

**STRATEGIC PACT FOR SATELLITE
SERVICES IN OMAN SIGNED**

Space Communication Technologies Company (SCT) and Oman Telecommunication Company (Omantel) have signed an agreement to provide satellite communication to the different verticals in the Omani market. **>B1**



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**HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES VERBAL
MESSAGE FROM SAUDI KING**

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received a verbal message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The message deals with the fraternal relations and cooperation between the two brotherly countries, in addition to means of promoting them. **Details on >A5**



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**HM THE SULTAN CONFERS ORDER OF FELICITATION
ON FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ABEGS**

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Monday conferred Order of Felicitation on Dr. Ali Abdul Khaliq Al Qarni, former Director General of Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), reflecting His Majesty the Sultan's appreciation for the efforts and contributions of Dr. Al Qarni in serving the GCC Educational work. The order was handed over by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, when he received Dr. Al Qarni at his office here on Monday. — **ONA**

OVER 300-BED CANCER CENTRE TO OPEN IN JULY

Built over an area of 54,000 square metres, the centre is built to modern standards, and keeping in mind the requirements of patients



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Cancer patients in Oman will be able to soon receive treatment for their ailments from some of the best specialists in the country, at a new centre named after the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour.

Currently at 95 percent operational capacity, the Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre features over 300 beds, in addition to three in-patient suites, forty treatment areas for chemotherapy, four for dialysis, and eight treatment rooms.

Four isolation rooms have also been set up for radioactive iodine treatment for patients with thyroid issues, within the inpatient unit. Other facilities include medical imaging and a nuclear medicine unit that offers services such

as CT scans, MRIs, interventional radiography, ultrasounds, mammograms, SPECT, and digital PET.

“The centre relies on modern technologies to treat patients in the outpatient clinics and day-care beds, which reduces patient’s enrolment,” said Mansour Al Moundhri, the chairman of the centre’s Operational Committee. “This contributes to increasing the centre’s capacity, and reducing the need for patients to be hospitalised, thus decreasing operational costs.”

“The centre will play an important role in the medical education sector throughout the Sultanate,” he added.

“This includes providing educational support to Sultan Qaboos University, the Oman Medical Specialty Board, and students at the colleges of the Ministry of Health. Likewise, we will provide advisory consultancy services

to the government and private hospitals, based on practical evidence in the areas of care and research related to cancer.”

Built over an area of 54,000 square metres, the centre is built to modern standards, and keeping in mind patients’ considerations. It boasts wide corridors, natural lighting in most departments, and single rooms for patient’s privacy, in addition to the availability of easily accessible restrooms, gardens, and places designated for patients’ families and children to achieve comfort for the patient.

SQCCRC also consists of diagnostic, treatment, and research facilities in the areas of radiation, interventional radiology, radiotherapy, genetics, specialised surgery, laparoscopic surgery, oncology for all types of malignant tumours, and comprehensive medical and research laboratories. **>A2**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

**Oman to attract 11.7mn
tourists by 2040**

1 As part of diversification plans and to attract 11.7 million tourists, including 5 million foreign visitors by 2040, OMRAN in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, has launched a new brand identity. **>A2**



OMAN

**Oman's field hospital
nearing full capacity**

2 Oman's COVID-19 field hospital crossing 90 percent of its capacity has led to many people still waiting for a bed, so that they can be treated for the disease. **>A3**

SPORTS

**Nice to see Eriksen
smile and laugh**

3 Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel has provided a positive update on Christian Eriksen and he also criticised UEFA for restarting his side's match against Finland on the same day. **>A8**

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Dhuhr.....	12.12pm
Asr.....	3:30pm
Maghrib.....	6:59pm
Isha.....	8:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:52am

Digital platform to help Oman attract 11.7mn tourists by 2040

New brand identity of the National Travel Operator 'VisitOman.om' was launched by OMRAN and Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Monday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of the economic diversification plans and in order to attract 11.7 million tourists, including 5 million foreign visitors by 2040, the Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group), in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, has launched the brand identity of the National Travel Operator 'VisitOman.om'.

It is the first integrated digital platform that will serve the travel and trade network in the Sultanate, in line with the National Tourism Strategy 2040.

The brand revealing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Monday under the patronage of Salim Mohammed Al-Mahrooqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism.

The VisitOman.om National Operator platform for travel and tourism aims to enhance the Sultanate's position in the global travel and tourism markets by effectively creating a digital link between Omani travel and tourism service providers and commercial trade partners in the key target markets, while stimulating the relevant business opportunities



through a systemised process that is geared towards achieving direct sales and connecting the providers' offers and incentives.

This digitally-focused approach will also play a vital role in raising the quality of tourism experience and expenditure in the Sultanate.

The platform will feature advanced digital solutions and technology which will connect the entire accredited Omani travel supply chain globally.

Providers across aviation, accommodation facilities (hotels), transportation, tourist destinations, various types of tourist experiences, restaurants and other tourism products will be showcased with instant confirmation of bookings.

Presently at the initial stage, registration will be available to partners in the travel and tourism sector in international markets,



as well as the local suppliers operating in the Sultanate, including Omani tour operators and destination management companies. In addition, the platform will give the new local tourism service providers, who have not had the opportunity to expand their business globally, to compete in the

international markets. On this occasion, the Minister of Heritage and Tourism, said, "The launch of the brand identity of the National Travel Operator 'VisitOman.om' is an important step that aligns with Oman Vision 2040 and the economic diversification plans.

"The platform will digitise the

local tourism supply chain, in co-operation with our partners, and will become a vital factor in supporting the Sultanate's vision to increase local and international investments in the tourism infrastructure, in addition to achieving our objective to attract 11.7 million tourists by 2040."

He added, "This platform is also in line with the recovery plan adopted by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism."

Abdulsalam Mohammed Al-Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), said, "We look forward to the role this platform will play in supporting OIA's approach of empowering the private sector to lead the national economy, as well as support the SME sector. We will continue to support initiatives by companies under OIA in this regard."

Eng. Mohammed Salim Al-Busaidi, Chairman of OMRAN Group, said, "The launch of the VisitOman.om platform is an important step for OMRAN Group to achieve its vision by investing in the tourism sector's value chain, whilst implementing and activating the tourism distribution strategy that aims to increase the number of inbound tourism to the Sultanate from various major regional and international markets. This also goes hand in hand with the group's tireless efforts to develop the sector by establishing sustainable projects that contribute to economic diversification. It comes in line with the Group's unremitting efforts to develop the sector by establishing sustainable projects that contribute to economic diversification. This platform will enhance the contribution of local and international partners through various investment and business opportunities and will work to strengthen strategic tourism and commercial partnerships with the service providers who will benefit from the promising opportunities that the platform will provide."

"As the executive arm of the Sultanate for tourism development, OMRAN Group will leverage on the VisitOman.om potential. The platform will enable business partners and customers to make direct and fast reservations, hence fostering integration between supply and demand," Al Busaidi added.

In view of the importance that the OMRAN Group attaches to promoting the meetings, incentives and conferences sector, the Group commissioned the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre to provide the necessary support to accelerate the pace of building the platform and the linkage with strategic clients, aiming to launch all platform services during Q4 of this year.

NEW CANCER CENTRE

FROM A1 All basic patient care services provided

As part of the centre's operational plan, the radiotherapy unit was established in May 2021, with it being one of the most crucial diagnostic and treatment options for cancer patients. Specialising in radiation therapy and scanning, the unit consists of the most recent equipment in the world - linear accelerator and cyber knife (LINAC), which are specifically designed for radiosurgery, making it the first of its kind in the country.

"The centre provides all basic patient care services including clinical nurse specialists, a phar-

macy that is equipped with the most recent technologies to prepare both chemotherapy drugs and other medications, and specialized staff in nutrition care, psychology, and rehabilitation, to study cases from different aspects so that they can get the right treatment," explained Al Moundhri.

"We are glad to announce that we are ready to welcome and accept patients as part of the operational phase of the centre by the middle of July 2021," he added. "It is our pleasure, upon reaching this stage, to extend our sincere

thanks to the Diwan of the Royal Court for sponsoring the construction of the centre, and the Royal Court Affairs for their great efforts and supervision of the engineering and architectural works in a professional manner that met expectations.

This is also in line to achieve the vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik - may God protect him - in establishing a modern centre that features the integration of the medical staff, and is equipped with advanced medical devices," he added.

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ENOUGH EQUIPMENT: Dr Nabil Al Lawati, the director of the field hospital, told Oman TV that while they had enough medical equipment, more staff would help them raise bed numbers to 200, enabling them to take care of more people who need urgent attention. -File photo used for illustration only

COVID-19 field hospital crosses 90% capacity

There are about 124 patients currently undergoing treatment at the hospital, which was originally set up with 100 beds, and expanded to 150 on 25 May, 2021

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's COVID-19 field hospital crossing 90 per cent of its capacity has led to many people still waiting for a bed, so that they can be treated for coronavirus. There are about 124 patients currently undergoing treatment at the hospital, which was originally set up with 100 beds, and

expanded to 150 on May 25, 2021. Dr Nabil Al Lawati, the director of the field hospital, told Oman TV that while they had enough medical equipment, more staff would help them raise bed numbers to 200, enabling them to take care of more people who need urgent attention. "There are people who are waiting for their turn to get a bed, as the situation is difficult and the number of COVID-19 patients is increasing," he said. "The cases to which we are attending right now are more extreme, compared to the previous waves of infections. People who reach us are those suffering from severe oxygen shortage, or obvious damage to the respiratory system." "Such symptoms used to previously only manifest in the second week of a person being infected, which shows this version of the disease is more severe," added Al Lawati, who admitted that many of the patients who were admitted to the field hospital were below the age of 60. "Only a small portion of people who have been injected with two

doses of the vaccine have been admitted, while those who have received a single dose have less harsh symptoms," he said. "Please take the vaccine as soon as you are able, and continue to follow COVID precautionary measures." On an average, the hospital receives about 24 patients a day, although Sunday saw 31 people admitted to the facility. "The longer patients stay at the hospital, the more pressure is exerted on us to receive new admissions," said the director. "The hospital is under huge pressure, since the numbers of new cases continue to rise." According to statistics from the Ministry of Health, there are 24,946 active cases of the virus in Oman. Some 236,440 people have tested positive for the disease since the start of the pandemic. With a recovery rate of 89.4 per cent, 211,494 people have recovered from COVID-19. There are 1,196 patients currently admitted to hospitals, and 373 are in intensive care. 173 people were admitted to the hospital in the 24 hours leading to June 14, 2021.

FIGHTING PANDEMIC

Shura member behind taxi driver vaccination efforts calls for more to be done

ALI AL BADI
ali.badi@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: The member of the Majlis Al Shura who has organised efforts to vaccinate taxi drivers is hopeful they can be vaccinated soon, because they deal with many people on a daily basis, and therefore have increased exposure to the coronavirus. Aziz Salim Al Hasani, the Shura member for wilayat Bausher, said about OMR50,000 had been provided to vaccinate taxi drivers in the country. However, given that there are more than 30,000 Omanis who work as cab drivers, more funds will be needed to provide them vaccinations, particularly because the services they provide are vital. "This amount of OMR50,000 will be enough to vaccinate some taxi drivers, but not all," he said. "With regards to other drivers, I recommend a coordination campaign with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology because they are aware of the drivers and their addresses, and so have all the information about them." Jewellery company Malabar Gold and Diamonds contacted Al Hasani and offered to contribute the OMR50,000 required to vaccinate some taxi drivers. His efforts have been recognised by the Ministry of Health, after he posted a tweet saying he had secured funding. "Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, the Minister of Health contacted me on the same night I posted the tweet, and asked a coordinator from the ministry to work with me to complete the procedures required for this vaccination effort," he said. "I have also submitted a letter to the minister, explaining that the company wishes to send him a cheque worth OMR50,000," he



Aziz Salim Al Hasani, the Shura member for wilayat Bausher

About OMR50,000 has been provided to vaccinate taxi drivers in the country. However, given that there are more than 30,000 Omanis who work as cab drivers, more funds will be needed

added. "I presented a proposal to vaccinate the 2,000 taxi drivers who work in ports, hotels, and airports, because they often mix with visitors, especially those expatriates who use their services to go to their place of institutional quarantine. To prevent the disease being transmitted to them, it is important to vaccinate those who drive taxis." "We must also remember that they mingle with other people throughout the day, and then go to their homes, where they meet their children, wives, and even elderly people, and so might pass on the virus to them," he explained. Al Hasani also remains confident that the Ministry of Health will create a plan for the vaccination of cab drivers, and thanked Malabar Gold and Diamonds for their generous donation. "This is a company that operates in Oman, and has several branches across the country," he said. "They are an integral part of the country and are doing it out of benefit for the community, so let people

not think we are dealing with a company that only operates outside the Sultanate." The Shura Council member also hoped the ministry would speed up the rates of vaccinations for taxi drivers, as well as those in other professions who interact with large numbers of people, to protect both themselves and others from the spread of the virus. "Whether it is members of the Omani community, people from our expatriate societies, or visitors to our country, taxi drivers interact with all of them and are therefore among those people who are most exposed to the virus," said Al Hasani. "Therefore, their immunisation needs to be a matter of national importance." In the meantime, he asked taxi drivers to remember to follow the precautions against COVID-19, as well as ignore rumours about vaccines and the virus that are often spread on social media, particularly when it came to infections and deaths from the disease.

Trending
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**MOST READ ON FACEBOOK**

20,485 REACH
435,000 people were given Covid-19 vaccines in the Sultanate



Vaccination update story

A vaccination update story reached 20,485 people and had 1,220 engagements on Facebook.

**MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM**

7,353 VIEWS



COVID-19: Oman records spread of Indian, UK, SA strain



Oman records spread of Indian, UK, SA strains

The Morning Minute video on Oman records spread of Indian, UK, SA strains had 7,353 views and 509 likes on Instagram.

**MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK**

9,600 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute newsrap

The Maghrib Minute newsrap video had 9,600 views and reached 29,600 people on Facebook.

Alila
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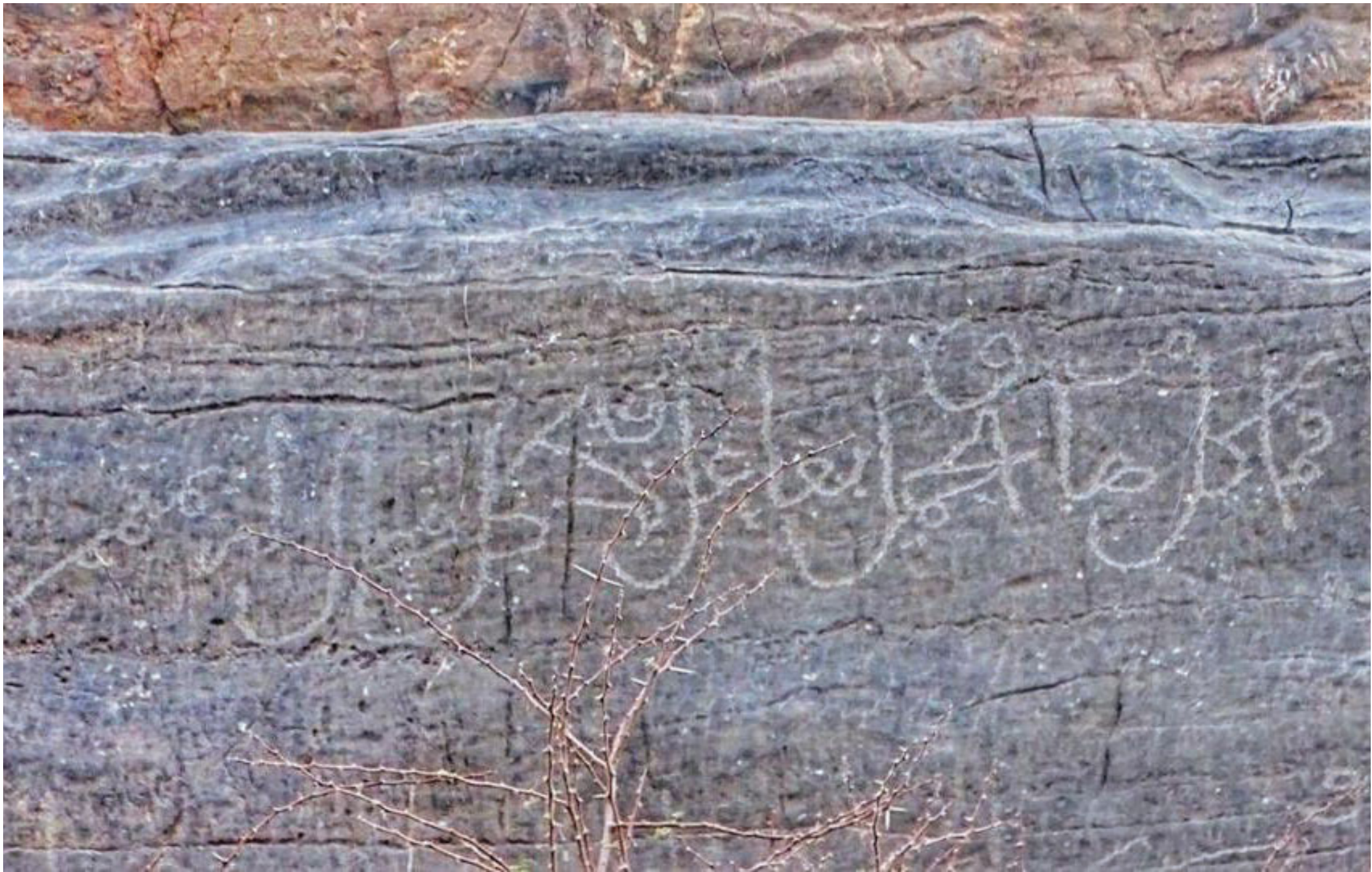
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CULTURAL TREASURES

OF OLD TIMES IN AL AWABI

THE WILAYAT OF AL AWABI in South Al Batinah Governorate hosts cultural treasures dated back to old times. These treasures include drawings and writings on rock, part of which are vital in documenting significant historic events of Oman. The drawings and writings on rock represent a cultural reserve and one of the important sources of Oman's history.

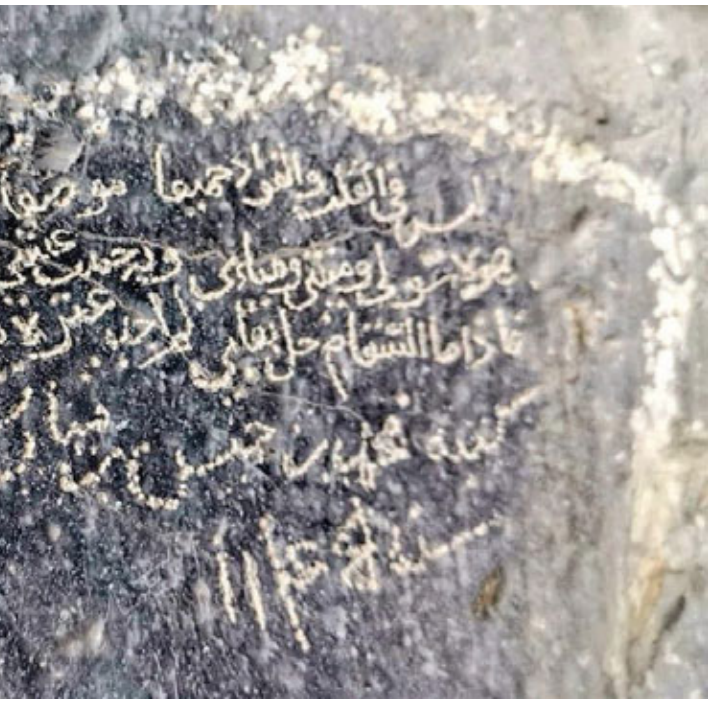
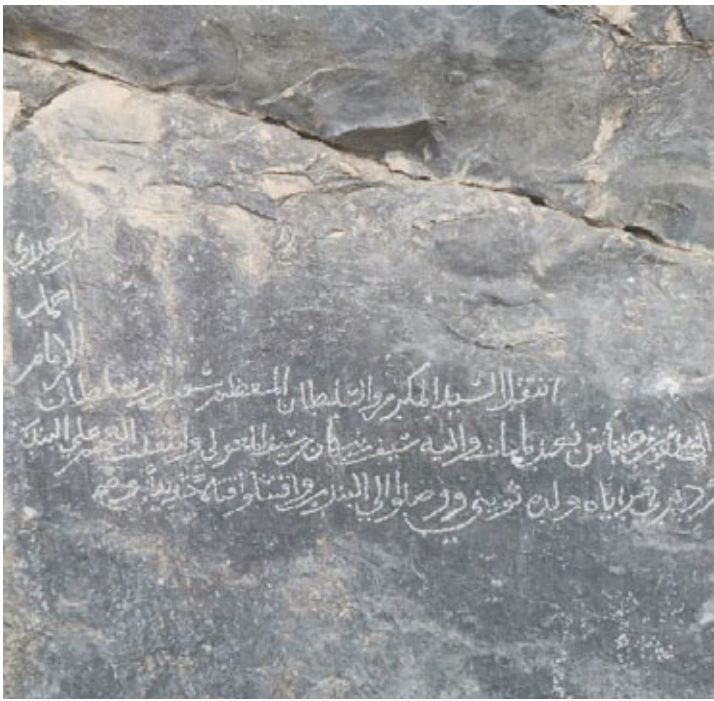
Researcher Harith bin Saif Al Kharousi said that some of these

drawings and writings are dated back to thirty thousand years as compared to similar writing and drawing models in the world in general and the Arabian Peninsula, in particular.

"There are several writings at Wadi Bani Kharous area, which document significant economic events such as reform of agricultural lands at Al Alia Village," he said adding that those writings were evidence of the economic activity during the time. He said

that Sheikh Mohammed bin Khamis bin Mubarak Al Kharousi has left behind several writings on rock. In these writings he has mentioned about the construction of the Falaj among other developments of Al Awabi.

Among the famous people who wrote on rock was Said bin Shanon Al Aufi, who documented the migration of people from Wadi Bani Kharous to Africa and India owing to the drought conditions in the area, he said.



IMPORTANT DAY

Global Wind Day



The main idea behind the day is to celebrate wind energy, exchange information, educate the young and old about wind energy, and to highlight the power and possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems.

GLOBAL WIND DAY is a worldwide event that occurs annually on 15th June. It is a day for discovering wind energy, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems, decarbonise our economies and boost jobs and growth. It had been organised by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), and in 2007 it had reached 18 countries in Europe, with around 35,000 people taking part in it.

The main idea behind the day is to celebrate wind energy, exchange information, educate the young and old about wind energy, and to highlight the power and possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems. Organisations, along with EWEA and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), that work in wind energy production, organise events in different countries around the world.



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Aung San Suu Kyi trial begins in Myanmar

The 75-year-old stands accused of violating coronavirus regulations while campaigning for the election

NAYPYITAW: The trial of Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi got underway on Monday in the capital Naypyidaw, more than four months after a military coup.

Criminal convictions would bar Suu Kyi from running for office.

Suu Kyi's prosecution prevented her National League for Democracy (NLD) party from serving a second five-year term following last year's landslide election victory.

Army officials have also threatened to dissolve the NLD for alleged involvement in election fraud.

What charges does Suu Kyi face?

The 75-year-old stands accused of violating coronavirus regulations while campaigning for the election she won last November and for possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies.

She is also facing other more serious charges including intent to incite, breaching the official secrets act and charges for accepting \$600,000 (€495,000) and 11.4 kilograms (25 pounds) worth of gold from Yangon's former chief minister.

Another trial against her is expected to start on Tuesday. In this trial, Suu Kyi and the deposed president Win Myint are charged with incitement to public disturbance.



TRIAL BEGINS: Army officials have also threatened to dissolve the NLD for alleged involvement in election fraud

Suu Kyi's legal team have denied any wrongdoing. The first trial is expected to run until the end of July, her lawyer said.

"We are hoping for the best but prepared for the worst," Khin Maung Zaw, one of Suu Kyi's lawyers, told French news agency AFP ahead of the hearing.

If convicted of all charges, she faces more than a decade in jail.

Government prosecutors have until June 28 to finish their presentation. Suu Kyi's defense team will then have until July 26 to present its case, Zaw said last week.

Court sessions are due to be held on Monday and Tuesday each week.

International reactions to trial

Human Rights Watch called the

allegations against Suu Kyi "bogus and politically motivated" with the intention of preventing her from running for office again.

"This trial is clearly the opening salvo in an overall strategy to neuter Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy party as a force that can challenge military rule in the future," said Phil Robertson, the organization's deputy Asia director. Debbie Stothard, coordinator of the Alternative ASEAN Network on Myanmar, slammed it as a "show trial."

"Min Aung Hlaing is determined to lock up Aung San Suu Kyi for the rest of her life. If he could, he would probably charge her under every law available," she told AFP, referring to the army chief.

Military takeover

Citing government failure to properly investigate alleged voting irregularities, the military seized power on February 1, ending a 10-year phase of democratic change in the Southeast Asian country.

The junta has claimed it will hold new elections within the next year or two but it has a long history of promising elections and not following through.

The Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), an activist group outlawed by the junta, says 5,965 people have been arrested since the coup. Of those, 4,804 remain in prison, interrogation centers, and under house arrest. At least 860 people have been killed, 22 of those from torture during detention, the AAPP reports. **DW**



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

India reports 70,421 new COVID-19 cases, lowest single-day spike in 74 days

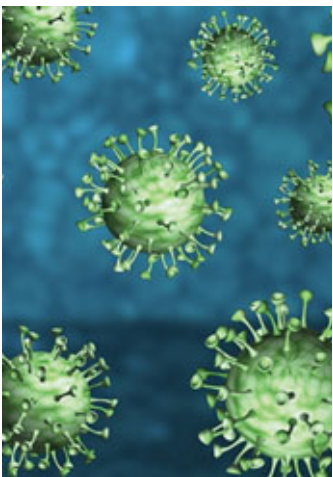
NEW DELHI: With 70,421 new COVID-19 infections in the last 24 hours, India maintained its declining trend of cases and reported the lowest single-day COVID-19 rise in 74 days, informed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Monday.

With this, the total cases have reached 29,510,410, and the daily positivity rate stands at 4.72 per cent, which is less than 10 per cent for the 21st consecutive day. Also, the weekly positivity rate dropped below 5 per cent and today stands at 4.54 per cent. The active caseload remained below 10 lakhs after 66 days and today stands at 973,158.

According to the health ministry, a total of 3,921 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 374,305 in the country.

Meanwhile, recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for the 32nd consecutive day, as India witnessed 119,501 recoveries in the last 24 hours, the ministry said.

The recovery tally of India has reached 28,162,947 and the



recovery rate stands at 95.43 per cent.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 379,624,626 samples has been tested for COVID-19, up to June 13, out of these, 1,492,152 samples were tested yesterday.

The Union Health Ministry has informed that 25,48,49,301 vaccine doses have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

— ANI

COVID-19

Bangladesh extends border closure with India till June 30

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Sunday extended border closure with India till June 30 as the COVID-19 situation in neighbouring districts of the country continued to deteriorate.

The decision for extending the closure of border areas was taken during an inter-ministerial meeting on June 13, a top official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Dhaka Tribune. A gazette notification to this end will soon be published, the official said, requesting anonymity.

Earlier on April 26, Bangladesh shut down its border with India for two weeks, which was later extended twice - on May 8 and then on May 29 - in light of the severe crisis in India due to the second wave of the pandemic.

However, Bangladeshi nationals with a valid visa of 15 days or less will be allowed to return home subject to a 14-day compulsory quarantine, reported Dhaka Tribune.



Bangladesh is also experiencing an alarming rise of COVID-19 related deaths and new cases every day, with the highest single-day death tally recorded in over a month on Sunday.

The country on Sunday recorded 47 deaths from COVID-19,

the highest single-day death toll reported in more than a month. It also registered 2,436 new cases.

The health authorities have also detected the presence of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, which is highly contagious. **ANI**

COVID VACCINE

Novavax's vaccine found to be 90% effective against COVID-19 variants

NEW DELHI: US Biotechnology company Novavax on Monday announced that its COVID-19 vaccine provides 100 per cent protection against moderate and severe symptoms of the disease and 90.4 per cent efficacy overall in phase 3 trials.

The study enrolled 29,960 participants across 119 sites in the US and Mexico to evaluate efficacy, safety and immunogenicity, with an emphasis on recruiting a representative population of communities and demographic groups most impacted by the disease.

"Today, Novavax is one step closer to addressing the critical and persistent global public health need for additional COVID-19 vaccines. These clinical results reinforce that NVX-CoV2373 is extremely effective

and offers complete protection against both moderate and severe COVID-19 infection," said Stanley C Erck, President and Chief Executive Officer, Novavax.

"Novavax continues to work with a sense of urgency to complete our regulatory submissions and deliver this vaccine, built on a well understood and proven platform, to a world that is still in great need of vaccines," he added.

According to the company's statement, it intends to file for regulatory authorizations in the third quarter, upon completion of the final phases of process qualification and assay validation needed to meet chemistry, manufacturing and controls (CMC) requirements.

Upon regulatory approvals, Novavax remains on track to reach the manufacturing capacity of 100

million doses per month by the end of the third quarter and 150 million doses per month by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021.

The company said it was "stored and stable at 2-8 degrees Celsius, allowing the use of existing vaccine supply chain channels for its distribution".

Last year, Novavax, announced an amendment to its existing agreement with Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL) under which SIPL will also manufacture the antigen component of NVX-CoV2373, Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

Novavax vaccine NVX-CoV2373 is a protein-based vaccine candidate engineered from the genetic sequence of the first strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. **ANI**



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Experience of Maguire, Henderson will be vital moving forward: Rooney

England's all-time record goalscorer feels the team will now be more comfortable in the next game against Scotland

LONDON: Former England player Wayne Rooney feels it's vital that Harry Maguire and Jordan Henderson get fit as soon as possible because they will be vital moving forward in the Euro 2020 for the Three Lions.

 "To win that was massive, Croatia are a good team and it will give the players a relief that they are comfortable in the group now," Wayne Rooney told Sky Sports. "There's a lot of quality in the squad, my only worry is a lack of experience -- it's important Harry Maguire and Jordan Henderson get fit because they will be



EURO CUP: For the very first time in Euros, England won their opening fixture thanks to Raheem Sterling's second-half goal against Croatia.

vital moving forward."

 England's all-time record goalscorer feels the team will now be more comfortable in the next game against Scotland as they started off on a winning note at the European Championships in a "professional" manner against 2018 World Cup finalists Croatia.

For the very first time in Euros, England won their opening fixture thanks to Raheem Sterling's second-half goal against Croatia at Wembley on Sunday. Gareth Southgate's men are now in a comfortable position ahead of fixtures against Scotland and the Czech Republic. It would now be

very interesting to see how England's manager Gareth Southgate will navigate his starting XI for the remaining matches in the group stage as he made some very eyebrow-raising decisions against Croatia which ultimately paid off for the English side.

-ANI

ERIKSEN RECOVERING

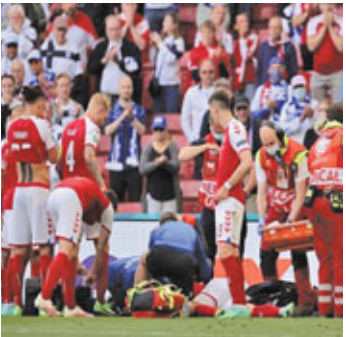
Nice to see Eriksen smile and laugh, says Denmark goalkeeper

COPENHAGEN: Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel has provided a positive update on Christian Eriksen and he also criticised UEFA for restarting his side's match against Finland on the same day when Eriksen collapsed on the pitch in Euro 2020.

 The match between Denmark and Finland on Saturday had to be stopped in the closing minutes of the first half as Eriksen collapsed on the pitch and had to be taken off due to medical emergency. "It was damn nice to see him smile and laugh and be himself and just feel that he is there. It was a great experience and something that has helped me a lot," Schmeichel told broadcaster DR, as reported by Goal.com.

Eriksen's teammates had formed a ring around him as he was being attended to by doctors on the field. The midfielder was carried off in a stretcher. Following the request made by players of both teams, UEFA agreed to restart the match later in the evening with the Demark midfielder in a stable condition in hospital. Finland defeated Denmark 1-0 in their tournament opener.

Talking about the decision to restart the match, the Danish goalkeeper said: "We were put in a po-



sition I don't think we should have been put in. It probably required that someone above us had said that it was not the time to make a decision and maybe should wait for the next day."

 On Sunday, Denmark team doctor Morten Boesen had confirmed that striker Christian Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest in the Euro 2020 game against Finland. Boesen also said that Eriksen was "gone", but the authorities were able to get him back after emergency CPR, which was quite fast.

 "He was gone. We did cardiac resuscitation, it was a cardiac arrest. How close were we to losing him? I don't know, but we got him back after one defib, so that's quite fast," Sky Sports had quoted Boesen as saying.

ANI

FRENCH OPEN

Fans need to look beyond Djokovic's antics and celebrate his genius

NEW DELHI: 19 Grand Slam titles in an era where both Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are still going strong is a testament to a player's grit, determination and passion. A look at the number of titles won by Novak Djokovic should be enough to imagine that he would be a darling of the fans.

 But he has to battle Federer and Nadal not just on the court, but off it as well because tennis fans love the duo and the Serbian just doesn't manage to upstage these two legends. While his game is electrifying, he is also able to hold the imagination of the crowd with his ability to rise like a phoenix from any given situation.

 But the adulation eludes him some way or the other. The same was the case in the finals of the French Open on Sunday where most of the chants were for Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. Two sets down, it was looking improbable that the 34-year-old Djokovic would be able to make a comeback and win the title, especially since he played a four-set marathon against Nadal on Friday.

 But Djokovic being the player he is, not only staged a comeback, but



DJOKOVIC'S GENIUS: While Djokovic's game is electrifying, he is also able to hold the imagination of the crowd with his ability to rise like a phoenix from any given situation.

also went on to win the match that lasted for more than four hours. After the match, Djokovic gave his racquet to a little fan, and watching that visual, the thought once again came to mind if the fans could be a little more warm towards the World No.1.

It is not like the 34-year-old has never made any mistakes on the court. The world number one has often done some over-the-top antics both on and off the court and maybe that is the reason fans find it hard to keep him on the same pedestal as a Federer or Nadal.

For example, last year, Djokovic made a comment regarding the Covid-19 vaccine where he was quoted as saying: "Personally I am opposed to vaccination and I wouldn't want to be forced by someone to take a vaccine in order to travel."

For a top athlete to say something like this, raises alarm bells. Every top athlete has the responsibility to urge everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible to combat this deadly virus but Djokovic's comment was not appropriate and he rightly faced flak.

 Last year, Djokovic organised Adria Tour against all advice and participants were seen dancing in bars, they indulged in basketball games, tennis games had fans in attendance and eventually six people, including Djokovic and his wife Jelena, ended up testing positive for Covid-19 and the event had to be cancelled.

 Coming to on-court discipline, Djokovic has had a history of showing his anger on the court. During the 2019 Wimbledon final against Federer, Djokovic smashed his racquet against the umpire's chair in frustration. The very next year, he broke all protocols by touching the umpire's chair during the Australian Open final.

 A similar incident happened during the 2016 French Open quarter-final where he threw his racquet and he nearly hit the line judge. When one compiles all these

incidents, it is understandable why the fans might not like Djokovic, but there is a bigger question in place -- cannot these behavioural issues be looked past and the man be celebrated for what he brings to the court?

 Djokovic won his first Grand Slam title in 2008 when he captured the Australian Open, and thirteen years later, he has 19 Grand Slam titles to his name -- one short, of equalling Federer and Nadal's 20 Grand Slam wins. He surfaced to action when both Nadal and Federer were at their prime, so if you put in that context as well, the Serbian's achievements look unparalleled.

 Nine Australian Open titles, two French Open titles, five Wimbledon titles and three US Open wins are no mean feat. After winning the 2021 French Open, Djokovic became the first player in the Open Era to win all Grand Slams twice. So, it is hard to fathom when fans show hostility towards the player.

 The antics, the talent on display and the grit demands that the fans take notice and make an exception for he is indeed a maverick.

ANI

ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND

Have to front up, learn some hard lessons: Root after defeat against New Zealand

BIRMINGHAM : England Test captain Joe Root on Sunday said that his side needs to front up and learn some hard lessons after losing the two-match series against New Zealand. Neil Wagner and Matt Henry took three wickets each as England was bundled out for 122 in the second innings, and in the end, New Zealand won the second Test on Day Four comfortably by eight wickets here at Edgbaston, Birmingham on Sunday.

 "It's been a frustrating and disappointing performance this week. I don't think we've given a fair account of ourselves. We've been outplayed in all three departments, particularly the batting. We didn't get the runs in the first innings. We missed chances in the field and didn't help our bowlers in that respect. And with the bat in the second innings, we were poor," ESPNcricinfo quoted Root as saying.

 "Sometimes in Test cricket, you can have a poor session with the ball and you're still very much in the game. But a session that like can cost you a Test. That's where we find ourselves. It's cost us the



series and we have some hard lessons to learn. We have to look at where we can get better individually and collectively. We need to be honest about that. We have to have some hard conversations and move forward," he added.

 No England batter was able to stay at the crease for a long time in the second innings and as a result, the hosts were bundled out for 122. For the Kiwis, Matt Henry and Neil Wagner scalped three wickets each.

 "We have to front up, look to

get better, and learn some hard lessons sometimes. We've all underperformed this week. But we have to be constructive. I think every single one of those guys has proven they can score big Test runs. I think it would be the wrong time to start panicking and trying to rip up all the hard work we've done for such a long period of time. It's something that historically we've done going into big tournaments and big Test series and it's made things even worse," said Root.

ANI

WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Southampton curator aims for 'pace, bounce and carry'

SOUTHAMPTON: Simon Lee, the head groundsman at Hampshire, has hinted that pitch for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final will have some "pace, bounce and carry."

 India and New Zealand will lock horns in the WTC final, slated to begin on June 18 at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. While Lee admitted that making such a wicket in England could be a hard thing, he'll try to get some pace in the wicket without "over-rolling it and killing it".

 "For me personally I just want to get something out that has some pace, bounce and carry in the pitch. It can be a hard thing to do in England as the weather doesn't help us most of the time," ESPNcricinfo quoted Lee as saying.

 "But the forecast in the build-up is good with a lot of sun, so we are hopeful that we'll get some pace and a hard pitch without over-rolling it and killing it," he added.

 Lee wants to ensure the WTC final is not a one-sided affair and there is some class batting or an amazing spell of bowling.

 "Pace just makes red-ball cricket exciting, I'm a cricket fan and I want to produce a pitch where the cricket lovers have to watch every



ball in case they miss something, be that some class batting or an amazing spell of bowling," said Lee

 "A maiden over can be quite exciting if it's a battle of skill between both bowler and batter. So, yeah, if we can get some pace and bounce in the pitch, but not too one-sided towards seam movement, we'll be happy," he added.

 Lee feels the wicket might help spinners too since "pitches dry out very quickly".

 "As I said, the forecast is looking okay, the pitches dry out very

quickly here as we do have some sand mixed into our cricket loam, which helped it hold together when the pitches were re-laid some 10 years ago, but it can help it spin as well," he said.

 The Indian cricket team landed in Southampton on June 3 and every member of the touring contingent underwent three-day mandatory hard quarantine.

 At the Hampshire Bowl, the players were tested again before they started training for the WTC final.

ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2021 reaching \$72.14, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil increased by 77 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$71.37. - ONA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,033.77 points, down 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.15 per cent at 570.22 points. Galfar Engineering, up 8.22 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 4.35 per cent, was the top loser.

STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY

Strategic pact signed to provide satellite services in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Space Communication Technologies Company (SCT) and Oman Telecommunication Company (Omantel) have signed an agreement to provide satellite communication to the different verticals in the Omani market.

Omantel will utilise the satellite services using the state-of-the-art technologies on Ka-Band from the SCT's satellite Earth Station located in Omantel's Al Amerat Teleport on the Omani Satellite payload on Arabsat6A @ 30.5 E. Omantel will use this service to expand and enhance its reach for mobile network backhauling, in addition to providing connectivity services to their end-customers in different regions across the Sultanate.

As the leading integrated telecom services provider of Oman, Omantel sees this agreement as a push towards digitisation that is modernising traditional ways of governance, education, business, services and administration by offering more efficient technologies and advanced solutions. The agreement will further consolidate Omantel's position as the market leader as the company will expand and enhance its reach for mobile network backhauling, in addition to providing connectivity services to its end customers in different regions across the Sultanate. Omantel will gain satellite bandwidth to complement its terrestrial range coverage, thus expanding the user base, and bringing them access to the latest innovations through improved connectivity.



MILESTONE: The agreement is another important milestone achieved in the strategic partnership between Omantel and Space Communication Technologies Company. - Supplied picture

This agreement is another collaboration between Omantel and SCT. In 2020, Omantel was selected as SCT's telecom infrastructure

service provider and accordingly SCT co-located its main satellite hub in Omantel's Teleport in Al Amerat.

Eng Salim Al Alawi, Executive Director of SCT, stated, "Signing the agreement with Omantel is an extension of the collaboration between the two companies in the field of space telecommunication. Omantel is considered one of the biggest strategic partners to SCT. As the agreement states, Omantel will be provided with satellite bandwidth for its commercial users to complement their services provided by terrestrial coverage. This will provide Omantel with satellite connectivity to increase the bandwidth available to the mobile stations in rural areas. I would like to express my thanks to Omantel's Wholesale Business Unit for their collaboration that led to signing this agreement and a special thanks go to SCT's team for their recognisable effort to seal the signing."

Eng. Salim Al Mazrui, General Manager Wholesale Operations at Omantel said, "Omantel is always keen to utilise the latest available technological solutions to provide the most advanced services to its customers. Through this partnership with SCT, we will be able to increase the backhauling capacity for various mobile stations located in remote areas.

"By doing so, we will be able to upgrade the mobile technologies offered in these areas, which in turn, will allow our clients to enjoy enhanced services and a better customer experience, which is one of our key priorities. We thank our counterparts in SCT for their efforts in facilitating this agreement and we look forward to achieving more mutual benefits under this highly valued partnership."

Sultanate's ICT market to reach OMR2.2bn by 2024

Thanks to nationwide digital transformation, Oman's ICT market will nearly double to OMR2.2 billion by 2024, up from OMR1.2 billion in 2019



Waheed Al Hamaid

to a recent report by market research firm GlobalData.

Digital transformation

The whitepaper highlights the digital transformation opportunity for the Sultanate across five areas: a society of creative individuals, a competitive economy, a sustainable environment, respon-

sible state agencies, and building SmartCities.

Oman Vision 2040

"Oman's government agencies can achieve Oman Vision 2040 goals by digitally transforming into Intelligent Enterprises that can integrate back-end operations and centre the citizen experience," said Waheed Al Hamaid, Managing Director, SAP Oman. "Citizen engagement platforms can enhance happiness and trust, reduce costs and security risks, and rapidly deploy and future-proof e-services."

Real-time technology

Supporting creative individuals, real-time technology can help education and healthcare institutions to operate more efficiently and personalise tracks and patient treatment. In the competitive economy, an integrated job matching platform could connect citizens to job postings and talent development, support entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs+), enhance tourist experiences, and optimise Value Added Tax compliance.

In fostering environmental sustainability, Oman could attract more tourists, secure higher levels of supply chains resilience and food security, and maintain its rich cultural heritage. For responsible

state agencies, a digital government is key - with an Open Data Strategy, government resource planning and shared services for real-time decision-making, and citizen-centric services that are vital for Smart Cities.

Digital procurement

New ways to source, procure, and pay for goods and services can take government services to the next level. Oman's public and private sectors are ideally positioned to leverage the recently-launched world's largest business network, the SAP Business Network, which will bring together Ariba Network, SAP Logistics Business Network and SAP Asset Intelligence Network.

The government could enhance sourcing decisions with spend analysis insights, optimise costs and compliance, and strengthen the financial supply chain by transforming payables into strategic assets.

Aligned with Omanisation goals, 60 per cent of SAP Oman employees are Omani nationals. Enabling the Omani workforce of the future, the SAP Training and Development Institute's Young Professionals Programme has trained 125 recent university graduates to become certified SAP associate consultants.

ANTI-FRAUD AWARENESS



ACFE Board holds meeting with CMA executive president

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abdullah bin Salim Al-Salmi, Executive President of the Capital Market Authority (CMA), met in his office Jose Chacko, President of Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Oman Chapter, Davis Kallukaran, Khalil bin Nabhan Al-Rawahi and Fathiya bint Salim Al-Maskari, members of the ACFE Board of Directors.

The meeting was also attended by Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Abri, Vice President of the Capital Market Sector, Ahmed bin Ali Al-Maamari, Vice President, Insurance Sector and Ahmed bin

Ali Al Mukhaini, Adviser in the CEO's office.

Several areas of cooperation between the authority and the association were discussed, including expediting the dissemination of anti-fraud awareness in all its forms to all segments of society and government and private institutions and setting plans in place to increase the number of certified fraud examiners in the government institutions, banking and finance sectors. The executive president emphasised the importance of increased anti-fraud awareness in the society to minimise this nuisance affecting the businesses and the economy at large.

FINANCING PACT

HSBC Oman and SME Development Fund sign collaborative agreement



Times News Service

MUSCAT: HSBC Bank Oman and the SME Development Fund (SMEF) signed a collaborative agreement recently to provide small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Oman with OMR5 million in financing. The agreement was signed by Nasr Al Asfoor, Head of Business Banking in HSBC Bank Oman and Salah Al Mawali, CEO of SMEF.

This collaboration provides additional support to the SME development initiatives endorsed by the Omani government and will help accelerate the growth of SMEs throughout the Sultanate by giving them access to financing at an attractive rate.

"We are proud of our collaboration with SMEF, and we will continue to work closely with

relevant government authorities and key working groups to ensure that SMEs flourish and contribute to the country's diversification efforts," said Nasr Al Asfoor, AGM & Head of Business Banking in HSBC Bank Oman.

Through its entrepreneurs' development programs and financing schemes, SMEF aims to nurture Omani entrepreneurs and to see some of them grow to be large firms. In so doing, it also targets creating new job opportunities.

"We are happy with the cooperation with HSBC Bank Oman, which we hope will support the small and medium enterprises sector and the entrepreneurs and provide the facilities needed for the sustainability of their projects and enhance the growth of the national economy," said Salah Al Mawali, CEO of SMEF.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Galfar Engineering, up 8.22 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 4.35 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,033.77 points, down 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.15 per cent at 570.22 points. Galfar Engineering, up 8.22 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 4.35 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,072 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.5 million, with more than 22 million shares changing hands. Out of 61 traded stocks, 21 advanced, 15 declined and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR117,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR69,000 followed by local investors for OMR48,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,385.07 points, down 0.13 per cent. Oman & Emirates Holding, HSBC Bank Oman, National Finance, Muscat Finance and Bank Dhofar were up 6.56 per cent, 3.81 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 1.67 per cent respectively. Ahli Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Sohar International Bank and National Life Insurance were down 4.35 per cent, 3.81 per cent, 2.31 per cent, 2.04 per cent and 1.96 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,750.27 points, up 0.82 per cent. Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramic, Jazeera Steel Product, National Aluminium Product and Oman Flour Mills were up 8.22 per cent, 2.87 per cent, 2.03 per cent, 1.46 per cent and 0.57 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.49 per cent closing at 1,692.71 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 14

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
ALMAHA CERAMICS	419,290	150,210	38	0.356	0.360	0.356	0.358	0.348	0.010	2.874	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.100	19,690,000
JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	574,650	231,065	61	0.404	0.404	0.398	0.402	0.394	0.008	2.030	0.398	0.398	0.400	0.100	50,208,980
MUSCAT FINANCE	94,674	32,648	25	0.057	0.059	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	17,814,487
BANK MUSCAT	1,588,092	646,543	24	0.450	0.450	0.414	0.450	0.414	0.000	1.449	0.418	0.418	0.422	0.100	1,561,278,413
AL SHARGIA INV.	290,422	29,218	17	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.000	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	9,090,000
COBREDO	5,946	2,625	3	0.406	0.406	0.406	0.406	0.404	0.004	0.990	0.408	0.407	0.410	0.100	265,666,245
NATIONAL GAS	21,680	3,271	6	0.151	0.151	0.150	0.151	0.150	0.001	0.667	0.150	0.150	0.152	0.100	12,835,000
OMAN FLOUR MILLS	19,975	14,053	5	0.732	0.732	0.700	0.704	0.700	0.004	0.571	0.704	0.700	0.732	0.100	110,880,000
AL ANWAR CERAMIC	19,817	61,770	9	0.479	0.479	0.468	0.470	0.468	0.002	0.427	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.100	103,400,000
OMAN UNITED INSUR.	2,000	772	1	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.000	0.000	0.386	0.380	0.386	0.100	38,600,000
OMINVEST	4,003	1,273	2	0.316	0.318	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.318	0.312	0.318	0.100	255,254,056
OMAN CARLES INDSTR	204,000	204,000	19	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.010	1.100	0.100	89,700,000
OMAN CEMENT	103,678	25,776	12	0.248	0.250	0.245	0.249	0.249	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.248	0.100	82,387,205
OMAN INVEST FIN.	29,621	84,694	32	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.001	0.852	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	24,648,000
VISION INSURANCE	28,800	2,102	3	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.070	0.075	0.100	730,000
RAYSUT CEMENT	34,000	10,050	5	0.297	0.297	0.295	0.296	0.297	0.001	0.337	0.296	0.290	0.297	0.100	59,200,000
AL MAHA MARKTING	21,998	15,526	8	0.708	0.708	0.700	0.704	0.716	0.012	1.678	0.700	0.680	0.708	0.100	48,576,000
ALJAZEERA SERVICES	241,150	104,194	15	0.436	0.440	0.430	0.432	0.440	0.008	1.818	0.434	0.430	0.440	0.100	26,440,246
RENAISSANCE SER.	70,213	29,501	11	0.422	0.422	0.418	0.420	0.428	0.008	1.889	0.420	0.416	0.420	0.100	99,292,200
OMAN TELECOM	40,165	314,260	63	0.788	0.788	0.772	0.784	0.800	0.016	2.000	0.784	0.776	0.800	0.100	588,000,000
SOHAR INT BANK	44,280	4,256	2	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.002	2.041	0.096	0.095	0.101	0.100	233,712,947
AL OMANIYA FIN.	99,500	12,676	5	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.130	0.130	0.003	2.308	0.127	0.120	0.127	0.100	37,075,767
ALANWAR INVESTMENT	4,241,176	427,203	174	0.100	0.104	0.100	0.101	0.105	0.004	3.810	0.101	0.101	0.102	0.100	20,200,000
AHLI BANK	17,216	1,895	3	0.115	0.115	0.110	0.110	0.115	0.005	4.348	0.110	0.110	0.118	0.100	214,462,321
Total	24	9,990,413	2,418,479	544											

Parallel Market

OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	2,439,305	193,158	121	0.075	0.080	0.075	0.079	0.073	0.006	8.219	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	16,035,929
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	2,579,972	168,352	90	0.062	0.067	0.062	0.065	0.061	0.004	6.557	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	7,921,875
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	45,345	37,183	10	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.780	0.040	5.128	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.100	50,245,500
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	38,868	2,080	8	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.052	0.002	3.846	0.054	0.052	0.054	0.100	36,443,921
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	30,000	2,172	5	0.108	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.105	0.004	3.810	0.109	0.103	0.109	0.100	218,034,094
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK	30,400	25,821	3	0.844	0.852	0.844	0.848	0.832	0.016	1.923	0.852	0.832	0.852	0.100	80,560,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	91,800	5,048	6	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.001	1.852	0.055	0.053	0.055	0.100	39,292,349
OM0000002948	NATIONAL FINANCE	20,000	2,240	2	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.100	0.112	0.100	46,617,811
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	10,000	1,220	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.002	1.667	0.122	0.122	0.126	0.100	365,554,875
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	602,500	82,562	51	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.002	1.490	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.100	13,500,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	146,793	13,692	18	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.094	0.092	0.095	0.100	12,090,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	1,437,245	140,744	19	0.096	0.100	0.096	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.100	0.100	0.104	0.100	5,800,000
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	100	20	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	11,400,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	3,750	311	3	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.079	0.083	0.100	10,751,900
OM0000001967	MAJAN COLLAGE	37,920	5,098	1	0.108	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.108	0.004	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	272,113,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	6,000	115	1	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.021	0.023	0.100	4,557,330
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,407,387	178,942	69	0.083	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	18,904,654
OM0000002580	OMAN EDU TRAINING	22,250	4,891	2	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.214	0.220	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000003083	AL KAMEL POWER	5,000	1,175	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.249	0.249	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.000	0.270	0.100	23,966,250
OM0000003325	GLOBAL INV. H.	79,298	4,520	5	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.060	0.100	11,400,000
OM0000003265	NAT. DETEGENT	559	353	1	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.000	0.000	0.632	0.000	0.632	0.100	10,751,900
OM0000002281	TANGER FINANCE	125,000	9,623	8	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	272,113,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,470	68	2	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.046	0.047	0.100	10,387,470
OM0000004420	BANK NIZAM	192,303	18,470	19	0.096	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000003083	AL KAMEL POWER	5,000	1,175	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.249	0.249	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.000	0.270	0.100	23,966,250
OM0000003325	GLOBAL INV. H.	79,298	4,520	5	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.060	0.100	11,400,000
OM0000004735	SEMECORP SALALAH	30,300	2,485	5	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.080	0.084	0.100	78,274,900
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	150	105	1	0.165	0.165	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.100	10,387,470
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,000	290	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.300	0.100	22,243,240
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	115,600	10,916	10	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	283,600	27,584	19	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.097	0.096	0.101	0.100	16,975,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	19,150	1,763	4	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.092	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.093	0.092	0.095	0.100	7,438,200
OM0000002026	GULF INT. CHEM.	50,000	7,710	7	0.145	0.145	0.140	0.140	0.142	0.002	1.408	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	2,940,000
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS	174,300	69,720	18	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.408	0.008	1.961	0.400	0.390	0.400	0.100	106,000,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	25,414	1,012	1	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.048	0.046	0.049	0.100	70,204,570
Total		34	12,054,589	1,021,586	525											

GOVERNMENT DATA

India's retail inflation in May up at 6.3% due to higher food, fuel prices

NEW DELHI: India's retail inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI) rose to 6.3 per cent in May due to escalating food and fuel prices, government data showed. It was 4.23 per cent in April. Food inflation jumped to 5.01

per cent in May as compared to 1.96 per cent in the previous month. Inflation in fuel and light category was elevated at 11.58 per cent during the month, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The price data is collected from 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states and union territories. Data showed that wholesale price-based inflation accelerated to a record high of 12.94 per cent in May. — **ANI**

ECONOMIC INSIGHT REPORT

Relaxation of restrictions triggers strong rebound in regional economies

Times

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Please E-mail your CV urgently to: hr2021mct@gmail.com

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• **Procurement & Marketing** - Looking for a candidate having minimum 10 years of Oman Experience in Procurement & Marketing of Building Materials, Hardware, and Mechanical & Industrial Tools etc. Oman driving license is a must.

Send CV to email: sandeepsomani@hotmail.com

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Candidate having 4-5 years experience in FMCG field can send their CV to:

foods@manappat.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED ACCOUNTANT

8 to 10yrs Exp in Handling Accounts upto Finalisation Independently. Age below 40yrs. NOC required.

Send your CV to: accts1021@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

Looking For Office Staff.
Contact 24709144
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CATERING

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

DOMESTIC HELP

Urgently need an experienced Cook/Maid fluent in English or Hindi language and having experience of Indian cooking is a must. Contact 24967490 or 99662120

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We're Hiring **Sales & Operations Executive** Bachelors Degree or diploma in mechanical field minimum 5 years GCC Exp in Oil & Gas sector with D/L of Oman send your resumes to operations@rawabibainuna.com

HOSPITALITY

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently required 20 Helpers, Contact us at 99888287 / 93578969 Email imamuddin@anwaarrafajid.com

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• Minimum 3 years work experience in same field.

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JOB VACANCIES

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Urgently required **Arab speaking gynecologist, family physicians, dentists/ lab technicians (general & molicular), nurses, pharmacists and microbiologist (doctor)** with experience in molicular microbiology, candidates with MOH license are preferred. Email: hshalalah2021@gmail.com. Whatsapp no: +968 95933456

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SHAKIRA JOSEPH BUDOSHI has lost Tanzanian passport TAE330373. Finder please handover to ROP.

JOB WANTED

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Sr Accountant, CMA US (Part 1), MBA, 18 yrs exp & SAP. Seeks suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 92539813

Indian male with more than 20 years of experience in Accounts & Finance in Oman. Looking for a suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 99073833 Email: sindhuanruth@gmail.com

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

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

Finance & Accounts person, looking for Manager/Asst. Manager position. 18 Years' experience in accounts,last 12 years in Oman. Knowledge of MIS Reporting, finance & accounts up to finalization. Experience in trading, logistics & construction industries. Contact 98042943. Email: cb3415@gmail.com

Indian Female PGDM (Finance & Marketing, worked as Associate with KPMG India, currently in Oman looking for a suitable opening. Contact 79629993

Looking for Senior accountant position. Having license. Contact 79202007

Indian Male, BCom, MBA Finance, 46 years with 20+ years experience in Finance Dept, working in Oman for the last 11 years looking for suitable positions. NOC Available. Can Join immediately. Contact 79892262, Email: radakalyan@gmail.com

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

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sudhakaran Korvangat Kesavan Nair** (holder of Indian Passport No. Z2206874) son of Korvangat Krishnan Nair Kesavan Nair having permanent residence in Koravangatt House, Anandapuram, Kerala and presently residing in P.Box No. 33, Postal Code 117, Sultanate of Oman intend to change my name from **Sudhakaran Korvangat Kesavan Nair** to **Sudhakaran Menon** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may be please communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box No. 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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HSE adviser iosh certified with 4 years experience. Contact 94070019. Email: mubashirosmann89@gmail.com

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FEATURES

ENGINEERING and technology company Bosch adds a star to its firmament next week with the opening of a new semiconductor plant just north of Dresden, in the German state of Saxony.

The firm has pumped about €1 billion (\$1.2 billion) into its new site, marking the biggest single investment in its 130-year history.

Construction work kicked off in the summer of 2018 on an area as big as 14 football fields. As early as last November, some basic parts of the technology already in place completed an automated manufacturing cycle for the first time.

“Our semiconductor facility in Dresden is Bosch’s first AIoT factory, combining artificial intelligence (AI) with the Internet of Things (IoT),” Bosch spokesperson Annett Fischer told DW. “We can thus rely on a continuous data-based improvement of production, setting new Industry 4.0 standards.”

When the semiconductor fabrication plant (commonly called a fab, sometimes foundry) reaches its full capacity before the end of 2021, it’s expected to provide jobs for up to 700 people who will control and monitor production as well as maintain the machinery. Until then, several microchip and integrated circuit prototypes need to be subjected to further extensive testing before they can be delivered to customers.

“All the machines — approximately 100 — and installations in the clean room are connected electronically and are hooked up to the whole infrastructure via a data centre,” Annett Fischer explained. “For that, some 300 kilometres (186 miles) of data lines had to be laid.”

The silicon chips from Bosch are tiny, but

BOSCH

IS THE NEW STAR IN
SILICON SAXONY
MICROCHIP CLUSTER

Chipmakers in Dresden, Germany, are reacting to soaring demand for semiconductors by expanding their production facilities in what’s come to be called Silicon Saxony. Bosch is the latest to join the frenzy on the ground.

The Dresden microelectronics cluster is something of an outlier in Europe, with the only significant competitor being the larger Grenoble area in France with a similar density of chipmakers, engineering companies and research institutions.

On the right track?

There’s been much talk lately of the European Union wanting to become less dependent on North American and Asian microchip deliveries, and Brussels is willing to shell out billions to get the job done by co-funding more European production plants. Jan-Peter Kleinbans, project director Technology and Geopolitics at the think tank Stiftung Neue Verantwortung (SNV) in Berlin told DW that policymakers in the EU believe building more fabs here would once and for all avoid future supply strains and make the bloc a lot less dependent on chips from abroad.

“But this doesn’t work out as even TSMC in Taiwan (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company) cannot produce any chips completely on its own,” he said. “The firm depends on a huge network of suppliers and needs production equipment from the US, Japan and the Netherlands, chemicals from South Korea and Japan as well as silicon from abroad — so it would be naive to believe that we could be truly independent just because we have the fabs.”

Kleinbans added that he did not at all intend to play down the importance of the most recent investments in Silicon Saxony and Bosch’s new plant in particular, emphasising that “Bosch can rightly say it’s now got a state-of-the-art fab for power electronics in Dresden for the automotive portfolio it’s been specialising in.”

He warned, though, that in other chip sectors that are also important for the EU economy, European producers were ill-positioned and had fallen behind in terms of manufacturing processes and chip design.

“We cannot hold a candle to the US and other competitors when it comes to processors for smartphones, laptops or cloud datacentres — almost none of those come from European players,” Kleinbans noted. —*ww*

they contain very complex circuits that can enable several millions of individual electronic functions. The company’s focus is on the production of automotive chips, with the car industry in Europe having experienced a dire shortage of such semiconductors as the coronavirus pandemic keeps disrupting global supply chains.

Silicon Saxony on the march

Bosch’s new plant will add to the larger Dresden area’s reputation as one of Europe’s most significant microelectronics hubs. It has come to be called Silicon Saxony in a nod to its much bigger brother, Silicon Valley, in the US.

Silicon Saxony is also the name of an industry association on the ground. Its managing director, Frank Bösenberg, told the DPA news agency earlier this month that the Dresden semiconductor chip technology cluster had “seen continuous growth since 2009,” mentioning some 2,300 companies with roughly 60,000 employees active in the industry in Saxony and generating revenues of some €16.5 billion last year.

Several big players already on the ground are currently planning to invest a lot more to boost production in response to the rising demand for chips.

US chipmaker Globalfoundries, which absorbed the former AMD Saxony in Dresden, has said it’s willing to spend €400 million on expanding its clean rooms. The firm boasts an output of 400,000 wafers a year right now and hopes to double this soon.

Further investments of €1.1 billion in its Dresden facilities over the next five years have been announced by Infineon, a Munich-based listed DAX company and another world leader in microelectronics.

In addition, Silicon Saxony executives hope semiconductor giant Intel may also join the Dresden cluster as the company is currently on the lookout for a suitable European location to invest billions of dollars.

“We are among Europe’s largest semiconductor-producing locations,” Silicon Saxony chief Frank Bösenberg told German public broadcaster MDR. “This concentration of similar industry players should give us a competitive edge.”

ROUND-UP



Fuso launches free AC, vehicle check campaign

The complimentary AC check-up together with the 15-point vehicle check will include complete diagnostics of the vehicles AC systems as well as a general health check of the vehicle

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Fuso in Oman, has launched a free air-conditioning check-up campaign for all Fuso vehicle owners in Oman. In addition to a free AC check-up, GAC will be providing all customers with a 15-point vehicle check-up, together with sizable discounts on parts and labour. The service campaign is currently underway and will continue until June 30. Commenting on the importance

of regular AC and vehicle checks, Zuwaina Al Azri, the Communications Manager of General Automotive Company said, “The hot summer months are already upon us with temperatures already beginning to soar. Such conditions can take a tremendous toll on the complex AC and mechanical systems in our vehicles. Therefore, regular inspections and careful maintenance are vital towards not just the vehicle’s performance but also the longevity of its various parts. With our free AC and vehicle check campaign, we can help our customers detect any problems as soon as possible, completely free of charge, while the discount on offer makes fixing them all the more affordable.” The complimentary AC check-up together with the 15-point vehicle check will include complete diagnostics of the vehicles AC systems as well as a general health check of the vehicle. A report produced thereafter will suggest any remedial measures if required. GAC will also offer discounts of up to 45 per cent on parts and 20 per cent on labour for all related jobs during the campaign. This discount will be valid for a month from the time of the check-up being carried out. “We invite all Fuso owners to get their vehicles checked during the campaign period. Doing so will help avoid any serious issues and more expensive fixes later in the summer. All customers can pre-book their service by phone or by visiting their local Fuso service centre,” added Zuwaina Al Azri.

LUCKY CUSTOMERS

BankDhofar conducts first ‘Double Your Salary’ scheme draw

MUSCAT: BankDhofar had recently conducted the first draw of the Double Your Salary Scheme. The draw included all customers who had transferred their salary into their savings account or current account from March 1, 2021, where 20 lucky customers got the chance to double their salaries to up to OMR 2,000. Commenting on the draw, Dr Tariq Taha, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BankDhofar said, “We are pleased to conduct the first draw of our “Double Your Salary” scheme. Launched earlier this year, the scheme aimed to provide our salary transfer customers with chances to double their salaries to up to OMR 2,000. I would like to congratulate the winners, and we are looking forward to seeing more winners within this scheme.” As part of ‘Double Your Salary’ scheme, BankDhofar will conduct monthly draws where 20 salary-transfer customers will get the chance to double their salaries. For instance, if a customer transfers a salary of OMR 500 and he wins the draw, he will get back an additional OMR 500 from the bank. Another customer who has transferred a salary of OMR 1,000, will win back an additional OMR 1,000 from the bank and so on. The minimum salary to be transferred must be OMR 250 and the maximum prize a customer can win is capped at a maximum of OMR 2000. The scheme is open to all customers, Omanis and expatriates who working in government entities or the private sector, transferring their salary from



March 2021 onwards. In addition to the “Double Your Salary” Scheme, the bank offers guaranteed prizes for every branch, bigger prizes, and more winners with the Saving Account Scheme 2021. With a total of more than OMR 2,000,000, BankDhofar will conduct Monthly Guaranteed Prizes for all branches, segments draw including, Children prize draws, Youth prize draws and Amaan Retirees Banking Services’ prize draws. Additionally, the Bank will conduct prize draws on special occasions including, Omani Woman’s Day Prizes draw, and National Day Prizes draw. As for Al Riadah Priority Banking Services’ customers, the scheme will offer exclusive Al Riadah Prestige monthly prizes, a mid-year grand prize and year-end grand prizes.

SPORTING NATION



Bank Muscat inaugurates 3 new Green Sports fields

MUSCAT: In line with the bank’s commitment to community development and promoting Oman as a sporting nation, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, continues to complete new Green Sports Fields across the Sultanate. Salim Al Shidi, Regional Manager - South Al Sharqiyah, Bank Muscat, handed over project completion certificates to 3 teams in North and South Al Sharqiyah. The opening of the Saih Al Snadah team in the Wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali of South Al Sharqiyah was attended by Yahya Saeed Al Sunaidi, the team manager. The bank also inaugurated the Al Waha Team’s sports field in the Wilayat of Wadi Bani Khalid in North Al Sharqiyah, which was attended by Yousuf Salim Al Saadi the team manager. The third team to get a new Green Sports Field was Al Qadisiya (Samad Al Shan) Team, who was represented by the Team Manager Mahmood Salim Al Haimli. The handover events were done after taking all precautions and in full compliance with COVID-19 social distancing norms. On this occasion, Salim Al Shidi, Regional Manager - South Al Sharqiyah, congratulated all

the teams and their members for this achievement. He added that new sports fields add to the green spaces across the country and are also used by local communities for a number of activities apart from sports. He pointed out how these new facilities are greatly helping improve community bonding and the harnessing of the talents of Omani youth across the country. The scope of support under the Green Sports programme includes installation of artificial turf or natural grass on sports fields, floodlighting and water-desalination systems. There is no doubt that it has been greatly contributing to further build Omani sporting talent by creating a pipeline of talented players who can represent the country at all levels in the future. Bank Muscat’s longest-running CSR programme will continue to support and serve the community as it implements the bank’s vision of “serving you better, every day”. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of its launch and to strengthen its commitment to Omani youth, Bank Muscat increased the number of annual beneficiaries to 20 teams from this year onwards, up from 15 per year.

VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

ahlibank upgrades its premium services with launch of Al Nukhba Banking

MUSCAT: ahlibank launched on Monday Al Nukhba Banking, a re-brand of its Premium Banking segment, in a bid to deliver more value-added services to its premium customers and clients. The exclusive brand brings with it enhanced, more personalised services and customised products for the premium segment. It also aims to provide a more personal and convenient banking experience, ensuring that it satisfies the evolving needs and lifestyles of its customers. “At ahlibank, we recognise that premium customers need special solutions to manage their accounts. In this context, we work as partners for our customers by offering distinctive and innovative offers that live up to their expectations. We are also aware of the growing need for smart solutions that keep pace with today’s premium lifestyles and evolved choices, so we are constantly adopting the latest technologies and strategies to help meet these requirements. This helps us to constantly understand customers’ feedback and work towards addressing it, which cements our position as one of the



most preferred banks in Oman,” Suhaila Al Busaidi, Head of Premium Banking, ahlibank, said. Muneer Al Balushi, AGM, Head of Retail Distribution, says, “We are delighted to introduce Al Nukhba Banking to our valued premium customers who would like to enjoy its numerous privileges and benefits. This is part of our commitment to truly understand the individual needs of our customers and accordingly enhance our product and service offerings. Our premium category customers are invited to take advantage of a range of financial and non-financial privileges that suit their banking needs and enhance the value of their wealth.” Opening an account means that customers could conduct their banking transactions in dedicated Al Nukhba service centres, free SMS, Internet and mobile banking services, 24-hour call centre support and a dedicated relationship manager available at all times. Customers could also benefit from the free credit and debit

cards, complimentary lounge access to more than 750 international airports for credit card holders, personalized concierge service, free travel insurance, purchase protection and extended warranty, discounts and offers from selected premium merchants, special discounted tariffs on bank charges, preferential pricing on deposits and loans and exclusive Wafra Savings Scheme prizes. Alongside ahlibank’s commitment to continuously offer new products and services or enhance its existing ones is its ongoing initiative to invest in improving its digital capabilities and boosting its traditional products and services to offer better customer experiences. “We have earlier launched the Imtiyaz account, which offers enhanced banking services and a package of specially designed offers that cater to modern lifestyles. We also launched the MyChoice youth account and Istiqar account for retirees. We are focusing on catering to niche segments and ensuring that the services and benefits for each account are highly specialised and customised,” Al Balushi adds.

OFFER ENDING SOON

Kia pays your VAT while you enjoy rewards

MUSCAT: Don’t miss the best chance to own your dream Kia and enjoy exclusive rewards across the range. Also benefit with the advantage of Kia paying your VAT. (Since 5 per cent VAT on net selling price will be borne by Kia Oman). Customers owning a Kia can choose from these two options. 1) Flexible option: With service 3 years/30,000 km and cash gift OMR700 up to OMR4,000. 2) Bundle option: with service 8 years/80,000 km, 1-year comprehensive insurance, registration and cash gift OMR1,150 up to OMR3,300. Also get assured Scratch N Win, cash for fuel from OMR20 to OMR1,000 & 0 per cent interest on Sportage 1.6L & Niro. Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details. The offer ends on June 17. Kia’s range in Oman has remained popular owing to its stylish designs, advanced technology, impressive safety features and more. The stunning K5’s powerful



and angular design language represents another chapter of boldness and passion for the brand. In terms of performance, the K5 makes a fine mark with a 2.5L GDI engine dishing out 191 HP and 25.1 KG.M. Torque. This is paired with an 8-speed Automatic Transmission. Creating an inviting and comfortable interior is a range of features that include Tinted Glass, Tilt & Telescopic Steering, Radio with USB, Audio Remote Control, Driver’s

Seat Height Adjuster, Rear AC Vents, Leather AT Knob, Power Driver Seat, Smart Key with Button Start, Panoramic Sunroof, Auto A/C, 8” Audio Display, Android Auto & Car Play, Driver Seat Memory Seating System, Navigation with 10.25” Display, Mood Lamp, Premium Music System, Red Leather Seats and more. The new Sonet’s impressive features come encapsulated in a modern exterior, making the Sonet the latest addition to Kia’s award-

winning SUV family. Boasting multiple segment-first features that offer the ultimate driving experience for customers, the Sonet provides comfort, convenience, and safety. Fitted with an 8” Audio Display, the Sonet also comes with other smart features such as remote engine start, auto cruise control and more. Under the hood, the Sonet comes with a versatile 1.5-litre, 114 HP, MPI Euro4 engine that is paired to a CVT.

ROUND-UP

Oman Oasis's top priority is to foster talents of Omani employees

The company seeks to empower young Omani talents in various departments through its policy of investing in the field of training and qualifying the national workforce

MUSCAT: Oasis Water Company is considered one of the top brands in the Sultanate, with practical experience in the local and GCC markets for over 25 years.

Today, it is the largest bottled water company in the Sultanate, providing pure drinking water in a range of convenient packages through various retail stores and by home delivery. In addition, Oman Oasis has been lauded with 2 prestigious awards of 'Certificate of Excellence in Manufacturing' by ABWA and has been awarded the Sultan's Cup for Best Factory, twice in a row.

Based on our discussion with several Oasis Water employees, they praised the tangible efforts made by the company in providing the appropriate climate for a healthy work environment. This included everything that contributes to the advancement of employees and their development in the career ladder, such as training and qualification courses or incentives and promotion programmes.

The latter is based on several criteria including hard work, high performance, keenness to go the extra mile, and dedication. This raises the experience that the Omani youth has gained during their work at the Oasis Water Company and is evidence of their ability to perform higher tasks and take on more responsibilities in the private sector. Whenever efforts are united in promoting the Omani workforce, it has a positive impact on the group of young people.

The youth also praised the endeavours of the senior management



within the company and their ambitious strategy to groom Omanis to reach leadership positions within the company not just for the sake of improving Omanisation numbers but more for making the best out of these talents for the future.

Furthermore, they highlighted that through the guidance of the company's management, they were able to overcome the challenges and difficulties that face Omani employees in the private sector. They were able to demonstrate our ability to adapt at work, which enabled us to have a better understanding of our roles in achieving the business objectives while setting the right direction in our career journey. Apart from placing their confidence in the efforts of the management with regard to training and grooming high potential employees in various disciplines, the youth mentioned that the company has been able to achieve its ambitious objectives towards quality Omanisation across various departments.

Saleh bin Sulaiman Al Ameri, Deputy Director-General of Administration and Human Resources at Al Waha Water Company, said, "The company seeks to empower young Omani talents in various departments through its policy of investing in the field of training and qualifying the national workforce. This is part of the company's larger plan to develop their capabilities by upskilling them, providing on-the-job training and enhancing their professional aspects in diverse work environments. The company strives to ensure that they are involved in a variety of job tasks and responsibilities."

He pointed out that the Oasis Water Company is one of the leading companies in the field of Omanisation, as it was able to achieve a high Omanisation rate of 38%. The number of Omani staff is around 392, and the company is currently training and looking to bring in 11 new Omani employees in the sales representative posi-

tions. Through the on-the-job training programme, this comes within the company's continuous efforts in the field of developing and qualifying young Omani candidates in various disciplines. The company is also encouraging and training its Omani employees and qualifying them for future leadership positions. This comes within the company's ongoing framework to support Omani employees and develop their capabilities.

Ali bin Khalfan Al-Hatali, Assistant Director of Administration at the Oasis Water Company, added, "Ever since joining Oman Oasis as a truck driver in 2000, I have been able to move up the career ladder with hard work, diligence, and perseverance and overcome challenges." He pointed out that this is a result of the efforts made by the company's management to develop the skills of the Omani workforce in various disciplines, impacting his qualification and access to his current position.

He explained, "The company

has provided us with many training and qualification opportunities, both within and outside the company, which has contributed greatly to the company's career progression and my access to this position. Also, self-learning and carrying out my duties and responsibilities with determination had a major role in refining my skills. I would like to thank my former colleagues who have experience in the company, for their role in contributing to the development of my scientific, practical skills and communication skills. This includes identifying the nature of work, setting up a particular mechanism of progress by the management and providing opportunities for us to apply the acquired skills, whether at work or other institutions in the government. This has enabled us to become more familiar with all relevant laws and regulations. I advise all Omanis working in the private sector to develop themselves and learn patience, diligence and enjoy the work they do and be keen to learn something new, to further develop their skills."

Salama bint Mubarak Al-Siya-biya, a laboratory technician at the Oasis Water Company, said, "The private sector has a major role in providing several job opportunities for Omani youth in various disciplines. I joined the Oasis Water Company in 2008 as a packaging inspector in the production department. Through hard work, perseverance and sincerity at work, I have progressed up the career ladder and now work in the quality assurance department. Through the company's encouragement and the support of my colleagues, I was able to hone my practical skills."

Moreover, she pointed out that the Oasis Water Company provided them with many internal

and external courses, which contributed to enhancing their work culture. The company also played a major role in enabling her to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

She added, "I encourage the presence of Omanis working in the private sector. And in general, I advise them to strive towards achieving their goals. This is possible through hard work and dedication and seizing every opportunity for self-development, whether through training and development provided by the employer or through their efforts and continuous research. I have encountered several difficulties and challenges, especially during my university studies. But through my will and dedication, and the support of the company's management, I was able to overcome every obstacle."

Badr bin Talib Al-Wardi, Deputy Director of Receiving Raw Materials, said, "I started working with Oman Oasis back in 2004 as a loading and unloading operator. At that time I had not completed my general education, but through the continuous efforts of Oasis Water Company, I was able to build my confidence to learn. This reflected positively in my promotion and the completion of my education, since the company provided me with several training programs and courses in the English language, to help me learn and prepare for the future.

He added, "Since I received the position of Deputy Director of Receiving Raw Materials, I have managed the department and achieved an Omanisation rate of 100%. I have also greatly contributed to training, educating, and qualifying Omani youth to perform their job roles efficiently, supporting them as they have proven their capabilities". He highlighted that a majority of the employees working in the Raw Material Receipt Department are young Omanis who have been able to prove themselves and take up positions held previously by expatriates, achieving positive results during the last period.

He said, "I would like to remind all Omanis, who are working either in the private or government sector, the necessity of continuous learning and not to hesitate to learn more of any profession of no matter what kind. I would not have reached my position without the support and assistance from the company or from my co-workers, who helped me every step of the way."

WIDE RANGE OF JUICES

A'Safwah offers no added sugar juices, laban drinks for refreshing summer

MUSCAT: With the onset of summer and a temperature rise, the demand for refreshing juices and Laban drinks is on the rise. A'Safwah, Oman's oldest integrated dairy company, offers a wide range of natural juices without sugar additives, fresh laban and laban drinks which make for healthy alternates for this season.

A company spokesperson said, "ASafwah team, which includes specialised nutritionists, has worked with dedication to provide drinks that give consumers a sense of freshness in every sip. Loaded with vitamins and minerals, it helps to replenish the body with vital nutrients that we tend to lose due to perspiration on a hot, summer day."

Due to a high percentage of vitamin C, natural orange juice was the first option that A'Safwah decided to put on the market. In addition to its delicious taste, orange juice also helps improve blood circulation and boost immunity. Apple juices have also been a popular choice

amongst consumers. A'Safwah's 100 per cent natural apple juice is naturally sweet and provides a lot of health benefits like promoting heart health, controlling cholesterol levels and helping the body rid itself of toxins.

The spokesperson added, "Good nutrition is the essence of health, which is why A'Safwah is interested in producing various natural, no added sugar juices such as orange juice and apple juice. "We also offer fresh full cream laban, fresh strawberry flavoured laban and laban drinks that includes two types, plain and jeera, thus providing variety to the consumer and making our products the ideal daily choice. With our extensive experience in market and customers' requirements, we will continue to create nutritious, innovative and healthy products."

A'Safwah encourages consumers to drink fresh laban and laban drinks, which are considered as best summer drinks for different age groups because it contains

proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. Some studies have shown that laban helps to relax nerves and cool the body. Additionally, because laban has a lot of water content, it helps to overcome dehydration, tiredness and exhaustion caused by the loss of fluids due to perspiration.

Drinking fresh laban or laban drinks also enhances the body's ability to maintain good levels of calcium that strengthens the bones as well as teeth.

A'Safwah Dairy is proud of its state-of-the-art infrastructure and modern distribution systems. While A'Safwah has seen steady growth through the years and has expanded operations to meet the growing demand for its distinctive and tasty products, it has ensured that it stays committed to its pledge of providing consumers with natural juices, fresh milk and dairy products that are of the highest quality, fresh and 100 per cent local produce.





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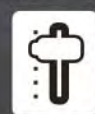


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