

OMAN, TURKEY TO BOOST ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi held a virtual meeting yesterday with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the 76th meetings of the UN General Assembly. **>A4**



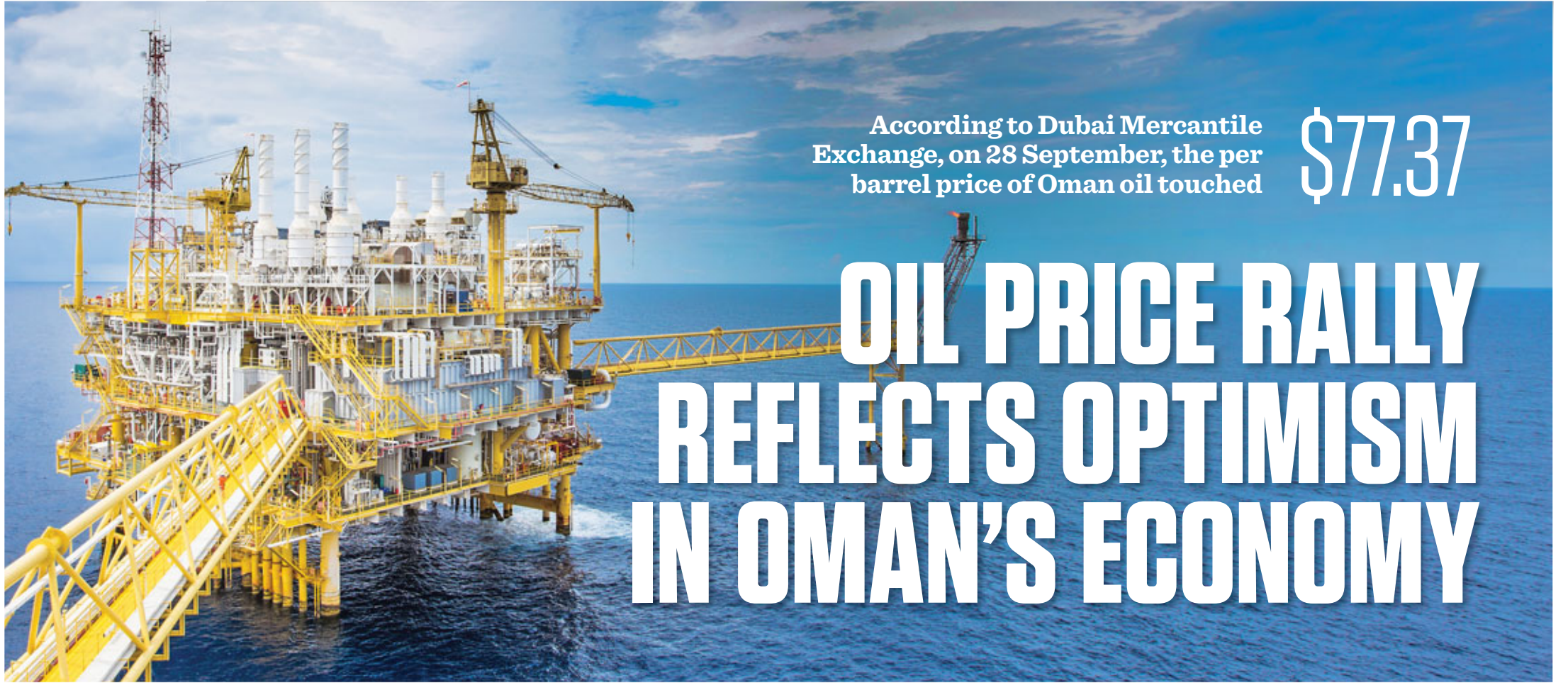
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HM SENDS CONDOLENCES TO MOROCCO

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco on the death of princess Lalla Malika. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in peace in paradise and grant King Mohammed and his family fortitude to bear the loss. **-OMA**



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According to Dubai Mercantile Exchange, on 28 September, the per barrel price of Oman oil touched

\$77.37

OIL PRICE RALLY REFLECTS OPTIMISM IN OMAN'S ECONOMY

Higher oil prices and increased GDP translate directly into more money to finance Tanfeedh expansion plans across multiple sectors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Increased prices of Oman crude oil will go hand-in-hand with the reopening of more businesses and activities in providing more optimism towards the country's economy.

Oman's oil prices on 28 September touched \$77.37 a barrel (about

OMR 30), according to the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME), and it is hoped that the increased money earned from oil exports can be used to benefit other areas of the economy.

Plans on how to use this additional revenue were discussed by the Majlis Al Shura, in a meeting organised by Shura Council Chair-

man Khalid bin Hilal Al Maa'wali.

"The Shura Council expressed the desire to exploit the current increase in international oil prices and achieve revenues that will help in reducing the public debt of the Sultanate," said a statement from the council.

Last time

Last time in October or November of 2019 the price of Oman oil was around this mark, according to Hiriyanna Narayanaswami, the chief financial officer for Al Maha Petroleum. He added, however, that while the current prices do provide cause for optimism, things could change very quickly, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is a really good price for

Oman oil right now – even just before the pandemic, in January of 2020, oil prices were between \$60 and \$70 a barrel," he said. "The main reasons behind the increase in oil price is because of the reopening of economic activities, the low numbers of COVID-19 infections, and the high vaccination rate."

"All of these elements have increased consumer confidence, which in turn has pushed up the oil prices," he added. "The benefit is that Oman will earn more from its exports, and the money earned can then be used to reduce the country's public deficit and help expand the economy, which is what is already underway."

Al Maha's CFO explained that these prices should not be taken

for granted, as any sudden changes for the worse in the global COVID situation could bring down demand for oil once again.

Delta variant

"It was around November or December last year that the impact of the Delta variant really began to be felt, so we should understand that things are still quite uncertain right now," he added.

"But I think that the situation will only get better from here. If things continue on this trajectory, then the price of oil will soon cross \$80 and reach around \$85 a barrel, but I don't think it will go beyond that."

"The Oman government's response to the pandemic has been really well planned out – there

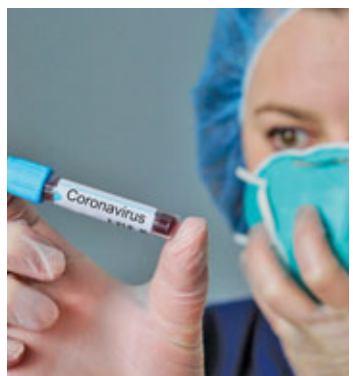
are very few hospital admissions and patients in ICU, and far fewer people currently with COVID than there were previously, so credit must definitely go to them for that," said Narayanaswami.

Domino effect

Adding to this, Ramanuj Venkatesh, a financial analyst, said that an increase in oil prices would directly impact Oman's GDP, which in turn will have a positive domino effect on the country's economy.

"Oman is currently embarking on its Tanfeedh plans across multiple sectors, so a strong oil price and increased GDP directly translate into more money to put into expansion plans," he explained. **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN September cheer: Recovery rate at 98%

1 Oman's COVID-19 recovery rate reached nearly 98 per cent, as the country recorded the 12th day in September on which no deaths from the disease were reported. No deaths have now been recorded for two days in a row. **>A3**

WORLD No Afghan, Myanmar speeches at UNGA

2 The United Nations representatives for Afghanistan and Myanmar were dropped from the list of speakers who were to address world leaders on Monday, the last day of the UN General Assembly in New York City. **>A6**

MARKET Gabbro quarry to operate from October

3 In a new milestone towards its investment journey, Minerals Development Oman (MDO) has announced that the start of commercial operations of the gabbro quarry in Wilayat of Liwa, Governorate of North Al Batinah will commence by October. **>B1**



Indian Chief of Naval Staff visits Shabab Oman Ship II

A5

VISAS

Long stay scheme for expat investors to be announced today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new scheme that will provide long stay visas to expatriates who invest in Oman is to be announced today.

Details of the Investor Residence programme are to be made public by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP). The new programme ensures that upon obtaining residency, investors will be provided further incentives and benefits, in keeping with conditions of the residency period.

The programme comes with the aim of facilitating the granting of residency for five to 10 years to investors wishing to invest or reside in Oman. These long-stay visas,

which can be renewed, are part of efforts to enhance the investment environment, and take into account security, legal, social and economic aspects of the country.

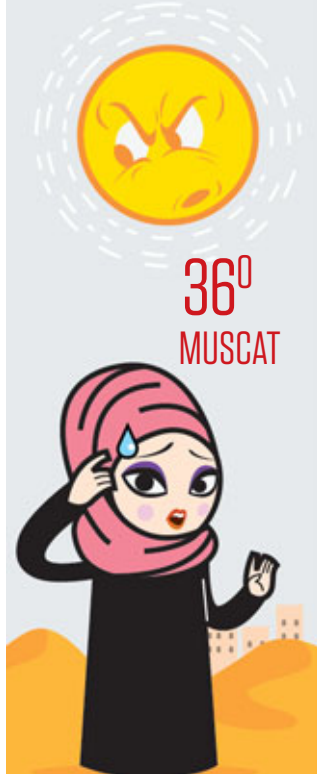
The programme also aims to attract and promote qualitative investments that contributes to the growth of the domestic product and support the national economy, the localisation of industries, the transfer of advanced technologies and modern techniques, and the promotion of economic diversification.

To ensure it generates the desired results, indicators have been developed to periodically evaluate its effectiveness, and to measure the financial and economic impact of the scheme split into stages.

>A5

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PANDEMIC

Surge in demand for COVID-19 vaccination cards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Print shops in Oman are making brisk business in printing COVID-19 vaccination cards, which are a very convenient way to show proof of vaccination.

The cards provide an alternative to people using the Tarassud app on their phones, or printed vaccine certificates that are often used to show proof of vaccination prior to entering malls, shops, restaurants, offices and other areas.

"We began offering vaccination card services at the end of August or early September, and we have seen good demand since then," said a member of staff at a photo studio in Ruwi. "Each day, we print between 40 and 50 cards, and demand does not seem to be stopping any time soon."

"It is very convenient for people to walk into our shop and request a vaccination card, because so many people work nearby," added another printer in Hamriya. "All they need to do is pop in for 10 minutes, share with us their details, and come back when the card is ready."

People who wish to order a vac-



cination card need to provide their inoculation details, as listed on their Tarassud app. A photo is optional, but needs to be provided separately.

The front of the vaccination card contains the person's resident card and passport details, as well as their name and nationality, alongside their photo. On the reverse side are the vaccination details and a QR code, which when scanned shows the online version of the vaccine

recipient's certificate.

Most shops offer two kinds of vaccination cards: the first, is a laminated paper version that is cheaper and readied in a few minutes. The second, a plastic card, requires longer to fabricate, and is a bit more expensive.

"We can only print a few dozen cards a day, so we have developed

a policy where those who order plastic cards have to come back in two days' time to pick them up," explained a shop owner in Qurum. "So far, that does not seem to have deterred people."

"We also get people providing their details to us over email or WhatsApp, and then ordering the cards over the phone, so that

they are saved the time of an additional journey and can pick up the card when it is ready," he added.

"The card fits easily into your wallet and is a very convenient way to show proof of vaccination."

"There are some who do not wish to, or cannot always keep their mobile phone data on, which means they cannot always access the Tarassud app," he said. "Others do not like to take out their phone every now and then in public places, or may not know how to properly use the app."

"People sometimes also forget printed copies of their vaccination certificate at home, but you would not need to leave your card lying around, as it easily fits into a wallet or purse," he went on to add. "This is a really convenient way to carry your proof of vaccination wherever you go."



OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:02pm
Asr.....3:27pm
Maghrib.....6:02pm
Isha.....7:12pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:43am

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On other pages

ANC must expand, says Mandela - Page 2

Iran says Israel must free more Arabs - Page 3



Bionics - a science of the 21st century - Page 6

BUSINESS TIMES

Japan aid for Soviets likely before G7 meeting - Page 7

Scandinavian, Soviet Railways sign joint venture deal - Page 8

Angola's rebel chief back after 16 years - Page 10

US on course for Ryder recapture - Page 12

Weather

Partly cloudy skies will prevail over northern Oman along Dhofar region with chances of isolated rain showers over the mountains of northern Oman. Mainly clear skies will prevail over rest of the Sultanate with morning low clouds along the coastal areas.

Light to moderate south to southwesterly winds are likely over Janubia and the interior of northern Oman. Moderate northeasterly winds are likely over the northern coast during day and light south-west during night.

Sea will be slight to moderate with a maximum wave height of 1.5 metres.

Maximum temperature for the Muscat area is 33°C, minimum temperature is 27°C. Relative humidity is 60%-90%.

Tide will be high at 11:45 a.m. and low at 06:51 p.m. It will be high again at 02:15 a.m. and low at 07:11 a.m.

For the Salalah area, maximum temperature is 29°C and minimum temperature is 24°C. Relative humidity is 55%-85%.

Tide will be high at 10:46 a.m. and low at 06:36 p.m. It will be high again at 02:36 a.m. and low at 05:57 a.m.

Temperatures recorded in other countries: Abu Dhabi 39, Dubai 35, Riyadh 37, Jeddah 34, Bahrain 33, Kuwait 30, Doha 33, Cairo 33, Karachi 30, Bombay 31, Paris 18, London 13 and Geneva 16.

Minister of Health in Syria

MUSCAT - The Minister of Health, Dr. Ali bin Mohammed bin Moosa left for Damascus yesterday on a three-day official visit to Syria at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart, Dr. Mohammed Ayyad Al-Shatti.

Dr. Moosa will hold talks with his Syrian counterpart on development of cooperation between the two countries in the health field.

Dr. Moosa is accompanied by an official delegation which includes Dr. Ahmed bin Abdul Qadir al-Ghassani, Director General of Preventive Medicine.

HISTORIC, UNILATERAL STEP BY UNITED STATES

Bush orders deep cuts in N-arsenal

WASHINGTON - President Bush wants the Soviets to join in scaling back the world's most powerful nuclear missiles as he commences the United States to eliminating most short-range missiles.

In an announcement detailing some of the biggest changes in nuclear history, Bush has pledged to "take steps to make the world a less dangerous place than ever before in the nuclear age."

Bush said in a nationwide television address that he will eliminate ground-launched short range nuclear weapons - most of them stored in Europe - as well as those carried on ships and submarines, including the Pentagon's 350-400 Tomahawk Cruise missiles. But the United States will keep those carried aboard aircraft.

He further offered to open negotiations with the Soviet Union to eliminate all long-range ballistic missiles with multiple warheads, an area where the Soviet Union has a large advantage.

Bush, however, would keep US ship-borne multiple warheads, where the United States has the edge.

It was not clear how many warheads would be eliminated under Bush's unilateral cut, but a senior official who briefed reporters said it would be several thousand.

The President called on the Soviets to respond to his plan with "equally bold steps."

He telephoned Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian

Implementation begins

WASHINGTON - Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney signed an order yesterday taking off alert US nuclear-armed bombers and 450 long-range missiles, implementing a cornerstone of President Bush's nuclear arms reorganization.

Cheney said the order involved 40 strategic bombers at 12 bases, and that their weapons would be put into storage and the planes turned over to maintenance crews.

Also being removed from alert status - meaning ready for launch - were 450 Minuteman II long-range nuclear missiles in underground silos, Cheney said. These weapons are scheduled to go under START - AP

President Boris Yeltsin on Friday to inform them of his decision and also consulted on Friday with European leaders.

"I have asked the Soviets to go down this road with us - to destroy their entire inventory of ground-launched theatre nuclear weapons," Bush said.

Gorbachev was expected to make a formal statement at 1115 GMT Saturday. His spokesman, Andrei Grachev, said Gorbachev's reaction to the Bush speech "was undoubtedly positive."

"Major positive steps might follow," Grachev said.

Yeltsin strongly endorsed the initiative and "spoke in favour of identical huge cuts on the Soviet Union's side," the Russian Information Agency reported.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, briefed in New York by Secretary of State James A. Baker III, said his country is "prepared to give a positive response to an initiative of the United States and to meet US steps halfway."

From Capitol Hill, Democratic

Chairman Les Aspin of the House Armed Services Committee, said of Bush's announcement: "The thrust of his new policy is right and he's targeted the right systems."

But he complained the proposal would save only \$500 million from the \$291 billion defence budget.

Administration officials did not offer cost estimates but said some of the scaling-down steps would likely end up costing money. Bush warned against any expectations for "a budget windfall for domestic programmes."

Much of Bush's plan is geared toward reducing the hair-trigger status of US and Soviet nuclear arsenal, which has caused great concern about an unintended nuclear exchange.

Eliminating tactical weapons from Europe, Bush said, is appropriate because, "a Soviet invasion into Western Europe, launched with little or no warning, is no longer a realistic threat. The Warsaw Pact has crumbled. In the Soviet Union, the advocates of democracy triumphed over a coup

major nuclear arms reorganisation proposal late on Friday night.

Answering questions from his new press secretary, Andrei Grachev, Gorbachev said in the broadcast: "It is very important that the process of nuclear disarmament in which both our countries took part is entering a new level, acquiring new dynamics."

"Without any over-estimation, our evaluation of these proposals is positive, very positive," he said.

"It demonstrated the adherence of the American Administration to nuclear disarmament. As a result of these proposals, the process promises a serious movement toward a nuclear-free world," he said.

Gorbachev said Bush's proposals were part of a process begun at previous US-Soviet summit meetings in Switzerland, Iceland, Washington, Moscow and Malta. - AP

Very positive, says Gorbachev

MOSCOW - President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said yesterday that the Soviet Union might do to reduce the US nuclear arsenal "promises a serious movement toward a nuclear-free world."

Gorbachev, speaking on national television, had no concrete counter-proposal but called Bush's plan "very positive."

Gorbachev did not specify what the Soviet Union might do to reduce the US nuclear arsenal "promises a serious movement toward a nuclear-free world."

"They're going to just keep going and going and going until it's all done," said Jeremy Mansfield of the 44-member inspection team.

Mansfield, a Canadian, spoke to the Associated Press in a telephone interview from the Hotel Palestine in Baghdad, where the UN-Iraqi effort was under way. He estimated it would take nearly 24 hours.

The showdown began after the Iraqis demanded the inspectors turn over documents they had seized

that detailed Iraq's secret nuclear programme. The inspectors refused. Iraqi troops then surrounded the UN inspectors, who included 27 Americans, forcing the team to camp out in a bus and six vehicles outside the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission.

David Kay, the American head of the UN team, said that according to the agreement with the Iraqis, his team would remain in possession of documents, including personnel records of nuclear programme workers. The Iraqis had feared those documents would end up in the hands of the CIA agents and Israel's Mossad secret service.

"We essentially won everything that we have been staying here for. The documents, the photography, the video remain with the inspectors and we are free to leave this camp," he said. - AP

Rowas in Egypt

MUSCAT - The Minister of Information Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas left yesterday for Cairo to attend the meetings of the joint Omani-Egyptian Information Commission.

In a statement to Omani News Agency he said the meeting was important because it comes after the liberation of Kuwait and other regional and international developments. "The Arab nation is in a historic crossroads which requires continual consultations and cooperation between its states."

He referred to the positive role of information during the critical period and currently and spoke of the importance of the coordination in this field. "The information co-ordination with Egypt has reached advanced phases and the co-ordination is still raising momentum and we look forward to our meeting with the Egyptian Minister of Information Safwat Al Saraf," he said. - OMA

Rowas in Egypt

MUSCAT - The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Salim bin Abdullah al-Ghazali yesterday gave a lecture to General Secondary School students at Al-Bustan Palace Hotel, as part of the Year of Industry activities. The Minister praised the directives and continued support of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos for the promotion of industry at the administrative, technical and pro-

duction levels. The Minister spoke of the role of industry in supporting the national economy and its importance to the prosperity of the country and future generations. He also confirmed the need for reliance on national industries utilising raw materials found in the Sultanate and spoke of the importance of training a national labour force. - Pictures by Rodolfo Alfonso

Oil symposium in Salalah

SALALAH - An International symposium on obstacles facing the oil industry during the 1990s began yesterday in Salalah.

The under-secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals Salim bin Mohammed bin Shabab described the symposium in his opening speech as important and unique on both the agenda and the participants which deal with the different aspects of the oil industry.

He said the main objective of the symposium was to exchange views on the technical and economic aspects of the industry.

Speakers featured by the Ministry's General Education Department showed that this year's enrollment was 32,296 more than that of school year 1990-91. The student population last year was 355,986.

This rise in enrollment, education officials told the "Times", necessitated the opening of 44 new school buildings and evening classes in various areas of the Sultanate. They also said 52,777 first grad-

ers enrolled this year, 2,797 more than last year's 49,980.

Last school year, there were 15,121 school teachers on the Ministry's payroll.

But officials said the total number of teachers required this year was 16,739.

Some of these vacant teaching positions, the officials pointed out, had already been filled up by new graduates from Oman's teaching institutes.

In spite of this big growth in the school population, the Ministry had enough textbooks for all school levels. A Ministry spokesman said the enrollment increase had been anticipated so that enough books were printed before the start of the school year.

Last year, 5,332 students graduated in the general secondary education section of which 2,201 came from the scientific side and the rest from the literary section.

Police said the typhoon captured 32 ships and flooded 10,614 homes. More than 3.6 million households, including 2 million on Kyushu alone, had also been affected by temporary power outages - the nation's worst typhoon-related blackout on record.

The storm, which has bypassed the densely populated Pacific coast of the main island of Honshu, was expected to move beyond Japan's northern shores early today.

Japan's typhoon season begins in July and usually ends in October. A weaker typhoon last week killed 15 people. - AP

Mobutu boosts army pay

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Cables

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Arab League mission on Kuwait POWs

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The Iraqi news agency INA quoted the head of the Ministry's Arab Department Saad Qasem Hammoudi as telling Abdullah Adam, the Arab League Secretary-General's representative: "Iraq has no interest in holding any Kuwaiti."

Hammoudi promised that "Iraq will render all the facilities to make the league's mission successful," INA said.

Kuwait has accused Iraq of dragging its feet on the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners and preventing the ICRC from getting information about them.

Iraq has retorted by saying Kuwait was not interested in taking back many Kuwaitis in Iraq.

This is believed to be a reference to the fact that many of them are "bedouins" or stateless Arabs who fought for Kuwait but who do not have Kuwaiti citizenship.

Restor

Typhoon kills 45 in Japan

TOKYO - Typhoon Mireille, pelting Japan with heavy rains and strong winds, has killed at least 45 people, injured 700 and blacked out more than a million households, authorities said yesterday.

Mireille, the 19th typhoon spawned in the Pacific this year, hit Japan's southern shores on Friday afternoon with winds gusting up to 212 kph (133 mph).

Heavy rains triggered landslides and widespread flooding on the southern island of Kyushu, where 10 deaths were reported.

According to the National Police Agency, 45 people had been killed, most by falling debris, landslides and floods, nationwide as of yesterday afternoon. Another six people were reported missing and 700 injured.

Police said the typhoon captured 32 ships and flooded 10,614 homes. More than 3.6 million households, including 2 million on Kyushu alone, had also been affected by temporary power outages - the nation's worst typhoon-related blackout on record.

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COVID recovery rate nears 98%

For the first time since the start of the pandemic in February 2020, only one patient was admitted to hospital in the last 24 hours

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's COVID-19 recovery rate reached nearly 98 per cent, as the country recorded the 12th day in September on which no deaths from the disease were reported.

No deaths in Oman have now been recorded for two days in a row, although 32 new infections were reported in the past 24 hours, while 355 people have recovered, bringing the recovery rate to 97.9 per cent.



Oman's total caseload stood at 303,705, while recoveries totalled 297,252, as of 28 September.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic in February 2020, only one patient was admitted to hospital in the last 24 hours. There is also a marked drop in the number of active infectious cases, which fell this week to under 2,000.

September reported no deaths from the disease on the 4th, 12th, 14th, 26th and the 27th, as well during seven consecutive days from the 17th to the 23rd.

Oman's total caseload stood at 303,705, while recoveries totalled 297,252, as of 28 September.

ber. Sadly, 4,095 people have died from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Precautions

Although there has been a significant downturn in infection and transmission rates, the Ministry of Health (MoH) continues to warn people about taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID.

"Avoid group activities and gatherings, wear a mask, maintain a physical distance of at least two metres, and regularly and thoroughly wash hands with water and soap or clean them with a certified hand sanitiser," said the ministry in its daily briefing.

"Avoid touching the face, nose, mouth, and eyes, avoid going out from home unless necessary, follow healthy habits when sneezing or coughing, and adhere completely to isolation if you show symptoms, or have been in close contact with a positive case," added MoH.

"With our commitment to wearing masks and maintaining social and physical distancing, we will prevent the spread of coronavirus to ourselves, our families, and our communities," added the ministry.

OKR METHODOLOGY

Performance measurement training for employees of Ministry of Education

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Department of Qualification and Training at the Directorate-General of Administrative Affairs in cooperation with the Main Committee of the Individual Performance Measurement System and Institutional Proficiency, implemented this week the training programme entitled "Individual plans according to the OKR methodology in the individual performance measurement system and institutional proficiency".

The training programme targeted thirty-three trainees from the team leaders of the individual performance measurement system and institutional proficiency at the ministry and the Director-Generals of education from various governorates.

Dr. Salwa Al-Qasabiah, Director of Implementation of the Individual Performance Measurement and Institutional Proficiency System Project, delivered a speech in which she said, "This meeting comes with the aim of forming



the members of the sub-teams affiliated with your administrative division. The programme seeks to spread the culture of work in the system and deliver the desired results from its application to the educational field, whether at the level of the employee, the official, the unit or the community in general."

The programme includes a paper entitled "Preparing trainers in the field of operational planning and building individual plans according to the OKR methodology". Dr. Ali Al Darmaki, Head of the Quality Systems Department in the Quality Department, and Hilal Al Ameri, Head of the Education Economics Department in the Educational Needs Planning Department, and Ali Al-Rashidi, Assistant Director of the Financial Affairs Department at Al Buraimi Governorate, delivered the paper over the course of two days covering a variety of topics.

The programme aims to provide all participants with the skill of formulating smart goals, familiarising themselves with the OKR methodology, building individual plans according to the OKR methodology, and evaluating the extent to which participants are able to transfer their training experiences to all employees of the Ministry of Education.

OIL PRICES

< FROM

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Brent crude price tops \$80

"This expansion will encourage more investors in the country to invest into projects here, while external investors will also look at Oman as a viable option."

"In the long-term this will lead to more jobs for people in the country and more production across multiple sectors, which in turn will lead to a decreased dependency on imports from other countries, making Oman self-sufficient across more areas," he added.

The mechanism used by the Dubai Mercantile Exchange to calculate the price of Oman oil is called the Oman crude oil futures contract. It is also used as a pricing tool for oil produced in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the Emirate of Dubai.

Mohammed Al Wardi, an economic analyst, said that Brent crude oil prices exceeded \$80 for the first time in three years, driven by increased demand and reduced supply.

"This will represent a promising start for the Sultanate's budget 2022, according to the nature of oil future contracts," he said. "This will also make it more likely than the IMF's expectations that the Sultanate's budget will achieve a fiscal surplus for the next year."



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PLAYFUL TERTIARY LEARNING — A DIFFERENT PATH TO FOLLOW



The new normal classrooms without physical walls have created a unique learning culture, which demands the teachers to be technologically savvy. Ironically, the online course delivery has given an opportunity to the teachers to learn new technologies and improve their acumen in technology-assisted teaching. However, when we are back to the brick and mortar classrooms in the post-pandemic era the students may feel highly exasperated with the traditional classroom discourse which hardly uses technology for teaching and learning. There comes the importance of developing more creative classroom strategies which

are learner-centric and interactive. Gamification of learning and game-based learning are popular in schools to ensure student participation and facilitates collaborative learning. This is high time for tertiary education to try serious classroom games to make a difference.

A recent study conducted by Hitchens and Tulloch has reported that the students find gamification of learning as enjoyable and useful leaving only 15 per cent disagree with it. Another study by Buckley and Doyle emphasised the importance of gamification by acknowledging the effect of gamification on student's motivation. However, implementing gamification is a costly affair that requires the

Gamification
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institute to subscribe to different apps and software. In fact, many institutes are forced to deny the growing call from the students due to the high investment required in creating the IT infrastructure. Interestingly, there are benchmarkable success stories that break through the cost barriers.

Mr Shajeer Sainudeen, Senior Lecturer delivering the University of West of England courses in Maldives, has shared his own success story of gamification with zero cost. According to him, games with pen and paper could also generate student interest and motivation as in the case of digital games. He asked the students to do the problem-solving in groups by assuming charges with the help

of the lessons discussed. He said the students are more disciplined in the class since they assumed the role of an Internal Auditor or HR manager while doing the game activity.

Mr Alen Kuriakose, assistant professor, School of Social work, Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous), has shared his in-classroom experiments which helped him to win the students attention. Alen says, "I'm fond of case studies and loved to discuss case studies in classrooms but it's a scary thing for my students and they used to say we want to get rid of these lengthy case studies". Mr Alen has successfully used the 'Kahoot' free version to conduct group quizzes from the case

study. Adding on, he made a small change in the delivery strategy which triggered an overall change in the student's mindset on case studies.

Finally, since the students appreciate and demand the use of gamification of learning this could be experimented with in the tertiary learning environment. Moreover, games could be part of the assessment as well, which gives the students additional motivation to participate in the collaborative activities.

Ubais Parayil Iqbal, is a Lecturer in University of Technology Business Department, and Applied Sciences, Nizwa.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Oman, Turkey to boost economic cooperation



VIRTUAL MEETING: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi held a virtual meeting with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the 76th meetings of the UN General Assembly. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi held a virtual meeting on Tuesday with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the 76th meetings of the UN General Assembly.

During the meeting, Sayyid Badr and Cavusoglu stressed the need to upgrade bilateral coordination to keep pace with the two countries' growing economic and

investment cooperation.

They also exchanged views on key regional and international developments, including climate challenges, efforts for recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and the UN agenda for sustainable development.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Qasim Mohammed Al Salhi, the Sultanate's Ambassador to Turkey. - **ONA**

NCSI DATA

More than 60 government sports facilities registered in Oman till 2020

MUSCAT: The number of government sports facilities in the Sultanate reached 67 by the end of 2020, according to statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

As many as 278,064 people benefited from those facilities (213,488 males and 64,576 females) comprising a drop by 76.7 per cent compared to 2019 when the number of beneficiaries stood at 1,200,000.

The Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex came first in terms of beneficiaries reaching 109,115, as 79.6 per cent were males and 20.4 per cent females.

The centre's statistics further indicated that the largest number of government sports facilities was for sports clubs, amounting to 44, which is 66 per cent of the total government sports facilities, followed by 12 sports centres and 11 sports complexes.

Additionally, the number of spectators who attended the sports complexes in 2020 stood at 94,435, a decrease by 86 per cent compared to 691,000 in 2019.

The number of international and local participations of sports federations during 2020 stood at 48 competitions and championships, 123 training courses and lectures, 33 camps and 6 conferences, seminars and forums.

Moreover, the number of partici-



pants in activities by sports affairs departments decreased by 26.1 per cent, from 20,937 participants in 2019 to 15,474 participants in 2020.

Al Dakhiliyah Governorate

Al Dakhiliyah Governorate came first in terms of participants in sports activities in 2020, by 18.4 per cent.

The Paralympics Committee and the Omani Committee for University Sports accounted for 44.3 per cent of the total participants in the sports committees during 2020, compared to 2019, when they

accounted for 12.1 per cent.

The total sports activities implemented by the sports committees reached 27, in which 857 players participated (647 males and 210 females). The total number of medals won in 2020 by the national teams stood at 143, comprising a fall by 62.9 per cent compared to 2019. The medals won are 15 gold medals, 113 silver medals and 15 bronze medals.

The number of participants in summer activities reached 11,137, comprising 5,783 males and 5,354 females.

Meanwhile, the number of players with disabilities in various sports reached 110 players, comprising a rise by 22.2 per cent, of which males constituted 93.6 per cent while females amounted to 6.4 per cent. The number of basketball players on wheelchairs reached 24, while the number of goalball players stood at 30.

Moreover, the number of players in athletics for people with physical and visual disabilities reached 31 players. Furthermore, there were 7 players of chess and 18 players of blind football. - **ONA**



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EXERCISE

Cybersecurity drill seeks to boost preparedness to thwart attacks

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MUSCAT: The 9th Cybersecurity Exercise of Arab and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) states began yesterday via videoconferencing under the motto of “Enhancing Cybersecurity Readiness”.

The exercise is organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology’s Informatic Safety Centre.

The drill is being organised by the Sultanate for the fourth consecutive time.

The event included a simulation of cyberattacks and IT security incidents aimed at testing the readiness and capabilities of cybersecurity units and their response to offensives.

The exercise seeks to enhance coordination and cooperation among different establishments and upgrade their ability to address security incidents. It also raises awareness about mechanisms and procedures to be undertaken when tackling electronic hazards and threats. -ONA



NATIONAL ROLES

Indian Navy Chief visits Shabab Oman Ship

MUSCAT: Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Indian Naval Staff yesterday went on tour of Shabab Oman Ship II of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO).

The Indian military official and his accompanying delegation were received on board the ship by Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, RNO Commander.

During the tour, the members of the Indian military delegation met with the commander and crew of Shabab Oman Ship II.

They got acquainted with the ship’s national roles, its naval achievements, community participations and voyages. -ONA



GCC UMC COMMANDER VISITS OMAN

Lt. Gen Eid Awad Al Shalawi, Commander of the GCC Unified Military Command (UMC) arrived on an official visit to Oman. The delegation was received upon arrival at A’Seeb Air Base by Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF). - ONA



WOODING INVESTMENT

< FROM A1 Investor visa scheme

In this context, efforts have been taken to evaluate and measure the number of new foreign investment companies setting up operations in Oman, the volume of foreign investment coming into the country, and the new employment opportunities created as a result of this investment scheme.

The application to benefit from the programme is to be submitted through the Investment Services Centre of the MOCIIP through an electronic system that links all the concerned authorities.

These also include the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Royal Oman Police (ROP), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, the Scientific Research and Innovation body and the Oman Centre for Credit and Financial Information (Mala), in partnership with the Oman 2040 Vision Implementation Follow-up Unit, and the Ministry of Information.



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EXPLOSION

Apartment building blast leaves several injured in Sweden

STOCKHOLM: An explosion in an apartment building in Gothenburg, Sweden, injured up to 20 people early on Tuesday morning, according to Swedish media outlets.

The explosion occurred in the early hours, and rescue services are still working to put out fires that spread to several apartments, the Swedish news agency TT and

public service radio SR reported.

What we know so far

TT reported the explosion occurred just before 5 a.m. local time (0300 GMT) in the Annedal district in the centre of Sweden's second-largest city.

Authorities said they had opened an investigation and that though the cause of the blast was

not immediately clear, there was reason to "believe something has exploded that is not of natural causes," police spokesperson Thomas Fuxborg told a news conference. A spokesperson for the Sahlgrenska University Hospital said three women and one man were seriously wounded among those hospitalized.

Emergency services said they

were still working to evacuate people and extinguish fires.

"Several apartments and stairwells are affected. It is at present unclear what has caused the explosion," said a spokesperson for the emergency services in the wider Gothenburg area, before adding that several hundred people had been evacuated from the vicinity of the blast. **bw**

UN General Assembly ends with no speeches from Afghanistan, Myanmar

Afghanistan's ambassador to the UN was on the speakers' list until Sunday evening. He was dropped on Monday morning



NEW YORK: The UN representatives for Afghanistan and Myanmar were dropped from the list of speakers who were to address world leaders on Monday, the last day of the UN General Assembly in New York City.

Both the Taliban in Afghanistan and the military junta in Myanmar had written to the UN secretary-general to say their representatives to the United Nations were appointed by governments that were no longer in power.

Diplomats told a news agency

that Washington, Beijing and Moscow appear to have brokered the move to drop each of the countries' representatives from speaking at the general debate session.

The three countries are part of a nine-member committee that decides on whether an appointed person has the credentials to represent the country at the global body.

Afghanistan's ambassador to the UN was on the speakers list until late Sunday evening. He was dropped on Monday morning.

Why did this happen?

Ghulam Isaczai, Afghanistan's

representative to the UN, was due to speak to leaders on Monday. He was to give a speech in defiance of the Taliban who seized control of the country in August.

Isaczai was appointed by Ashraf Ghani, Afghanistan's ousted president. The Taliban said that Isaczai "no longer" represented Afghanistan in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last week.

The hard-line group asked for their newly appointed foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to be allowed to "participate" instead. But diplomats said the request had come in much too

late for the committee to decide. Isaczai's name was on the speakers list that went out late Sunday evening.

Monica Grayley, a spokeswoman for the assembly's president, said that Afghanistan "withdrew its participation in the general debate," without citing a reason for withdrawal.

What happened with the Myanmar representative?

Similarly, Myanmar's Kyaw Moe Tun, who was chosen by the country's ousted government, was scheduled to give an address on Monday as well.

Myanmar's de facto head of government, Aung San Suu Kyi was ousted in a coup in February.

The military junta said in a letter to the UN in July that it had appointed Aung Thurein, who left the military after serving 26 years, as Myanmar's ambassador to the UN.

The international body has not yet approved the appointment of the former general. Kyaw Moe Tun has the support of the international community and has retained his seat at the UN. **bw**



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COMMENTARY

FDA-approved Alzheimer's drug will help spur innovation towards personalised therapies

Dr. Omar El-Agnaf, Executive Director of Qatar Biomedical Research Institute



Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative disease that is clinically diagnosed as a form of dementia. Mostly identified in those aged 65 and above, Alzheimer's is the onset of a progressively degenerative form of memory loss and it impacts patients and their families physically, psychologically, socially, and economically.

Treatment for Alzheimer's is normally administered in the form of certain prescription drugs.

Mitigate memory loss

This treatment could briefly mitigate memory loss, but the medications generally come with many side effects. Doctors recommend such medications for temporary use as the side effects outweighed any positive short-term impact.

However, this year saw a breakthrough when the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval for the

first novel drug to treat Alzheimer's disease in nearly 20 years, bringing welcome news for those living with the disease and their families. Similar to any other approved drug, the FDA has concluded that the benefits outweigh the potential risks. Aducanumab, manufactured by Biogen Inc. and pharmaceutical company Eisai, is the first therapy to attack the underlying disease process and slow down its impact.

The approval of the drug comes at a time when there is an extremely high death rate among people with dementia globally due to the pandemic, according to Alzheimer's Disease International.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Taliban-appointed chancellor bars women from teaching, attending Kabul University

KABUL: Women will no longer be allowed to attend classes or work at Kabul University "until an Islamic environment is created," the school's new Taliban-appointed chancellor has announced.

"As long as real Islamic environment is not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to universities or work. Islam first," Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat said in a tweet on Monday, reported CNN. The new university policy echoes the Taliban's first time in power, in the 1990s, when women were only allowed in public if accompanied by a male relative and would be beaten for disobeying, and were

kept from school entirely.

According to the *New York Times*, some female staff members, who have worked in relative freedom over the past two decades, pushed back against the new decree, questioning the idea that the Taliban had a monopoly on defining the Islamic faith.

"In this holy place, there was nothing un-Islamic," one female lecturer said. "Presidents, teachers, engineers and even mullahs are trained here and gifted to society," she said. "Kabul University is the home to the nation of Afghanistan." *New York Times* reported quoting her. Around 70 teaching staff of the Kabul University, including assistant professors and

professors have resigned after the Taliban sacked PhD holder Vice-Chancellor Muhammad Osman Baburi and replaced him with Muhammad Ashraf Ghairat, a BA degree holder.

The appointment of Ghairat as VC in the biggest university based in Kabul has led to protests on social media. Critics have highlighted a tweet by Ghairat last year in which he justified the killing of journalists. Earlier, the Taliban officially changed the name of a government university in the name of Burhanuddin Rabbani-former Afghan President and founder of Afghanistan's second-biggest political party- to Kabul Education University. **ANI**

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Scotland overcome resurgent Oman

Requiring 122 runs in the last 13 overs with only 3 wickets in hand, Oman rattled Scotland by pressing on the pedal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Scotland held their nerves to overcome a fully charged up Oman by 18 runs in a World Cricket League (WCL) Division 2 game at Oman Cricket Academy Ground 1 in Al Amerat on Tuesday.

Requiring 122 runs in the last 13 overs with only 3 wickets in hand, Oman rattled Scotland by pressing on the pedal, Naseem Khushi and Sandeep Goud stealing 56 in the next seven overs to reach 209 before the former perished in the 45th over. Power-hitting specialist Goud found a capable ally in Kaleemullah and the duo took Oman to 243 in the



48th over before the latter was out hit wicket while trying to hit another boundary.

Scotland bounced back from hereon. Needing 31 to win in two overs, Goud brought Oman closer

to the target hitting the first two balls for a six and a four. However, Chris Sole bowled four dot balls to leave Oman a monumental task of having to score 21 in the last over. Safyan Sheriff did exceptional-

ly well to concede only one run in the final over to help Scotland to a sensational win. Goud remained unbeaten at 54 with 3 fours and 4 sixes. Opener Jatinder Singh top-scored for Oman with a typically fluent 64.

Earlier, Scotland rode on a brilliant 97 by Richie Berrington who mixed caution with aggression to build a platform for his side to attack the hosts who have looked pretty strong on home turf.

The tourists got off to a good start reaching 107 for 1 in 23 overs before a couple of quick wickets slowed them down. While the first half clearly belonged to opener Kyle Koetzer who struck a fluent 60, it was Berrington all the way in the second half, shifting gears to put Oman on the defensive. His five hits over the ropes were instrumental in help the tourists to a good score of 273 for 6 in 50 overs.

Brief Scores: Scotland 273 for 6 in 50 overs (Richie Berrington 97 - 5x4, 5x6, Kyle Coetzer 60 - 7x4, 2x6, Dylan Budge 32 - 2x4, Calum Macleod 26 - 2x4, Mathew Cross 25 - 4x4, George Munsey 25 - 2x4) beat Oman 255 for 9 in 50 overs (Jatinder Singh 64 - 5x4, 3x6, Sandeep Goud 54 not out - 3x4, 4x6, Aqib Ilyas 33 - 2x4, Naseem Khushi 27 - 1x4, 3x6, Kaleemullah 20 - 1x4, 2x6. Chris Sole 3-79) by 18 runs.

COMMENTARY

Glenn Maxwell, the big show

Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group



Glenn Maxwell, who is also called as the big show, came to the party for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the last match in Dubai against rivals Mumbai both with the bat and ball and made a telling effect on Royal Challengers' winning their first game in the UAE leg and giving Virat Kohli crucial two points that took them to the third position.

Last year Glenn Maxwell had a torrid time in UAE playing for Punjab Kings when he managed just 130 runs without scoring a single match winning innings and faced a lot of criticism from his fans.

His biggest strength is that he can play all round the wicket and his reverse sweep takes every bowler by surprise which is called the Switch hit in the modern game that goes for big sixes. Teams now specially keep a fielder to block his go to shot and Maxy surprises them by going for the slog sweep on the other side of the ground.

But Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings went on bidding war for Maxwell and it was

Royal Challengers Bangalore who bought him for a whopping Rs 14.25 crores which is close to two million dollars. And Glenn Maxwell did not disappoint the Royal Challengers Management who backed him by scoring consistently first in the India leg with scores of 39, 59, 78 and 56 which were also instrumental in Royal Challengers winning their matches.

He has so far scored 300 runs at a strike rate of 138 and also chipped in with three wickets. He is a live wire on the field and a total team man as will be seen coming out in the time out which is the breaks in every game and giving his valuable advice to the captain and the support staff.

He is one of the most gifted batsmen in the modern world and no wonder he is called as the 'Big Show' for his confidence and tendency to play extravagant shots.

STABLE CONDITION

Inzamam-ul-Haq suffers cardiac arrest, undergoes angioplasty

LAHORE: Former Pakistan skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq who suffered a heart attack and underwent successful angioplasty on Monday evening is now stable but under observation.

Inzamam was complaining about chest pain over the last three days and the initial testing had cleared him but tests on Monday revealed he had suffered a heart attack, reported ESPNews. He was then rushed for surgery. As per his agent, Inzamam was stable but under observation.

The 51-year-old Inzamam is Pakistan's highest run-getter in ODIs with 11,701 runs in 375 matches, and the country's third-highest in Tests with 8829 runs in 119 matches.



He was also among the country's most successful captains.

Inzamam had retired from the international game in 2007 and has since held several positions in Pakistan, as a batting consultant and then the chief selector from 2016 to 2019. He has also worked as head coach of Afghanistan. **ANI**

T20 CRICKET WORLD CUP

Big corporates come forward to support OC

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Big Omani companies have come forward to support Oman Cricket (OC), which is going to host the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup on behalf of BCCI in October, and signed the agreements at Oman Cricket Academy in Amerat on Monday.

The chief guests of the ceremony Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, Minister of Oman Investment Authority and Basil bin Ahmed Al Rawas, Undersecretary of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth were present at the event along with the signing authority of the



Oman Cricket Club, Pankaj Khimji, the Chairman of the board.

"The ICC T20 World Cup 2021 is one of the major events hosted in Oman and will be extremely instrumental in gaining recogni-

tion for the sport in our country. Striking Sponsorship with leading companies will only help us put for the best for our participants and viewers of the game," said Pankaj.

Dr. Amor Al Mataani, CEO of Oman LNG Development Foundation; Aladdin Abdullah Hassan Baifadhil, Vice President, Consumer, Oman Telecommunications SAOG; Khalid Mohammed Al Fanah, Corporate Sustainability Manager, OMIFCO; Sanjay Anand, COO and Head- Jindaal Shaded Iron and Steel; Ahmed Al Musalmi, CEO, Sohar International; Omar bin Mahmood Al Mahrizi, CEO of Sohar Free zone / Deputy CEO - Sohar Port and Ayad Ali Al Balushi, Chairman, Sohar Aluminum were present at the signing authorities of the respective sponsors.

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Campaign Period: Up to 21st October 2021. Benefits are applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses Insurance (as applicable), he/she will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. Cash gift in lieu of insurance can also be used as part of down payment. • Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only, excluding diesel grades) on 19YM / 19PLT: Yaris HB, Camry, Avalon, Rush & Fortuner. 20YM / 19PLT: Yaris HB, Corolla HEV, Camry, Camry HEV, Supra, Avanza, Fortuner & Hilux 4x2. 20YM / 20 PLT: Yaris, Corolla, Corolla HEV, Camry, Camry HEV, C-HR, Avanza, Rush, Fortuner, Highlander, Hilux. 21YM / 20 PLT: Corolla 2.0, Fortuner, Hilux. 21YM / 21 PLT: Yaris SD, Corolla, Camry, Camry HEV, Fortuner, Hilux. 22YM / 21 PLT: Fortuner, Hilux. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per Insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. **2 Years / 20,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 2 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on all models of 22 YM LC WGN (LC 300) 3.5L. **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on all models of LC WGN (LC200) 4.6L & 5.7L. Vehicles may include dealer installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2021 reaching \$77.37, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.21 from the price of Monday, which was at \$76.16. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,952.13 points, up 0.53 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.55 per cent at 577.35 points. Oman Fisheries was the top gainer, up by 19.92 per cent. While Asaffa Foods, down 9.95 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's Gabbro quarry set to begin operations in October

Gabbro is witnessing an increased demand by many Gulf and regional markets, due to its rapid importance to the construction sector

MUSCAT: In a new milestone towards its investment journey, Minerals Development Oman (MDO) has announced that commercial operations of the Gabbro quarry in Wilayat of Liwa, Governorate of North Al Batinah will commence by October with a production capacity of 2.4 million tonnes of gabbro.

Since obtaining the exploration licence, the company has conducted a geological and economic

feasibility study that revealed a recoverable amount of about 211 million tonnes of gabbro in a mine life of about 50 years, covering an area of 2.2 square kilometres.

Based on the feasibility study, Ahjaar Mining Company was established in 2019 to operate the project in partnership with As-sarain Group and Al Fajar Al Alamia Company. Purchase agreements were also signed for 2.4 million tonnes of gabbro. The company has ambitious plans to increase the production to reach 5 million tonnes in the next phase.

This is the first mining license that MDO has obtained in January 2019. Gabbro is witnessing an increased demand by many Gulf and regional markets, due to its rapid importance to the construction sector.

MDO was established with a clear strategic vision to invest in the mining sector in Oman and to increase its contribution to the growth of the economic and social sectors by creating job opportunities and building local capacities and competencies, in addition to supporting small businesses and developing the local added value. - **ONA**



EXPLORATION LICENCE: Since obtaining the exploration licence, the company has conducted a geological and economic feasibility study that revealed a recoverable amount of about 211 million tonnes of gabbro in a mine life of about 50 years, covering an area of 2.2 square kilometres. - **Supplied picture**

MEMORANDUMS OF COLLABORATION

PDO continues to support community through new social investment initiatives

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has committed to supporting a host of new initiatives to benefit communities and boost sustainable development across the Sultanate.

The initiatives include commitments in the key areas of health, safety and the environment, community infrastructure development as well as youth and women empowerment all of which are fully aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Eleven Memorandums of Collaboration (MoCs) confirming these commitments were signed at an official ceremony held under the patronage of Dr Laila bint Ahmed bin Awad Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development at the PDO Knowledge World venue in Muscat.

To support the provision of providing the best health services to citizens residing within the company's concession area, PDO is funding the purchase of a new mini Dialysis unit for Al Mazyoon Hospital. The project will ease the suffering of patients that would otherwise have had to travel 280km to Salalah for treatment.

Other HSE pledges include PDO's support to people with dis-



abilities and genetic diseases. As part of this, the company is backing five non-governmental organisations by providing assistive devices for people with mobility disabilities to the Association for the Welfare of Handicapped Children and the Oman Association for the Disabled in Ibri and Sohar. PDO will also fund awareness and therapy programmes to be provided by the Oman Down Syndrome Association and Oman Hereditary Blood Disorders Association.

Providing job opportunities to enable Omani youth to earn a decent living is one of PDO's main priorities. In line with that, PDO is funding the establishment of

four kiosks to create 15 job opportunities for recovered drug addicts with the Amanah Waqf Funds Management Company.

PDO will also sponsor the establishment of five Agricultural Reserves which will be used to train people with low income on growing seasonal agriculture products to be sold in different outlets creating an extra income, which is fully aligned with the government's efforts in achieving the no poverty goal of the UN SDGs and supervised by Dar Al Atta Association. The Company will also support the distribution of 116 laptops manufactured by an Omani SME for low-income students.

PDO Managing Director Steve Phimister said, "PDO continues to continuously expand its social responsibility umbrella to include various aspects related to the communities in which we work, making every effort to provide the necessities for a decent life for all segments of the community."

"Our commitment and support are targeted at meeting pressing community needs through the provision of important facilities and services to support in areas such as health and employment. We will only succeed if the communities in which we operate succeed, and these programmes will no doubt empower citizens and contribute to the sustainable development of Omani communities."

Another agreement signed at the event aims to establish a multi-purpose centre for the Omani Women Association and Al Wafa Centre for Rehabilitation for the Directorate of Social Development in Shaleem. In addition, to support the company's efforts in reducing carbon emissions and raising public awareness in this field, PDO is launching the Dheyaa Solar Project, which will include installing solar panels on the roofs of public buildings in both Al Ghubra South and North in Wilayat Al Jazir.

REPORT

Middle East economy has almost recovered from pandemic losses

MUSCAT: The Middle East economy has almost recovered from pandemic losses, aided by higher oil output, progress in vaccination rollouts and easing of coronavirus related restrictions, revealed the latest Economic Insight report for the Middle East, compiled by Oxford Economics.

Despite growing concerns globally and regionally over the delta variant, GDP in the Middle East is forecasted to grow by 2.6 per cent this year, 0.2 percentage points (pp) higher than ICAEW's estimate last quarter. An uptick in economic activity will see GDP growth accelerate further to 4.4 per cent in 2022.

According to the report, GCC economies have benefited from domestic and global reopening, and the positive momentum should carry into 2022 as they raise oil output. GCC GDP should return to pre-crisis levels in the first quarter of 2022, with growth accelerating from 2.2 per cent this year, 0.1pp higher than Q2 projections, to 5.1 per cent in 2022. The GCC economy shrank by 5.1 per cent in 2020, according to ICAEW.

Regional Purchasing Manag-

ers' Index (PMIs) show continued expansion in the non-oil sector across the region. Business conditions are improving, boosted by rapid vaccine roll-outs and stronger global growth. Improved levels of output, new business and employment also point to further recovery.

Preparation for major regional events, including the delayed Expo 2020 Dubai in the UAE and 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, and Saudi Arabia's aggressive investment strategy are also supporting the expansion of activity. Overall, ICAEW forecasts GCC non-oil growth of 3.1 per cent and 3.9 per cent this year and in 2022 respectively.

Despite the rise in prevalence of the Delta variant and concerns over future COVID-19 variants, governments in the region have re-opened borders, mostly to vaccinated travellers. Several countries, including the UAE and Qatar, have among the highest vaccination rates globally, putting them in good stead to attract tourists and workers, even as travel takes time to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels.

FORECAST

World Bank trims growth forecast for East Asia and Pacific

WASHINGTON: The World Bank has lowered its forecast for economic growth for many East Asian and Pacific countries.

"The region's recovery has been undermined by the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant, prolonging the distress for firms and households, likely slowing economic growth and increasing inequality," the World Bank said.

Economic activity began to slow down in the second quarter of 2021, and growth forecasts have been downgraded for most countries in the region, according to the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Fall 2021 Economic Update.

While China's economy is projected to expand by 8.5 per cent, the rest of the region is forecast to grow at 2.5 per cent, nearly 2 percentage points less than forecast in April 2021. Employment rates and labour force participation have dropped, and as many as 24 million people will not be able to escape poverty in 2021.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Fisheries was the top gainer, up by 19.92 per cent, while Asaffa Foods, down 9.95 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,952.13 points, up 0.53 per cent from the previous close.

The Sharia Index ended down by 0.55 per cent at 577.35 points. Oman Fisheries was the top gainer, up by 19.92 per cent, while Asaffa Foods, down 9.95 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of AlAnwar Investment was 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 799 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.5 million, with more than 15.4 million shares changing hands.

Out of 46 traded securities, 26 advanced, 4 declined and 16 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC and

Arab investors were net buyers for OMR147,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR109,000 followed by local investors for OMR38,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,256 points, up 0.16 per cent.

Prices of Al Madina Investment, Muscat Finance, Oman & Emirates Holding, Al Anwar Investment and Al Sharqia Investment were up 7.14 per cent, 5.26 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 3.60 per cent and 3.13 per cent respectively. Oman United Insurance and Ominvest were down 2.63 per cent and 0.64 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,256.94 points, up 0.86 per cent.

Services Index was up by 1.13 per cent before closing at 1,697.54 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	3,956.94	3,931.35	3,952.13	3,931.35	20.78	0.53
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,275.13	6,246.55	6,256.76	6,246.55	10.21	0.16
Industry Index	6,256.94	6,203.46	6,256.94	6,203.46	53.48	0.86
Services Index	1,698.04	1,679.99	1,697.54	1,678.79	18.75	1.12
MSX Shariah Index	582.61	577.35	577.35	580.57	-3.22	-0.55
MSX TR INDEX	4,755.84	4,725.08	4,750.06	4,725.08	24.98	0.53

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
15,450,964	2,529,648	799	22,013,157.214	26	4	16	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	452,380	26,928	31	0.059	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.057	0.003	5.263	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	18,428,780
OM0000001190	NATIONAL GAS	331,757	47,956	32	0.142	0.147	0.142	0.145	0.139	0.006	4.317	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	12,323,660
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,951,562	339,896	72	0.113	0.117	0.113	0.115	0.111	0.004	3.604	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	23,000,000
OM0000003900	AI MAHA MARKTING	15,240	10,626	3	0.700	0.700	0.692	0.696	0.672	0.024	3.571	0.692	0.692	0.700	0.100	48,024,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	64,119	29,659	5	0.466	0.468	0.466	0.466	0.450	0.016	3.556	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.100	102,520,000
OM0000003440	AL SHARQIA INV	415,100	41,035	21	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.056	0.003	3.125	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	8,910,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	2,353,676	338,387	86	0.141	0.146	0.141	0.144	0.140	0.004	2.857	0.144	0.142	0.149	0.100	34,128,000
OM0000003005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	287,907	139,378	19	0.510	0.526	0.510	0.520	0.510	0.010	1.961	0.526	0.526	0.524	0.100	28,600,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	230,730	173,560	37	0.746	0.756	0.746	0.752	0.740	0.012	1.822	0.756	0.756	0.756	0.100	564,000,000
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	7,800	624	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.079	0.081	0.100	8,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	65,703	6,107	5	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.087	0.083	0.082	0.084	0.100	278,075,793
OM0000003969	COBRED	60,250	23,151	10	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.380	0.004	1.033	0.384	0.380	0.384	0.100	248,962,584
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	240,000	53,340	19	0.222	0.223	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.002	0.909	0.223	0.222	0.222	0.100	73,453,742
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	229,585	104,381	44	0.448	0.440	0.448	0.454	0.450	0.004	0.889	0.454	0.454	0.440	0.100	17,230,140
OM0000003786	BANK MUSCAT	889,227	385,731	32	0.444	0.446	0.444	0.446	0.444	0.002	0.450	0.446	0.444	0.446	0.100	1,694,215,757
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	2,165	573	2	0.260	0.265	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.260	0.266	0.100	52,000,000
OM0000002226	ALAJAZEHA SERVICES	3,580	1,374	4	0.382	0.384	0.382	0.384	0.384	0.000	0.000	0.384	0.380	0.384	0.100	23,502,441
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	95,780	29,010	6	0.316	0.316	0.308	0.310	0.312	-0.002	-0.641	0.308	0.308	0.318	0.100	250,495,423
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	167,470	127,296	25	0.760	0.776	0.760	0.760	0.772	-0.012	-1.554	0.760	0.760	0.776	0.100	119,700,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	164,573	60,815	11	0.378	0.378	0.366	0.370	0.380	-0.010	-2.632	0.368	0.362	0.368	0.100	37,000,000
Total		9,005,654	1,949,868	468												

Parallel Market

OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	17,230	1,410	3	0.079	0.082	0.079	0.082	0.076	0.006	7.895	0.081	0.081	0.083	0.100	10,250,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INV	7,881	473	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.056	0.004	7.143	0.060	0.056	0.061	0.100	4,200,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	259,507	19,383	13	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.075	0.072	0.003	4.167	0.075	0.074	0.077	0.100	9,140,625
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	370,278	55,550	41	0.147	0.151	0.147	0.150	0.145	0.005	3.448	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	5,035,718
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	439,937	42,834	38	0.096	0.099	0.096	0.097	0.094	0.003	3.191	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	12,610,000
OM0000003281	ALFA ROMEO	94,268	44,477	41	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.001	2.703	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	19,272,840
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,005,437	78,324	45	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.076	0.002	2.632	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	15,832,943
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	101,300	5,166	5	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.001	2.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	735,003	78,520	23	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.102	0.002	1.961	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	18,300,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	419,480	24,327	26	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.058	0.059	0.100	20,250,376
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	413,398	27,505	25	0.065	0.067	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.066	0.068	0.100	13,200,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	3,000	498	1	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.000	0.901	0.166	0.162	0.169	0.100	4,880,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,000	1,925	1	1.925	1.925	1.925	1.750	1.750	0.000	0.000	1.925	1.750	1.925	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000001537	HISCB BANK OMAN	210,952	19,408	3	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.100	184,028,777
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	2,175	326	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.140	0.150	0.100	13,950,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	500	450	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	87,400,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	300,000	35,400	4	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.129	0.100	353,569,469
OM0000003083	AL KAMEL POWER	150	27	1	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.202	0.202	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.000	0.202	0.100	19,442,500
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	500	23	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.042	0.046	0.100	9,724,440
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	398,203	37,722	18	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	212,515,538
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	101,000	5,252	3	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.050	0.052	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	8,726	1,614	4	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.000	0.185	0.100	308,840,850
OM0000005993	PHOENIX POWER	362,328	16,697	13	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.100	212,515,538
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	403,837	59,768	14	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.134	0.158	0.100	14,800,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	5,100	1,754	2	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.382	-0.038	-9.948	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.100	41,280,000
Total		6,431,820	578,907	329												

INVESTMENT

Ford's auto plant, electric vehicle battery factory to add 10,800 jobs

GLENDALE: Ford and a partner company say they plan to build three major electric-vehicle battery factories and an auto assembly plant by 2025 — a dramatic investment in the future of EV technology that will create an estimated 10,800 jobs and shift the automaker's future manufacturing footprint toward the South.

The factories, to be built on

sites in Kentucky and Tennessee, will make batteries for the next generation of Ford and Lincoln electric vehicles that will be produced in North America. Combined, they mark the single largest manufacturing investment the 118-year-old company has ever made and are among the largest factory outlays in the world. —BNA

INSTALLATION PROJECT

Tanweer implements 1st phase of smart meters

MUSCAT: As part of Nama Group and its companies' efforts to raise the efficiency of billing processes and provide a better experience to its customers, the Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer), a member of Nama Group, announced the successful completion of the first phase of the smart meters project (AMR & Prepaid meters) installation project.

The national project aims to replace conventional analogue meters with smart meters by 2025 to allow a better customer experience by offering an accurate and instant overview of the actual consumption of electricity for each customer, which in turn will eliminate the human error factor associated with some cases of physical meter readings.

Intensive steps

The project's first phase included installing about 4,000 meters by September end. Tanweer has also taken intensive steps to spread awareness and highlight the advantages and importance of smart meters and ways to achieve maximum benefits. And how smart meters can help customers optimally manage their electricity use and participate in reducing carbon emissions.

Latest technologies

Through the smart meters project, Tanweer adopts the latest world-class technologies to obtain accurate meter readings and automatically calculate the consumption of each customer, which improves the quality of meter reading and billing accuracy to achieve higher customers satisfaction. The new meters will not only allow customers to get detailed and accurate consumption reports but will also help them use electrical resources more efficiently by enabling them to monitor and control the use of electricity.

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TEL. 99382489, 99263443

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Contact 92948999

FOR RENT

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

Next to Sri Lankan School Wadi Kabir

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

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

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

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

Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

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

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

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Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

Contact: 99657906 or 24702141

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JOB VACANCIES

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Responsibilities:

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

agreements and highest quality levels.

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

Educational Qualifications & Experience:

- Post Graduate/Graduate or equivalent qualification.
- Minimum 05 years of experience in a supervisory level at F&B, Catering, Hotels and Hospitality establishments.
- Knowledge of food hygiene and Health and Safety requirements.
- A good understanding of quality assurance, procedures and protocols.
- Excellent communication skills both verbally and written English/ Arabic.

Key Skills Required:

- Excellent co-ordination skills
- Strong presentation and communication skills, verbal and written.
- Effective planning, management and organizing skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with internal teams and external suppliers and customers.
- Must possess neat and pleasant grooming habits.
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If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at oman2020marketing@gmail.com

WE ARE HIRING

SPACE MARKETING
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Responsibilities:

- Contact potential clients to describe advertising opportunities. This usually takes the form of cold calling over the telephone but may involve face to face contact as well.
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- Explain pricing costs to potential clients and negotiate a fee, if necessary.
- Account manage an existing client

to ensure their needs are satisfied and they are happy with the service.

- Work with production teams to ensure that agreed advertisements are carried in the right place and at the right time.
- Track purchases and keep record of sales, contacts and deals.
- Work to maximize sales and meet targets.
- Deliver sales reports to management.

Key Skills: Excellent telephone manner, ability to persuade clients, outgoing, and sociable

Education: Any degree, candidates with marketing background will be preferred.

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Work Location	Work from Home	At Office
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Ext: 465 / 431 / 456

CONNECT

JOB VACANCIES

STAFF REQUIRED

Sales & Marketing Executive:
Experience of Marketing of new products.
(Good Communication skills, DL is must).

Operation Manager:
For restaurants & catering services.

All Nationalities

For further queries please contact,
GSM: 97365922
email: kamaljeetk666@gmail.com

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Expats Candidate, Must have at least
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Need **Office Assistant** and **Accountant**
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Office Assistant should have
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A First Grade Construction Company in
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Indian Cook

For Private Family,
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Urgently required young & energetic
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Contact 96545020

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant, B.Com with
MBA Finance, with 15 years of ac-
counting experience in Oman seeks
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immediately.NOC available.
Please contact 78581435

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

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

Indian male Accountant with 8 years
exp in GCC (4 Years in Oman), doing
up to finalization of Accounts, Look-
ing for suitable placement, Oman
D/L & NOC available, Mob: 93849217,
Email: ishaque150@gmail.com

43 Yrs Male B-Com 19 Yrs of Exp
in Accounts (17 yrs in Oman) until
Finalisation Currently working in a
reputed company.
Contact 95349498

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

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

Female ACCA qualified member, 4+
years work experience in Oman, D/L,
NOC available, looking to join a fi-
nance or accounts team. # 95785272

Male, CFA level 2 candidate, 3+
years work experience in Finance
sector, D/L, NOC available, looking
to join a finance team. # 96902962

Indian male Senior Accountant with
18 years of experience in accounts
and finance up to finalisation with
Tally ERP 9 & Focus, holding a D/L.
Contact 99716207

ADMIN/HR

Indian Female MBA (HR), PGDBM,
B.E. 7 Yrs. of experience in HR &
Administration (5 yrs in Oman)
with Omani D/L Looking for suitable
placement. Contact 92474376

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

Indian female 8yrs exp. Admin,
project, audit assistant, sales coordi-
nator. GSM 92243552/91190552

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

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10 years experienced Female Ar-
chitect with Urban planning experi-
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D/MAN

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post, 10yrs experience managing
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Contact 92806514

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dino.davis2@icloud.com

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GROUP FINANCE
MANAGER

with 20 yrs+ experience
seeks suitable placement

Contact 92578435
Email: 1974KSD@gmail.com

Projects Manager

Indian Male, having 12 years of
Experience in Oman, presently working
as Projects Manager, NOC available.

Contact 92636569
Email: nisarg_shah35@yahoo.com

Graduate in B.A

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Indian female with valid driving license currently
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Contact Number # 78556829

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Languages known Arabic, English.
Resident in Al Khuwair.

Contact 99340475
Email: saidzadjali@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male 39 years, B.com, having 14 years
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license and NOC available.

Contact: 97998397
Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

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Knowledge of quality control, process control,
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Contact: 72201210/93379169
Email: waasifkaruthedath@gmail.com

HSE Advisor

Omani HSE Advisor,
5 yrs experience
seeks placement.

Contact +96879990740
Email: mundhirsaidalrashdi@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male Accountant available for instant joining;
Having B.com higher grade graduation with 6 years
of acquaintance and comprehension on major
accounting platforms, well versed in Microsoft and
profound communication skills, NOC Available.

Contact No: +968-94649272
Email: sherin.am01@gmail.com

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Syrian Female seeking suitable placement with
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Pls contact 91917771

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Mngmt, Operations, Marketing, NOC, Immediate.

CONTACT 99283938

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Looking for suitable placement

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Contact: 95297497

HR/ADMIN

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

CONTACT 79285929

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior
management role with international exposure in many
countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin
Head of company in Qatar. Also having Experience in
Education Industry (India) in a senior Management
Position. Presently in Muscat (family visa).

Contact 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

Finance Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experi-
ence in Strategic finance, Banking,
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Looking for Senior management
position in finance/ internal audit.
Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

HSE OFFICER

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

Contact 7974 3601

ADMIN / FINANCE

Indian male, MBA (Finance), having D/L,
22 years exp in finalization in Accounts, Internal
auditing, MIS and Admin in various sectors.
15 years exp in Gulf & 13 Years in Oman
looking for a suitable SR position.

GSM: 96974637
Email: goutam14b@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

39-year Indian HR professional (MBA-HR)
14 yrs Exp (HR/SAP/Admin) with Oman DL
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Contact: +968-78539053
Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

Chemist (Quality Controller) (BSC. Chemistry)

25 Years Exp in Testing and analysis of raw,
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placement. Having Oman driving licence.

Contact No. Oman-96359802,
India+91 9400032844.
Email: mollythomas53@rediffmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

B Tech, Mechanical Engineer, 32
Indian Male, having 7+ years experi-
ence in Technical Sales, Design
and Execution in Oman. Currently
on visit visa. Looking for a suitable
position. Contact 99654650

B.E Electrical/MEP Engineer, hav-
ing 13+Yrs experience in construc-
tion industry is looking for suitable
placement. NOC available.
Contact 97238959.

B.E civil engineer having 13 yrs
Oman experience mainly in building
construction looking for a suitable
position. Contact 72132426

Indian male BE civil engineer 4+ yr
experience in site execution, quan-
tity survey, autocad. NOC available.
Contact 94194752

B.Tech Mechanical Engineer Gradu-
ated (2021) from VIT-Vellore(TN)
India looking for suitable job to
build a career while contributing to
the organisation. Contact 78525667
/ 24992407

LOGISTIC

Logistics/Senior logistics executive
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MNC companies (Dubai/ Saudi Ara-
bia) seeking employment in ship-
ping companies/Logistics industry
(UAE D/L available). Presently in
Oman. Contact 94276299,
Email: joshykiran@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

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

MEDICAL

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Purchase, Procurement,Logistics &
Stores professional, more than 25
years experience having very good
knowledge in Construction, Mechani-
cal & Commercial materials, looking
for immediate openings. NOC & DL
available. Contact 99276414. Email:
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DIY PROJECT IDEAS TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO YOUR HOME



Virtual birthday parties. Online family game nights. Digital dinners with friends. You've done your part to stay connected yet socially distanced, however, as things get normal again, you're preparing to host friends and family in your home.

"The problem is after working, studying and playing at home, many people's houses are looking a bit drab," says Jennifer Meska, director of merchandising and design at LL Flooring based in the US. "If you want to refresh spaces for future entertaining, start with the floor and work your way up to add fashion and function to your home."

Meska shares some top DIY projects that can be completed in as little as a weekend so you're ready to welcome back guests:

1 Update flooring
When you think about visual real estate in a home, the flooring is the foundation of the aesthetic. Consider updating flooring with modern options that add style, but are also durable enough to handle guests and everyday demands.



2 Rethink furniture
Once the floor is updated, think about how you use your furniture and how it might best serve you when entertaining. Consider rearranging furniture to breathe fresh life into a space and encourage guests to mingle comfortably. Prioritise grouping furniture to facilitate conversation and interaction while keeping common traffic areas open for ease of movement.

In addition to rearranging fur-

niture, now is the time to address functionality of pieces and swap in multiuse options when appropriate. For example, an ottoman is great for kicking up your feet or as additional seating for guests, especially young children. Select an ottoman designed with a top that opens, providing storage space for blankets, toys or other clutter. You can even add a serving tray to the top when closed and you have a coffee table or small buffet space for snacks.

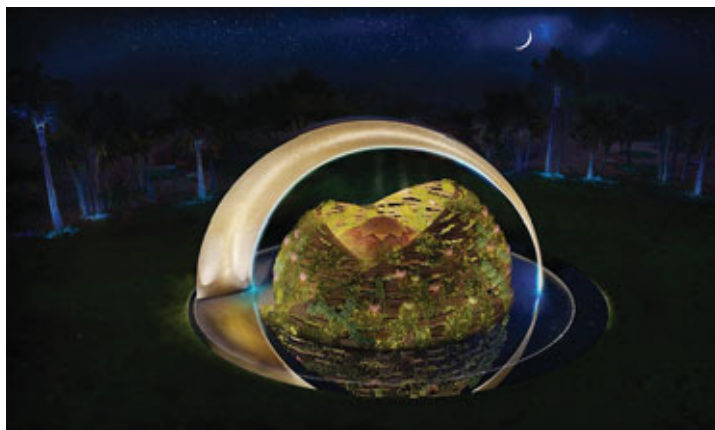
3 Create a statement wall
Once you decide on an arrangement of furniture, try transforming a focal wall to give the space an elevated interior design. One easy way to do this is to paint one wall different than the others in an accent colour, like a blue or yellow. DIY-friendly peel-and-stick wallpaper is growing in popularity and is another fun option if you want to add a pattern on an accent wall.

Another way to create a noteworthy accent wall is to design a gallery wall with a collection of treasured items hung in a group. Framed photography is common for creating gallery walls and serves as a wonderful conversation starter when guests arrive. In addition to photographs, you can add other framed items such as typography, children's artwork, travel keepsakes, mirrors and more.

"Now is the ideal time to prepare for the revival of entertaining at home," says Meska. "Start with the floor, think beyond the conventional and make updates that you'll enjoy whether you're hosting guests or spending time at home with family." - **BPT**



FEATURE



Under the banner of AlUla Moments, AlUla's events calendar highlights four festivals including Winter at Tantora which is back by popular demand and celebrates heritage, AlUla Skies, AlUla Arts and AlUla's Wellness Festival. The festivals will offer curated experiences of art, culture, music, nature, wellness, equestrian, gastronomy and astronomy. The events will include free and ticketed experiences, with tickets and information available at experiencealula.com.

The four distinct festivals will commence on 21 December and run through to 30 March against the backdrop of AlUla's many timeless wonders. Musical performances will also be back in AlUla with Maraya taking centre stage again as the venue for regional and international acts starting from this October.

Winter at Tantora, the very first music and arts festival in the Kingdom returns – now in a six-week format. A stunning Candlelit Symphonic Concert at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hegra will set the tone for the festival season as the opening event. Equestrian events will include the eagerly awaited new haute couture horse fashion event, Ikmaah Fashion Calvary, the return of the competitive Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Endurance Race and the oh-so-chic AlUla Desert Polo. A new Citrus Festival will celebrate AlUla produce and the Harrat Observation Deck with Back to Black restaurant will offer stunning sunrise and sunset views of AlUla from the top of the Harrat Uwayrid. Archaeology and cultural workshops will be introduced at the heritage sites, there will be live immersion shows at AlUla Old Town and in the oasis. Winter at Tantora will run from 21 December to 12 February.

From February 2021, the AlUla Arts festival will bring together exhibitions and encounters created by a diverse array of artistic talents, in celebration of AlUla's legacy as a cultural crossroads. Championing the 'art of our time', an exhibition representing the cutting edge of contemporary art by some of the leading artists in the Kingdom will be hosted at the award-winning Maraya. Al Jedidiah will be a vibrant hub of art

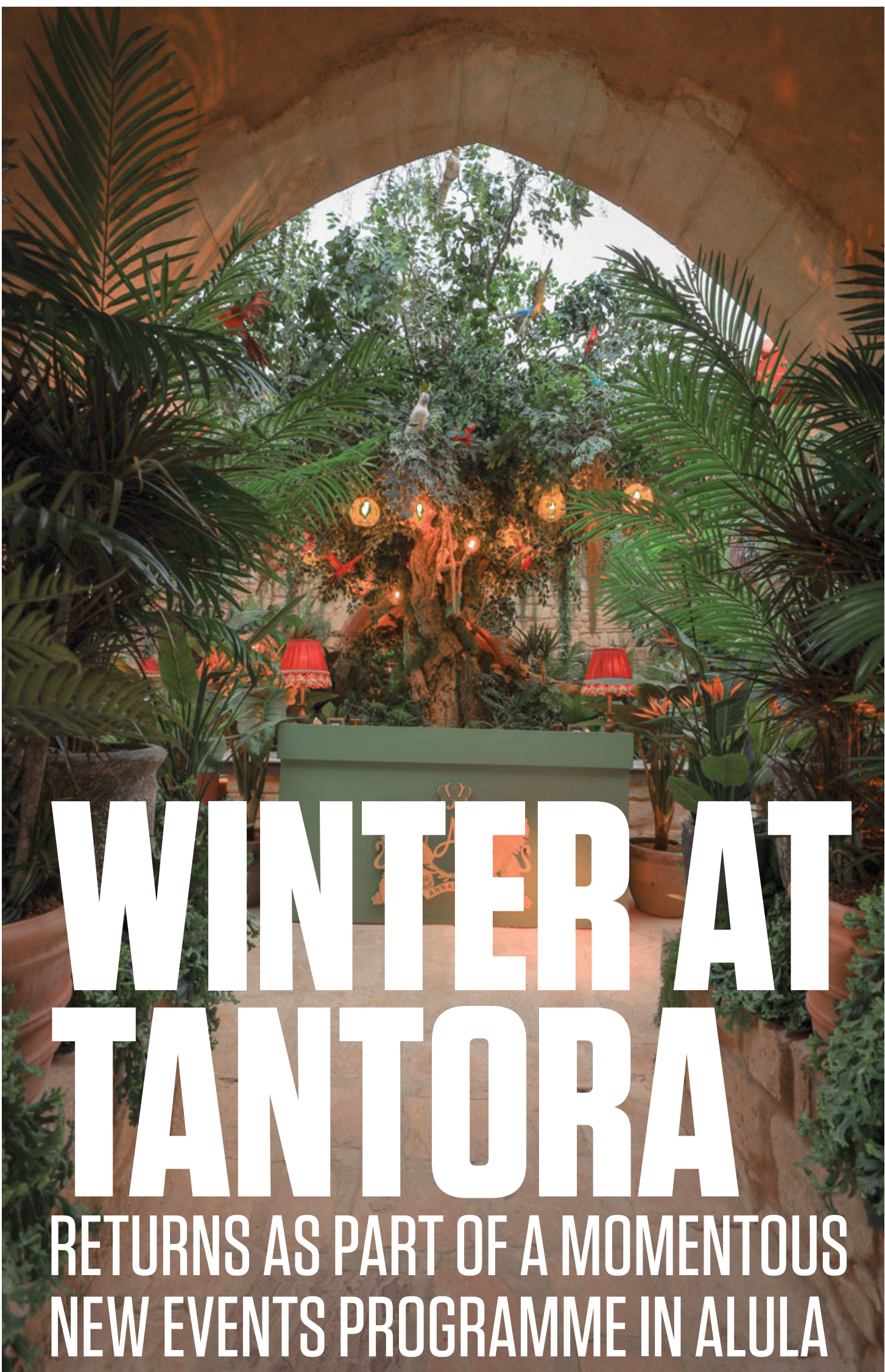
activity and performances, with the outdoor Cinema El Housh presenting arthouse Saudi filmmakers and curated art experiences populating the Oasis, and other landscapes within AlUla. The AlUla Arts festival can be experienced from February 13, with headline exhibitions running to the end of March.

It's no secret that the fascinating geological landscapes of AlUla, from the volcanic plains to the ancient heritage sites, are best seen from the air – introducing AlUla Skies. Whether it's floating serenely over Hegra in a hot air balloon, zooming the length of the oasis in a vintage plane or taking a helicopter over the rock formations of Madakheel, the sky will be alive with action. The new sight and sound experience, Constellations, is a high-tech take on AlUla's popular star-gazing tour, and Symphony under the Stars will be a spine-tingling musical performance set under a million twinkling stars. It is all bookable from 27 February to 12 March.

Leaning into AlUla's history as a place for respite and relaxation, AlUla's cultural oasis will become a focal point for wellness from this December. A stunning new Garden of Moments experience will use the elements of the environment interacting with space, light and sound in thought-provoking installations. And as part of the new AlUla Wellness Festival in March 2022, a Five Senses Sanctuary will offer a full range of mind, body and soul experiences from expert yoga, meditation and mindfulness practitioners. For something more energetic, the Eco-Trail returns to AlUla and AlUla Oasis Fitness Infusion will offer daily doses of endorphins in the form of expert-led group classes. AlUla Wellness Festival will run from 17 March to 27 March.

Also coming back this year will be the popular sunken seating and fire pits around Elephant Rock. New adventure experiences such as mountain biking, the Via Ferrata suspension bridge, extended zipline and some challenging new hikes and canyon experiences at Madakheel.

Dining options will be extended across AlUla from new heritage site restaurants, the return of Annabel's and the Michelin starred chef restaurant, Maraya Social, on the rooftop of Maraya.



ROUND-UP

Customers laud Renault Duster, Koleos, Megane for host of features

While Renault Duster has been praised for its functionality and strength, Koleos has been acclaimed for its space and safety and Megane for its design and technology

MUSCAT: Customers in Oman have extolled popular Renault models Duster, Koleos and Megane for the host of features they offer. While Renault Duster has been praised for its functionality and strength, Koleos has been acclaimed for its space and safety and Megane for its design and technology. Praising Renault Duster for its functionality, Abdul Al Ajmi from Ibra said, “With its demonstrated power to handle all challenges,

the Renault Duster equipped with multiple exceptional features and technology enhancements, continues to set high standards in Oman. Renault Duster 2WD and 4WD’s impressive exteriors, elegant interiors and advanced equipment reiterate the maker’s commitment to setting new standards in the SUV segment.” Faiz Al Balushi from Al Hamra says, “Renault Duster adds more grandeur and sophistication



with its distinctive features. It is equipped with off-road capability and affordability to beat the best in the market.” Tariq Al Lawati from Shinas likes Renault Koleos for its powerful, efficient engines, safety attributes and onboard technologies. He says, “Renault Koleos impresses car enthusiasts who value distinctive design, safety technology, great space, and superior performance.”

Explaining the features of Koleos, car enthusiast Ahmed Mansur from Muscat says, “The 2.5-litre petrol engine in Koleos is an atmospheric, four-cylinder, 16-valve powerplant with double overhead camshafts. Power is 170hp (126kW) at 6,000rpm, with a peak torque of 233Nm at 4,000rpm. Care has been taken to minimise friction for enhanced performance and optimised

fuel consumption. With 233Nm torque available from as low as 1,800rpm, it is extremely responsive at low and mid-range engine speeds and is particularly suited to towing (up to two tonnes). It can be specified with either two- or four-wheel drive and is exclusively coupled to the X-Tronic automatic transmission.” Admired Megane for its driving performance, Hasan Fazal from Nizwa applauds Renault Megane for its design, driving comfort, technology and safety features. He says, “The enigmatic Renault Megane electrifies with its sedan body, dynamic lines and generous proportions. With its smooth silhouette, high-tech cockpit and sophisticated styling, Renault Megane combine style and flexibility.” Shadad Manzoor from Salalah says, “Megane delivers an exclusive driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and

roominess. Renault’s designers have drawn upon their acclaimed expertise to seamlessly incorporate 508dm3 VDA of boot storage capacity without compromising the vehicle’s aesthetic appeal.” A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “Featuring a host of impressive features, Renault Duster has won the admiration of customers for being a perfect package in terms of looks, performance, strength, functionality and safety. “With a robust and high-end design, comfort and outstanding performance, Renault Koleos has found a place in the heart of customers. Renault Megane presents a high-class driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and roominess. Its energetic lines and substantial proportions add to its increasing popularity with car aficionados in Oman.”

MOHSIN HAIDER DARWISH

Ashok Leyland introduces exclusive bus variant for oil and gas segment

MUSCAT: Ashok Leyland, the flagship company of the Hinduja Group and a transnational transportation and mobility solutions leader, introduced an exclusive variant to meet growing demand in the PDO (Petroleum Development of Oman) segment. The company which has over seven decades of experience in manufacturing commercial vehicles rolled out its first Oyster bus PDO variant from its Ras Al Khaimah plant in UAE. On the occasion of roll out Amandeep Singh, Head - International Operations said, “As a regional player, we ensure that each variant of the bus is made keeping the end-user and operating conditions in mind. Every product of ours is tested for endurance in the GCC climate over a long period thereby ensuring that the power train and air conditioning are the



best suited for the region. This has contributed to our success in the GCC.” The new Oyster with PDO specifications is the first GCC-made rollover and frontal-crash compliant bus with factory-built features

to join the 1000 plus of Ashok Leyland buses in Oman. Mohsin Al Bahrani added, “MHD and Ashok Leyland relations are 3 decades old and we built our brand with our strong customer-centric after-sales sup-

port. MHD has invested in a 10 bay state of the art facility in Ghala, with 26 skilled and dedicated technicians. The team is equipped with 3 No’s Service vans and the workshop is also supported by a 1,200sqm spare parts facility. We believe that customer success is our success.” The Oyster bus provides 32 seats, 1,000mm extra high back smart seat, with 3-point seat belts, fire retardant interiors, aluminium chequered flooring, Factory fitted on/Off-road tyres, best in class 25 KW air-condition, full stand-up saloon height, best in class aisle space with fully flat floor, dual speed limiter. The Oyster is powered by time tested H Series CRS Engine along with a heavy-duty 5 Speed ZF Gear Box. The MY22 Oysters are available at Mohsin Haider Darwish, Ashok Leyland 3s Facility at Ghala.

APPOINTMENT

Adil Ahmed appointed Director of Sales at Kempinski Hotel Muscat

MUSCAT: Kempinski Hotel announced that it has appointed Adil Ahmed as Director of Sales at Kempinski Hotel Muscat. Adil joined Kempinski Hotel Muscat as Sales Manager in 2017, where he spearheaded the leisure segment and established the hotel as one of the top leisure properties in the Sultanate. Adil started his career in early 2001 in Morocco before he moved to the United States of America and joined companies in the likes of Walt Disney World in Florida and ABC news affiliate in Connecticut, in addition to other private companies in the Marketing and Sales industries. Before Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Adil joined Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa in 2014 where he was responsible for developing the leisure segment and Group Series business. In 2016, he joined Grand Millennium Muscat & Millennium Executive Apartments as a Cluster Sales



Manager where he focused on the GCC leisure market. An Omani national, Adil holds a degree in Hospitality Management, a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications & Media Arts and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the United States of America. Adil speaks fluent English and French, in addition to his mother tongue Arabic.

FESTIVE OFFER

Kalyan Jewellers announces exciting cashback offers

MUSCAT: With the onset of the festive season, Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewellery companies, has announced exciting cashback offers on its distinctive jewellery collections. As part of this festive offer, customers will be able to maximise the value of their purchases with up to 25% cashback on their jewellery purchases. While up to 25% cashback can be availed on making charges of gold jewellery, up to 20% cashback offer is available on the diamond jewellery collection. On precious stone jewellery and uncut diamond jewellery, cashback is up to 20%. Cashback offers can be availed in the form of instantly redeemable vouchers. These offers are valid until November 30, across all showrooms in Oman. Customers can also avail of the benefits of the Gold Rate Protection Offer by paying 10% advance of the total intended purchase amount and booking their jewellery at the current market price of gold. This unique offer enables customers to lock in the price of gold and stay protected from future price hikes and fluctuations. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director, Kalyan Jewellers said, “With the arrival of the festive season, we are drawing closer to a time of joy and togetherness. At Kalyan Jewellers, we want to mark the country’s undying spirit of celebration by extending the festive - discount offers to our customers, allowing them to take home the latest jewellery designs from Kalyan Jewellers and the love and happiness that come along with it.” Kalyan Jewellers has rolled out extensive measures to ensure

As part of this festive offer, customers will be able to maximise the value of their purchases with up to 25% cashback on their jewellery purchases

a safe retail environment for the brand’s employees and customers. The staff is 100 per cent vaccinated and apart from common practices such as temperature check with thermal guns, double masking or providing safety gloves to customers, frequent deep cleaning of high touch-points, sterilisation and contactless billing have all been implemented in showrooms. With the growing impetus on social distancing, Kalyan Jewellers has also launched the LIVE video shopping facility (<https://campaigns.kalyanjewellers.net/livevideoshopping/>) through which consumers can browse through the Kalyan Jewellers’ jewellery collections at the comfort of their homes. Patrons will also receive the Kalyan Jewellers 4-Level Assurance Certificate which guarantees purity, free lifetime maintenance of ornaments, detailed product information and transparent exchange and buy-back policies. The certification is part of the brand’s commitment to offering the very best to its loyalists.

NEW CATEGORIES

Mazoon Electricity issues recalculated bills for May, June and July as per new tariff

MUSCAT: In line with the government’s orientation to amend approved tariff categories for a citizen’s account for the residential category, Mazoon Electricity Company, the leading electricity provider in Oman issued recalculated bills for May, June and July as per the new categories last week. Mazoon Electricity Company also issued a regular bill for July 2021 which included all details as per the new tariff updates issued

by Authority for Public Services Regulation. The July bill is currently available in the standard format on mobile apps ONEIC Bill&Pay and OIFC Khedmah. The company offered an instalment service for bills due for May, June, and July 2021 by contacting the Contact Center 800777771. In case the customer has already paid the dues for May and June, the amounts paid will be deducted and that will appear in the total

dues field of the July bill. Mazoon Electricity issued a notification with a summary of the total consumption of May, June, and July 2021 in addition to a detailed bill for July. To spread awareness about the newly announced category, all updates are published on the Mazoon Electricity’s social media accounts and dedicated staff respond to all customer queries through social media accounts and Contact Centre.”



LONG-LIFE FRUIT DRINKS

‘Stay full & hydrated’ with A’Safwah’s fruit juices range now in new packs

MUSCAT: Revered as a leading brand in the production and distribution of dairy and beverages in the Sultanate, A’Safwah’s fruit juices and long-life fruit drinks have been a popular choice amongst children as well as adults due to its wide assortment of flavours, delicious taste and numerous nutritional benefits. With the reopening of schools as well as other activities in the Sultanate, A’Safwah’s fruit juices and long-life fruit drinks are seeing an increase in demand with a greater number of parents reaching out to A’Safwah products as the trusted brand of juices to supplement their children’s meals or refresh them during playtimes. For adults too, A’Safwah has been a long-standing Omani brand trusted by several families over the years. The juices have gained immense popularity, thanks to their versatile usage, be it for homemade mocktail drinks, or as an on-the-go hassle-free snack option. Keeping in mind consumer interest and ease of usage, A’Safwah juices are



now available in new 200ml bottle packs as well as in attractive new family packs. Catering to the preferences of its varying customers, A’Safwah’s fruit juices come in a number of flavours, apart from regular fruit juices like orange, mango, pineapple, guava, lemon etc. A’Safwah also offers a blend of flavours like berry mix, kiwi lemon, mixed fruit, orange carrot, and Tamarind. Made for a variety of occasions, whether a family get-together or a day of trekking, the fruit juices come in different packages –

1.5l family pack, and the 500ml & 200ml on the go packs. For those desiring a longer shelf life, A’Safwah also has long-life fruit drinks in popular flavours like mango, mixed fruit and orange. Easy to carry and consume, the long-life fruit drinks are available in 250ml packages and the Nectar in 180ml packs. Commenting on A’Safwah’s range of beverages, a loyal consumer of the brand who recommends A’Safwah to her family and friends said, “A’Safwah fruit juices offer an assortment of flavours,

each offering its own list of nutritional benefits. I, therefore, give my children a new flavour to enjoy every day through the week. “By alternating between the flavours, the children are encouraged to drink more fruit juices. At home, we always have our favourite bottle of A’Safwah long-life fruit drink that offers a better alternative to high-calorie, carbonated drinks. The no-sugar-added juices – orange and mixed fruit are my personal favourite.” A popular product in the local market, A’Safwah’s fruit juices have become a household name in the country. While the juices have become essential fruit nutrition in children’s school lunch boxes, A’Safwah also encourages adults and youth to resort to drinking fruit juices after sports activities. A satiating drink for a hot day, the juices provides the necessary hydration while replenishing the body of lost electrolytes. A’Safwah’s convenient packaging also makes for a tasty, on-the-go beverage for working individuals.

ROUND-UP

Get a chance to win special silver coin by using Asalah Credit Card

The special offer will be available for two months from October 1 to November 30 and offers all customers who spend a minimum of OMR100, a chance to win limited edition commemorative silver coins

MUSCAT: In line with its vision 'To serve you better, everyday' and commitment to 'Recognition, Rewards and Solutions', Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced a new promotional offer

for cardholders having Asalah Signature Credit Cards and Al Jawhar Platinum Credit Cards. The special offer will be available for two months from October 1 to November 30 and offers all customers who spend a mini-



mum of OMR100, a chance to win limited edition commemorative silver coins. For every additional OMR100 spent using the credit card, the customer will get another chance to win a prize. As many as 58 prizes will be given away to Asalah cardholders with a similar number of prizes being also reserved for Al Jawhar cardholders. Speaking about the new promotion, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager – Premier Bank-

ing, Bank Muscat, said, "We have been witnessing a rapid shift to digital payments over the last two years, and Bank Muscat Premier Banking is pleased to launch this exciting campaign to further popularise e-payments. We hope that all our Asalah and Al Jawhar credit cardholders will take part in this promotion and get multiple chances to win exciting prizes." Bank Muscat Asalah VISA Signature Credit Cards offer some

of the most exclusive shopping, dining out or travelling offers and benefits for the bank's customers. They offer 1% cashback on all purchases, toll-free global concierge services, multi-trip travel insurance, great discounts at merchants and restaurants, airport lounge access to over 1,000 lounges worldwide and a 'pick and drop' chauffeur service to Muscat International Airport. With higher cash withdrawal limits, the card is designed with a customer's lifestyle in mind and comes with great benefits for travelling, shopping and dining. It is secure, feature-packed and welcome at millions of establishments worldwide. Designed around unique lifestyle and banking requirements, Al Jawhar is a first-of-its-kind privi-

lege banking service in Oman. Al Jawhar customers can also download and activate the new app experience with the Entertainer from the App Store or Play Store to enjoy a number of exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping as well as travel discounts. Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders can access 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat. The complimentary Dragon Pass facilitates airport dining offers at more than 200 restaurants globally. They will be delighted with the 1% cashback on their purchases. They can also make high-value purchases from the outlets of participating merchants and pay for these purchases in 12 monthly instalments at 0% interest.

THIRD QUARTER DRAWS

More than OMR300,000 cash prizes to be won in ahlilbank's prize scheme draws

MUSCAT: Committed to its promise of helping people achieve their dreams with more prize draws for more customer segments, ahlilbank will celebrate the winners of its third quarterly draws at the beginning of October. Stirring excitement amongst its customers, the bank is all geared up to reward prizes totalling more than OMR300,000, wherein one winner will walk away with the grand 'Salary for Life' prize of OMR250,000 (OMR 1,000 monthly for 250 months). The event will be streamed live on the bank's official social media pages. Expressing his joy on the success of the Wafra scheme and its role in changing the winners' lives, Muneer Al Balushi – AGM- Head of Retail Distribution, ahlilbank said, "The Wafra prize scheme has witnessed huge popularity since its launch and this has encouraged the bank to continue its efforts to create new products that encompass a wider customer base. The draws help the winning customers in ensuring financial stability and secure their future and that of their families. ahlilbank will continue



to look for new opportunities that add value to customers and stakeholders through prize schemes, innovative banking products and superior customer service." "We always encourage a savings culture among our customers, and this has been reflected in the increased winning opportunities and prizes offered under Wafra 2021 scheme. The prize program is part of our long-term strategy that aims to promote financial

inclusion among citizens, and an opportunity to further contribute to the Sultanate's economic and social development objectives," he further explained. In addition to the 'Salary for Life' prize draw, the bank will also announce the winner of the quarterly prize for Al Nukhba and exclusive accounts worth OMR 25,000, and the winner of the quarterly draw of Imtiyaz accounts, where the bank will present a prize of OMR 5,000. Encouraging the habit of saving, the bank will also conduct special quarterly draws for those who maintain an average quarterly balance of at least OMR 5,000 in their accounts. Five lucky winners will be rewarded with cash prizes of OMR 25,000 (OMR 5,000 per winner). In addition, the bank will announce two winners in the monthly salary transfer draws where each winner will receive a prize of OMR 1,000. Ensuring that everyone stands a chance to win, it will reward 5 young winners a total prize of OMR 1,500 in the monthly draws that will be conducted under its 'MyChoice' category while 5

other winners in the children's category will win a total prize of OMR 1,000. Apart from these, a weekly draw is held for all branches, rewarding 20 winners with prizes worth OMR 500 each. Along with that, the bank provides OMR 500 to the winner of the weekly prize from Al Nukhba and exclusive accounts, and a prize of OMR 500 to the winner of the weekly prize from Imtiyaz segment. Most recently, ahlilbank announced the winners of its second quarterly draws under the Wafra prize scheme with cash prizes totalling more than OMR 300,000. Mohammed Salim from Avenues Mall branch won the grand 'Salary for Life' prize of RO 250,000. The event was held at ahlilbank's new branch in Al-Rustaq, in the presence of a limited number of the bank's officials, and was streamed live on the bank's official social media pages. The bank also showcased increased engagement on its Instagram account, by rewarding 10 winners from the live audience of the draws with a total of OMR 1,000, marking the festive occasion of Eid al-Adha.

OFFER



Own Kia Sonet and get a chance to win it back

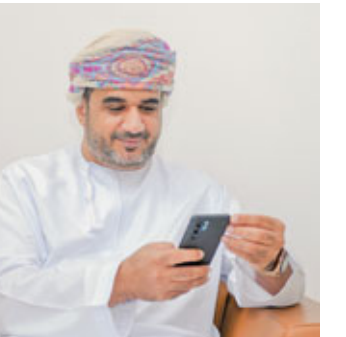
MUSCAT: The compact yet thrilling Kia Sonet SUV is now available with this year's most exciting offer from Kia. Scratch & Win your dream Kia. As part of the campaign, customers owning the Kia Sonet can look forward to a Chance to Win the Sonet back instantly through Scratch & Win Offer, Or Chance to Win 50% Value of the Sonet back through Scratch & Win Offer, Or Chance to Double Your Cash Gift, Or Win Periodic Services up to 100,000 km and yes

VAT is on Us which can be used as part of Down Payment. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details). The campaign is valid until 28th December 2021. Since the introduction of this campaign, 2 customers have already doubled their cash gifts and received a price rebate of about 30%. The powerful and affordable 5-seater Sonet SUV has a 1.5L engine paired to a CVT Transmission and offers a 17.5Kmpl fuel average.

BILL REDUCTION

Majan Electricity shows its support to subscribers

MUSCAT: As part of new governmental direction came earlier to apply the declared changes on the tariff slabs for the citizen accounts on residential category, and accordingly to recalculate the bills of May and June as has issued before this course. Majan Electricity had proceeded with new requirements to take place immediately with backdate impact from May. The new band level for the existing tariff slab had expanded to be started from 0 to 4000 KWH, at a rate of 12 Baisas, while the second slab starts from 4001 to 6000 KWH, at a rate of 16 Baisas and, the third slab starts from 6000+ KWH, at a rate of 27 Baisas. This change helped customers to remain much in the first band which result in reduction in their monthly bill amount. Moreover, the company has published a summary notice to the subscribers that included some clarifications on the adjusted outstanding amounts from the bills of May, June and July 2021. Since receiving the July bill, subscribers would have been able to view the



bill and all of its details. This notification has been sent only once and, in the months to come the bill will be issued regularly. Worth mentioning that Majan Electricity has shown its support to its subscribers by offering them to choose an instalment option to pay their outstanding bills. The company also continues emphasising to its clients the importance of updating their current information via any of the available channels that include the company's website, Sanad offices, or any of the Customer Service outlets.

WORLD HEART DAY

Badr Al Samaa signs MoU with Oman Cycling Association

MUSCAT: On the occasion of World Heart Day, Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Oman Cycling Association (OCA) to become 'Official Healthcare Partner' for 2021-2022. On behalf of Badr Al Samaa MOU was signed by Sameer PT, CEO and KO Devassy, CMO while Saif Subaa Al Rushaidi, President signed on behalf of Oman Cycling Association. Badr Al Samaa will be supporting more than 25 events of OCA this season. In a joint statement, Managing Directors of Badr Al Samaa, Abdul Latheef and Dr P A Mohammed said, "On World Heart Day, Badr Al Samaa reaffirms its resolve to spread awareness on heart health and inspire people to adopt healthy practices to ensure good heart health. This association with Oman Cycling Association is one step in this regard." Cycling is one of the important sports to improve heart health. It stimulates and improves the heart, lungs and circulation, hence reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Cycling strengthens heart muscles, lowers resting



pulse and reduces blood fat levels. Saif Subaa Al Rushaidi expressed sincere gratitude to Badr Al Samaa for this association. He said World Heart Day is the right occasion to spread awareness on heart health and how cycling can make a considerable difference in improving heart health. Sameer PT said that Badr Al Samaa will be providing complete healthcare services including ambulance, doctor, nurse, paramedics and first-aid for all events scheduled

in 2021-2022 calendar of Oman Cycling Association. He said the safety of the participants will be the utmost priority of Badr Al Samaa and they will employee appropriate resources to support the event. Devassy said, "Badr Al Samaa has rich experience in supporting as healthcare partner in many sporting events. Badr Al Samaa has been the official healthcare partner of the Oman Football Association (OFA) since 2013. Badr Al Samaa does health screening

of all FIFA matches in Oman and gives healthcare cover to more than 300 events of OFA (national and international). Badr Al Samaa has associated for Domestic and International events of IronMan Triathlon, Oman Hockey Association, Oman Cycling Association, Oman Handball Association and many others." On the occasion of World Heart Day Badr Al Samaa is also conducting a webinar on Zoom based on the theme of this year's world heart day: Use Heart to Connect: Your Heart, Every Heart & Communities. Dr Mazin bin Jawad Al-Khabouri, Director-General – DG-PHE, Ministry of Health (MoH) will be the chief guest of the event and Dr Kadhim Jaffer Sulaiman, Sr. Consultant Cardiologist, National Heart Centre, MoH and DG-Specialised Medical Care, MoH will be the guest of honour. Dr Benny Panakkal, Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Badr Al Samaa will be delivering a keynote speech based on this year's world heart day theme. Zoom meeting invite details are available on the official social media handles of Badr Al Samaa.



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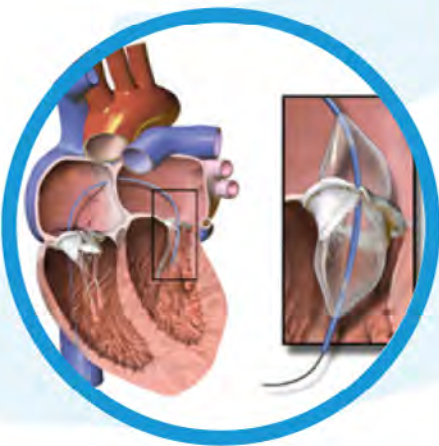


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