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Whatsapp +96871144578, Contact +917766019519

Procurement specialist/logistic coordinator, 8+ yrs experience in Oman with MNC Oil & Gas co.D/L & NOC available. Contact 96095376

Procurement Officer 20 years experience in Oman looking for suitable position. Contact 97903411

Project Procurement / Supply Chain Professional with 18 years of experience (13 years in Muscat) MBA + B.Tech (Mech), PMI-ACP, Proficient in latest procurement & contract management systems and practices looking for suitable opportunities. Expat with NOC / Dry licence. Contact 79790072.

Looking for the position of Purchase/stores/Admin Manager in F&B, Wholesale, Retail or Hospitality Industry. Having 18 Years of work experience in Oman, Kindly contact me on 96010598 or nkariappa@gmail.com

Procurement officer with 19 yrs experience in construction. Email u.bati307@gmail.com

Indian male Purchase Assistant - documentation M.Sc Computer science 26 yrs old.experience 2 yrs Oman with valid licenscence. NOC available. Visa status- employment. Email tijukr@gmail.com Contact 92676197, 98944397

16 yrs Oman experience in procurement,logistics& customs with valid Oman DL & NOC seeking suitable position. Contact 95174968

SALES / MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with Driving License looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

Indian male, 18yrs of experience in outdoor sales of FMCG and electronics is seeking suitable placement. DL and NOC available. Contact 91290046

B.E Civil Indian M 24 Y Sales Exp in Sales/Marketing/Team Lead/ Manager/Business Development. Available in Oman with NOC. Looking for Any Job. Contact 78186546

Building material hardware, electrical Salesman. Contact 99624747, 99448122, 99441938

Indian Male 32, having over 9 years of oman exp in sales & Marketing ls seeking for a suitable placement. NOC & Valid Oman Driving license available Gsm 92460904

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Sales associate, customer service, administrative office, real estate, rent a car, purchaser and Logistics with driving license. Contact 97761075

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of civil construction, interior fit-out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. Contact 95206259, 98857994

Accounts Manager working in a reputed company in Oman for 13 year's looking for immediate job. Release available. Contact 99883983

Mechanical Engineer (B.tech)having 5 years Oman experience as Sr Production And Procurement Engineer is seeking suitable job in Oman. Also have Oman D/L and NOC is available. Contact 92138450 WhatsApp +919544074049

Senior Copywriter with 21 years Oman experience seeks placement in Ad Agencies/Corporate Communications. Call 95234657.

Smart Indian, Professional with integrity, Arabic speaker, double Masters, excellent English, commercial acumen, strategy, 15 years rich Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC.99283938. NOC

Smart Indian, Arabic speaker, Excellent English, Masters-Journalism, Finance, Oman experience in Corporate/Marketing Communications, Press Releases, CSR Programs, Marketing, Customer Relations, Events, Campaigns,. #99283938. NOC

Indian male, 31 Age, Single, B.E (Civil), 10Years experience in the construction field (7 years in Oman & 3 years in India), NOC available, seeking job for the post of Project engineer. # 79218189, ganeshkumargk1188 @gmail.com

IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job.On visit .Contact 93674784

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MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

23 Years Indian Male, Diploma In Mechanical Engineering. 1 Years work experience in Oman. Available on family join visa. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 968- 79121923, 99224057

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT- Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately.IELTS: 6.5-Bands. # 949773471 Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job.NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher(trained for 5 months)seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434.Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Draftsman with 8 years of Oman Experience, Architecture & Structural drafting. N.O.C available Contact: 78253720

HSE OFFICER, 15 years experience.Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact What-sApp-968-99626821

Accountant Indian Male 26yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

A Technical Graduate with around 2 Years' Experience in HR-Admin, seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, Desktop-Support(IT), Data Entry or IT Teacher.IELTS: 6.5-Bands.Contact/ WhatsApp: +968949773471.Email: hshak-javeed@gmail.com

Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman. licence. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194. Email:suhailbs@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer - NIT Surat, Gujarat, India - Oman resident with DL - one year work experience - Contact: 91756930

Indian male M.Tech(ECE) 4 yrs exp. as a Sales Engineer in Industrial Automation, PLC, SCADA with a valid Saudi D/L. Looking for a good opportunity. # 98240758 mohdrashidali87@gmail.com

Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com, ICWA9(Inter) PGDBM headed Finance,logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

Electrical Engineer 4 yrs 6 months experience with NOC available. Contact 90863138.Email guntisiddharth@gmail.com



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IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job. On visit. Contact 93674784

23 Years Indian Male, Diploma In Mechanical Engineering. 1 Years work experience in Oman. Available on family join visa. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 968- 79121923, 99224057

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately. IELTS: 6.5-Bands. Phone / WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher, studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements. Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence. Seeking suitable job. NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech. 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job. Contact no : 97408929

Diploma in Electrical Engineer (8 years Experience in Installation of LT line, Vendor Coordination, Arrange Quotation from supplier for Tender/Work). Contact 91-9771492886

Filipino male w/ release., with 8 years exp. in OMAN: ADMIN, accounting, purchasing, Knows Tally ERP 9 and microsoft's excel, 97890657, email: hernandezjanlouis27@gmail.com

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher (trained for 5 months) seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434. Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Draftsman with 8 years of Oman Experience, Architecture & Structural drafting. NOC available. Contact: 78253720

HSE OFFICER, 15 years experience. Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact WhatsApp-968-99626821

Accountant Indian Male 26yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

A Technical Graduate with around 2 Years' Experience in HR-Admin, seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, Desktop-Support (IT), Data Entry or IT Teacher. IELTS: 6.5-Bands. Contact / WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman. licence. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194. Email: suhailbs@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer - NIT Surat, Gujarat, India - Oman resident with DL - one year work experience - Contact: 91756930

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Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com, ICWA9(Inter) PGDBM head-ed Finance, logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

Electrical Engineer 4 yrs 6 months experience with NOC available. Contact 90863138. Email guntisiddharth@gmail.com

An Experienced HR Professional (Indian) (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately. On visit expires 6th Feb. IELTS: 6.5-Bands. Phone / WhatsApp: +968 94977347. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Civil Engineer Contact 78012115

Indian Male HR /Admin - MBA, BCOM having 9 years experience in Gulf 5 yr and India 4 yr looking for suitable placement. # 97914340. Email: rahulkv30@yahoo.com

Part time Accounts/Data entry. Experienced Accountant looking for part time Accounts/Data entry job. Please contact: 98649698

Indian Male, 15 years Oman experience with valid Oman D/L looking for job in sales. NOC available. Contact 95356820

Result driven business manager seeking an opportunity where 15 years of trading and management experience can be applied to improve the sales and enhancing the company revenue. # 95124176

Indian Male 29 years B.E(Civil) having 6 yr Gulf experience as Project coordinator looking for suitable placement. Oman D/L # 99682689. fayiz.yh@gmail.com

Indian Male HR /Admin and Purchase - MBA, BCOM having 9 years experience in Gulf 5 yr and India 4 yr looking for suitable placement. Contact : 97914340. Email: binthjumatrading@gmail.com

Indian Male - Accountant MCOM, BCOM having 7 years experience in Gulf 4yr and India 3yr looking for suitable placement. Contact : 97432723. Email: tonythomasjohn777@gmail.com

Looking part-time housemaid job surrounding area of Ghobra / Aziba like cooking, washing & cleaning post-delivery support, baby care. contact 79293053.

Male, looking for a job in administration or office coordinator, extremely familiar with the Oman market. Not looking into Sales or Marketing. Looking forward to hearing from potential companies. Having D/L. # 93264375 email: vpnandakishore@gmail.com

Draftsman 2 years' experience. Looking for suitable job (Indian male). Contact 968 93083224/919791452601. Email: elaison.c@gmail.com

Indian Female 10 years, experience As Cook, South Indian, Gujarati Special, looking For Part Time. Contact : 95795971

Indian Male (30), MBA-Finance, 6 years experience in electrical and lighting industry as Sales Executive-project sales (outdoor), specialized in lighting for residential and commercial projects. Contact 94560161. Email qaisebukhari@gmail.com

Situation Wanted* Mechanical engineer specialized in quality inspection with cswip 3.1 & ASNT LEVEL II certifications looking for an opening in oil & gas industry. currently in Muscat. # 96206400 or awrunedathil@gmail.com

Indian male Diploma (Cinematography) & BA English with 5 yrs of experience in sales and Marketing field. Seeking suitable placement. currently in Oman on visit. Contact 78150989. Email: alexthomas927@gmail.com

B.Tech Electrical Engineer Indian male with 11 yrs of experience in contracting and consultant firms. Looking for job with Valid GCC driving license available. Contact 968-94343694. Email: ymansoor2@gmail.com

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MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Filipino Bathr. Interior Designer / IT Specialist/Graphic Designer, 13 years Exp. Looking for a job immediately with NOC and valid Omani D/L. Contact 79042628. Email zaldy08@gmail.com

33 Year old Indian male With 12+ Years' Experience As Operation Supervisor Project Expeditor /Quality Control in Oil & Gas, Water Line Industry. Contact 596661571. nasir03ahmed@outlook.com

Filipino, female 41 B.Sc accounting mgt., with 10 years' experience in Oman: admin, accounting, finance, secretarial, ticketing. Knowledge with excel. 96901439 email lorelie_a@yahoo.com

B.Com Graduate with four years of experience in Sales & Marketing in Oman with D/L. Can join immediately. Contact 93568656

Diploma holder 5 yrs work experience Indian male 26, looking for Indoor slaes/merchandiser, office assistant. Contact 968-78093683, whatsapp-94158447

Indian male 29 yrs having 5 yrs experience in FMCG sales & marketing in Oman with D/L. Can join immediately. Contact 78057807. Email nozi70072@gmail.com

MA B.Ed in English language, Indian female, 5 yrs experience in teaching seeking suitable positions in schools. Currently in Oman on family visa. # 79716167, 24033571

HSE Officer, 15 years experience. Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact WhatsApp 99626821

Indian Male (30) 8 Year's Experience in Sales and marketing and Office Administration on visit, seeking a challenging careers. D/L available. Contact 9412 2402. Email: shinto.samuelit@gmail.com

Indian male, 24 years holding a bachelor's in management and Masters in finance, presently pursuing ACCA. Looking for relevant job, holding valid GCC driving license. Contact 98189064. Email shahahr806@gmail.com

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ROUND-UP

Mirage and Attrage available at low prices

As part of the ongoing campaign from General Automotive Company, the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, both models are currently available at reduced prices

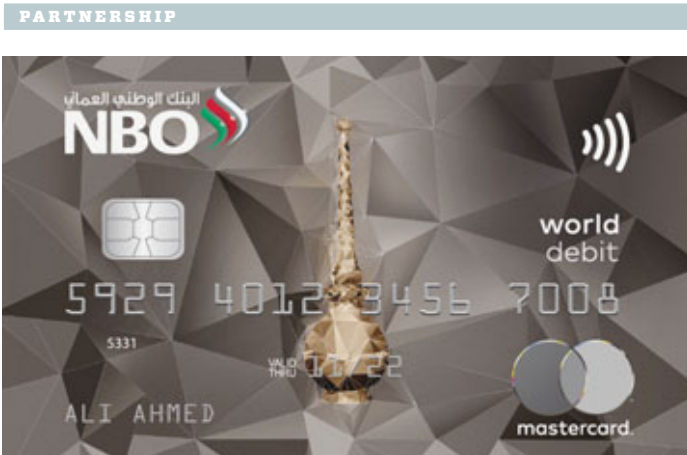
MUSCAT: Both, the Mitsubishi Mirage and Attrage, continue to remain popular amongst customers due to their clean style, environmental consciousness, affordability, value, and fuel-efficiency. As part of the ongoing campaign from General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, both models are currently available at reduced prices starting from as low as OMR 3,995 or instalments of only OMR 49 per month. The price also includes six years of unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance. Commenting on the Mirage and Attrage, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, said, “As an entry model to the brand, both the Mirage and Attrage play an important role within our model line-up. They are, in many cases, the first



experience a customer has with our brand. Moreover, customers for this model are quite pragmatic, with fuel efficiency as their priority. But with the brand's proven track record of quality and reliability, coupled with both the Mirage and Attrage using just 4.8 litres of fuel on average per 100km, they certainly deliver.” These compact models offer customers a refreshing mix of clean yet functional hatchback or sedan styling, depending on if you go for the Mirage or Attrage respectively, together with the best possible combination of versatility, practicality and outstanding efficiency, thanks to several key design elements engineered into the vehicle. Both vehicles also feature high-tensile steel in key sections of their body and chassis, which gives them an exceptionally low curb weight, while also possessing excellent structural rigidity, to aid with stability and handling.

On the inside, both models feature a comfortable cloth seating and high-quality materials throughout the cabin. And both feature amongst the best levels of interior room with comfortable seating space for 5 adults and best cargo storage space available in their class. Both Mirage and Attrage come with Cruise control and Bluetooth feature which is essential for a daily driver. The Mirage and Attrage are both powered by a 1.2-litre 3-cylinder DOHC engine featuring the latest version of Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control (MIVEC) variable valve-timing system that maximises fuel efficiency and power output while greatly minimising exhaust emissions. The engine produces 78 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 100 Nm of torque at 4,000 rpm, ample power for comfortable day-to-day driving. The engine, however, was built with efficiency at its core, as

such, it offers fuel economy of just 4.8l/100km. The Mirage and Attrage also come equipped with a wide array of safety features. These include a dual front Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) airbags; four-wheel anti-lock brakes (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist; and Active Stability Control (ASC). Additional protection is provided to the vehicle's occupants by Mitsubishi Motors' patented high-tech Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE) impact-absorbing safety cell technology. In the event of a collision, the RISE system's energy-absorbing body structure helps to dissipate kinetic energy away from the driver and passengers. The Mirage and Attrage are both available from your nearest Mitsubishi Showroom with prices starting from as low as OMR 3,995 and can be financed with EMIs as low as OMR 49.



NBO ties up with Alshaya Group to offer customers more

MUSCAT: Continuing to make banking rewarding, National Bank of Oman (NBO) has tied up with Alshaya Group to offer its customers 25 per cent off at their favourite stores. Up until September 12, customers paying using their NBO debit, credit, or Badeel prepaid card, can take advantage of the offer, simply by spending a minimum of between OMR35 and OMR65. Participating stores include Debenhams, Foot Locker, American Eagle, Next, Mothercare and Justice. Maha Al Raisi, Head of Card Business at NBO, said, “At NBO we are always trying to find ways to make banking more rewarding for our customers while benefiting their everyday lives. Our latest partnership with Alshaya Group which offers an unparalleled choice of well-loved international brands is an added value to our services and products. The best part is, customers don't even have to bank with NBO to benefit, as long as they are using an NBO Badeel prepaid card.”

Until September 12, customers using their NBO debit, credit, or Badeel prepaid card, can take advantage of the offer

One of the leading banks in Oman, NBO continues to add to its growing portfolio of local and international partnerships, while reinforcing its commitment to offer solutions that meet the ever-evolving needs of its customers. As cashless societies become the new norm, NBO is proud to provide an enhanced and seamless banking experience, its products and services helping customers to manage their money and making their lives easier.

LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Omran Group's W Muscat receives 'LEED Gold' certification

MUSCAT: W Muscat, owned and developed by Omran Group, has recently received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED Gold) – certification by the US Green Building Council. The luxury property secured a Gold Certification for incorporating sustainable approach in various construction aspects, including water-efficient landscaping, utilisation of environmental-friendly materials and innovative water usage technology. W Muscat is the fifth project in Omran Group's portfolio across the country to hold a LEED certification. This accreditation was previously achieved by Alila Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, Atana Musandam Resort, Omran Convention and Exhibition Center (Package Two - Exhibition Center) and the Crowne Plaza Hotel Muscat, OCEC. “W Muscat is an architectural masterpiece as it brings a new definition to the word 'luxury'. Omran Group is proud to have set a new benchmark that reflects its promise of delivering an experience so premium that our guests are awestruck,” said Stuart Ingram, Senior Vice President of Development Management at Omran Group. “Sustainability is at the fore of any project Omran undertakes. All developments of Omran adhere to stringent environmental and HSE guidelines to limit the negative impact on the Sultanate's natural resources and reduce the carbon footprint. The LEED Gold Certification serves as a testament of our commitment to creating a sustainable tourism infrastructure and future for the



Sultanate,” he added further. LEED Certifications acknowledge the extent of environmental protection provided by a building's architectural and construction elements. W Muscat's design incorporates stormwater design, wastewater technologies, fuel-efficient vehicles and low-emitting materials, to support greener day-to-day operations. The Omran hotel uses minimal plastic throughout the property and operates on a reduced-paper system in back-of-house activities. Guests are also offered the option to limit certain water services to reduce usage. Situated on the Shatti Al Qurum coastline and surrounded by the Al Hajar mountains, W Muscat has plenty of reasons to encourage a conscious and proactive attitude towards sustainability among staff and guests alike. “It is becoming more important than ever for us to consciously as-

sess our business practices from a sustainability point of view. Our key priority is to ensure W Muscat positively contributes towards the preservation of our environment and the ecosystem we function in. Living in a country like Oman, with such natural beauty, we are inspired to continue doing more every day in the area of sustainability through our fruitful collaboration with Omran Group,” said Gerald Chevasson, General Manager of W Muscat. Numerous Omran developments have been awarded the LEED Certification, making Omran Group an exemplary benchmark for green buildings in Oman. Keeping the streak alive, all ongoing developments and several completed projects, including the JW Marriot and Omantel Headquarters in Madinat Al Irfan, are in accordance with the LEED standards.

IRRISISTIBLE OFFERS



Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, re-opens its doors with staycation packages

MUSCAT: Seek tranquility between majestic mountains and azure blue seas at Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Oman's most treasured destination is back, welcoming guests with an irresistible staycation offers with the whole family in mind. Unwind in one of the resort's beautiful rooms overlooking the expansive lush gardens, dine on tantalising cuisine, or get moving with a range of thoughtfully-designed activities for adults and children alike. Enhanced by the warm hospitality and attentive service that is its signature of the Ladies and Gentlemen, Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is the ideal place to get away this summer. Katrin Herz, General Manager of Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, said, “We're thrilled to have this opportunity once again to be able to take excellent care of our guests, and we have come

up with new and exciting ways for them to enjoy the resort. One of the greatest pleasures of life is to have the chance to relax with loved ones in beautiful surroundings with all the amenities you could wish for at your feet, and Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is such a wonderful place to experience that. We want our guests near and far to know that, whenever they're ready to travel, their warm welcome awaits.” A Resort Staycation can be purchased from just OMR 70 + taxes per night and includes access to the hotel's recreational facilities. Savour an indulgent floating breakfast, try a culinary workshop, or simply relax by the pool, all while basking in the picturesque beauty of the resort. Kids are also taken care of with complimentary swimming classes and engaging Ritz Kids activities. For those that simply want to

loungue the day away on the beach, Al Bustan Palace Spa by the Ritz-Carlton, the only spa of its kind in Oman, features a ladies-only private beach that can be enjoyed for a whole day for just OMR 10 per person on weekdays, and OMR 12 during the weekend. There is also the option of booking a personal beach cabana, offering ultimate privacy. Recently named one of the top 5 hotels in Travel + Leisure's Top 5 Resorts in North Africa and the Middle East, Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is a haven for those seeking unbridled luxury close to home. In line with directives from local authorities and ongoing efforts to safeguard public health, Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel has enhanced its cleaning and safety measures to ensure that the hotel remains a comfortable and safe environment for guests.

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Youth Sada, BP Oman conclude 2nd Al Dhahirah Leadership Forum



The forum aims to educate the community about relevant applications, opportunities and challenges associated with the fourth industrial revolution

MUSCAT: In partnership with BP Oman, Youth Sada held a virtual final ceremony marking the conclusion of the second phase and specialised edition of the Al Dhahirah Leadership Forum. The forum aims to educate the community about relevant applications, opportunities and challenges associated with the fourth industrial revolution. It also encourages the exchange of

knowledge, ideas and skills that contribute to the development of innovative solutions with the support of specialists in the field. The ceremony was held under the patronage of Mohammed Al Rasbi, OTF “Techween” Programme Manager, on Tuesday September 1. Shamsa Al-Rawahiya, BP Oman Social Investment Manager, commented, “The Al Dhahirah Leadership Forum is an annual youth forum which is carried out as part of bp Oman’s social investment programme. It aims at gathering young Omanis in a practical and innovative environment to empower them and develop their skills in light of the rapid digital changes associated with the fourth industrial revolution. The programme encourages its participants to work on innovative project ideas that can positively serve our community and society.” Qais Al Maqrashi, Chief Executive Officer at Youth Sada, commented: “The second edition of the Ad Dhahirah Leadership Forum is in alignment with the Sultanate’s directions towards Oman’s 2040 vision to focus on modern technology and the support of technical

projects from young Omani generations to fulfil the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Based on that, the first and the second phases of the forum has focused on providing the participants with technical knowledge and allowing them to network with experts, specialists and academics related to the targeted fields. In addition, the competition added a rivalry spirit between the competitors to further develop their ideas and transform them from simple ideas into actual projects that can be applied.”

First phase The specialised programme was the second of three phases of the Al Dhahirah Leadership Forum. The first phase of the programme - known as the generalised programme-focused on workshops executed by specialists on topics related to the fourth industrial revolution. The specialized programme, however, focused on supporting those with ideas on the real-world application of fourth industrial revolution projects. Three sessions were delivered via virtual interactive courses pre-

sented by experts within the field including ‘Oman’s readiness to Fourth Industrial Revolution’, followed by a session on the contribution of small companies in the field to the national economy, and concluded by youth’s experiences with the applications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The forum also incorporated a competition between 30 teams for the best three business projects related to the applications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution that can be used in the community, whereby the artificial intelligence ‘Robo-Health’ project won first place. The nanotechnology-related project ‘Biological Tube’ achieved second place and the third place was given to the virtual and augmented reality project ‘Navigation Eye’. The competition rewards comprised of prize money sponsored from BP Oman to further encourage participants to strive for winning ideas. During the final ceremony, Ahmed Al Jassassi, the project leader of the specialised Al Dhahirah Leadership Forum programme, stated that: “Encouraging young people to research, innovate

and make decisions is necessary for light of the new shift towards new manufacturing methods and products and rapidly advancing technologies. Through this forum, we sought to build a capable youth community that can apply technologies in our current society that is aligned with the world’s advancements. The forum highlights ideas that will contribute to discovering innovative solutions under the guidance of specialised experts. An additional benefit of the forum is that it allows participating civil societies and institutions to be up to par with the latest applications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.” Youth Sada was established in 2013, and it is an Omani foundation specialised in organising conferences and seminars. Youth Sada works on bringing out the youth’s talents and skills and guiding them so that they can serve and contribute to their society and nation. This is done via various activities, workshops and skill courses that work to develop the youth in all aspects including scientifically, culturally, and intellectually by cooperating with gov-

ernment and private institutions. In addition, Youth Sada Centre acts like a hub, that provides creative joint working space, and works on qualifying distinguished individuals and their ambitions on a national level. This is achieved via careful selection criteria and standards, which contributes to supporting social work in our community and offers additional value to their projects and ideas submitted. BP is the operator of Khazzan, the Middle East’s largest unconventional gas field which produces a significant amount of Oman’s gas. The second part of Khazzan, Ghazeer, is due to start-up in late 2020. In 2019, It spent over \$1 billion with Omani registered companies. Over 79 per cent of BP Oman employees are Omanis, including half of its leadership team. It aims to reach 90 per cent Omanisation by 2025. Its social investment programme aims to support the development of Omani people, economic diversification and job creation. Launched in 2014, over 55,000 people and more than 150 SMEs are estimated to have benefitted directly so far from the more than 70 initiatives that have taken place.

BOOSTS IMMUNE SYSTEM

Oman Oasis introduces Immuno: Fortified drinking water with zinc and copper

MUSCAT: Oman Oasis has always been recognised as the most preferred bottled water brand in the Sultanate due to its uncompromising commitment to safety and high-quality bottled water. It has recently introduced a new product to its line called ‘Immuno’. Fortified with zinc and copper, Immuno is specially formulated to boost the immune system. “Staying hydrated, healthy, and working towards enhancing overall immunity is essential,” said N. Janardhan, Chief Operating Officer, The Zubair Corporation. “Immuno is the first of its kind and only drinking water in the region that has the added benefits of Zinc and Copper nutrients, therefore, differentiating itself from other packaged water.” According to the WHO advisory, “Zinc plays a central role in supporting the immune system. Furthermore, it helps to prevent respiratory infections, boost growth in children and enhance sensory functions. Copper plays a major role as a catalyst for multiple enzymes, anti-oxidant function, cardiovascular health and brain development. Moreover, it helps in bone health, increase WBC & RBC counts in blood, effective iron utilization, preventing and treating anaemia. Zinc and Copper are very much essential during pregnancy and lactation period.” Immuno water contributes 50 per cent of the recommended dietary values of Zinc and 75 per cent of copper, keeping an average of 2-litre consumption per day. The composition levels are based on RDA (Recommended Dietary Allowance) values recommended by national and international food standards. “Oman Oasis has always prided itself on being an organisation that believes in giving back to the community. Therefore, we constantly



strive to bring out products that can enhance individuals’ health,” said N. S. S. Subramanian, Group General Manager, Oman Oasis. “Boosting immunity helps protect us and those around us. Along with following the general health protocols, daily consumption of Immuno water, which has the added benefits of essential nutrients

like zinc and copper, will go a long way in helping us build a stronger, healthier, and safer future.” Immuno comes uniquely designed in a bold glowing blue bottle, illustrating the advantage of rich nutrient contents that helps in building immunity to its consumer. Immuno is available in convenient packages of 500 ml and

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N. S. S. Subramanian
Group General Manager, Oman Oasis

1.5 litres to suit the varying preferences of consumers. Owing to its extensive distribution network and efficient home and office delivery systems, Oman Oasis is easily available throughout the country. With over 26 years of dedicated service to customers, Oman Oasis is the most preferred brand amongst consumers in Oman.

DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

Apex Laboratory selected to screen travellers to UAE for COVID-19 across Oman

MUSCAT: Apex Laboratory, the leading standalone diagnostic centre, has been selected by Pure Health, the largest laboratory network in the UAE to test airline passengers flying into the United Arab Emirates, following the UAE’s requirement for travellers to prove they are not infected with COVID-19. Pure Health has been appointed by the UAE’s government to launch this pioneering project to promote safe travel. “We are delighted to support Pure Health in their efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate safe travels for passengers flying into the UAE,” said Deepti Ruparel, Apex Laboratory, Business Development Manager. “As one of the largest Stand-alone Diagnostic Centre facilities in Oman, we are ideally placed to successfully deliver this ambitious initiative, and we are grateful for the trust placed in us.” **Tie up with Badr Al Samaa** Apex Laboratory has tied up with Badr Al Samaa Hospitals for a sample collection from all their facilities across Oman. Its 10 collection centres across Oman currently. The programme is already up and running in Ruwi, Al Khuwair, Al Khoudh, Barka, Sohar, Falaj Al Qabil, Suwaiq, Nizwa, Sur and Salalah. **Accredited facilities** “The UAE has trusted Pure Health with safeguarding it against any incoming COVID-19 threats, worldwide, this responsibility requires us to ensure we only partner with verified and accredited facilities around the world, thus why we have partnered with Apex Laboratory, to ensure that the screening process is of the highest quality and to en-

sure an excellent customer service for the travellers,” said Maria El Houari, International Passenger Screening Project Manager at Pure Health. The UAE issued regulations that require all travellers flying into the UAE to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Travellers without such a certificate are refused entry into the flight. The system is similar to the ESTA process in the United States. The traveller visits screening.purehealth.ae, chooses a testing location, selects a time slot, and completes the test at the agreed time and place. Test results are then transmitted to the UAE authorities, who use the data to cross-check arriving travellers against the border control database. **Super-speciality lab** Apex Laboratory is a state-of-the-art, super-speciality laboratory in Oman offering a wide range of diagnostic services like histopathology, cytopathology, immunology, virology, microbiology and other standard laboratory investigations. Recently it got approval for COVID-19 RT-PCR testing. Its experienced team of in-house specialist pathologists, microbiologist, visiting consultants and highly trained technicians are efficient in serving hospitals, polyclinics, walk-in patients and other laboratories that outsource special investigations. Its superior quality of testing, the accuracy of its test results and competitive pricing policy has earned them a good reputation in the market. Its association with specialist diagnostic centres in UK and India with CAP, JCI & NABL accreditation enables us to expedite second opinions and evaluations for uncommon tests.

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