

"When it comes to the last 24 hours alone, this month has already seen record admission numbers, with 170 people admitted into hospitals on June 20," added Al Maimani. **> A5**

*Khareef season
to begin in Dhofar
from Monday*

A4

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COVID-19 FIGHT GAINS MOMENTUM IN OMAN

Mass vaccination gets underway at OCEC



FIGHTING PANDEMIC: To minimise the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health has targeted vaccinating all those above the age of 12, which is equal to 70 per cent of the population. -Shabin E

Large turnout of people from target age groups at OCEC since Sunday morning: Official

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A huge number of people in Oman turned up at the newly-opened vaccination site at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), as the country's efforts to immunise people against the virus continues to gain momentum. As part of efforts to vaccinate more people against the virus, starting Sunday, June 20, people over the age of 45 were also included in the country's target vaccination groups. "People aged 45 and above can get vaccinated at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, provided they have booked their vaccination appointments prior to their arrival," said Dr Zainab bint Abdul Razzaq Al Balushi, a public health specialist at the Ministry of Health. "We have had a large turnout of people from these target

groups, since Sunday morning." "This reflects great awareness among society, about the importance of taking the COVID-19 vaccine," she told the Oman News Agency. "There are 60 rooms assigned at the OCEC for people to get vaccinated, split into two areas for men and women so that vaccines can be properly distributed to people in a safe and orderly manner. To avoid excessive crowds at vaccination centres, the Ministry of Health has made it necessary for those who wish to get vaccinated to book their appointments in advance."

Booking Bookings can be made through the website, www.covid19.moh.gov.om, or from the Tarassud Plus COVID-19 surveillance app. Upon entering the portal, applicants will be asked to provide their mobile phone numbers, to which an OTP will be sent. Entering this OTP will take them to a registration page, where they need to provide their ID card number and provide consent to taking the vaccine. To minimise the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health has targeted vaccinating all those above the age of 12, which is equal to 70 per cent of the population. This will be done in stages, in accordance with the vaccination strategy developed, and assuming vaccine supplies

are procured in a timely manner. People who need to get vaccinated can go to the OCEC between 8 am and 6 pm on weekdays, and from 9 am to 4 pm on weekends. The Sahel Health Centre in Quriyat also operates between 8 am and 2 pm on weekdays. "Everyone who has self-registered and got an appointment after 5 pm can come to the vaccination centres during the above-mentioned working hours," said the Ministry of Health in a statement, adding that although it is recommended people take the COVID-19 vaccine, it is not compulsory for anyone. "There is no legal path to make the vaccine compulsory, and people who do take it are doing so because of their conviction, and the motivation of others in the community, who know the importance of taking the vaccine," added the ministry. "This is supported by awareness and the realisation that we all have a responsibility towards national duty." Currently, vaccination registration at the OCEC and Sahel Health Centre is only open to Omanis. Expatriates need to contact private health establishments. Furthermore, Omanis who have received the first jabs of their COVID-19 vaccine while overseas can get their second shot back home, provided they have been injected with a vaccine approved by health authorities in Oman.

Movement ban sees shops closing early



CONTROL EFFORT: Shopkeepers and restaurateurs in Oman have asked people to contribute towards reducing the spread of the pandemic by following the required precautions. -File

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's latest movement ban to stop the spread of COVID-19 took effect on Sunday, June 20, causing shops to close their shutters and people to vacate the streets by 8 pm. The ban, which lasts every night until 4 am the next morning, has resulted in some businesses getting creative to ensure they stay open to customers for as long as they can. **Early opening** "We have decided to stay open from 4 am onwards," said the owner of a supermarket in Muscat. "We do this so that customers can come in as early as they wish to,

and do not miss out on shopping. A lot of people are early risers who go for their morning walks soon after we open, so it is convenient for them to pick up their groceries on the way back." **Timing** A leading supermarket chain in Oman will stay open from 8 am to 7 pm until the lockdown ends, so that it can stay open to customers for longer. "We were hopeful of more business coming in when the government decided to reopen many activities, but it is understandable that a lot of operations have been required to close once again because of the rising case numbers and deaths," said the manager of

a restaurant in Muscat. "It is unfortunate that we will now have to curtail operations again." Shopkeepers and restaurateurs in Oman have asked people to contribute towards reducing the spread of the pandemic by following the required precautions and taking the vaccine the moment they are eligible. **Economic impact** "The pandemic has been hard on many of us," said another shopkeeper. "The economic impact means many of my fellow business owners have been forced to close their shutters permanently. We hope the situation reverts itself soon, so that we can once again become successful."

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Mountain road work gets going

The road will link villages in South Al Batinah governorate to those near Jabal Shams in Al Dakhiliyah governorate



COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: The two-phase project to reconstruct and rehabilitate the mountain road is a community initiative.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A community initiative has begun the work to reconstruct and rehabilitate a mountain road linking the villages of South Al Batinah governorate to the villages of Jabal Shams in Al Dakhiliyah governorate.

The road will shorten the distance between the two clusters of villages by 45 to 50 km for the citizens who used to travel to move from the mountain to the city and vice versa. The Oman News Agency said, "With a community initia-

tive, work has begun on a project to reconstruct and rehabilitate the mountain road linking the villages of South Al Batinah governorate to the villages of Jabal Shams in Al Dakhiliyah governorate."

The project is being implemented in two phases. The first phase: with a length of 10 km, starting from the village of Karb in Jabal Shams to the village of Issab in Wadi Al Sahtan, and the second

phase: a length of 8 km from the village of Yesab to the village of Al Qabil in Wadi Bani Ghafrs.

The road shortens the distance by about 45 to 50 kilometres, and also saves effort and time for the residents of the villages of Al Marat and Karb in Jabal Shams to reach the wilayat of Rustaq instead of taking the ring road, which takes longer to reach the intended destination.

EDUCATION



National Research Award 2021 registration begins

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) has opened on Sunday (June 20) the registration for the eighth cycle of the National Research Award (NRA) 2021, which will remain open until 02:00 pm on Thursday, August 19.

The National Research Award (NRA) is divided into two categories; best published research led by a PhD holder or equivalent (Senior Specialist or higher in the medical field), and best published research led by a young researcher (a non-PhD holder). As for the research fields, it consists of six fields and they are Education and Human Resources, Information Systems and Communication Technologies, Health and Community Service, Cultural and Social Sciences, Energy and In-

dustry, and Environmental and Biological Resources.

Some of the general conditions are that research article must be of relevance to the Sultanate of Oman and must fall under one of the six research fields of the award, the published research must not have won any other award nationally or internationally, the award is limited only to original research studies and articles, only one application per cycle is allowed, the applicant must provide written consent from each team member to prove his or her approval to participate in the competition, and only complete applications for the award, submitted electronically on NRA's website, and supplemented with all the required documents as attachments, will be considered for evaluation.

The research of an applicant must have been published after March 15, 2018, in a refereed

journal, indexed in either Scopus or Web of Science or in one of the Arabic periodicals listed on the Award's website page. Interested applicants can apply through home.trc.gov.om/NRA/SubmissionForm.aspx. Applicants can find additional information regarding the conditions through the NRA's official website (www.trc.gov.om). For further enquiry, interested applicants can contact (nra@trc.gov.om) or (22305329, 22305450).

The NRA aims to encourage researchers to conduct high quality and relevant research in areas of national interest, encourage researchers to continue their activities and initiatives in conducting high-quality research, and increase the level of awareness about MoHERI and its various initiatives and programmes to support research and innovation.

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KHAREEF SEASON TO BEGIN IN DHOFAR



MUSCAT: Astronomically, the Khareef season begins from Monday in the Governorate of Dhofar.

Muhammad Al Barami, Meteorology expert said: “The Khareef season will begin on June 21, the date of the summer solstice, according to astronomical calculations, but the effects of the season began with the intensification of monsoon clouds, and a number of areas in the Dhofar Governorate witnessed mist and drizzle.”

According to the Oman meteorology, the weather today is partly cloudy on the coastal strip of the Governorate of Dhofar and the surrounding mountains, with the possibility of intermittent drizzle falling, and generally clear in the rest of the Sultanate’s governorates with the rise of dust due to active winds on desert and open areas.

IMPORTANT DAY

International Yoga Day



INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY is celebrated every year on June 21st. Recognising this important role of Yoga, this year’s commemoration of the International Day of Yoga focuses on “Yoga for well-being” - how the practice of yoga can promote the holistic health of every individual.

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word ‘yoga’ is derived from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolising the union of body and consciousness. Today it is practiced in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity. Recognising its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

The United Nations offers yoga resources to its personnel and



others on the COVID-19 portal’s section on Wellness. The World Health Organisation mentions yoga as a means to improve health in its Global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030: more active people for a healthier world.



UNICEF says kids can practice many yoga poses without any risk and get the same benefits that adults do. These benefits include increased flexibility and fitness, mindfulness and relaxation. According to the United Nations this year the day will be marked at a time when COVID-19 pandemic continues to upend the lives and livelihoods of people globally.

Beyond its immediate impact on physical health, the COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated psychological suffering and mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, as pandemic-related restrictions continue in various forms in many coun-

tries. This has highlighted the urgent need to address the mental health dimension of the pandemic, in addition to the physical health aspects. The message of Yoga in promoting both the physical and mental well-being of humanity has never been more relevant. A growing trend of people around the world embracing Yoga to stay healthy and rejuvenated and to fight social isolation and depression has been witnessed during the pandemic. Yoga is also playing a significant role in the psycho-social care and rehabilitation of COVID-19 patients in quarantine and isolation. It is particularly helpful in allaying their fears and anxiety.

EMBASSY EVENT



Celebration of 7th International Day of Yoga in Oman

EMBASSY OF INDIA, Muscat, organised a special event on 19 June 2021, to celebrate the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY). The event was held virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on public assembly. The event saw enthusiastic participation of many yoga lovers in Oman.

Theme of this year’s IDY celebration is “Yoga for Wellness”. The official event started with a brief introduction on IDY, followed by speech of Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, Shri Munu Mahawar. Ambassador welcomed everyone and spoke on the wellness benefits of Yoga and Ayurveda. Ambassador expressed his gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and Government of Oman for their constant support. Ambassador also thanked all the Yoga organisations in Oman for their continuous contributions

for promoting yoga. The Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al Shanfari conveyed his wishes on the occasion. Dr. Hansaji J. Yogendra delivered an engaging talk on yoga and wellness. Short compilation of video messages by Omani and other dignitaries was played during the event.

The Embassy organised total 37 sessions online in association with various yoga organisations in the run up to the main IDY event. The sessions were held on diverse themes including, Yoga for immunity, holistic health, mental health, women well-being, child health and youth, Surya Namaskar, yoga at workplace, etc. which saw enthusiastic response.

The videos of entries received by the Embassy for Yoga demonstration video contests were played towards the end of event, after which the names of winners of all the contests were announced. The event concluded with Common Yoga Protocol, with all participants performing various yoga postures in complete harmony.



VIRTUAL MEETING



"The effects of the vaccines show themselves later: therefore, the next four to seven weeks will be very dangerous," he added. "Therefore, we ask everyone to pay attention and take care. After about two months, we will see the case numbers decrease."



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Europe should listen more now to Africa on migration

European and African governments have different perspectives on dealing with refugees and migration challenges. It's high time for Europe and Africa to genuinely work together

BRUSSELS: As the world observes World Refugee Day on June 20, this is time to remind European and African governments of the need to genuinely work together in dealing with refugee and migration challenges facing the two neighbouring continents.

Looking at the European media, a certain image is always reproduced: The many young African people who want to come to Europe — even risking their lives in desperation. This is very one-sided — and creates an image that all African youth want to make such perilous journeys.

In reality, there are few African

refugees making such treacherous journeys. In fact, most African refugees go to the neighbouring countries instead of heading to Europe.

European and African countries have been working together on solving refugee and migration problems. However, progress has been slow. This is mainly because the two continents have different perspectives and priorities on dealing with the challenge.

On the one hand, the European Union and its member states regard the reduction of refugees and irregular migrants as a means to tackle security threats. Toward realising this, most European funds

have been channelled to reduce refugee and migration flows to Europe. Furthermore, Europe has even worked with African dictators to gain their support in curbing migration.

On the other hand, African governments are interested in remittances — the money that many migrants send home — and legal migration opportunities. The strategic attitude of Europe in reducing refugees and migration has created mistrust among African governments toward their European counterparts in dealing with refugee and migration challenges.

The world is currently facing the coronavirus pandemic. In Europe and in other Western countries, vaccinations are currently in full swing, and infection numbers and deaths are declining as life slowly returns to normal. On the other hand, though many African countries have not been highly affected by the pandemic, the economic effects of coronavirus have been immense. This is due to a fall in commodity prices and the increased costs of imports. Additionally, income from tourism, remittances and raw materials has also dropped. Such negative economic impacts are likely to lead to migration flows of economic refugees to Europe and, of course, to those neighboring African countries.

Given these negative potential effects of the pandemic, it is high time for Europe and Africa to genuinely work together to avoid the deaths of African refugees and migrants pursuing dangerous journeys to Europe.

In this sense, Europe should listen more and take African perspectives seriously. African governments are calling for remittances to be made easier, and for more legal migration opportunities. Remittances, after all, have proved to be more helpful for African countries and have surpassed development aid provided by donor countries to Africa. As a matter of fact, this should also be of interest to Europe, since money sent by migrants to their families back home would also help to provide economic well-being, thus also tackling some root causes of migration. —*DW*

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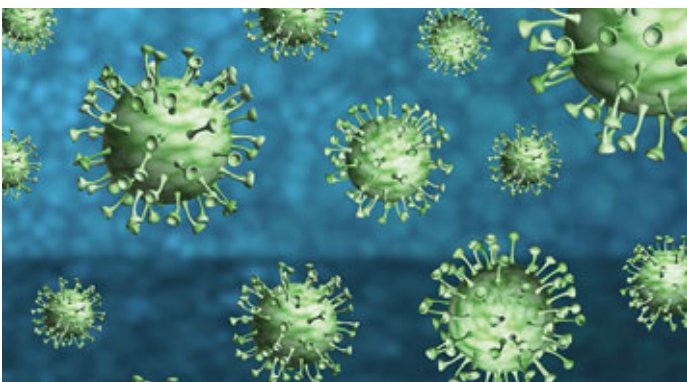
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HEALTH MINISTRY'S DATA



India records 58,419 new COVID-19 cases, lowest after 81 days

NEW DELHI: With 58,419 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, India recorded less than 60,000 fresh infections after 81 days, according to the Union Health Ministry's data on Sunday. The country witnessed as many as 1,576 deaths and 87,619 recoveries in the last 24 hours. With the new cases, the cumulative caseload has climbed to 29,881,965 including 729,243 active cases.

The daily positivity rate in the country stands at 3.22 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate is currently at 3.43 per cent.

The daily positivity rate has remained below 5 per cent for 13 consecutive days.

As many as 386,713 people have succumbed to the COVID-19 infection so far, while the recoveries reached 28,766,009.

As daily recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for the 38th consecutive day, the recovery rate is currently at 96.27 per cent.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 391,019,083 samples were tested for COVID-19, up to June 19 out of these, 1,811,446 samples were tested on Saturday.

The Union Health Ministry informed that 27,66,93,572 vaccine doses have been administered so far under the vaccination drive in the country. — *ANI*

MIGRATING ELEPHANTS LINGER IN DALONGTAN TOWNSHIP IN CHINA'S YUNNAN PROVINCE

Aerial pictures taken on Saturday shows a herd of wild Asian elephants in Dalongtan Township of Eshan County, Yuxi City, southwest China's Yunnan Province. China's famous herd of wandering elephants has headed 3.09km southwest and continued to linger in Dalongtan Township of Eshan County. An elephant that strayed 14 days ago was about 24.9km away from the herd, and all the 15 elephants were safe and sound, according to the headquarters in charge of monitoring their migration. — *Xinhua*



EASTERN PART OF REYNOSA

Gunmen kill 15 people in Mexico

REYNOSA: Gunmen in sports utility vehicles shot some 14 people in different parts of the Mexican border city of Reynosa, according to reports on Sunday.

Another person was reported to have been killed in an attack on police near a border bridge.

Criminal activity in the city — which lies across the border from McAllen, Texas — has long been dominated by the Gulf Cartel, but splits are thought to have developed in the gang.

Local media reports on Sunday put the death toll as high as 18.

The attacks began early Saturday afternoon in several neighbourhoods in the eastern part of Reynosa, according to the Tamaulipas state agency that co-

ordinates security forces.

The identity of the victims and the attackers was initially unknown, as well as the motive.

"Investigations were initiated to establish the causes of the homicides and locate those responsible, particularly in the surveillance and patrolling actions that are carried out in various parts of Reynosa," said an official report.

The violence mobilised the army, National Guard, state police and other agencies.

Mexico has seen its two bloodiest years ever, with 34,681 recorded murders in 2019 and 34,554 in 2020.

Various cartels are battling for control of smuggling routes to

the US that are used to transport drugs, weapons and people.

Successive governments have failed to bring the crime syndicates under control. Many have accused law enforcement and the judiciary of colluding with the gangs, or of having succumbed wholesale to corruption.

Spiraling homicide statistics, instability and high levels of corruption have led some US commentators to conclude that Mexico is on the path to becoming a failed state.

Current president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, has said he wants to fight cartels with "hugs not bullets." — *DW*

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SPORTS



AL-ZUBAIR AND SOUCEK LEAD GT OPEN SERIES AFTER RACE ONE VICTORY IN SPA



BELGIUM: Oman's Al-Faisal Al-Zubair and Spanish team-mate Andy Soucek won the first of the weekend's two GT Open races at Belgium's Spa-Francorchamps circuit in the Ardennes and now lead the 2021 International GT Open series.

The Lechner Racing Team Porsche 911 GT3 R began the first of the weekend's races from second place on the qualifying grid and Al-Zubair managed to overhaul Brendan Iribe's McLaren with around 20 minutes of the race to run to snatch a stunning victory.

In dry and sunny conditions, the 23-year-old Omani opened up a gap of over five seconds with 17 minutes of the race to run. Rob-

bie Foley managed to pass Iribe in the TF Sport Aston Martin GT3 and claim second place with 14 minutes on the clock but Al-Zubair had extended the Lechner Racing Porsche's advantage to over nine seconds heading into the final 10 minutes.

Al-Zubair held on over the closing laps to pass the chequered flag 7.181 seconds in front of Foley, with Iribe finishing third in the Inception Racing McLaren after the 24-lap race.

Al-Zubair said: "This was a dream result. Honestly I could not be happier. The second race weekend and we come up with an overall win. The car felt great and Andy did a superb job of putting it



leader board to eighth in the closing minutes.

Soucek qualified the Porsche on pole in the Pro category for the first of the weekend's two races and second on the entire grid behind the McLaren of Iribe and Ollie Millroy. A lap of 2min 17.235sec was sufficient to claim the spot ahead of the Schandorff/Beretta Lamborghini and the Aston of Michael Dinan and Foley.

Al-Zubair and Soucek enjoyed a solid first practice session on Friday. They were classified fourth in the entire field and first in the Pro class after running for 19 laps and posting a best tour of 2min 19.176sec.

The duo faired even better in the second practice session and a best tour of 2min 19.377sec put them in second place in the entire field and again on top in the Pro class and nearly 1.4 seconds faster than the VSR Lamborghini crew of Frederick Schandorff/Michele Beretta.

"I think it was a very positive start," said Al-Zubair. "The car felt very positive to start with and then we made the necessary changes. In the first practice we were just getting used to the track. The second practice we almost did qualifying simulation and Andy did race simulation. The car felt pretty good."

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Germany thrash Portugal 4-2; Spain and Poland play 1-1 draw

Spain and Poland drew their Euro 2020 Group E game 1-1 here on Saturday night with Robert Lewandowski's second half header cancelling out Alvaro Morata's opener for the Spain.

MUNICH: Kai Havertz and Robin Gosens got among the goal-scoring chart as Germany thrashed Portugal 4-2 in the Group F encounter here at the Allianz Arena on Saturday. In Group F, Germany is now at the second spot with three points from two games while Portu-



THRILLING MATCH: Serge Gnabry, centre, and Joshua Kimmich, first right, of Germany celebrate an own goal from Raphael Guerreiro, first left, of Portugal during the UEFA Euro 2020 Championship Group F match in Munich, Germany.

gal is at the third spot with three points from as many games. Germany will next take on Hungary in the tournament while defending champions Portugal will lock horns against 2018 FIFA World Cup winners France. Portugal got the first goal in the match as Cristiano Ronaldo made a stunning run and he was able to net the ball into the goalpost, giving his side a 1-0 lead. However, Ronaldo's side suffered two major hiccups in the first half as Ruben Dias and Raphael Guerreiro registered their own goals giving Germany a 2-1 lead. No more goals were scored and at halftime, Germany went in with a lead. In the second half, Germany scored two more goals courtesy of Kai Havertz and Robin Gosens in the 51st and 60th minutes respectively, and as a result, Germany took a 4-1 lead. Diogo Jota was able to peg one goal back in the 67th minute for Portugal, but still, Germany were the favourites to win the match as they had a 4-2 lead. In the end, no more goals were scored and Germany went away victorious.

In another match, Spain and Poland drew their Euro 2020 Group E game 1-1 here on Saturday night with Robert Lewandowski's second half header cancelling out Alvaro Morata's opener for the Spain. Morata put the Spanish in front in the 25th minute as he slid home a cross from Gerard Moreno, with the goal given after the referee checked with the VAR after the offside flag had originally gone up. Spain dominated the first half, but Lewandowski, who had drawn a fine save from Unai Simon before the break, levelled the score with powerful header after 53 minutes. Almost immediately afterwards Spain had a magnificent chance to go back in front when Moreno was caught late in the penalty area. The striker took the resulting penalty, but struck it against the post and the onrushing Morata sent the rebound wide of the empty net. The Spanish looked for a winning goal, but failed to impose enough rhythm on their game and need to win their last group game against Slovakia on Wednesday to avoid an early exit from the tournament. -ANI/Xinhua

WI VS SA INDIA VS ENGLAND

Proteas in driver's seat

GROS ISLET: South Africa kept things tight as they bundled out West Indies on 149 to end day two of the second Test in the driver's seat on Saturday. West Indies were bowled out late on the second day to give South Africa a big first-innings lead in the second Test after bundling South Africa for 298 just at the cusp of lunch. Jermaine Blackwood (49) and Shai Hope (43) were the leading run-makers, but neither was able to carry on to a big score as the home side surrendered a first-innings lead of 149. Wiaan Mulder was the surprise package with the ball, as the medium-pacer took three wickets for just one run. Blackwood came to the crease at 54-4 and stayed for more than two hours at which time he faced 106 balls and hit six fours. He was the last man out to give left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (2-47) his

second wicket. Late in the day, Blackwood reached the milestone of 2,000 Test runs when he got a boundary from a fabulous ramp shot which sped away to the third man boundary. Hope, batting at number 3, also played fluently and struck four fours off 103 balls. He added 43 with Blackwood for the fifth wicket but fell with the score at 97-5 and West Indies were back in trouble. Mulder then made a huge impact when he took his three wickets in the space of eight balls as West Indies lost the last four wickets for six runs. Earlier, Quinton de Kock made 96 which helped the Proteas add another 80 runs from their overnight position in the morning session. Medium-pacer Kyle Mayers ended with 3-28 off 15 overs to be the best bowler for the home side. -ANI

NZ pacers keep India on backfoot

SOUTHAMPTON: New Zealand pacers Kyle Jamieson and Neil Wagner kept on chipping away at the wickets and India was put on the back foot in the opening session on Day Three of the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) final at the Ageas Bowl on Sunday. At lunch break on Day Three, India's score reads 211/7 with Ravindra Jadeja (15*) and Ishant Sharma (2*) at the crease. In the first session, Virat Kohli (44), Rishabh Pant (4), Ajinkya Rahane (49), and Ravichandran Ashwin (22) were all sent back to the pavilion. The start of play on Day Three was delayed by thirty minutes due to a wet outfield. Resuming Day Three at 146/3, India got off to the worst start possible as Kyle Jamieson had Kohli (44) adjudged leg-before wicket in the 68th over and as a result, India was reduced to 149/4 and Pant



TEST MATCH: Indian captain Virat Kohli was out LBW to Kiwi bowler Jamieson.

came out to the middle. However, Pant (4) failed to leave an impression with the bat as he was sent back to the pavilion by Jamieson. Pant threw his bat outside off and he just managed to get an edge, handing a simple catch to Tom Latham. Neil Wagner employed his short ball tactic brilliantly and this led to the downfall of Rahane (49) and India was reduced to 182/6. Ashwin played a quickfire knock of 22 runs off just 27 balls but his cameo was ended by Tim Southee and this brought Ishant Sharma to the middle. Ishant and Jadeja then ensured that India did not lose more wickets before the lunch break. Day 1 of the WTC final was abandoned due to rain and Day 2 also saw the final session being called off early due to bad light. Brief Scores: India 211/7 (Ajinkya Rahane 49, Virat Kohli 44, Kyle Jamieson 3-26). -ANI

COMMENTARY

Can India get past their nemesis New Zealand?

India's tour of England begins with the ICC World Test Championship finals at the Southampton and it can't get bigger than this. We have had in the past ICC 50 overs and T20 World Cups but this has to be the pinnacle of all as Test Cricket is the highest and purest form of cricket which tests the temperament of a player which is emotional, mental and most importantly physical as it's played around five consecutive days with minimum 90 overs to be bowled every day. India's track record in England for their last three series has been poor starting from 2011 where they went down 4/0, then in 2014 India lost 3/1 and then in their last tour in 2018 India lost 4/1 to the host England. But before they face England in the five test matches, they first need to get past New Zealand who have been their nemesis in ICC tournaments New Zealand first spoilt India's party in the ICC first Champions Trophy in the year 2000 when Chris Carins single handedly lead them to their only ICC win till date. Then in the 2007 and 2016 New Zealand managed to beat India in the T20 World Cup games and most importantly in the 2019 ICC 50 overs World Cup semifinals at Manchester, New Zealand upset India again who were overwhelming favourites to win that game. The best part of this New Zealand team is that they make less noise but do get their act right when it comes to playing especially against India.



Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group.

India's journey to reach the World Test Championship has been much more than a roller coaster ride where India first beat West Indies 2/0 in their backyard and got 120 points, and when South Africa toured India in 2019, India blanked them 3/0, thanks to Rohit Sharma tremendous form with the bat where he scored three hundreds which includes a double hundred opening the batting and gave India further 120 full points. India then eased passed Bangladesh 2/0 and got further 120 points and were sitting pretty well with 360 points till they bumped across Kane Williamson New Zealand where the Kiwis got the better of In-

dia 2/0 in two low scoring test matches in swing and seaming conditions where Kyle Jamieson was the standout bowler. India's next tour was against a full strength Aussies and this is where India came back after the first test thrashing where they were bowled out for 36 their lowest score and went on to win the series 2/1 without nine of their main players who were injured and their captain missing due to paternity leave. India were sitting at 430 points and were almost assumed of a place in the finals but because of the pandemic, ICC set out new rules where percentage of wins were given preference than to the points earned. So for the last series India

had to win against at least England 2/1 to qualify for the World test Championship. India did go down in the first test but came back to beat England in the next three test matches and secured a place against New Zealand. In every series, young Indian players who were given a chance put their hand up be it Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Washington Sundar, T Natarajan and Axar Patel and got India out of trouble and made them win the match and qualify for the finals. In the World Test Championship finals India is going with their full squad with every player fit and with a lot of experience with the likes of Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant and King Kohli along with young Shubhman Gill to take care of their batting and in the pace attack. India has Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and to back it up they have two reliable all-rounders in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja who are not only good in the art of spin bowling but also can score handy runs. With all bases covered, Indian team does have all the swag for the World Test Championship finals but can India get past the monkey of their back, which is to beat the Kiwis who have been their Nemesis in ICC organized Championship? Your guess is as good as mine as to who will be the World Test Champion for the first time.

MOTORSPORT

Verstappen beats title rival Hamilton to pole in French GP

LE CASTELLET: Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen claimed pole for the French Grand Prix on Saturday, with title rival Lewis Hamilton nearly a two and a half tenths second slower for Mercedes. Red Bull's Verstappen grabbed his second pole of this season but he had to work hard for it as Hamilton found some extra pace in the last round from somewhere to push the 23-year-old much closer than it seemed he would. Hamilton slotted into second, alongside the Dutchman, with Valtteri Bottas taking third as Mercedes confirmed a bounce back in performance after two very difficult weekends in Monaco and Azerbaijan. Sergio Perez was a fourth, albeit it half a second adrift of Red Bull teammate Verstappen, while Carlos Sainz out-qualified the other Ferrari of Charles Leclerc for only the second time this season as he ended up fifth. "Pierre Gasly gave the French fans in the grandstands plenty to smile about with sixth, in what is his fifth top-six starting spot in seven Grand Prix weekends this year. Leclerc, pole-sitter in the last two races, could only manage seventh as he was beaten by a teammate for the first time at Paul Ricard," stated an official F1 release. Red Bull have their nose in front, but the Mercedes' superior race pace cannot be ignored. The Silver Arrows also pulled off a strategic masterclass over their rivals in Bahrain at the start of the season, but since then it has been more of a mixed bag as to who is doing the



business on the pit wall. "So far it's been a really positive weekend, on a track where it's normally been a bit difficult for us," Sky Sports quoted Verstappen after the qualifying. "To get pole position feels really nice. It's a great day. We have to finish it off tomorrow and try and get the 25 points we lost in Baku." Lewis Hamilton said, "It's been a really, really hard weekend. Mentally, and just trying to get the car into a happy place. You wouldn't believe how many changes I've made since Practice One, going round and round chasing our tails and ending up coming back to something similar to where we started. I've generally been unhappy in the car all weekend. "Congratulations to Max, they've done an incredible job this weekend and they're incredibly quick. They've got a new engine this weekend and they're quick on the straight. We're loving the battle." -ANI

INDIA'S CREDIT GROWTH

The credit growth for FY22 is likely to remain in the low double-digit on the back of muted economic activity, Care Ratings said. The slowdown in the economy can further delay the anticipated pick-up in credit growth apart from the likely impact on asset quality.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,056.89 points, down 0.51 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.56 per cent at 581.38 points. Al Hassan Engineering, up 20.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Chlorine, down 6.12 per cent, was the top loser.

Electronic one-stop shop services for special economic zones launched

Throughout the past months, Opaz has unified the procedures for obtaining the services offered by special economic zones and free zones through their electronic portals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, launched the electronic one-stop shop for Salalah Free Zone and Sohar Free Zone, continuing the digital transformation march that began earlier by automating the services of the one-stop shop in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. In the coming period, procedures will be completed to launch Al Mazunah Free Zone's electronic portal for the one-stop-shop services.

The launch of electronic one-stop shop services aims to support the authority's efforts in attracting investments to the zones under its supervision, accelerating the completion of investor applications,

facilitating starting a business and transforming paper applications to electronic applications, and ensuring that transparency and clarity principles are achieved in the pathways of each service.

Link

The one-stop shop services for special economic zones and free zones can be obtained through the link: <https://eoss.opaz.gov.om>.

Throughout the past months, Opaz has unified the procedures for obtaining the services offered by special economic zones and free zones through their electronic portals. The electronic one-stop shop allows investors access to many services, most notably: applying for land usufruct, demarcation of plots, EIA service, the ap-

pointment of project consultant, the appointment of project contractor, project plans submission, building permit submission, commencement of construction, and building completion certificate request, and other services will be added in the coming period.

Investors in special economic zones and free zones can apply through the electronic services portal of each zone and follow up their applications through the dashboard. The portal also allows the feature of attaching required files and the feature of e-payment; which enables employees of the one-stop shop in each zone, receive applications and give necessary approvals, starting from receiving the application and ending with the application completion.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: The electronic one-stop shop allows investors access to many services. - Supplied picture

IN-COUNTRY VALUE



MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION: The MoC covers the potential collaboration to support high-potential investment opportunities and related projects in the tourism sector. - Supplied picture

Omran, PDO partner to enhance ICV

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In continuation of the efforts and initiatives aimed at enhancing In-Country Value (ICV), Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) - the executive arm of the Sultanate for tourism development - signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to share knowledge, benefit from PDO's expertise in various fields, including ICV, and explore collaboration opportunities to implement initiatives in the tourism sector.

The agreement also aims to look into potential opportunities to implement strategies and programmes to enhance ICV to secure sustainable long-term commercial benefits. Furthermore, it aims at maximising the use of local content, encouraging knowledge sharing to improve the capacity and capability of the local businesses and vendors in the tourism sector, and exploring opportunities to establish local community tourism companies.

In addition, the MoC covers the potential collaboration to support high-potential investment opportunities and related projects in the tourism sector, as well as sharing best practices and experiences in the fields of health, safety, and environment (HSE) and Lean methodology.

The terms of the agreement also include enhancing cooperation in providing training and secondment opportunities for Omanis and supporting PDO's efforts in the National Initiative for Plantation of 10 million trees and other environmental-related initiatives. It further establishes a potential strategic partnership between Omran Group and PDO in the development of Geo-tourism in Oman and the implementation of community programmes to develop tourism experiences with the National Travel Operator "visitoman.om".

Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, Chief Executive Officer of Omran Group said, "This agreement is in line with Omran Group's directions and efforts to enhance the tourism value chain through activities and initiatives aimed at maximising ICV in the Sultanate, which reflects the objectives of the

comprehensive ICV strategy that aims to focus on domestic supply chains, empower the national product, and develop local suppliers and contractors, as well as boosting opportunities for local companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the tourism sector. These also include increasing Organisation, developing and training national cadres, and activating areas of social investment."

He added, "We are pleased to have signed this agreement with PDO to benefit from its extensive expertise in implementing best practices in ICV. We hope that this collaboration will contribute to transferring knowledge and expertise, in addition to supporting our approach to implementing innovative and sustainable projects in the field of ICV in the next stage."

Raoul Restucci, PDO Managing Director who signed the MoC with Omran, said, "The MOCs are an example of the continuous collaboration efforts between PDO and its key partners."

"We look forward to working with Omran on enhancing ICV in the tourism sector as it is vital that we sustain partnerships across different fields to create benefits for Oman's workforce and economy."

ICV is one of the most prominent modern economic concepts as it is mainly concerned with the circulation of local capital within the country by directing procurement departments in various major companies to local markets, and working to keep investment expenditures within the country, which results in achieving the desired economic and social benefits.

It is worth noting that Omran Group owns a wide portfolio of projects, investments and hotel hospitality assets that cover most of the governorates of the Sultanate. The group continuously seeks to direct most of its efforts to find effective initiatives aligned with the latest practices in the field of ICV and social investment within the geographical scope of its various tourism projects and assets. That is to increase local spending, support domestic supply chains, enhance partnerships and investment opportunities with the local community, and create direct and indirect job opportunities for Omanis.

COMEX 2021

Oman Data Park wins four awards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Data Park, the first and leading provider of cloud and managed services in the Sultanate, won four awards within the Comex Awards for Excellence in Technology for the year 2021, in which many Omani and international companies participated.

The four awards received by Oman Data Park included the Data Centre Award, Cyber Security Award, Comex Star Exhibitor Award, and Best of Best."

Oman Data Park's winning of the Data Centre Award award a testament to its commitment to offering the best and the largest choice of data centre services in Oman and the company dedicates the award to the 800+ customers who have placed their trust in them.

In a statement about these recognitions, Eng. Maqbool Al Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Data Park, said, "Winning these awards within the Comex Technology Excellence Awards 2021 further confirms our role in supporting the digital transformation efforts made by the government and the private sector."

POWER PURCHASE PACT

Tanweer signs agreement for short term power generation at Duqm



AGREEMENT: The PPA was signed by Ahmed bin Said Al Harthy, Tanweer CEO Acting, and Hamed Al Wehibi, General Manager - Business Development and Strategy on behalf of Marafiq. - Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed on June 20 by Rural Areas Electricity Company 'Tanweer', a member of Nama Group, and the Centralised Utilities Company (Marafiq).

This PPA is for a new gas-based power generation facility at Duqm and is in line with Tanweer's key strategic objective to reduce the cost of generation, in particular, diesel fuel consumption, and secure electricity capacity in the high growth area of Duqm.

The PPA will provide the Duqm area with a gas-based generation capacity until the OETC interlinking project is completed and Duqm is connected to the main 400kV grid. The project will be provided with a gas allocation by the Ministry of Energy & Minerals.

The PPA was signed by Ahmed bin Said Al Harthy, Tanweer CEO Acting, and Hamed Al Wehibi, General Manager - Business Development and Strategy on behalf of Marafiq.

Tanweer remains focused on extending its commitment to meet-

ing high-growth demand through operational excellence and technological expertise, delivering power and desalinated water reliably and responsibly to customers in its concession areas.

It is worth mentioning, that Tanweer is the only vertically integrated company in the electricity sector in Oman with five licenses, namely, generation, transmission, distribution, customer supply and desalinated activities in its authorised areas in accordance with the license granted by the Authority for Public Services Regulation.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Hassan Engineering, up 20.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Chlorine, down 6.12 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,056.89 points, down 0.51 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.56 per cent at 581.38 points. Al Hassan Engineering, up 20.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Chlorine, down 6.12 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of United Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 754 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3 million, with more than 20 million shares changing hands. Out of 60 traded stocks, 9 advanced, 27 declined and 24 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR430,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR226,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR203,000

worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,441.20 points, down 0.54 per cent. Oman & Qatar Insurance, Al Madina Investment, Arabia Falcon Insurance and Oman Arab Bank were up 9.02 per cent, 8.70 per cent, 6.09 per cent and 2.94 per cent respectively. Muscat Finance, United Finance, Taageer Finance, Al Sharqia Investment and Madina Takaful were down 4.76 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 2.47 per cent, 1.94 per cent and 1.94 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,871.21 points, down 0.0651 per cent. Al Hassan Engineering and Voltamp Energy were up 20.00 per cent and 1.44 per cent respectively. Oman Chlorine, Galfar Engineering, National Aluminum Product, Al Maha Ceramic and Dhofar Cattle Feed were down 6.12 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 1.46 per cent, 1.12 per cent and 1.05 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 20

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															
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	241,000	62,052	14	0.252	0.260	0.252	0.257	0.252	0.005	1.984	0.257	0.250	0.270	0.100	65,034,286
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER	558,940	233,417	22	0.418	0.418	0.412	0.418	0.418	0.000	0.481	0.412	0.400	0.412	0.100	18,815,380
OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	305	227	1	0.748	0.748	0.748	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.000	0.748	0.744	0.744	0.100	17,810,000
OM0000002077 AL OMANIYA FIN	245,552	30,625	10	0.120	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.123	0.124	0.100	36,491,896
OM0000001698 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	94,719	43,549	8	0.460	0.460	0.456	0.460	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.456	0.456	0.470	0.100	101,294,800
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	125	49	1	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.388	0.382	0.390	0.100	48,710,204
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT BANK	5,000	485	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.094	0.098	0.100	241,018,167
OM0000003985 OREDOX	24,818	1,390	4	0.412	0.412	0.408	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.408	0.408	0.412	0.100	286,867,103
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSUR.	25,000	9,520	4	0.382	0.382	0.380	0.380	0.382	-0.002	-0.524	0.380	0.378	0.386	0.100	36,000,000
OM0000001555 OMIVEST	130,200	41,143	3	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.318	-0.002	-0.629	0.316	0.314	0.316	0.100	255,256,056
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	160,700	18,305	3	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.115	-0.001	-0.870	0.113	0.113	0.114	0.100	222,280,951
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,920,817	207,397	65	0.109	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0.917	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	21,800,000
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	65,859	23,127	12	0.352	0.352	0.350	0.352	0.356	-0.004	-1.124	0.350	0.350	0.352	0.100	19,380,000
OM0000006920 VISION INSURANCE	359,631	28,749	12	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.078	0.083	0.100	8,000,000
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	190,000	22,350	8	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.151	-0.002	-1.325	0.149	0.146	0.149	0.100	12,665,000
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	1,855,119	766,892	75	0.416	0.416	0.410	0.414	0.420	-0.006	-1.429	0.410	0.410	0.412	0.100	1,479,832,564
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	19,284	15,053	8	0.780	0.792	0.780	0.790	0.792	-0.012	-1.515	0.780	0.780	0.800	0.100	585,000,000
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN	365,000	40,830	15	0.113	0.113	0.111	0.112	0.114	-0.002	-1.754	0.111	0.110	0.112	0.100	26,544,000
OM0000003440 AL SHARQIA INV	1,288,999	130,732	28	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.945	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	9,980,000
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	498,462	30,025	17	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.063	-0.003	-4.782	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.100	18,428,750
Total	20	7,597,902	1,705,886	311											
Parallel Market															
OM0000006979 OMAN QATAR INSUR	1,343,975	178,530	46	0.130	0.134	0.130	0.133	0.122	0.011	9.016	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.100	13,300,000
OM0000001962 AL MADINA INV	1,846,619	45,459	45	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.002	8.696	0.025	0.023	0.025	0.100	3,178,785
OM0000007290 ARABIA FALCON INS	12,808	1,569	2	0.110	0.129	0.110	0.122	0.115	0.007	6.087	0.129	0.120	0.126	0.100	12,602,803
OM0000005280 OMAN ARAB BANK	60,000	10,500	3	0.170	0.180	0.170	0.175	0.170	0.005	2.941	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.100	292,146,750
OM0000007084 MCDESALMATE	8,000	732	2	0.090	0.095	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.002	2.222	0.093	0.090	0.093	0.100	14,310,657
OM0000003681 VOLTAMP ENERGY	11,500	1,622	1	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.139	0.002	1.439	0.141	0.137	0.141	0.100	11,477,788
OM0000001095 DHOFAR INSURANCE	5,000	450	1	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.176	0.176	0.000	0.000	0.170	0.175	0.175	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000001426 OMAN REFINEMENT	965	1,298	1	1.345	1.345	1.345	1.330	1.330	0.000	0.000	1.345	1.345	0.000	0.100	65,500,000
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	100	20	1	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.000	0.198	0.190	0.198	0.100	321,937,378
OM0000001509 DHOFAR INT	1,219	283	1	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.229	0.229	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.100	87,809,870
OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	242,214	20,104	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.079	0.083	0.100	10,375,000
OM0000001608 OMAN PET FUND	444	444	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	10,184,044
OM0000002648 NATIONAL FINANCE	27,400	3,096	1	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	61,159,941
OM0000003083 AL KAMEL POWER	145	36	1	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.000	0.000	0.249	0.000	0.249	0.100	23,966,250
OM0000003265 NAT DETESENT	138	87	2	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.000	0.000	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.100	104,410,000
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	108,829	10,551	6	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	145,500,000
OM0000004735 NAT CORP SALALAH	45,190	3,795	4	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	35,769,034
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	51,496	2,718	5	0.053	0.054	0.052	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.100	35,769,034
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	19,471	7,045	4	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
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	217,055	10,638	17	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.050	0.100	71,657,472
OM0000007043 NATIONAL LIFEINS	12,500	4,925	2	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.000	0.000	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.100	104,410,000
OM0000005549 BANK DHOFAR	196,065	24,181	7	0.123	0.124	0.123	0.123	0.124	-0.001	-0.806	0.124	0.123	0.124	0.100	368,551,227
OM0000001301 DHOFAR CATTLE	20,000	1,880	5	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.086	0.095	0.100	7,599,500
OM0000004947 OMAN PET FUND	5,000	1,545	2	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	35,769,034
OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	15,518	2,711	4	0.174	0.178	0.174	0.175	0.177	-0.002	-1.130	0.178	0.174	0.182	0.100	5,250,000
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	186,600	25,274	14	0.136	0.136	0.134	0.135	0.137	-0.002	-1.480	0.134	0.135	0.139	0.100	4,532,146
OM0000001981 OMAN EMIRATES HO	208,400	13,577	11	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	17,650,000
OM0000004788 MADINA TAKAFUL	1,212,671	122,312	61	0.102	0.102	0.099	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.942	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	1,765,000
OM0000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	54,000	7,928	4	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.147	0.150	-0.003	-2.000	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.100	13,230,000
OM0000003281 TAAGEER FINANCE	318,807	25,030	24	0.081	0.081	0.078	0.079	0.081	-0.002	-2.469	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	20,033,610
OM0000002580 OMAN EDU TRAINING	11,150	2,453	2	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.226	-0.006	-2.655	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	15,490,000
OM0000001152 OMAN NAT ENG	92,882	8,426	7	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.091	0.094	-0.003	-3.191	0.090	0.090	0.094	0.100	11,830,000
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	4,568,915	275,717	120	0.060	0.062	0.059	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	20,948,665
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	10,000	1,400	2	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.146	-0.006	-3.448	0.140	0.140	0.145	0.100	31,113,000
OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEER	636,425	51,770	21	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.081	0.084	-0.003	-3.671	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	16,441,902
OM0000002341 OMAN CHLORINE	10,000	2,325	2	0.238	0.238	0.221	0.230	0.245	-0.015	-6.122	0.221	0.221	0.238	0.100	15,963,942
Total	36	11,673,531	869,158	435											

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

Global agreement reached at ILO meet on action for COVID-19 recovery

GENEVA: Delegates from 181 countries representing governments, workers and employers at the International Labour Conference (ILC) have adopted unanimously a global call to action for a human-centred COVID-19 re-

covery that prioritises creation of decent jobs for all and addresses inequalities caused by the crisis. It outlines a comprehensive agenda and commits countries to ensure that their economic and social recovery from the cri-

sis is "fully inclusive, sustainable and resilient." "Creating a recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient must become a top priority for public policy," said ILO Director General Guy Ryder. — **ANI**

NEW REPORT

Only half of manufacturers on track to reach Paris Agreement goals

PARIS: Manufacturing organisations are setting ambitious sustainability targets for the coming decade with 20 per cent aiming for carbon-neutral operations and two in five (40 per cent) setting their sights on 100 per cent renewable operations by 2030.

This is according to a new report from the Capgemini Research Institute entitled 'Sustainable operations: A comprehensive guide for manufacturers' which shows that only 51 per cent of manufacturing organisations globally are aiming to align with the temperature contribution target of Paris Agreement. Within this cohort, Germany (68 per cent) and France (67 per cent) are leading the pack with respect to their manufacturers being on track to achieve the targets. The Capgemini Research Institute surveyed 1,000 executives among large manufacturers across business functions and regions.

This is according to a new report from the Capgemini Research Institute entitled 'Sustainable operations: A comprehensive guide for manufacturers'

Out of these, 480 organisations surveyed were represented by an executive from the business-facing side and one from sustainability functions. In addition, the researchers conducted one-on-one interviews with 15 senior sustainability executives from the industry's major players. The report also shows that manufacturers are boosting their sustainability agenda with technology as more than half (56 per cent) of organisations are currently prioritising the deployment of digital technologies for

sustainability. According to the report, strong progress in sustainable manufacturing is helping organisations realise the benefits of sustainability initiatives. A total of 89 per cent of organisations implementing sustainability initiatives see an enhanced brand reputation and 81 per cent noted an improved environmental, social and governance rating of

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(M.COM) Indian Male 32 Year. 11 Years Exp in Finance/Accounts/ VAT/Budget/Payroll Software SAP, Excellent in SAP/MS Office/ MIS. Looking suitable placement having Oman driving licence & NOC.
Contact 94684007
Email: vveer555@gmail.com

Senior BSc Civil Engineer
(Having valid Engineering Visa with Oman D/L) with more than 24 years experience including more than 10 years in Oman (Buildings and Roads) worked for the consultants and contractors available with release for immediate recruitment.
Contact: 96753667
Email ID: mohamedishahan@gmail.com

MANAGER
20Yrs experienced Indian commerce graduate, 4 Years of Fleet management in FMCG sector, 7 years of Contracts, Transportation at Oil & Gas sector in Oman, and 10years of Administration in India. D/L & NOC available.
Call/Whatsapp 94777651

Indian Chartered Accountant
Indian Female CA with 8 years' experience in Audit, Accounts, Finance, Investment, Consultancy looking for suitable assignments.
Contact: +968 9914 7922

Civil Engineer/Facility Manager
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise (7 years in Oman) in Civil Construction operation, Project Management, Facilities Management looking for suitable placement. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303
shiv60769@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer
Indian B.E., (Mechanical) with 19 years Oman Experience in MEP system Design, Supervision, Execution & Maintenance of Comm./Res. Buildings, hotels, Hospitals, HyperMarkets, PDO & Govt. Palace and RGO is looking for suitable Opening. Valid D/L, NOC available.
Contact: 92672761
email: tnrajan76@gmail.com

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Contact 98921022
akhtarmahmood3137@gmail.com

Business Administrator
Having a strong interpersonal, communication skills (verbal, written), can speak both Arabic & English languages, having basic knowledge of Microsoft Office application, ability to work on team, a very fast learner.
Contact 94887879
Email: amani.alhaj94@gmail.com

Software Professional
Indian female, 27 years, Software professional (MCA), having 4 years experience in MNC seeks a suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit visa.
Contact 78037607

HR & Administration Professional
With Executive Assistant Exposure, Well Experienced With Oman Labour Law, Well Versed In Office Management, New Office Induction & Administration, Indian Male, With Valid Oman Driving License, NOC Available, Seeks Suitable Placements.
GSM: 94 94 86 76

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

Accounts/Finance/Audit Professional
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
Email: cia.acca1989@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)
CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.
GSM: 78259755

ACCOUNTANT
Indian female having MBA with 15yrs exp as Accountant and Accounts Officer looking for suitable placement. Having Valid Visa, NOC.
Contact: 98783111
Email: anjabinus@gmail.com

Sr. Accountant (BSc, CA Inter)
Indian (male) with 10 years' experience in Accounting up to finalization. Tally, Focus and excellent in Excel functions. Oman DL.
Contact: 78072563

JOB WANTED

LOGISTIC

Young 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

JOB WANTED

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE Officer with Valid Oman D/L License. 7 years experienced in Oman. Contact 94743007 (Oman), +917902565053 (India), Email: ajeesh4god@yahoo.com

PURCHASE

Inventory, Purchase & Accounts: Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B, Operations and various other skills. NOC available. Contact 96219904 Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING

Experienced female sales person from Philippines looking for a job in the retail sector. Contact 90997928

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 71790238

Indian Sales executive, B.Com with D/L looking for job. Has Visa. Contact 78040248

26, Indian male born in Oman, with 3years of experience, having valid D/L, looking for suitable placement in Engineering Sales/Marketing Field Holder of Bachelors in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering. Contact 98914229

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

Building materials young & active person with 10 yrs of experience in Oman (5 years in door & 3 years in outdoor sales experience) with valid Oman D/L looking for urgent placement (now in visa). # 93507031

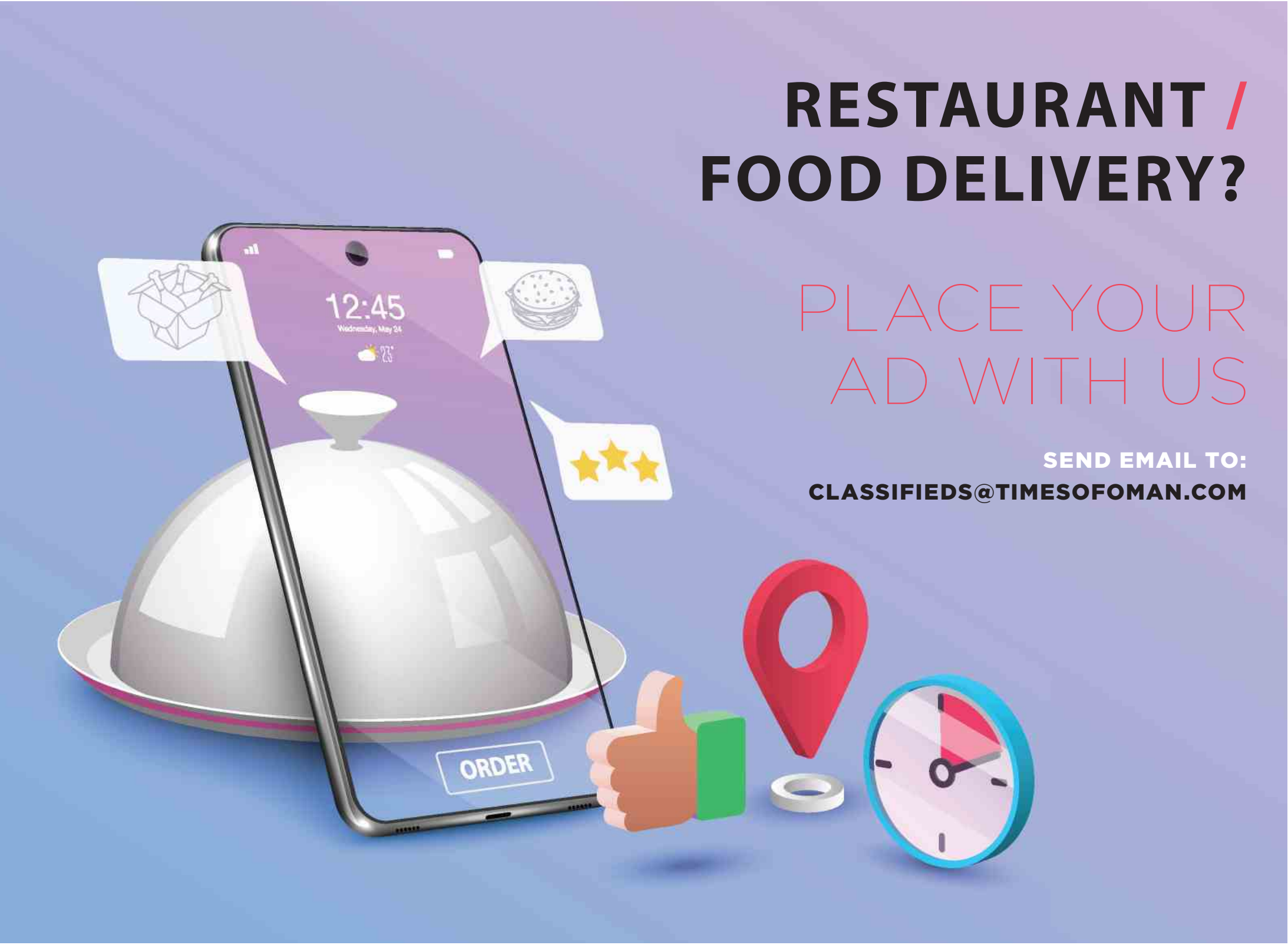
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GERMANY'S HIGH-FLYER GOSENS OUTSHINES RONALDO

BERLIN: The celebrations around Robin Gosens didn't seem to end after his substitution in the Munich Arena after 62 minutes.

The man, having turned into Germany's high-flyer, raised his fist towards the sky accompanied by songs of praise provided by supporters.

His two assists and one goal helped the struggling 2014 World Cup winners find their way back into the lime-light. Unsurprisingly, the German was picked as the star of the match.

After Portugal and their superstar Cristiano Ronaldo were beaten 4-2, the 26-year-old met national and international media, answering their questions in different languages as he acted as an interpreter.

"I will never forget that evening in all my life. Can someone please pinch me? I can't believe it," the full-back stated after Germany won its first three points in Group F of Euro 2020.

A stunning year lies behind the son of a Dutch father and a German mother. He was first picked by German coach Joachim Low only one year ago, and since then has conquered fans' hearts and earned his teammates' respect due to his powerful runs along the left flank and his hunger for goals.

Flying below the radar of German football, Gosens was unknown to most German fans, having never played for or attended the academy of a German club.

"I only feel exotic because I went a different way to most of the others," said Gosens, who plays in Italy for Atalanta. "The others give me the feeling of being one of them and they don't see me differently."

Joining the northern Italian side, his career went through the roof. In the last three seasons, Atalanta have reached the UEFA Champions League.

Gosens has developed into one of Serie A's key attractions and featured in international headlines with his achievements.

Flying below the radar of German football, Gosens was unknown to most German fans, having never played for or attended the academy of a German club

"In no time, he has had a good connection with everyone in the team," Low said. "He is a clear, structured character, stands for unstoppable determination, and is a brilliant communicator."

Turning down a career to become a policeman, Gosens started to play for several teams in the Netherlands due to his dual nationality.

The full-back paid tribute to his current club coach Gian Piero Gasperini. "If there were any talents of that kind, he made them come to life," Germany's new hero said, adding that family, friends and his fiance sent their congratulations right after the game.

"My mobile seemed to explode, so I just put it away," he said after dozens of messages reached him after the "game of his life."

"If you score a goal for your country, it's magic and somehow the next level in your career," Gosens said. He is far from a team leader, he said, but added that he is the one to deliver emotions.



ROUND-UP

‘Everyday Diamond Fest’ at Malabar Gold

Malabar Gold & Diamonds gives its customers an opportunity to explore a truly unique and affordable collection of diamond jewellery

MUSCAT: As part of the ‘Everyday Diamond Fest’, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 260 outlets spread across 10 countries, has unveiled an affordable and unique range of diamond jewellery



suitable for customers for all age and gender, including first-time diamond buyers. With prices starting from just OMR 85, ‘Everyday Diamond Fest’ will be held across all stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, KSA and Singapore. This unique opportunity from Malabar Gold & Diamonds gives each of their customers the pos-

sibility of owning their favourite piece of diamond jewellery, as the collections in ‘Mine’ – Diamond Jewellery, ‘Era’ – Uncut Diamonds and ‘Precia’ – Precious Gem Jewellery brands showcased as part of the festival are available at various price points. Its huge collection of jewellery studded with classic and exquisite diamonds range from lightweight and daily wear to office wear and



elegant party wear, providing the appropriate piece of jewellery for every occasion. The variety in designs ensures that customers can find jewellery that complements their outfit and mood any day of the week. Everyday Diamond Fest includes diamond jewellery ranging from pendant sets to rings, earrings, oval bangles, mangalsutra and men’s rings that can be worn any day of the week. All jewellery showcased as part of the Everyday Diamond Fest come with the Malabar Promise, a set of policies that safeguard the interests of customers and their purchases.

RECOGNITION

GAC awarded for After-Sales Excellence



MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributors for Mitsubishi Vehicles in Oman, was recently awarded the ‘5 Star Gold Award’ in the After-Sales Business Excellence Program for the year 2020 by Mitsubishi Motors Middle East and Africa. GAC received this award for its outstanding after-sales service and customer care. GAC was presented with this award at the recently held MMMEA Regional After Sales Conference. On receiving the award, Ashraf Mustafa Osman, National Service Manager of GAC, said, “We are truly honoured to have been selected for this prestigious award

by Mitsubishi Motors MEA. This prestigious award is a testament to our commitment to achieving after-sales excellence in Oman. Moreover, this award reflects the consistent hard work and dedication put in by our staff here at GAC. Even more so this year, when you consider that we managed to climb from a rank of 3-Star Silver in 2019 to a 5-Star Gold, despite the current market conditions.” The Mitsubishi brand enjoys one of the largest and most loyal customer bases in the sultanate, and for good reason. As its official distributor, GAC is committed to excellence and continues to invest heavily in its employees. As

a result, GAC boasts a highly motivated and qualified workforce, dedicated to maximising customer satisfaction, right from the moment they walk into the showroom for the first time through every stage of the ownership experience. “At GAC we don’t consider every car sold as just a number. We consider it as a new member being inducted into the Mitsubishi family here in Oman. We take it as our responsibility to ensure they have a trouble and stress-free ownership experience for as long as they own their vehicle. This is why, earning this award is such a great source of pride for us, as well as an incentive to do even better next year,” added Ashraf.

SLEEK DESIGN

Enjoy exceptional experience in Lexus ES

MUSCAT: The Lexus ES makes a fine mark with its sleek design, attractive looks, luxurious appointments and more. The Lexus ES continues the expression of the brand’s design direction and commitment towards crafting vehicles with heightened excitement, emotion, and passion, expanding that vision of the brand’s future to a broader audience. Complementing the Lexus ES emotional design is a thrilling drive personality imbued by two powertrain options. The ES350 is powered by a 3.5-litre V6 engine that is designed to deliver commanding acceleration along with an invigorating sound. With the D4-S fuel injection system, the impressively smooth engine produces 298 hp and 36.3 kg-m of torque, while the ES250 is powered by, high-efficiency 2.5- litre 4-cylinder engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg-m of torque. The two powertrains on ES350 and ES250 are paired to an eight-speed direct-shift automatic transmission. The class-leading hybrid electric model’s batteries come with 8 years /160,000km warranty and



are automatically charged either by a petrol engine or during braking or decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. Furthermore, it hosts a number of advanced technologies, yet drives like any other conventional car and does not require special fuel. The ES300h offers an impressive 24.1 km/L mileage. Lexus ES350 F SPORT model further enhances the driving excitement so that drivers can enjoy a sense of oneness with the car, born of its ability to respond immediately to driving enthusiasts’ intentions

in various situations. In addition to a thrilling exterior that highlights its bold and aggressive personality, the Lexus ES350 FSPORT features numerous such as a retuned suspension, 19-inch wheels and tyres, and unique aluminium interior trim that gives the machine a more dynamic look and feel. Completing the Lexus ES’ distinct personality is its exquisite interior that invites the driver and passengers to enjoy a range of advanced features offering a refined cabin experience. Highlighting Lexus’ unrelenting focus on safe-

ty, the vehicle ensures complete peace of mind with Lexus Safety System+, an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS), all-speed range Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Departure Alert (LDA) with Lane Tracing Assist (LTA), and adaptive high beam system (AHS) among many others. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer’s Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

PREMIUM OFFERING

Alizz Islamic Bank launches Sharia-compliant Mastercard corporate credit cards

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank, in collaboration with Mastercard, announces the launch of Sharia-compliant corporate credit cards to provide corporate clients with enhanced efficiency, flexibility, and convenience in managing their business expenses. The new premium offering from Alizz Islamic Bank enables customers to seamlessly track and organise business-related expenditures online. Additionally, the service offers cardholder level, department level, and company level statements for monitoring and accountability. The cards come with a minimum limit of 1,000 OMR and a maximum limit of OMR 25,000 for the Executive Card and a minimum limit of OMR 1,000 and a maximum limit of OMR 15,000 for the World card. Corporate credit card products



have been designed with business needs in mind. The offering enables corporates, businesses, and SMEs to effectively manage their expenses, payables, and overall cash flow. This will also drive better visibility and efficiency into

corporate purchasing decisions and general expenditures. The Executive and World Mastercards will give corporate customers several unique privileges and services, including access to airport lounges in several major

cities. Customers can also avail of special offers ranging from dining and shopping to exciting travel and entertainment experiences. Touching on the launch, Sulaiman Al Harthi, Chief Executive officer of Alizz Islamic Bank said, “Alizz Islamic Bank is Oman’s first full-fledged Islamic bank to offer Sharia-compliant credit cards for retail customers and we are proud to announce this new strategic product, which is in line with our objective to cross-sell new products to our corporate client-based and further strengthen our relationships by providing innovative business solutions.” Al Harthi added, “We are constantly striving to provide the right foundation and tools for companies and corporate entities, whether large, medium or small, to operate their business with maximum ef-

WEBINARS



Bank Nizwa joins hands with AAOIFI and Fingel Global to launch iFinovation

MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa’s ability to innovate and introduce new Sharia-compliant financial services has earned it commendable recognition and established it as the leading Islamic bank in Oman. The bank has been at forefront of progressive change in the Islamic banking industry, building awareness around the sector’s products and service offering. Continuing with this commitment, Bank Nizwa has partnered with Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and Fingel Global to host a series of webinars under the name iFinovation (Islamic Banking Knowledge Series).

The agreement was signed virtually between the organizations as they announced the commencement of the program. The virtual signing ceremony was attended by Khalid Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa along with other members from the executive management of the bank. Other distinguished guests included Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary-General at AAOIFI, Mughees Shaukat Chairman Advisory Board Fingel Global Inc, Canada, Dr Muhammad Fuad who is the President of ASAS, Malaysia as well as Mukhtar Abdullah CEO of ASAS Malaysia. Other important individuals were Mohammed Kateeb, CEO of Path Solutions and Tan Sri Syed Jalaudine, Senior Advisor of FGI. The signing ceremony also witnessed the participation of key local dignitaries. To spread awareness about Islamic finance among the masses as well as share the latest trends, developments and achievements of the sector, this virtual event is slated to be the first of its kind in the Sultanate. The entire programme, which will be conducted on virtual platforms, will be attended by top Islamic banking and finance veterans and experts who will shed light on innumerable related topics through the course of expert lecture series.

“Bank Nizwa has been leading the way in Islamic banking and it is through partnerships like these that we endeavour to reach even more people and spread awareness about the benefits of Islamic banking. AAOIFI and Fingel Group mirror the same ambitions as we do and we are certain that our collective efforts will make iFinovation a huge success,” said Khaled Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa. “Bank Nizwa always encourages its team mem-

bers to take the lead on various initiatives and iFinovation will see key officials from the bank sharing their inputs in their respective areas of specialisation. In the past, the bank has been an active participant in several Islamic finance conferences with other industry leaders, prominent regulators and standard-setting organisations. We hope to take this commitment to the next level with iFinovation.”

Commenting on the joint initiative and the partnership, Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary General, AAOIFI, Bahrain, said, “Bank Nizwa has established itself as a leader in the industry and has demonstrated an unfaltering dedication to ensure that the concept of Islamic finance reaches every corner of the globe. The iFinovation seeks to bring such passionate leaders in the industry together to share the knowledge, inspire others and continue creating awareness about Islamic finance across the globe.”

iFinovation is a convenient, cost-efficient and more agile way of reaching a wider audience. It helps ensure that quality sales leads are also generated and nurtured. An online format also makes sure that the content remains accessible at any time to all those who have registered, therefore enriching the organisation’s online content too. The webinars will cover an array of topics that range from Islamic Financial Contracts and Products, Regulation and Supervisory Framework in Islamic Banking and Finance, and Islamic Wealth Management, Social Finance and role of Waqf to Economic Diversification, Impact of COVID-19 and role of Islamic Banks, the digital future and Fintech Applications in Islamic finance, and the risk management and AML, cyber security, VAT and Climate change in Islamic Finance, amongst many other topics.

“Through the pioneering iFinovation initiative, we will bring together popular thought leaders, subject matter experts and case study examiners, as well as academic and industry experts. These individuals are skilled top-notch officials who are not just well-versed in their fields, but also reflect utmost passion in what they do, driving newage Islamic Finance in Oman” said Mughees Shaukat, Chairman Advisory Board Fingel Global Inc, Canada.

ROUND-UP

Badr Al Samaa all set to open its state-of-the-art branch in Mabelah

Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre, Mabelah will be inaugurated by the chief guest Sheikh Nasr bin Shuwain Al Hosni, Undersecretary, Ministry of Labour

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals is launching its 13th state-of-the-art branch in Mabelah, Muscat on Wednesday, June 23 at 6pm. Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre, Mabelah will be inaugurated by the chief guest Sheikh Nasr bin Shuwain Al Hosni, Undersecretary, Ministry of Labour. Dr Mazin bin Jawad Al-Khabouri, Director General, Directorate of Private Health Establishments, Ministry of Health, Oman will be the guest of honour of this event. Mabelah is a developing commercial and residential city in the Seeb region that needs the best quality healthcare services and availability of all major specialities, saving money and time for the patients who have to travel distances.



Looking at the needs and demands of the local population and following our vision of taking quality and affordable healthcare services to every part of Oman, the management of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals decided to dedicate this advanced medical centre to the people of Mabelah and surrounding areas. Strict measures to follow COVID-19 protocols will be in place for this event. During the times of COVID-19, when the whole system and manpower is stretched and over-utilised, it was a challenge to establish and launch the medical centre. But considering the growing demand for quality

healthcare in current times Badr Al Samaa made extraordinary efforts to make this happen. Abdul Latheef and Dr P A Mohammed, Managing Directors of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals in a joint statement said, "The advanced infrastructure of this medical centre is benchmarked with the best. The patients and attendants will appreciate the services and ambience of this state-of-the-art facility. We have employed the best doctors, nurses, support staff and advanced technology to ensure an extraordinary experience for our patients. Looking at the demand of the people, we may convert this facility into a hospital soon. We have enough space and infrastructure in

this huge 9 storey building." This state-of-the-art facility will deliver healthcare services in the specialities like general medicine, internal medicine, cardiology, obstetrics & gynaecology, urology, paediatrics, dental, dermatology, ent, orthopaedics, general surgery, etc. This centre has the most advanced machines for radiology and pathology diagnostics. This medical centre will have facilities for COVID-19 Vaccinations and RT-PCR Sample collection. Badr Al Samaa plans to add more diagnostic and therapeutic modalities and specialities in the medical centre gradually. Badr Al Samaa is launching an advanced Infertility treatment (IVF) centre in the same premises in a month. A whole floor will be dedicated for this comprehensive centre comprising of state-of-the-art IVF OT, embryology lab, andrology lab, IVF OPDs among others. This centre has an advanced emergency department with seven beds and ambulance services and facilities for resuscitation, plaster, nebulisation, vaccination, ECG, etc. Board of Directors and senior management of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Health, Muscat Municipality, Ministry of Labour, Royal Oman Police and all statutory and regulatory bodies for their complete support and guidance in this project. They also appreciated the projects and operational team who have tirelessly worked and made this dream come true in the stipulated time.

BANK MUSCAT

Al Mazyona conducts monthly draws focusing on governorates

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to promoting a strong savings culture in Oman, Bank Muscat recently conducted a number of draws under its Al Mazyona scheme 2021 for May. As many as 451 winners won a total of OMR 610,000 in the different draws, which included the monthly mega draw as well as the Asalah, Al Jawhar and governorate draws, with the special spotlight being on the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah this time around. With 18 branches, 51 ATMs, 11 CDMs and 17 FFM (Full Function Machines), the governorate enjoys excellent coverage from the largest financial services provider in Oman. The monthly mega draw saw one lucky customer win the top prize of OMR 50,000. Bank Muscat Premier Banking customers were the other big winners in the draws with 10 Asalah customers winning OMR 25,000 each and 20 Al Jawhar customers winning OMR 5,000 each in the monthly draws for their respective categories. The monthly draws for all the governorates including the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah saw 420 winners being rewarded with OMR 500 each. The bank congratulated all the winners for their excellent savings habit, which resulted in them winning exciting prizes in the monthly draws. Bank Muscat customers having Al Mazyona savings accounts are eligible and are automatically entered into the draws if they maintain the balance required for the different draws. All customers maintaining a balance of OMR 100 are entered into the monthly draw for different governorates while those maintaining a balance of OMR 1,000 were entered into the Monthly Mega Draw.



It must be noted that all Asalah customers who maintain a minimum balance of OMR 30,000 and Al Jawhar customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR 10,000 are automatically entered into the monthly draws in their respective categories. In 2021, the Al Mazyona scheme will give away over OMR 11 million to 7,470 winners compared to 6,677 winners in the previous year, with the number of winners going up by 12 per cent. It features several special draws including a National Day draw, a Mid-year draw and an End-of-

Year draw, apart from the regular monthly draws for different customer segments. Al Mazyona draws, which are live-streamed on the bank's social media channels on Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, are well known for their transparency and are keenly followed by the bank's customers and the general public. Bank Muscat has invited all its customers to save more to get more chances to win in the upcoming Mid Year draw, which will be held later in July and will give away over OMR 1.5 million across different segments.

PROMOTION

Buy stylish and sleek MG 5 with starting EMI at OMR69 only

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to Do More, MG Motor is offering its stylish and sleek MG 5 sedan with a reasonable EMI starting from OMR 69 only. MG Motor has extended its Festival of Winning campaign by popular demand and if you book or buy MG 5 sedan by end of June, you can avail low EMI offer along with a host of other benefits. The buyer of MG 5 will get a chance to instantly win mobile phone bundles or fuel cards or up to 200,000 free service packages. Apart from this, the buyer will also stand a chance to win his/her car back every week. The other guaranteed benefits are free insurance, free registration and free window tinting. A senior spokesperson of MHD, the sole distributors of MG Motor in Oman, says, "Known for its distinctive style, superior performance and smart technology, MG 5 is one of our most special sedans and we are happy to offer it at a monthly reasonable EMI of OMR69 only. "We have clubbed this offer with our ongoing Festival of Winning campaign for guaranteed benefits to our customers. The buyer of MG 5 will enter a weekly draw and if selected, he/she will get a chance to win the car back. This is a great deal as there is a huge demand for MG 5 for its capabilities, comfort and safety quotient and value for money."



Distinctive style As soon as you step inside the MG 5, you will realise that the vehicle is as intelligent as it is stylish. The forward-thinking cabin puts you in complete control of all key features, while the sense of space adds a sense of freedom. The buyer can choose from a range of leather and fabric upholstery, and benefit from the adjustable seating to find the perfect position. With boot space of up to 512 litres plus a host of storage options, it is an ideal sedan for a big family vacation.

Interactive technology Cutting-edge technology can be found in abundance in the MG 5. At the heart of the dashboard, you will be able to access the media system via the 10.1-inch colour touch screen. Through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, there will be an opportunity to stream audio and manage communications with minimum fuss. What's more, this display also offers a 360-degree camera view of your vehicle, helping you lookout for any potential risks that may impact your car.

5-star safety MG 5 comes with a five-star NCAP safety rating, thanks to its range of safety measures. From Hill-Start Assist to Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, Curve Brake Control to a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, one can be assured of utmost safety in this sedan. With a full complement of airbags and ISOFIX anchor points, you also benefit from complete peace of mind. MG is a British-born automotive brand established in 1924, known for its historic models, awards and achievements throughout the past 97 years. MG was founded by William Morris and Cecil Kimbers and has one of the oldest car clubs in the automotive industry. Best known for its two-seat open sports cars, MG also produced saloons and coupes. Since it acquired MG, SAIC Motor, as a Global Top 500 company, has opened a new chapter for this British icon. MG is at the forefront of the introduction of innovative technologies and new energy vehicles for car buyers. MG Motor showrooms in Oman are located in Wattayah, Azaiba, Al Manuma, Bidaya, Sohar, Nizwa, Salalah, Sur, Ibra and Ibra.

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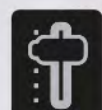


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