



HM THE SULTAN SENDS CABLE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh of Mongolia on the occasion of him being sworn-in as a new president of his country. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of success to President Khurelsukh. His Majesty also wished people of Mongolia further progress and prosperity, and the relations of friendship between the two countries continuous growth. — **ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Call for allowing the vaccinated to travel

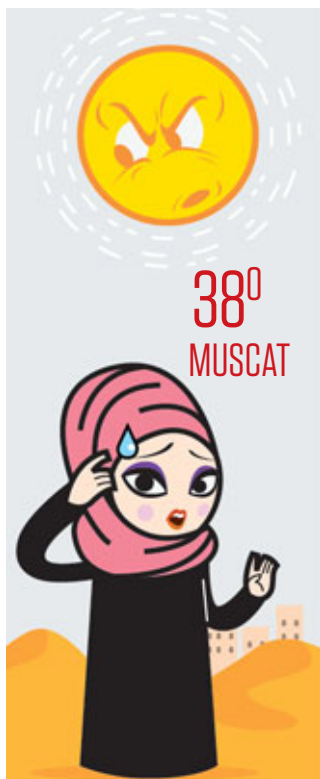
1 People from the South Asian countries hope those who are fully vaccinated will soon be able to board flights. **>A3**

WORLD Merkel rejects new border closures

2 Governments had “learnt their lesson” from the initial response to the COVID crisis, says German Chancellor Angela Merkel. **>A7**

MARKET Pact for Qalhat city restoration signed

3 Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Oman LNG signed a pact to finance Qalhat city restoration. **>B1**



Sayyid Theyazin receives Italian Ambassador

A5

PANDEMIC

COVID-19 death toll in Oman crosses 3,000

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of deaths due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Oman crossed the 3,000 mark on Monday, reaching a grim milestone.

As many as 2,243 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in the Sultanate on Monday, in addition to 46 new COVID-19-related deaths. This

brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 264,302 in the Sultanate.

The total number of COVID-19-related deaths reached 3,013, the Ministry of Health said.

New cases

The Ministry further added that 1,720 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number to 231,718 recoveries.

SHOCKED AND SADDENED

Long-running family feud may be the reason for such an unfortunate incident

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Government authorities, community members and legal experts in Oman have advised people to exercise restraint, particularly in these uncertain times, after a heated argument between two Asian nationals from the same country, resulted in one of them being murdered at the hands of the other.

At 10 am on Thursday, June 24, one of the expatriates, referred to here by his initials, WH, reportedly stabbed his countryman, WN,

with a knife, after the two of them had pulled up next to a shop on Al Fursan Street, which runs parallel to the main road connecting Ruwi and Wadi Kabir.

Social workers claim that both the families of WN and WH had a long-running feud that had its origins in their native land. The latest flare-up of this feud reportedly played a role in WH deciding to attack WN. Immediately after the murder, the video of their fight also went viral on social media. Both the victim and the attacker have businesses in Oman's construction and transportation sector. Their families have been here for at least 10 years.

When contacted an embassy official of the concerned country said, “If there are any issues back home, please do not bring them here. Oman after all ranks very high in global peace indices, and it is up to all of us to respect the local norms and customs. We want to contribute to the good name of this nation as a community.”

“This incident was very unfortunate – it is greatly regretted, and we wish it had not happened,” he added. “Our community here has always sought to create good relations with the locals and other expatriate groups.”

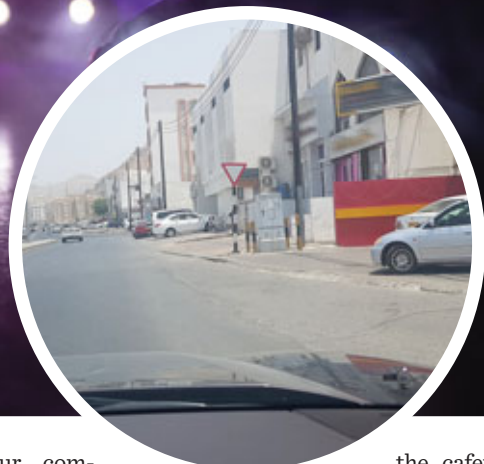
The family of the deceased intends to take his body back home, once the autopsy and other procedures end.

Shopkeepers who live and work on Al Fursan Street provided eyewitness reports on what transpired at the site of the murder.

“I was in the kitchen, working, when I suddenly heard a very loud noise outside,” recalled a cook at the cafeteria outside which the murder took place.

“About 15 minutes later, the police had already finished setting up roadblocks, because they wanted to stop people from approaching and looking at the crime scene. Traffic was stopped from all directions and officers were asking people to go around, instead of using the road on which our shop is located.”

Other shopkeepers were shocked to see such a cold-blooded act take place. **>A2**



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WILD PLANTS PROJECT

The Environment Authority has launched the first phase of a project to collect, scatter and plant seeds of wild plants in Dhofar Governorate, a statement issued on Monday by the Environment Authority said. — Times News Service

GRUESOME MURDER

<FROM A1

Royal Oman Police arrests perpetrator of the attack

With the area cordoned off to passers-by, some of them decided to close for a few hours and went home, before reopening later that afternoon.

A restaurant manager who left work for a few hours to finish up some paperwork for his family said he too was not allowed to enter the road, but was told to approach from the other side instead.

“Our spirits are quite low after seeing such an awful act,” he admitted. “We have been part of this community for a long time, but have never witnessed something of this nature.”

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) have since arrested the perpetrator of the attack, and have asked people who see such crimes take place in future to not intervene directly, but call the authorities to report the matter immediately.

Report to ROP

“Those who are on the scene must report directly to the nearest police station, or call the emergency phone number,” said an ROP official. “Do not directly interfere in such matters, because the perpetrator of the crime may accuse you of murder instead, and you may then be considered an accomplice. The best action is to report this to us.”

Adding to this, Shaima Al Mahrouqi, a lawyer, said that in such situations, no person is expected to intervene in such crimes, because they may not know how to defend themselves if the attackers choose to turn on them instead.

“According to Article 226 of the Omani Penal Code, in terms of the ability to assist the victim of a crime without causing danger to one’s own life, no person can be charged with the crime of refusing to help someone in such a situation,” she said. “In such cases, criminals are usually armed, and they might attack people who choose to intervene, particularly if the latter does not know how to deal with such situations.”

The crime, according to social workers, has shocked the expat community in Oman, many of whom have contributed to the country’s economy and social fabric for several years.

“All of us were very stunned to hear of this,” said a senior member of the community organisation. “Some of us knew about their ongoing feud, but we never expected it to get out of hand in such a manner.”

“Oman has been very good to all of us...it is a peaceful country that has provided many of us job opportunities and the chance to give

our families a good standard of living,” he said. “A heinous act like this will only spoil the reputation of our community, so please let us not react in such a violent manner. We all know the consequences of such actions.”

The situation has shocked people in other parts of Oman as well, according to Aziz Al Hasani, the Majlis Al Shura member for Wilayat Boushar in Muscat. He called for more awareness programmes organised by embassies of countries that have significant numbers of their nationals in Oman, so that they understand the laws and customs of the country.

“Even if the attacker and the victim were of the same nationality, this situation has indeed caused plenty of shock among everyone in the country,” he said.

“We are renowned as a safe country, one that follows laws. The law of the jungle is not applicable here. I would suggest there be some coordination between the embassies, the Foreign Ministry, and the police to create programmes to inform expatriates of the country’s laws, and our society and culture, which must be respected by all who live here. I would also like to suggest a wider police presence and police patrols, so that people feel safe.”

SELF-REHABILITATION FOR COVID-19 RELATED ILLNESS

The COVID-19 virus is one of the coronaviruses that infects the respiratory system and causes diseases ranging from common cold to acute respiratory syndrome.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Fever > 37.5 degree Celsius
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Running nose
- Diarrhoea (loose motion)
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Body ache
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of smell and taste

The patient does not necessarily have all of the above symptoms



How COVID-19 affects the lungs :

Coronavirus causes inflammation within the lungs resulting in fibrosis (during the positive stage of COVID-19 and it might extend even post de-isolation). This fibrosis makes it difficult for oxygen to move easily from the lungs into the blood.

Managing difficulty in breathing:

It is common to feel difficulty in breathing while suffering from COVID-19 .

- Feeling difficulty in breathing can make you feel anxious which can make it worse. Try to stay calm and manage your difficulty in breathing with the positions and techniques shown in the pictures.
- Your difficulty in breathing should improve as you slowly increase your activities.

The following are some of the positions to relieve difficulty in breathing:



If difficulty in breathing is not easing, please go to health centre as it might be an indicator that you need oxygen support.

While lying down, most of the lung segments are on the posterior aspect hence studies have shown that by lying on your stomach it improves oxygenation.

Try: To sleep on your stomach for 10 mins and slowly progress on it such that you can at least sleep 2-3 hours on your stomach.

- If you cannot lie on your stomach, you can sleep on your side and turn over a pillow .
- It is better to change your position frequently to prevent any complications.

The following images show the positions that help better oxygen exchange in the lungs:



Breathing exercises:

These exercises are good for patients who can control their breath.

Apical breathing :

- Sit in a comfortable chair with back supported
- Breath in through your nose or your mouth in such a way that your chest moves out while breathing in and place your hands on the upper chest to feel the movement of the chest.
- Purse your lips while breathing out. Try to use as little effort as possible and make your breath slow and relaxed



Diaphragmatic breathing exercise:

The diaphragm is the main muscle of respiration so the diaphragmatic breathing should be encouraged for COVID-19 patients to avoid exhaustion of accessory muscles of respiration.

- To do this exercise lie down on a supported surface bend both your knees.
- Breath in through your nose/ mouth such that the upper part of the abdomen swells out.
- Then purse your lips while breathing out and notice your upper part of the abdomen returns back to normal.



Being affected by COVID-19 might cause general body ache, so keep good fitness through unspecific exercises just to move your limbs as much as you can to improve your blood circulation and muscle power

1. General upper limb exercises:



2. General lower limb exercises:



3. Walking:

If walking is difficult, try to walk with a walker or with help. Start with 2-3 steps initially and slowly increase the number of steps and the distance as well.

How to know whether you are exercising at the right level :

- Try speaking a whole sentence of 5 words without stopping if you are not feeling difficulty in breathing then you can exercise harder.
- If you can not speak at all or can only say a word at a time and are severely breathless then you are exercising too hard .
- If you can speak a sentence pausing once or twice and the exercise should be only moderately hard for you.
- If you do feel too breathless then you should stop to rest until your breathing feels more controlled.
- Hard core strengthening exercise training should not be started before six weeks after discharge.

When to stop exercising?

If you have fever, if you are feeling dizziness or light headedness. If you feel severe short of breath without any activity. If you feel palpitations. If you experience sudden pain in the chest or chest tightness.

Points to remember:

- While exercising it is better to have your saturation probe on your finger so that your O2 saturation is always above 94%. The saturation should not drop more than 3 units from what it was at rest.
- If your oxygen level does not improve, you should go to the nearest health institution.
- It is normal to feel difficulty in breathing when you exercise, gradually building your fitness can help you become less breathless.

Source: Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Primary Health Care, Department of Health Education and Awareness Programs, Royal Hospital

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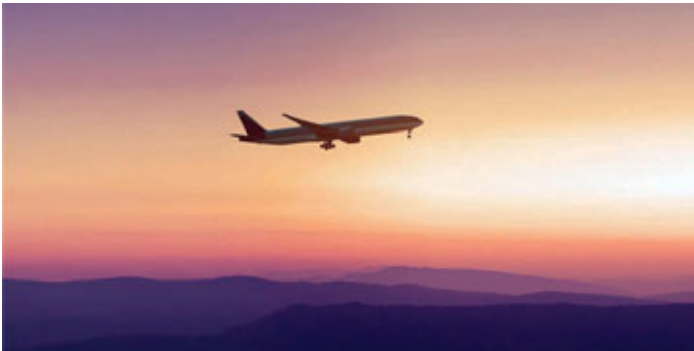
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Calls to permit fully vaccinated expats’ return

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oman has banned the entry of passengers flying from 15 countries, including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People from the South Asian countries who are unable to come back to Oman because of ongoing entry bans hope those who are fully vaccinated will soon be able to board flights to Muscat. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oman has banned the entry of passengers flying from 15 countries, including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. With many nationals from these countries employed in Oman, however, they are hopeful of returning soon, particularly after being fully vaccinated. “Kindly resume flight services between Oman, at least for vaccinated people and residents,” said Indian citizen Deepshikha, taking to Twitter to voice her concerns. Sayyed Asif Hussain also had a similar request, “Please at least announce flights from India to Oman that will resume on any one date. We are waiting to return



and join work.” Bansari Mehta, another Indian, said, “When will Oman flights resume? We are waiting to visit Oman as my husband lives there.” A similar sentiment was echoed by Pakistani expatriate Ejaz Khan, who requested his ambassador to Oman to take efforts to allow people to once again board flights. “Myself and many Pakistanis are stuck in Pakistan due to COVID-19 restrictions by Oman and a ban on flights,” he said. “Many in Pakistan have been vaccinated and case rates have decreased.” Indian expat, Priyanka, also hoped special flights for people wishing to return would be announced soon. “I would like to know the requirements and further processes, and whether it is possible to apply for such a flight,” she said. Surendra Naidu also needs to fly back to Oman soon: although he had previously booked a flight ticket to return to the country, it has since been postponed to 30 October, which is after his visa expires. “I need to come back before 15 October, as my visa is only valid for three months,” he said. In response to requests from

people enquiring about passengers being able to board Oman bound flights once again, Air India has asked people to keep an eye out for regular updates issued by the airline. “We will update you as soon as we get information regarding flights for Oman,” said India’s national carrier, responding to queries from those who wish to travel. “Keep a watch on our Twitter handle and visit our website for the latest updates.” With passengers from the Philippines also banned from entering Oman, many Filipinos have also taken to online platforms to request a lifting of this measure. “My flight has been cancelled until further notice – this is the third time this has happened,” said Raf Antonis, who was scheduled to fly on July 1. At present, passengers flying from 15 countries: Sudan, Brazil, Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, the UK, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam are banned from entering Oman. Exceptions are made for Omani nationals, healthcare workers, diplomats, and their families.

Free webinar in Oman to help people turn ideas into action

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A webinar being organised on Wednesday, June 30, will help people turn their ideas that have limitless potential into actions will help them succeed. Featuring David J Harkin, the founder of the 8billionideas organisation, the webinar will be run by Knowledge Oman, and has been specifically set up to make society aware of what it takes to turn ideas into action. The event, titled ‘Turning ideas into action’, will be broadcast virtually over Knowledge Oman webinar platforms free for all job seekers, fresh graduates and entrepreneurs to attend. “Many people have ideas but turning them into action is a challenge,” said Balqees Al Hassani, President, Knowledge Oman. “We are pleased to bring and host David Harkin as an international speaker with proven experience of turning ideas into action. Our aim with this free webinar is to equip the participants with the necessary skills and insights needed for their ideas to grow.” David J Harkin is an international and renowned TEDx speaker, established entrepreneur and an author who dedicates his life to connecting people with their own ideas.



David J Harkin, the founder of the 8 billion ideas organisation

The event, titled ‘Turning ideas into action’, will be broadcast virtually over Knowledge Oman webinar platforms free for all job seekers, fresh graduates and entrepreneurs to attend

As the founder and CEO of the ideas company 8billionideas, David will explore how ideas can take off and share strategies that individuals and businesses can follow to succeed in personal and professional lives. David J Harkin inspires organisations in adopting a mindset of relentless innovation and intrapreneurship through a people centric bottoms-up approach for radical in-house innovation and growth. The webinar will be moderated and coordinated by Nabila Al Barwani, an Omani public speaking educator, who is passionate about helping people share their thoughts and making their voices their ultimate superpower. Knowledge Oman will broadcast the event on its social media platforms on June 30, 2021 for all the registered members. Registration details are available at www.knowledgeoman.com/register



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Looking inwards – how will it lead you to your career?

In the previous article, I touched upon career development as a journey that starts by understanding yourself. Based on this awareness, you would begin to gather information, analyse the collected data, and make an informed decision. The subsequent stages would involve implementing the choice, followed by a continual evaluation of where you are and where you want to go next.

Today, let's have an in-depth look at the first stage: Understanding yourself.

Young students are often stuck at this stage when it comes to mapping out their career. Questions that plague the self at this point may be — What do I want to study and what will I like? What kind of job will I thrive at? What do I want in my career? The answer to these is a blend of your career interests, skills and personality.

What career will I enjoy? This question points toward your interests. So, make a list of all the hobbies, activities or fields that give you joy or that you want to explore further. Think of the activities where you are in a state of 'flow' – where you are completely engaged and immersed and time flies for you. You can also consider taking career interests tests like The O*NET Interest Profiler or Holland Code Quiz or Motivational Appraisal Personal Potential (MAPP) assessment to get started.

Self-assessment starts with self-awareness and it is not a quick process that can be completed overnight.





Begin with a central circle with a title like My Future or My Career or Life Plan; this is your starting point. Add outward branches to this core with topics like your Aspirations, Achievements, Qualities, Dreams, Strengths and Areas for improvement, and under each branch, add sub-topics and keep branching out. You can use different fonts, colours, symbols and images for differentiation. As you keep doing this exercise, your mind will be less cluttered with information, and the map will also help you recognise new connections between your thoughts.

Now it is important to note is that self-assessment starts with self-awareness and it is not a quick process that can be completed overnight. It takes time, effort and patience to introspect and grow. Hence, it is recommended that students begin this process in junior high school so that they can gradually identify and build on their interests, skills and values through academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Discovering yourself is the first step in finding the right career for you!

Dr Baby Sam Saamuel is the Vice-Chairman, Knowledge Oman and is Ex-Chairman, Indian Schools in Oman. You can contact him at mail@babysam.biz for queries or suggestions.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN MASIRAH ISLAND



MASIRAH ISLAND enjoys a unique strategic location at the Arabian Sea, which significantly contributed to trade activity and navigation in ancient times.

Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al Ghailani, a researcher in history said in his book *The old history of Masirah Island* that the inhabitants of Masirah Island have for long associated their lives with the sea and have made appreciable contributions in trade and sea navigation. They have contributed to ship / boat building and exported the same to the neighbouring areas including Yemen. He added that human skeletons



dated back to 4790-3826 BC were the oldest found in Oman and the Arabian Peninsula. There are over 127 archaeological sites in Masirah with items dated back to the bronze age, iron age and Islamic period," he said.

Dr. Al Ghailani said that Masirah is known for four types of sea turtles and rare plants called *Stripagrastis Masirahensis* along with the presence of mountain gazelle known as *Gazella Cora* and seashell known as *Cardium Pseudolima* that are only found in Masirah.

Masirah has been mentioned in a book on the tour around the Sea of Eretria during the first century AD and was famous for trading in shields made from turtles' shells. The skilled people there were also famous for making boats which they used for sailing from Masirah to Sur and North Oman to

the ports of Yemen. There were 15 boats as at the beginning of the 20th century.

He said that the main archaeological sites discovered in Masirah Island included the graveyards of Safrat Al Hadhri, Wadi Madhi, Wadi Khasit, Wadi Maghar and Wadi Maghla among others.

He also added that the things found at the Island included small pots and pottery items, stones, rings made of shell and gemstones, human bones, bones of turtles and birds and spear heads made of metal among others. -GNA





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BILATERAL RELATIONS



Sayyid Theyazin receives Ambassador of Italy

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth received in his office on Monday Federica Favi, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate.

The meeting on Monday reviewed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, as well as several topics of common interest.

It also touched on aspects of the existing cooperation in the cultural, sports and youth fields and means of developing them to serve interest of the two sides.

— ONA

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meet focuses on digital economy

MUSCAT: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology held a virtual meeting on Monday with Eng. Abdullah Amer Al Sawahah, Minister of Communications and Information Technology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The meeting discussed means of enhancing the joint cooperation in the areas of digital economy, besides reviewing several matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by Dr Ali Amer Al Shidhani, the ministry's Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology and some officials from the ministry.

— ONA



FIAP

Ministry to organise youth photo contest



CONTEST: The competition comes in preparation for the 40th International Biennial Contest of Photography, scheduled to be organised in Belgium this year.

— ONA

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth will organise the youth photography competition 2021 for 16-21 age category. The competition comes in preparation for the 40th International Biennial Contest of Photography, scheduled to be organised by the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) in Belgium this year.

The Ministry invited the targeted segment to participate in the competition, which aims to encourage young photographers and sharpen their art skills in Omani photography to qualify them for international participation in youth competitions around the world.

— ONA



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Tender Announcement

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel invites sealed bids for the below.

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2. kids Splash area Enhancement Work	19th July 2021	20 OMR
3. The Pavilion and Blu shades	19th July 2021	20 OMR

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Note: Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is not obliged to accept the tenders with least prices or any other tenders.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Honorable Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Dhofar Fisheries and Food Industries Company SAOG (DFICO), I have pleasure in updating you on the progress made by the company during the first quarter ended 31st March 2021

DFICO has achieved a total turnover of RO 3,576,296/- during the first quarter ended as on 31st March 2021 compared to RO 2,977,838/- achieved during the same period of the last year.

Cash profit during the first quarter ended as on 31st March 2021 is RO 208,407/-, compared to the cash profit of RO 213,850/- during the same period of last year.

The net loss during the first quarter of 2021 is RO 143,544/- as compared to the net loss of RO 540,578/- during the same period of last year.

I take this opportunity to thank the DFICO team and my fellow directors for their continued support and cooperation. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the various concerned bodies for the corporation and support given by them for the company.

May God help us all to serve beloved Country under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur and may God's bestowed on him in abundance and protect him.

Chairman
29th April 2021.

The Complete accounts, either in Arabic or in English as requested, will be sent by mail within 7 days of request to any Shareholder who requests the Company at Company's address at
P.O. Box 2438,
P.C. 211, Salalah , Sultanate of Oman.

Un Audited Balance Sheet as at 31st Mar 2021

	Mar-21 RO'000	Mar-20 RO'000
Fixed Assets	8,348	7,139
Current Assets		
Inventories	4,004	5,134
Trade Receivables	1,126	1,766
Receivable from Related Parties	-	-
Investments Available for Sale	4	7
Bank and Cash	708	193
Other Assets	925	418
Total Current Assets	6,767	7,518
Total Assets	15,114	14,657
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	547	747
Payable to Related Parties(excluding Long Term)	17,135	15,588
Bank Loan and Overdrafts	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	17,682	16,335
Long term Liabilities		
Bank Loan and Overdrafts	-	-
Others (including Related Party)	-	-
Total Liabilities	17,682	16,335
NET ASSETS	(2,568)	(1,678)
Shareholders' Funds		
Share Capital	2,540	2,540
Due from/advance share capital	3,113	3,113
Fair Value Reserve	1	3
Profit and Loss account	(8,221)	(7,334)
TOTAL	(2,568)	(1,678)
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	(2,568)	(1,678)

UN AUDITED CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE 1ST QUARTER ENDED 31ST MAR 2021

	3 months ended 31st Mar.2021 RO'000	3 months ended 31st Mar.2020 RO'000
Turn over/Revenue	3,576	2,978
Gross Profit/ (Loss)	336	(140)
Depreciation	(84)	(71)
Administration & general expenses	(128)	(88)
Operating Profit / (Loss)	125	(299)
Other Income	-	14
Finance Charges	(268)	(256)
Income/Loss from Investment available for sale	-	-
Interest income	-	-
Profit/(Loss) before taxation and minority interests	(144)	(541)
Taxation	Nil	Nil
Net Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	(144)	(541)
Dividend Per Share	Nil	Nil
Net Profit margin @	Nil	Nil



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/HQ-78/2021	Supply of Surgical Items (Pediatric Cath lab) for The Royal Hospital	08/July/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 28/July/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 75.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-79/2021	Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment for Fertility and In Vitro Fertilization Center at Obstetrics & Gynecology Clinic at Al Wattaya Polyclinic in Muscat Governorate	08/July/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 28/July/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-81/2021	Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment for Renal Dialysis Unit at Nizwa Hospital in Dhakhliya Governorate	08/July/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 28/July/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-84/2021	Supply of Electrophysiology Items at The Royal Hospital	08/July/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 28/July/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 130.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-85/2021	Supply of Appliances and Provision of Infrastructure and Security Services for Directorate General of Information Technology	08/July/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 04/August/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Purchase and Tenders one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

Any Clarification, you may contact via

Telephone: 24166670 / Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

COVID VACCINATION

COVID vaccination a must for all Haj pilgrims: Saudi Ministry

MUSCAT: All accepted Haj pilgrims for the year 2021 must receive the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Saudi Ministry said. The Ministry of Haj and Umrah said that all accepted Haj applicants must receive the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also announced the start of COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged between 12 and 18. The Saudi Press Agency, said: "The Tawakkalna application al-

lows the possibility of booking an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine for the age group 12-18 years, you can book for your family members."

MASSIVE EXPLOSION

Seven killed in building collapse after explosion in Bangladesh



DHAKA: At least seven people were killed and 50 others injured when a commercial building collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Sunday after a massive explosion. The exact cause of the blast remains unclear, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said seven people were killed in the explosion. "We have come to know that at least 50 people were injured in the incident," he added.

The police officer said they did not find any evidence of an act of sabotage that could cause the explosion in the building.

Witnesses said broken glass walls of several nearby buildings and shopping malls littered the road outside the three-story building. Two buses were also heavily damaged due to the explosion.

Debashish Bardhan, deputy director (Dhaka zone) of the Fire Service and Civil Defence said the search-and-rescue operation is still on to be sure if there is anyone trapped in the building. **bw**



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WORKSHOP

Oman, FAO plan surface fisheries harvesting

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources on Monday organised a workshop on a plan to develop and manage surface fishing resources.

The workshop, held via videoconferencing, was aimed at laying the foundation stone of the National Plan for Developing Surface Fisheries Harvesting Areas.

The workshop was opened by Dr. Saud Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

The participants studied the outcome of a report on assessing mackerel commercial fishing in the Arabian Sea during the period 2019-2021.

The discussion was an opportunity to study views and proposals of the participants, as well as the best practices and technologies of surface fish harvesting.

During the workshop, the objectives of the plan were drafted, including the size and type of the desired fishing fleet.

This is in addition to studying investments pertaining to the added value of minor fishing areas. **-ONA**

ONLINE MEETING

Oman, Kuwait discuss trade, investment

MUSCAT: The Sultanate and the State of Kuwait yesterday conducted a discussion session to enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries in the areas of agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

The Omani side was chaired by Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Bakri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Agriculture, while

the Kuwaiti side was chaired by Mohammad Jassim Al-Sagor, President of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The online meeting, organised by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, reviewed investment opportunities in the agricultural, livestock and fisheries fields available on both sides. **-ONA**

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OMR 550	GDAC42E12	42650 BTU
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Condolences



K.SRINIVASAN

Passed away on 27.06.2021

We, the management and staff of Muscat Pharmacy & Stores LLC would like express our deepest grief and heartfelt condolences to the family of our staff K.Srinivasan on his sad and untimely demise on 27th June 2021.

May the Almighty God bless his soul and give his family the strength to bear the loss.





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Angela Merkel rejects renewed border closures with EU neighbours

Merkel said that the German government was against a tightening of restrictions against travellers entering the country

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French Prime Minister Jean Castex are taking part in a hearing of the Franco-German parliamentary assembly on Monday, where the COVID pandemic and its impact on Europe are high up on the agenda. The two leaders and the deputies are also discussing a range of topics including climate, refugee, foreign and economic policies. The assembly – which is supposed to meet on a biannual basis, once in Paris and once in Berlin –



is taking place virtually this year due to the ongoing coronavirus health emergency. Speaking during the meeting, Merkel said that the German government was against a tightening of restrictions against travelers entering the country at the moment. She also opposed imposing the kind of border controls that were temporarily introduced last year to control the spread of the coronavirus. Border controls are “something very hard,” she told the assembly, stressing that she believes “something like this

should not be repeated.” The German chancellor called for closer regional coordination in Europe to fight against the pandemic. “We are also aware that these infection control measures can mean a litmus test for our Europe without borders,” she said. “As partners, we also address common challenges together,” Merkel added, referring to France. **What is the Franco-German parliamentary assembly?** The assembly comprises of a total of 100 members of parliament, 50 from Germany’s Bundestag and 50 from France’s lower house of parliament (Assemblée Nationale). The body was set up in 2019 and is designed to implement the so-called Aachen treaty signed by Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron at the end of January 2019. To this end, it can make proposals concerning Franco-German relations and to cement the special bond between the two countries. The importance of this panel is “very high for Franco-German relations,” Wolfgang Schäuble, president of the Bundestag, told dpa news agency. “The institutional cooperation achieved in this legislative term alone is unique in Europe and worldwide,” he added. Nevertheless, the body can neither make binding decisions nor does it have its own budget sovereignty. Every parliamentary group of the Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale will have at least one seat in the Franco-German assembly. There are currently 15 factions represented in the body, from both parliaments. **dw**

INDEFINITE LOCKDOWN

Malaysia to extend COVID-19 lockdown amid surge in infections

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia’s nationwide lockdown, which was scheduled to expire on Monday, will be extended indefinitely, informed the government on late Sunday as COVID-19 cases continue to increase. Defence Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said in a statement that conditions have not been met for easing the lockdown measures, as the country has confirmed over 5,000 new infections and double-digits over the past week, reported Kyodo News. To make things worse, the intensive care unit bed occupancy is almost full and only 6.4 per cent of the population has been fully vaccinated as of Sunday. The government has said the lockdown measures will be eased only when daily COVID-19 cases fall below a weekly average of 4,000 and providing other conditions are also cleared. Under the lockdown, only essential manufacturing and services sectors are allowed to operate and shopping malls, schools and public parks are closed. The movement of people is also restricted, with two people per household allowed to go out. Journeys between states and districts in the country has been banned. This is the nation’s



second lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic, following one between March and May last year when the border was shut and the economy ground to a halt, Kyodo News reported. Several countries have extended COVID-induced lockdowns due to a resurgence of infections, reported to be primarily caused by the Delta variant. Australia on Saturday extended lockdown for 14 days in Greater Sydney, Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong to curb the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19. Restrictions will also be imposed on regional New South Wales (NSW), with no more than five visitors allowed in homes, 50 per cent capacity at outdoor events, mandatory indoor mask-wearing and the one person per four square metres rule back for all indoor and outdoor settings, reported **ANI**

RESIGNATION

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven resigns after losing no confidence vote

STOCKHOLM: Sweden Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said on Monday that he has resigned and asked the speaker of parliament to find a replacement after the Social Democratic leader lost a vote of no confidence in parliament last week. TASS reported that the Prime Minister told a press conference today that he has informed the speaker of the parliament about his resignation. “I have asked the speaker to relieve me from the position of the Prime Minister. The speaker will try to form a new government,” Lofven said. On June 17, the Sweden Democrats political party demanded a vote of no confidence against the Prime Minister. Earlier, the Left Party chairwoman Nooshi Dadgostar claimed she does not trust Lofven because of the government’s proposal to set market prices for apartments in new houses. The vote took place on June 21,



with 181 out of 349 lawmakers voting against the Prime Minister. Lofven had two options: either to resign or to hold snap elections; he held consultations with the lawmakers in this regard. The news agency further reported, Lofven noted at the press conferences that holding snap elections amid the pandemic-related state of emergency is not the best solution for Sweden. “Now, the speaker can begin

working in order to come up with a candidacy that the parliament would approve. The government continues to control the country as an interim one,” the Prime Minister said, expressing his readiness to attempt to form a government once again. The speaker can propose four candidacies for the office of the prime minister. Should all of them be rejected, Sweden will hold snap elections. Barely a year before a general election, Lofven became the first prime minister in Swedish history to be ousted by a no-confidence motion put forward by the opposition. According to CNN, the Left party blamed the prime minister for the crisis, saying the Social Democrat-led government had “given up on the Left party and the Swedish people”, rather than the other way round. **ANI**

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING**

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING invites the following Tender:

Tender No.	Description	Grade	Last date of buying	Last date submission	Date of open	Tender-Price R.O.
49/2021/MHUP/24	supplying central printer system at the Ministry's head office and directorates in the governorates	Excellent First Second Third forth	13/7/2021	2/8/2021	3/8/2020	25/=

Interested Companies registered with Tender Board (in the above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E.Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non- refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted on line on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to H.E. The Chairman of the Tender Committee.

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Belgium down Portugal 1-0 to reach Euro 2020 quarterfinals

Roberto Martinez's side will next face Italy, who are the only other team having won every game so far at the tournament

SEVILLE: Thorgan Hazard's first-half goal fired Belgium into the European Championships quarterfinals as the current world No. 1 team overcame defending champions Portugal 1-0 in a heavyweight clash here on Sunday.

The Dortmund attacking midfielder scored in the 42nd minute when he got the ball just outside the box and fired a superb shot into the bottom right.

"It was a nice goal and we beat the holders," said the 28-year-old,



BELGIUM VS PORTUGAL: The Dortmund attacking midfielder scored in the 42nd minute when he got the ball just outside the box and fired a superb shot into the bottom right.

who was named the best player of the match. Roberto Martinez's side will next face Italy, who are the only other team having won every game so far at the tournament, in Munich on Friday.

"Today was like a final...and Italy is also a complicated game," Thorgan Hazard added.

But some injuries that happened in the match have cast some shadow on Belgium's victory as play-

maker Kevin De Bruyne limped off early in the second half because of an injury after being tackled from behind by Portuguese Joao Philhina. The Red Devils suffered another injury in the closing period

as Real Madrid star Eden Hazard was replaced by Yannick Carrasco after straining the hamstring.

"Looking at that second half, we are lucky to win," Belgium defender Thomas Vermaelen said. "Portugal made it really hard for us. We had to really stay focused. It has cost us a lot of energy, but we have some time to recover and now we are looking forward to the game against Italy."

Fernando Santos' team pushed hard in the second half as Ruben Dias' header was punched away by Thibaut Courtois and Raphael Guerreiro's attempt hit the post.

The titleholders enjoyed 56 percent ball possession and made 24 attempts, four times than their rivals, but lacked some efficiency and accuracy, also some luck to earn them a victory.

"I think it's an unfair result but they scored and we didn't," said Santos. "We came back and thought we could turn it around. My players tried their best but the ball wouldn't go in, that's football."

"We're very disappointed, we thought we could win this tournament again after 2016. Some of my boys are crying in the chang-

ing room. All of Portugal should be proud of what they did today."

Belgium, who are striving for their first major title, benefited from an extra 48 hours' rest after easily winning Group B with three straight wins, while Portugal arrived in the knock-out stage with only one win from their group matches, 3-0 over Hungary in the opener. They then lost to Germany 4-2 and drew with France 2-2 to advance from the tough Group F as one of the best third-placed teams.

Portugal's superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, who certainly attracted most of the attention, failed to extend his scoring streak and stayed on 109 international goals to share the men's record with former Iran's striker Ali Daei.

The 36-year-old veteran has already broken some records after registered five goals from the three group matches - breaking the tie with Michel Platini to become the sole all-time best scorer of the tournament with 14 goals and surpassing Miroslav Klose in the record of most goals scored by a European player (21 goals) in major events (Euros and World Cups combined). **Xinhua**

EURO CUP

COPA AMERICA

Czech Republic beat 10-men the Netherlands to reach quarterfinals

BUDAPEST: Goals from Tomas Holes and Patrik Schick helped the Czech Republic in defeating 10-men Netherlands to sail through quarterfinals of ongoing Euro 2020 on Sunday at the Puskas Arena.

The first half witnessed a rather cagey affair between two teams as it turned goalless at the break between the Netherlands and the Czech Republic. The Dutch started the better of the two teams with Matthijs de Ligt going close with a header from an acute angle while both Tomas Soucek and Antonin Barak have had chances off target for the Czechs.

Just before one hour mark in the game, Netherlands were down to 10-men after Matthijs de Ligt deliberately fouled and denied Schick a goalscoring opportunity resulting in Russian referee Sergei Karasev producing a red card for the Juventus man after a lengthy VAR review.

It was all hands on deck for the Netherlands after they went down



to 10 men as they sat deep in their half and soaked a lot of pressure, with the Czech Republic pushing forward at every opportunity.

But Czech's persistence paid soon as they went ahead from a deep corner, which was met at the back post by Tomas Kalas who headed it back across goal as Tomas Holes then powered it into the

back of the net from close range despite the efforts of Van Aanholt on the line.

Ten minutes from time Schick proceeded to rub the salt on wounds of The Oranje as he scored his fourth goal of the tournament to double the Czech lead. **ANI**

Ecuador hold Brazil to reach Copa America last eight

GOIANIA: Ecuador advanced to the Copa America quarterfinals on Sunday after Angel Mena's second-half strike earned the Tricolor a 1-1 draw with Brazil.

The tournament hosts began the match with Neymar and several other regular first-team players on the bench as head coach Tite continued his rotation policy.

Eder Militao put the defending champions ahead just before halftime by rising highest after an Everton Soares set piece to send a powerful header into the top right corner.

Angel Mena, who replaced the injured Moises Caicedo in the first half, equalized just after the interval, thumping a close-range shot past goalkeeper Alisson after Enner Valencia's looping header.

The result ended a run of 10 consecutive wins for Brazil, who still enter the knockout stage having topped Group B with 10 points from four games.

Ecuador, who finished the competition's first phase with three points, secured a berth in the last eight despite failing to



register a victory.

In Sunday's other Copa America match, Andre Carrillo scored just after halftime to hand Peru a 1-0 win over eliminated Venezuela. The Blanquirroja clinched second place in Group B with seven points while Venezuela finished fifth with two points. **-Xinhua**

FORMULA ONE

SRI LANKA SERIES

Max Verstappen dominates Hamilton to clinch Styrian GP for Red Bull

STYRIA : Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen enjoyed a second win in seven days with victory at the Styrian Grand Prix in a commanding fashion to extend his lead in the driver championship to 18 points against Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton on Sunday here at the Red Bull Ring.

Following on from his win in the French Grand Prix, Verstappen led away from pole position at a dry Red Bull Ring, leading every lap of the race to claim his 14th career win, and his third at his team's Red Bull Ring home track. Lewis Hamilton was unable to offer any serious answer to Verstappen's pace on race day, although he was at least able to limit the damage after taking the bonus point for fastest lap thanks to a late pit stop.

"Bit of a lonely race really, just trying to keep hold of these tyres. They've obviously made some big improvements over the last couple of races, I don't know where they've made up the time. Their long-run pace is better, we're losing too much time down the straights. They're faster, there's not much I can do in that respect. We need to find some performance from somewhere," F1's official website quoted Hamilton as a saying after the race.

Having started P5 after his grid drop for spinning in the pit lane on Friday, Bottas was able to claim



STYRIAN GRAND PRIX: Verstappen led away from pole position at a dry Red Bull Ring, leading every lap of the race to claim his 14th career win.

third, holding off a late charge by the second Red Bull of Perez for Finn's first podium since the Spanish Grand Prix.

Behind, a fine race from McLaren's Lando Norris saw him follow up his P5 from last year's Styrian Grand Prix with the same result this weekend, having not

been able to lap on the pace of the Red Bulls and Mercedes on Sunday. He was ahead of the Ferrari pair of Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc, who after a nightmare, point-less French Grand Prix, had a much better race in Austria.

Lance Stroll finished eighth for Aston Martin, while Fernando

Alonso and Yuki Tsunoda rounded out the top 10. Kimi Raikkonen took 11th, ahead of the Aston Martin of Sebastian Vettel and the McLaren of Daniel Ricciardo - who'd climbed up the order on Lap 1 but fell back to his starting position after losing power briefly - while Esteban Ocon took P14. **ANI**



Shikhar Dhawan-led Indian team arrives in Colombo for Sri Lanka series

COLOMBO: The Shikhar Dhawan-led Indian white-ball squad arrived in Sri Lanka on Monday. India and Sri Lanka will lock horns in three ODIs and as many T20Is, beginning July 13. Rahul Dravid is India's head coach for the tour.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya shared a picture in his Instagram story informing about the arrival of the Indian contingent in Sri Lanka. "Touchdown Sri Lanka," he captioned the story.

The likes of Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, and Suryakumar Yadav are in the white-ball squad and many more youngsters are eyeing a debut for India in the Sri Lanka series.

Dravid on Sunday said he hopes the white-ball squad is able to give good performances so that they are able to knock the doors

of selectors for a call-up for the T20 World Cup which is set to be played later this year.

"So like you said, rightly there are a lot of people in the squad who are pushing for places or looking to cement their places in the sort of T20 World Cup. But the key goal for everyone in the squad and in the team is to try and win the series, we have had discussions around it.

"That is the primary objective. We are going out there to win the series, hopefully, people get the opportunity to put in good performances in the course of us trying to win the series, and knock the doors of the selectors," said Dravid while replying to an ANI query during the pre-departure press conference on Sunday. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2021 reaching \$73.72, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil increased by 31 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$73.41. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,057.49 points, up 0.31 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.19 per cent at 590.79 points. National Aluminum Product, up 9.59 per cent, was the top gainer while Sharqiyah Desalination, down 4.17 per cent, was the top loser.

OMR311,067 pact to restore Qalhat city

The pact was signed by Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Heritage Undersecretary, and Dr Amer Nasir Al Mataani, CEO of Oman LNG



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP: Funding of the project constitutes a model of corporate partnership with the heritage sector and a move to boost economic and social sustainability projects. - **OMA**

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Monday signed an estimated OMR311,067 pact with Oman LNG to finance a project to restore Qalhat archaeological city (first phase).

The agreement was signed by Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Heritage Under-Secretary, and Dr Amer Nasir Al Mataani, CEO of Oman LNG.

Al Kharousi said that the archaeological site was included in the list of international heritage sites in 2017. He added that the

funding of the project constitutes a model of corporate partnership with the heritage sector and a move to boost economic and social sustainability projects.

Al Kharousi pointed out that the project will generate new jobs and benefit various segments of local society in the vicinity of the project,

the Wilayat of Sur and the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah.

“Once established, such projects will enhance value-added tourism in the Sultanate. The Qalhat city project will become an archaeological park par excellence,” Al Kharousi explained.

The funding (estimated at

OMR311,067) will turn the site into a model for institutional initiatives to enrich cultural diversity in the Sultanate, said Al Kharousi.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has embarked on archaeological renovation programmes for Qalhat archaeological city since 2008. - **OMA**

STOCK MARKET



CONCERN: Investors are concerned about a spike in coronavirus infections in Asia with Australia's most populous city of Sydney plunging into a lockdown. - **BNA**

Asian shares kick-off week on cautious note as COVID-19 cases spike

SYDNEY: Asian shares got the week off to a cautious start on Monday, with Chinese markets holding steady, as a spike in coronavirus cases across the region over the weekend hurt investor sentiment while oil hovered around 2-1/2 year highs.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was last a shade weaker at 702.57. Australian shares slipped 0.2 per cent. South Korea's benchmark KOSPI was barely changed as was Japan's Nikkei.

Investors were concerned about a spike in coronavirus infections in Asia with Australia's most populous city of Sydney plunging into a lockdown after a cluster of cases involving the highly contagious Delta strain ballooned, Reuters reported.

Indonesia is battling record high cases while a lockdown in Malaysia is set to be extended. Thailand too announced new restrictions in Bangkok and other provinces.

Chinese shares were a touch higher with the CSI300 index up 0.2 per cent. Data over the weekend showed profit growth at China's industrial firms slowed again in May as surging raw material prices squeezed margins and weighed on factory activity.

Investors will keep a close eye on official factory activity from China due Wednesday. The manufacturing reading is expected to slow to 50.7 from 51. The private sector Caixin Manufacturing PMI will follow later in the week.

Last week, global shares reached record highs as weaker-than-expected US inflation and

news of a bipartisan US infrastructure agreement boosted risk appetite. The infrastructure plan is valued at \$1.2 trillion over eight years, of which \$579 billion in new spending.

“Investors are keenly watching the progress of US President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure deal through congress. The package could boost demand significantly, driven by investment in renewables and electronic vehicle (EV) infrastructure,” ANZ analysts wrote in a note.

Oil prices climbed to their highest since October 2018 in early Asian trading on expectations demand growth will outstrip supply and OPEC+ will be cautious in returning more crude to the market from August.

Brent futures rose 12 cents to \$76.30 a barrel, while US crude added 13 cents to \$74.18.

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 2.7 per cent for the week, its strongest weekly gain since early February after data showed a measure of underlying inflation rose less than expected in May, easing fears of a sudden tapering in stimulus by the Federal Reserve.

The Dow climbed 0.7 per cent while the tech-heavy Nasdaq dropped 0.06 per cent after holding near the previous session's record high.

Later in the week, a closely-watched US jobs report will be released for June which could point to strong labour demand.

Yields for benchmark 10-year US Treasuries, jumped back above 1.50 per cent to close out a week in which rates notched their largest gains since March. - **BNA**

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT

Asia defies pandemic, sees rise in FDI

BEIJING: Foreign direct investment inflows to Asia rose 4 per cent to \$535 billion (€449 billion) last year, defying the COVID-19 pandemic as foreign investors continued to bet on the region's biggest markets, China and India, the World Investment Report 2021 by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development showed.

The rise contrasted with a steep fall in global flows of foreign direct investment (FDI), which fell by 35 per cent to \$1 trillion, hurt by a pandemic-induced recession — the worst since World War II. The slump meant that global investment flows last year were almost one-fifth below the 2009 trough after the global financial crisis.

Developed economies saw a dramatic drop in foreign investment, with Europe registering an 80 per cent slump. Emerging economies fared better, thanks to resilient flows in Asia. They accounted for



STEEP FALL: The rise contrasted with a steep fall in global flows of foreign direct investment. - **DW**

two-thirds of global FDI, up from just under half in 2019.

“Overall, Asia remains the strongest engine of global FDI,” said Richard Bolwijn, one of the authors of the report. “It remains attractive because of the high growth numbers, because of the shifting of manufacturing capacity from China to other lower-income

countries in the region, and because of the prospects for further growth of regional value chains.” Asia is expected to account for more than 50 per cent of the global output in the next two to three decades as the centre of global economic gravity shifts from the West to the East. The region is expected to contribute roughly 60 per cent

of global growth by the end of this decade thanks to its ever-growing middle class, according to the Asian Development Bank.

Bolwijn said the FDI figure for Asia was inflated due to exceptionally low levels of investments in Hong Kong in 2019 as a result of social unrest and because of transactions by Chinese multinationals through Hong Kong. Excluding Hong Kong, FDI in Asia fell 6 per cent — but the region was still more resilient than others.

India saw a jump of 27 per cent in FDI to \$64 billion, mainly driven by mergers and acquisitions (M&A). Last year, global investors, including tech titans such as Google and Facebook, invested about \$27 billion in Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, betting on the company's ambitions of becoming a major force in technology and e-commerce. - **DW**

AIR TRAVEL

COVID-19 affects Southeast Asia's aviation industry

SINGAPORE: The last quarter has been a difficult one for the aviation industry as Southeast Asia's record COVID-19 case counts and new lockdowns have hampered reopening and travel plans.

Due to the spread of more contagious strains of the COVID-19 virus, many countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam had to put their populations under varying degrees of movement restrictions or lockdowns. This has affected the airlines in Southeast Asia severely and the future of some of them are uncertain.

Geneva-based IATA, the International Air Transport Association, in a report published earlier in June, said that although air travel is gradually increasing, it is still significantly lower than pre-COVID levels and the improvements have mostly been driven by domestic travel.

In its statement, IATA announced that “domestic travel demand improved in April 2021 compared to the prior month, although it remained well below pre-pandemic levels, while recovery in international passenger travel continued to be stalled in the face of government-imposed travel restrictions.”

Total demand air travel in April 2021 measured in revenue

passenger kilometres was down 65.4 per cent compared to pre-COVID April 2019.

That was an improvement over the 66.9 per cent decline recorded in March 2021 versus March 2019. However, the better performance was driven mostly by gains in domestic markets.

International passenger demand in April was 87.3 per cent below April 2019, little changed from the 87.8 per cent decline recorded in March 2021 versus two years ago.

The IATA statement added, “Total domestic demand was down 25 per cent versus pre-crisis levels (April 2019), much improved over March 2021, when domestic traffic was down 31.6 per cent versus the 2019 period. As with March, all markets except Brazil and India showed improvement compared to March 2021, with both China and Russia reporting traffic growth compared to pre-COVID-19 levels.”

Asia-Pacific airlines fared the worst among various regions. The region experienced the steepest traffic declines for a ninth consecutive month. Capacity was down 86.3 per cent, and the load factor sank 47.7 percentage points to 33.5 per cent, the lowest among regions. - **ANI**

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium Product, up 9.59 per cent, was the top gainer while Sharqiyah Desalination, down 4.17 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,057.49 points, up 0.31 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia index ended up 0.19 per cent at 590.79 points. National Aluminium Product, up 9.59 per cent, was the top gainer while Sharqiyah Desalination, down 4.17 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Dhofar were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,294 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4 million, with more than 34.5 million shares changing hands. Out of 55 traded stocks, 25 advanced, 5 declined and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net buyers for OMR246,000 while local investors were net sellers for OMR137,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR109,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,451.99 points, up 0.42 per cent. Taageer Finance, Oman & Emirates Holding, Muscat Finance,

Oman & Qatar Insurance and United Finance were up 7.41 per cent, 7.14 per cent, 5.00 per cent, 4.14 per cent and 3.33 per cent respectively. Al Madina Investment and Vision Insurance were down 4.00 per cent and 1.15 per cent respectively.

Industrial index closed at 6,005.39 points, up 0.62 per cent. National Aluminium Product, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cables Industry and Al Maha Ceramic were up 9.59 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.41 per cent, 1.31 per cent and 1.12 per cent respectively.

Services index was up by 0.05 per cent before closing at 1,710.76 points. Oman National Engineering, Majan College, Oman Investment & Financials, Dhofar Generating and Oman Telecommunication were up 3.30 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.80 per cent, 1.53 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively. Sharqiyah Desalination, Sembcorp Salalah and Ooredoo were down 4.17 per cent, 1.19 per cent and 0.49 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 28

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																
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,578,113	161,934	102	0.061	0.064	0.061	0.063	0.060	0.003	5.000	0.064	0.064	0.066	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000001525	OMAN INVEST FIN	47,366	53,153	45	0.111	0.113	0.111	0.113	0.111	0.002	1.802	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	26,781,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	69,000	80,090	21	1.160	1.180	1.150	1.160	0.005	1.300	1.180	1.180	1.180	0.100	104,052,000	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	30,600	9,670	5	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.312	0.004	1.282	0.316	0.314	0.316	0.100	255,256,056
OM0000000605	ALMAHA CERAMICS	172,000	62,057	21	0.356	0.364	0.356	0.360	0.004	1.124	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.100	19,800,600	
OM0000002176	ALAZERA STEEL PROD.	25,000	9,650	1	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.382	0.004	1.047	0.386	0.374	0.386	0.100	45,210,613
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	310,000	30,070	5	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.100	236,147,153
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	977,700	289,209	44	0.296	0.298	0.296	0.296	0.293	0.003	1.024	0.296	0.294	0.296	0.100	58,200,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	534,000	54,693	23	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.102	0.105	0.100	9,180,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	197,000	22,077	9	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.111	0.001	0.801	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.112	0.100	218,361,536
OM0000001772	ALANWAH INVESTMENT	502,900	56,768	20	0.112	0.113	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.001	0.863	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.100	22,600,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	381,149	300,316	26	0.784	0.788	0.784	0.788	0.784	0.004	0.510	0.788	0.788	0.784	0.100	591,000,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	71,480	10,952	8	0.155	0.155	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.100	13,005,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	125	100	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.100	126,000,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	406,000	51,572	15	0.129	0.129	0.125	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.100	37,075,767
OM0000002226	ALAZEEZA SERVICES	79,280	34,090	8	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.100	26,317,837
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	604,631	253,965	39	0.450	0.452	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.450	0.420	0.452	0.100	1,501,276,413
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKETING	23,012	16,108	4	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.680	0.700	0.100	48,300,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	45,101	16,672	8	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.000	0.000	0.414	0.406	0.414	0.100	97,873,740
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	17,785	7,274	6	0.408	0.410	0.408	0.408	0.408	0.002	0.488	0.408	0.408	0.410	0.100	265,565,246
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	171,800	14,853	13	0.086	0.088	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	8,600,000
Total		51	7,668,132	1,537,374	424											
Parallel Market																
OM0000000139	ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,434,740	229,398	35	0.157	0.160	0.157	0.160	0.146	0.014	8.589	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	5,371,432
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	3,272,242	283,718	165	0.082	0.089	0.082	0.087	0.081	0.006	7.407	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	22,062,330
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	2,132,798	160,766	78	0.074	0.077	0.073	0.075	0.070	0.005	7.143	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	9,140,625
OM0000000979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	1,042,300	167,426	53	0.150	0.153	0.150	0.151	0.145	0.006	4.138	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	15,100,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	72,000	6,696	14	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.090	0.003	3.333	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	7,519,050
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	4,165,284	267,911	177	0.061	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.060	0.002	3.333	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	9,446,653
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG.	140,000	13,200	9	0.093	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.091	0.003	3.297	0.095	0.092	0.095	0.100	12,220,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	2,256,907	191,856	94	0.084	0.088	0.084	0.085	0.083	0.002	2.410	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	17,263,948
OM0000002580	OMAN ARAB BANK	30,400	5,082	6	0.185	0.188	0.184	0.187	0.180	0.003	2.184	0.188	0.184	0.188	0.100	1,779,670
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	8,000	1,200	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.147	0.003	2.041	0.150	0.000	0.150	0.100	13,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	2,463,180	156,020	71	0.081	0.085	0.081	0.084	0.083	0.003	1.971	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	12,600,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	96,000	12,768	14	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.131	0.002	1.527	0.133	0.132	0.133	0.100	29,557,920
OM0000004788	RAJDAH POWER	2,474,012	257,207	83	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.104	0.107	0.100	1,044,157
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	1,966	315	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.165	0.170	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,050	404	2	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.000	0.197	0.196	0.199	0.100	321,937,378
OM0000001517	HISIC BANK OMAN	111,973	11,301	11	0.102	0.102	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.001	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	202,031,566
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,150	99	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.084	0.088	0.100	10,625,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	3,165	715	2	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.000	0.000	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.100	10,442,253
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK	15,130	13,622	6	0.900	0.948	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.948	0.900	0.948	0.100	85,500,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,074,510	639,388	10	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.123	0.126	0.100	377,540,281
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	355,500	17,414	20	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.100	56,677,700
OM0000003265	NAT. DETEGENT	13	8	1	0.628	0.628	0.628	0.632	0.632	0.000	0.000	0.628	0.632	0.632	0.100	10,751,900
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	147	22	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.150	0.150	0.100	14,971,218
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	150	7	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.049	0.100	9,945,450
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	459,600	44,256	18	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.100	35,769,034
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	62,140	3,356	4	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.100	78,900,000
OM0000005985	AL SUWADI POWER	62,140	3,356	4	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.055	0.100	38,577,942
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS	131,404	61,773	10	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.000	0.000	0.394	0.390	0.394	0.100	104,410,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	14,120	13,155	4	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.100	14,466,157
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	1,000	91	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	55,583,054
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	60,410	5,021	27	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	79,229,472
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	781,805	18,989	26	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.001	0.000	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.100	14,971,218
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	34,800	4,014	4	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.120	-0.005	-4.167	0.115	0.115	0.123	0.100	11,247,248
Total		34	26,857,352	2,557,822	870											

GASOLINE, DIESEL

China to raise retail fuel price

BEIJING: China will raise the retail prices of gasoline and diesel starting Tuesday, National Development and Reform Commission said. The price of gasoline will go up by 225 yuan (about \$34.8) per tonne, while that of diesel will increase by 215 yuan.

-Xinhua

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND OPERATION

DP World UAE Region, Conares contribute to UAE's 'Operation 300bn' initiative

DUBAI: DP World UAE Region, the leading smart trade enabler's flagship Jebel Ali Port, carried out the export of 75,000 metric tonnes of rebar for Conares, the leading steel manufacturer in the Middle East. The consignment was shipped from the Jebel Ali Port to North America.

With this export, DP World UAE Region and Conares collaborated to contribute to the UAE's "Operation 300bn" initiative. The rebars that were manufactured at Conares' facility in the industrial sector of Jafza were exported internationally for the first time with end-to-end handling of the cargo done by DP World's Jebel Ali Port Operations.

This first-of-its-kind operation will open doors for many more such business operations.

Commenting on this, Abdulla Bin Damithan, CEO & Managing Director, DP World - UAE Region and Jafza, said, "The industrial sector has been a key pillar

not only for DP World, UAE Region but also for the nation. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai recently launched 'Operation 300bn', a national industrial strategy aimed at raising the manufacturing sector's contribution from AED133 billion to AED300 billion over the next 10 years, and the 'Make It in The Emirates' initiative, the UAE's industrial identity to support domestic products and promote the sector globally."

"We, at DP World, UAE Region, have always worked in alignment with the development goals of our wise leadership. Through our collaboration with Conares, we hope to underpin the front-running position of the UAE's industrial sector. We are confident that Conares' manufacturing facility and our Jebel Ali Hub with its world-class logistics ecosystem will lead this

vision," Bin Damithan added.

Bharat Bhatia, Chairman of Conares said, "Conares has been recognised as a premier producer of quality steel in massive quantities from Dubai, the strategic hub between the East and the West. We have always aligned our model to support the industrial goals of the nation and consistently worked towards making each of them a reality. We are excited to be part of the UAE's government's 'Operation 300bn' initiative by exporting 75,000 MT 'made in UAE' rebars manufactured by Conares. DP World, UAE Region's stellar trade and logistics hub has enabled us to continue our endeavours. This export shipment showcases our commitment towards the same causes that DP World, UAE Region endorses. The tireless work and the unending support of the team at DP World, UAE Region and Jafza have made the success of this

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Contact +968-93213813

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Please contact - 78022980

Accounts & Finance
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Contact on Tel : 95803522

Sr Accountant/Financial Controller
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Contact 94684007
Email: vveer555@gmail.com

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Contact: 96753667
Email ID: mohamedishahan@gmail.com

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Contact 79285929

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CONTACT 99283938

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GSM: 96409439
Email: farhansiddiqi2014@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER
Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.
Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

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Contact: 95070748
Email: siyabi1430@gmail.com

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Contact: 98783111
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akhfarmahmood3137@gmail.com

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ACCA,CIA, CRMA and Masters Degree with 9 years of diversified experience and valid Oman driving licence; looking for suitable opportunity in Finance/Accounting /Audit.
Contact No: +96891735780
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Indian male (30) MBA with Oman experience (FMCG and Retail) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on visit. Contact 7975 5795

Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272 Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

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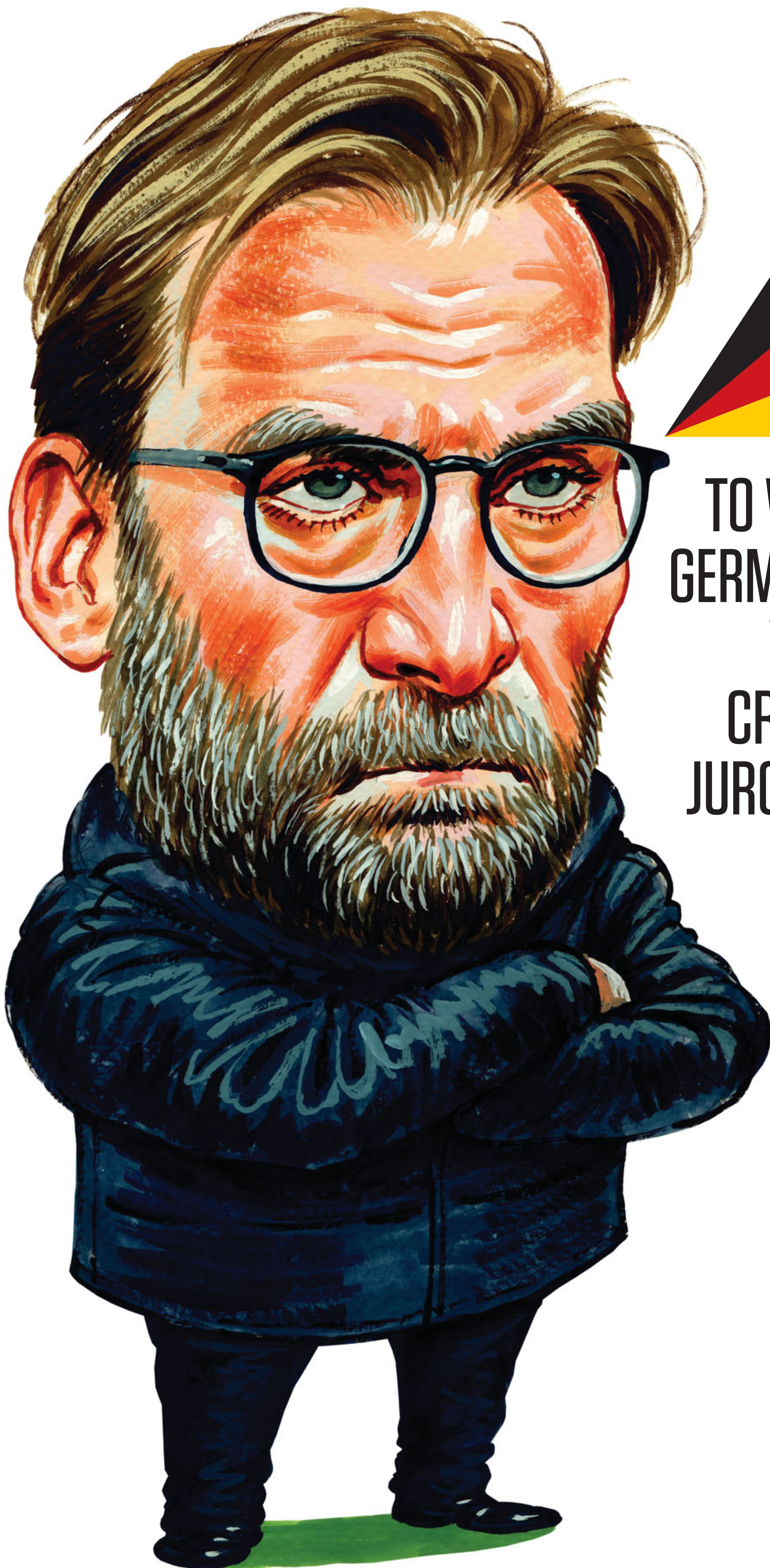
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EURO 2020



TO WRITE OFF GERMANY NOW WOULD BE CRAZY, SAYS JURGEN KLOPP

LONDON: Liverpool FC head coach Jurgen Klopp has stated that it would be crazy to write off Germany at the ongoing Euro 2020, despite their struggles in the final group stage clash against Hungary.

Germany qualified for the European Championships round of 16 after finishing second in the 'group of death' behind world champions France, with defending champions Portugal also progressing as one of the four best third-placed teams. "To write off Germany now, it would be crazy," Goal quoted Klopp as a saying to BILD when asked on his country's chances of reaching the quarter-finals. "We played well against France, Portugal we dominated like hardly any other opponent in recent years."

On Wednesday, Germany faced a hard time as they rallied to hold Hungary to a 2-2 draw at the Allianz Arena in Munich. This nerve-racking draw came after Joachim Low's side produced a stellar display to beat Portugal 4-2.

"We struggled against Hungary, yes. But nothing more happened. Sometimes as a team, you need such a game. And now we're going to make a real go of it on Tuesday."

Germany will lock horns with England in the round of 16 match on Tuesday at the Wembley Stadium. History in the Germany England rivalry at major tournaments favours Die Mannschaft, who had knocked out the Three Lions of the 1990 World Cup, Euro 96, and the 2010 World Cup.

The last time they faced off in a major tournament was at the 2014 World Cup as Joachim Low's side came out on top with a dominant 4-1 win in Brazil.

ROUND-UP

Enhance every experience in powerful Ford Explorer SUV

The Explorer has more power and space than ever and smart new technologies to help tackle life's adventures



MUSCAT: The Ford Explorer SUV doesn't just look good. It performs beyond expectations with its robust profile, dynamic power and a comfortable go places without a worrying attitude.

The Explorer has more power

and space than ever and smart new technologies to help tackle life's adventures. Improved off-road capability comes courtesy of intelligent four-wheel drive and an available new Terrain Management System that features seven

easy-to-engage drive modes. Standard features include a power liftgate, an 8-inch digital touch screen with SYNC 3, and a comprehensive package of driver assist and safety technologies. The Explorer is equipped with

a revised 2.3-litre turbocharged EcoBoost engine that produces 300 horsepower and 420Nm of torque. The engine is matched to an all-new 10-speed transmission and Intelligent All-Wheel-Drive system.

Building upon Ford's push to bring more driver-assist technology to market, the all-new Explorer is packed with the very latest innovations from Ford. Every Explorer comes standard with Ford Co-Pilot360, a suite of driver-assist technologies including Pre-Collision Assist with Automatic Emergency Braking, which includes Pedestrian Detection, Forward Collision Warning and Dynamic Brake Support; Blind Spot Information System with Cross-Traffic Alert; Lane-Keeping System; Rearview camera with built-in lens cleaner and Auto headlamps with auto high-beams.

Other available Ford Co-Pi-

lot360 Assist+ technologies include Evasive Steering Assist, which provides steering support to help avoid a collision; and Post-Impact Braking provides braking after a collision to lessen injury and damage caused by a secondary crash event.

Explorer also is available with Ford's all-new Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control which automatically slows the vehicle down when traffic ahead slows. It also helps keep the vehicle centred in its lane.

The Explorer's 8-inch touch screen mounted in the centre of the dash with navigation maps fills the entire screen for easy viewing or split the space with audio information. The screen provides a quicker, more responsive interaction with the updated SYNC 3 system. Standard SYNC 3's more intuitive layout gives drivers compatibility with the

available Apple CarPlay feature.

A wireless charging pad is available that allows customers to recharge compatible mobile devices, and up to four USB ports, including new type-C outlets, charge next-generation mobile devices in 12-volt outlets and a 230-volt outlet are also available. For music lovers, Explorer offers an available 980-watt, 12-speaker B&O premium audio system.

With its quick-shifting 10-speed automatic transmission, Intelligent Four-Wheel Drive plus Terrain Management System featuring seven selectable drive modes, the new Explorer is built to tackle virtually any adventure. The sand mode comes standard on all models.

Those interested in experiencing the Ford Explorer can visit their nearest Ford showroom.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

NEW IDENTITY

Eshraqa Entrepreneurship Academy is now 'Tasees'



MUSCAT: Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas Social Development Arm, announced 'Tasees' as the new identity for its Entrepreneurship Academy.

Tasees aims to play an important role to incubate, mentor and guide budding entrepreneurs on their journey to achieve their innovative business ideas into reality.

Established in 2018 with a vision to help nurture the dreams and give flight to the ambitions of aspiring Omani entrepreneurs, to achieve their entrepreneurial freedom and growth through viable business solutions to compete in the marketplace.

Tasees aims to be a one-stop-solutions-provider for Startups and MSME's, giving them the scope and opportunity to change the socio-economic fabric of Oman. To know more about Tasees and its programmes, log on to www.eshraqa.om/tasees/ Designed by Bluerance, an Omani start-up design agency, the logo of Tasees is a modern interpretation of the true purpose of the programme.

It represents a progress bar that stands for growth & prosperity. It manifests the core offering of the Tasees programme in a simple and engaging manner.

"Found on the principles of giving back to the community, Tasees aligns itself to the Oman Vision 2040 mirroring the country's interests in creating an entrepreneurial mindset for its youth, encouraging the ongoing development of knowledge and skills amongst professionals by creating a favourable environment and new entrepreneurship opportunities for its aspiring youth," said Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas. "For decades, our business has enjoyed the support from the local community. It, therefore, is one of our paramount duties to aid in the economic growth of not just the country, but to invest in and help in the development of its most invaluable asset, which is the people."

Tasees will continue its multiple interventions with a vision to influence the attitude, mindset and



outlook of the youth, build a sustainable entrepreneurship culture and address the futuristic economic goals of Oman. Its team of highly qualified professionals will impart deeper knowledge and the right skills necessary to help budding entrepreneurs achieve success as business owners and contribute to the GDP of the nation.

The pre-incubator programme nurtures talented entrepreneurs to gain the right skills and competencies to be ready for doing business. The business incubator programme seeks to help entrepreneurs who have just launched their business but are running into roadblocks. The business accelerator programme helps SMEs with high growth potential in strategy formation and implementation, collaboration and partnership advisory, marketing and networking support along entrepreneurial coaching. It also gives them valuable access to logistical and technical resources, as well as a strong support network of investors.

Badar Al Farsi, the founder of

Power Packs Solutions, a successful business enterprise serves as a testimony of Tasees's efforts towards incubation and entrepreneur mentoring. Commenting on the same, Al Farsi said, "Even the brightest ideas need the right direction. The incubation program conducted by Eshraqa Tasees has turned my dreams into reality. The experts at Eshraqa have the industry knowledge, experience and technical know-how to help entrepreneurs like me become successful and overcome challenges and make the best of the volatile market scenario while benefiting from the professional resources the program offers. I welcome you to see a short video on my growth story <http://bit.ly/Tasees>."

Under the repurposed identity, Tasees will not only continue to support the establishment of sustainable businesses that will aid in the economic growth of the country but also invest in promising individuals who reserve the potential to make a difference and lead the way for change.

UPSKILLING EMPLOYEES

Omantel launches 'Capabilities Academy'

MUSCAT: The Learning and Development Department at Omantel's Human Resources Unit has established and recently launched the 'Capabilities Academy' initiative, which is a combination of skills, knowledge and expertise needed by employees to achieve ongoing successes.

Typically, such competencies are exclusive to the company as they go beyond technical and job skills and focus on investing in employees' capacity building to boost the transformation process in the world of learning and development today.

The new Capabilities Academy provides the competencies required for Omantel to take the lead in the telecommunication sector in a consistent manner and alignment with its strategy through partnering with several international institutes to build the technology, business, digital, and data school led by the foundation of the leadership academy.

Commenting on the initiative, Saif bin Sultan Al Abri, Senior Manager of Learning and Development at Omantel, said, "We are pleased to announce our partnerships with some prestigious universities and institutes to implement programmes that aim to enhance the knowledge, competencies and skills of our employees. In this regard, Omantel linked a partnership agreement with Stanford University, one of the leading US academic institutions that come third place internationally in computer and information sciences and support services. It also participated in conducting various creativity researches in the field of information technology. Moreover,



Omantel signed a partnership agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the US and the world. Established in 1861, MIT ranks first in the area of technology and computer sciences, information systems and operations researches."

"As far as leaders' training is concerned, Omantel entered into a partnership agreement with the leading US Georgetown University founded in 1789. The agreement aims to implement special two-phase programmes that target employees who hold leading positions at Omantel. Additionally, Omantel entered into a partnership agreement with Harvard Business School, under which the latter will provide training courses and specialised certificates to the employees in different capabilities required. Through signing these partnership agreements, Omantel aspires to enhance the skills of its employees and help them stay up-to-date with the latest developments at the functional and technological levels.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Sohar International commits to onboard 200 Omanis for 2-year training

MUSCAT: In a bid to continue its endeavour of enhancing the employability of Omani college and university graduates in line with the national agenda, Sohar International has collaborated with the Ministry of Labour, committing to onboard 200 Omanis, for a 2-year training and development programme in organisations from various sectors.

Providing the Sultanate's youth, a stepping stone into the professional world, the programme will entail extensive experience, along with an attractive monthly payment. Committed to support and empower the Youth of Oman, Sohar International places a strong belief in building a foundation and journey that creates ample opportunities for the youth, who will take on professional and senior roles in the future.

Sharing the important announcement, Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, "Laying a strong foundation for future development, Oman attaches prime importance to national manpower development initiatives. In line with Oman's Vision 2040 strategy, the professional development of

competent young Omanis continues to be in focus across all major sectors. The bank recognises its social commitment to empower youth and is focused on further equipping existing employees and attracting potential aspirants to benefit from ongoing talent development initiatives. The training and development programme reflects the bank's commitment to promoting a qualitative shift in the national workforce through relevant training and internship programmes. Sohar International is renowned for providing rewarding career growth opportunities for competent employees and this programme is designed to further energise the market's human resources development initiatives in line with the Sultanate's quest for youth empowerment."

Committed to delivering with the sole purpose of enabling people to grow and prosper, Sohar International believes that the collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Labour, to provide on-the-job training to 200 Omanis in various fields and sectors, will not only contribute towards the enrichment of their personalities but also contribute towards developing the



socio-economic scene within the country, thus supporting the various local industries to evolve and thrive in the coming years.

Shedding light on training program in advancing skills and capabilities and encouraging eligible graduates to apply, Mahira Saleh Alraisi, Chief Human Resource Officer at Sohar International, said, "Through the launch of this training and development programme, we are inviting ambitious graduates who can optimise this opportunity to develop their practical skills while creating a world-class experience. Through this programme, our aim is to develop graduates by giving them the required ingredients to enhance their knowledge and get

hands-on working experience to maximize their job opportunities after the programme and build successful careers."

The criteria to apply for this one-of-a-kind opportunity entails that the applicants must be Omani graduates holding a bachelors' degree with a minimum of 2.75 GPA and registered as job seekers with the Ministry of Labour. To apply, eligible candidates need to visit Sohar International's official LinkedIn page and look for the Training and Development Opening Post. As per the details enlisted within the post, candidates are to submit all the necessary documents for the bank to review and shortlist in accordance with the

Ministry of Labour. Shortlisted candidates will then enter into various rounds of tests and screening to finally identify the 200 applicants that would cut.

Sohar International has been involved with a number of initiatives contributing to larger national goals - educating and skilling the youth being one of them. For this purpose, Sohar International had also offered in the past a one-year internship program under the title Tomohi, which aims at enhancing the skillsets of the Omani youth to better their chances of employability. A first of its kind initiative in the Sultanate to make young Omanis future-ready, batch 2 of the programme was successfully onboarded in 2020, reasserting Tomohi's role in advancing skills and capabilities to Omani college and university graduates in line with the national agenda of making Oman a knowledge-based society. Moreover, the bank takes pride in its Integrated Performance Management and Capability Development System - Erteqaa, delivered in partnership with Harvard Business Publishing, which was initiated for capacity building and fostering a high-performance culture.

In 2020, the bank launched the Ertiqaa+ programme for grooming the Middle Management under this program, which will enable them to take on leadership roles in the programme.

Sohar International is committed to Omanisation and sees this as a key pillar of its five-year plan. The organisation has promoted Omanis and is led and managed by a local workforce across all levels. It is committed to growing national talent and creating more employment opportunities for Omani youth both within the bank and in the larger community that it serves. Moving forward, the bank will set new benchmarks as a thought leader and an institution with a social conscience by promoting growth prospects for young Omanis and contributing to society at large. Given these erstwhile gestures and initiatives by Sohar International, it is only natural for the bank to continue to demonstrate a strong investment in youth; and focus on becoming an 'employer of choice'. One that is keen to identify and communicate with promising Omani talent, while conscientiously informing them of the prospects available to them at the bank.

ROUND-UP

INFINITI Express Service designed to deliver expert service in 60 minutes

Every INFINITI Express Service includes a complimentary multi-point inspection performed by factory-trained technicians and a car wash

MUSCAT: Guaranteeing quick, convenient, and reliable service, INFINITI Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, offers INFINITI Express Service assuring high-quality service at breath-taking speed.

Designed to deliver expert service while demonstrating the art of efficiency, INFINITI Express Service is completed in one hour or less. Every INFINITI Express Service includes a complimentary multi-point inspection performed by factory-trained technicians and a car wash.

Finished within 60 minutes, INFINITI Express Service is available for cars that are due for their Periodic Maintenance Service every 10,000 km (except the major service). The one-hour time calculation is from the time the customer hands over the key for service to the time the customer gets back the key after service.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, "INFINITI Express Service is intended to deliver expert service, efficiently and quickly. The highly trained two-men team deliver the utmost standards of Periodic Maintenance Service (except major services) in record time."



He added, "Adhering to the safety directives prescribed by the Supreme Committee, INFINITI Express Service ensures the safety of our staff and customers during the Express Service."

"The standard operating procedures (SOPs) we follow include preparation before opening of service centre in terms of facil-

ity readiness, sanitisation, availability of personal protection and sanitisation equipment and staff readiness. Our protocol and guidelines guarantee the utmost hygiene, sanitisation, and safety for all. Besides, our staff is trained to make the processes very secure, with the highest focus on hygiene and safety."

INFINITI Oman strives to offer an excellent retail and customer service experience to every INFINITI owner. A crucial point of differentiation for the brand amongst competitors is the top level of customer service it delivers.

INFINITI Oman ensures that only genuine INFINITI parts are used, and highly trained techni-

cians will complete the service. The biggest advantage is that customers do not have to wait till evening for their vehicles to be serviced.

There are five hassle-free ways to book an INFINITI Express Service appointment. You can book by logging on to the website www.infiniti-oman.com; send an email to appointment@sbigh.com; SMS

<BOOK> to 99825454; WhatsApp on 97692689 or call on 800 500 11.

To ensure the safety of its customers and employees, INFINITI Oman is following a thorough safety precaution protocol at its service centre. The standard operating procedure it follows involves the execution of strict safety, sanitization, and physical distancing rules.

WORLD ECONOMIC MAGAZINE AWARDS

BankDhofar gets Best Business and Corporate Bank 2021 award



MUSCAT: BankDhofar was recently awarded as Best Business and Corporate Bank in Sultanate of Oman 2021 by the World Economic Magazine Awards which recognise exceptional services, inclusive products and enhanced solutions provided to its corporate customers.

On the achievement, Hussain Ali Ibrahim Al-Lawati, Acting Chief Corporate Banking Officer at BankDhofar said, "We are proud to be recognised with this prestigious award, despite market challenges and current pandemic situation of COVID-19. As a team, we continue our commitment to support our corporate customers and fulfil their financial and investment needs in these specific circumstances. I take this opportunity to thank our customers who have chosen BankDhofar to be their business partners and to thank our corporate and business banking team for the great achievement."

As one of the leading banks in the Sultanate, BankDhofar has always contributed to the growth of the national economy, by financing several projects of national importance.

These well-deserved awards recognise BankDhofar's vision to deliver service excellence to its customers with the best experience through its full-fledged Corporate Centre and a vast array of digital channels, including corporate internet banking and B2B platforms.

12 DESTINATIONS



Qatar Airways expands its US network to over 100 weekly flights

DOHA: Qatar Airways continues to strengthen its position as the leading international airline connecting the United States with Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The national carrier of the State of Qatar announced that it will expand its US services to more than 100 weekly flights across its 12 gateways.

These increased services are in addition to the carrier also expanding flights to several of its key global leisure destinations including Cape Town, Maldives, Phuket, Seychelles and Zanzibar, providing more flexible summer holiday travel options via the Best Airport in the Middle East, Hamad International Airport. Four US gateways – Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington D.C. - will offer double daily flights, Dallas-Fort Worth increases to 12 flights per week with Boston, Miami, Philadel-

phia, San Francisco and Seattle all growing to a daily service.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are proud to be the leading international airline providing safe and reliable connectivity to and from the United States via the only 5-Star COVID-19 Safety Rated Airport in the Middle East, Hamad International Airport. Qatar Airways has remained committed to the United States throughout the pandemic, adding two new destinations with San Francisco and Seattle, while increasing flights across our 12 gateways to optimise connections with our growing network of over 140 destinations.

"We have also strengthened our strategic partnerships with Alaska Airlines, American Airlines and JetBlue enabling us to connect to more cities and airports in the United States than

any other airline, providing US travellers with the most convenient way to travel internationally this summer. As we continue to lead the recovery of international travel, we will remain focused on providing seamless, safe and reliable connectivity to our millions of passengers and providing an unparalleled travel experience every time they choose to fly with Qatar Airways."

As travellers return to the skies with Qatar Airways, they can take comfort knowing that they are travelling with the only airline in the world that has, together with its state-of-the-art global hub Hamad International Airport, achieved four 5-Star Skytrax ratings – including the prestigious 5-Star Airline Rating, 5-Star Airport Rating, 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating and 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating.

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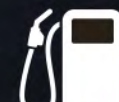
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