

AMERAT SIGNBOARD DISPLAYS COURSE OF TROPIC OF CANCER

The Oman Astronomical Society had fixed in 2017 a signboard with the Tropic of Cancer written on it at a roadside in Al Atkiah area in Al Amerat. It displays the point where the Tropic of Cancer enters the Sultanate. **>A2**



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SA'AL STEPS (TRAILS) EMERGE AS POPULAR PLACE FOR HIKERS

Jabal Khoneh or Sa'al Steps (trails) is one of the areas that is fascinating to hiking amateurs due to its beautiful landscape. The road leading to Sa'al Steps is surrounded by palm trees. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 40 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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PANDEMIC

Oman reports 57 COVID deaths in 3 days

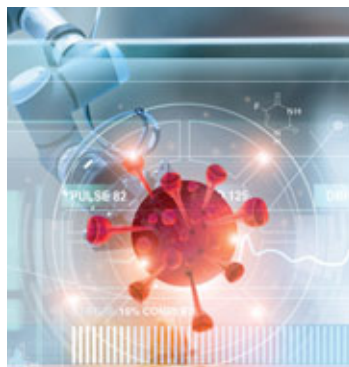
Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman reported 3,363 new cases on Sunday, bringing the total number of cases to 180,031.

Fifty-seven new deaths were reported, bringing the total death toll to 1,878. The Ministry of Health said that 3,479 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number of recoveries to 160,324.

The Ministry also pointed out that 96 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, adding that the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 823, of them 261 are in intensive care units (ICUs).

Ibrahim Al Maimani, a social activist and a data analyst, said, "57 deaths were recorded during the weekend at a rate of 19 deaths per day and is the highest since the



start of the pandemic at the Sultanate, as 16 deaths were previously recorded twice on September 3, and October 26, 2020."

He went on to add that "The increase in the number of inpatients in hospitals continue. With an increase of 37, their number has

risen to 823 from 786 cases which is a rise of approximately 5 per cent. The number of intensive care cases has fallen by six from 267 to 261 cases."

"The number of high infections continued for the 17th day in a row, as during the weekend, 3,363 new cases were recorded, with an average of 1,121 new infections per day, corresponding to 3,479 cases of recovery, and an average of 1,160 cures per day," he added.

Meanwhile, as a precautionary step to promote public health to ensure a healthy and stable life, health institutions in Oman recently implemented the health promotion strategy "prevention".

The "prevention" project aims to highlight the frequent health problems in the society by conducting research and surveys. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Oman banks witness mixed profits

1 Banks in Oman achieved mixed profit results during the first quarter of 2021, balance sheets and profit and loss accounts released on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) website show. Five banks recorded profits, while three showed losses for the financial period ending on 31 March, 2021, compared to the same time period during the previous year. HSBC registered the highest increase in profit (nearly 200 per cent), realising a profit of OMR4.3 million, compared to an OMR4.5 million loss the previous year, said Ibrahim Al Maimani, a data analyst in the country. **>A3**

WORLD US, China to work on climate crisis

2 The US and China, the world's biggest carbon polluters, said on Saturday that they would work together urgently to fight climate change. "The United States and China are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands," the countries said in a joint statement after trip by US climate envoy John Kerry to Shanghai. **>A6**

MARKET Oil recovers from close to 8-week low



3 After touching a 14-month high last month, the rally in oil prices eased after witnessing consistent declines at the start of April-2021, according to a new report. Demand trends across markets remained clouded but the broader optimism saw rising output across the board, the Kuwait based investment strategy and research firm, Kamco Invest said. The rally in oil prices came to a halt during the second half of March-2021 led by a number of factors but was primarily led by a sentiment that the levels of around \$70 per barrel were unsustainable. **>B2**



Instead of passing it on to customers, firms can absorb VAT, says a senior official

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Businesses in Oman can fully or partially cover the value added tax (VAT) their customers are required to pay, according to an official from the Tax Authority.

"Institutions, shops, and/or merchants have the freedom to choose to bear the value added tax, which is determined at five per cent for taxable goods, instead of the customer bearing this cost, whether it is the entire amount, or just a part of the tax," he said.

"There are no penalties for insti-

tutions, shops and merchants that choose to bear this tax," he added.

"The matter of bearing the tax, and how much is to be borne, is a decision made by the owner of that particular establishment."

The Tax Authority called on people in the country to familiarise themselves with the goods and services not included under tax, or subject to zero percent taxation, so that they are fully aware of how VAT affects their spending power.

The official also confirmed that shops are well within their rights



The official also confirmed that shops are well within their rights to put up lists of items that mention their prices both before and after the tax came into effect

to put up lists of items that mention their prices both before and after the tax came into effect.

Call

His response came after many on social media called on business owners to put these up so customers know how much they need to pay. VAT has been in place since Friday, April 16, 2021.

Dr. Mohammed Al Wardi, an economic analyst in the country, called on banks and other financial institutions to bear the costs of VAT for services provided to customers during the challenging times brought about by the ongoing economic effects of COVID-19.

"We hope that banks and financial service organisations bear the tax their customers have to pay, so that they can gain their loyalty and trust," he said.

Expectation

"With the implementation of VAT and the removal of subsidies on electricity and water, inflation is expected to rise. However, there is also a predicted decline in purchasing power, owing to the impact of the coronavirus, the cancellation of bonuses for government employees, and compulsory retirement for some of them. This will slightly reduce the rate of increased inflation."

Purchasing power

Adding to this, Dr Hesham Magd, the head of the Faculty of Business and Economics, at the Modern College of Business and Science, said on the effect of VAT on people's purchasing power, "Some of them will feel the impact of value added tax on them, but even then it is far lower than in other countries."

INTERVIEW

99 Songs - a result of freedom to explore creative passions, says AR Rahman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Music composer AR Rahman's time with producers such as JJ Abrams and Steven Spielberg made him realise that his idea to develop his recently released film *99 Songs* was a good one.

The legendary composer lived in Los Angeles for about six years, after he won two Academy Awards in 2009 for Best Original Score and Best Original Song, the latter of which was shared with Indian lyricist Gulzar, for *Jai Ho* in *Slumdog Millionaire*.

"Post-Oscars, I lived in LA for almost five or six years from 2009 to 2015," recalled Rahman, in an exclusive interview with Evita



Lewis of TFM, the radio channel of *Times of Oman*. "The life I lived here (in India) was very closed - from the studio to the airport - but when I lived there, I had more

time to do other things.

"Because I am an Academy member, I could go to any party, and meet (Steven) Spielberg, or JJ Abrams, or the writer of *Game of*

Thrones, and I had access to a lot of things: screenwriting workshops, meeting the world's best cameramen, the world's best editor - that opened my mind," he added.

Rahman had another song (*O... Saya* with British producer MIA, also created for *Slumdog Millionaire*) nominated for the 2009 Academy Awards, and received two more nominations for his work in *127 Hours* in the 2011 edition of the event.

Lessons

Among the many lessons he learned during his time in the United States was one that motivated him to make *99 Songs*, a story about a young musician finding himself. **>A3**

EMBASSY OF OMAN

Omanis safe in Egypt train accident

MUSCAT: The Embassy of Oman in Egypt has confirmed the safety of Omani citizens following a train accident in Cairo.

A statement issued by the Oman News Agency, says: "The Sultanate's embassy to the Arab Republic of Egypt confirmed the safety of two Omani citizens in the train derailment near the city of Toukh, north of Cairo."

The embassy expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the accident victims and called for a speedy recovery of all the injured.

"Dozens of people have been wounded in the accident," the statement added. **>OA**

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Oman signs pacts for promotion of local products at Expo 2020

Muscat Media Group is the media sponsor for Luban Project for the promotion of Omani products worldwide

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's commission signed a number of agreements with 18 public and private establishments for the execution of Luban Project for the promotion of Omani products worldwide, notably through Expo 2020.

Muscat Media Group is the media sponsor for Luban Project for the promotion of Omani products worldwide. The initiative is being undertaken in cooperation with Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (AS-



PROMOTION OF PRODUCTS: The initiative is being undertaken in cooperation with Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and Oman business platform (Tayseer).

MED), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and Oman business platform (Tayseer). Tayseer works in cooperation with Oman Investment Authority

(OIA) and other government departments concerned to promote livelihood products of families, artisans, rural women, businesses of micro and small and medium

enterprises, among other sectors, whose products are scheduled to be marketed at Dubai Expo 2020.

The Sultanate will participate in Dubai Expo 2020 along-



side 190 countries under the motto "Communication Among Minds: Shaping the Future". The Omani pavilion will showcase the country's civilization and hu-

manitarian achievements, as well aspirations for a promising future. It will reflect government and private establishments' keenness to promote the Sultanate.

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OMAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Amerat signboard displays course of Tropic of Cancer

Times News Service

AL AMERAT: The Oman Astronomical Society had fixed a signboard with Tropic of Cancer written on it at a roadside in Al Atkiah area of the wilayat of Al Amerat in 2017. The signboard displays the point where the Tropic of Cancer enters the Sultanate starting from

Al Sifa, to Al Amerat, Fanja, Wadi Al Ma'awil, Al Rustaq and Ibri.

Mohammed bin Nabhan Al Battashi, member of the Oman Astronomical Society, said that the selection of the site is aimed at showing the course of the Tropic of Cancer as it crosses from east to west.

"The areas located on the Trop-

ic of Cancer record high temperatures as compared to others, which is not true as the climate is affected due to a number of other factors including the height of the location from sea level, percentage of humidity, wind movement, close to water bodies and forests etc," he said.

—With ONA inputs

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Oman banks see mixed profits

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Times News Service

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Five banks recorded profits, while three showed decline in profits for the financial period ending on 31 March, 2021, compared to the same time period



during the previous year.

HSBC bank in the first quarter of 2021 reported a profit of OMR4.3 million compared to a loss of OMR4.5 million in the same period last year, said Ibrahim Al Maimani, a data analyst in the country.

Rise

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, he added that the financial results for Bank Muscat showed a profit of OMR47.15 million, an increase

of OMR13.9 million, compared to the OMR33.25 earnings they received last year.

“Sohar International posted a profit of OMR6.98 million compared to OMR6.18 million in the previous year,” he added.

“During this same period, Bank Nizwa profit increased from OMR 2.78 million to OMR 3.009 million.” Bank Dhofar, on the other hand, saw profits of OMR8.991 million, an increase of OMR196,000 compared to the OMR8.795 million earned last year.

Fall

Conversely, three banks registered decline in profits during the first quarter of 2021, according to Ibrahim Al Maimani: these are Oman Arab Bank, National Bank of Oman, and Al Ahli Bank.

OAB's profits during the first quarter of 2021 decreased from OMR5.7 million to OMR3.3 million compared to the same period last year.

Similarly, NBO's profit margins fell to OMR6.9 million from 9.8 million last year.

Al Ahli Bank's profits reached OMR6.35 million compared to a net profit of OMR7.01 million for the same period during the previous year.



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MEETING

Sultanate, ITFC discuss ways to boost cooperation



MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion yesterday met with Eng. Hani Salem, CEO of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

Held via video-conferencing, the meeting reviewed the 2nd phase of the Aid for Trade Initiative for the Arab States (AFTIAS 2), scheduled to begin in June 2021. The Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS) is a multi-donor, multi-country and multi-agency programme, aiming to foster Arab trade through

enhancing enterprise competitiveness and facilitating trade.

The meeting also discussed co-operation opportunities that the Sultanate can get benefit from and means of developing commerce with the ITFC.

The ITFC is related to the Islamic Development Bank Group, headquartered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with 57 member states. It offers programs on trade development and increasing exports. The meeting saw participation of officials from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy. -ONA

INTERVIEW

<FROM A1> ‘That freedom led me to learn many things’

“I can do a new thing and nobody will judge me. It will be the worth of the idea – not who is doing it,” Rahman realised.

“Why, as a composer, do you want to write?” – no questions like that came to me. That freedom led me to learn many things, and then, the story idea developed, and we took the story as a case study.”

“I knew I didn’t want to direct, because that would take away from my musical side, and this requires a thousand different things: acting, production, continuity, so many other things,” he said.

Rahman ultimately settled on Vishwesh Krishnamoorthy as his director, after he was recommended to the music maestro by a friend.

The two, he says, are ‘a match made in heaven’. *99 Songs* serves as a debut for both men, in the form of Rahman’s writing, and Vishwesh’s foray into

film direction.

On his collaborations with Vishwesh, Rahman said, “He came to LA, we would go out, check out movies, and it started from there. We were looking for an actor who was willing to be coached in music, so that we’re also giving something back to the industry. We sent him for a month to Hollywood so that he could get training on things like understated acting, and we began filming from there.”

99 Songs is now screening in theatres in Oman. The film stars newcomers Ehan Bhat and Edilys Vargas in lead roles, with a star cast featuring Aditya Seal, previously seen in *Student of the Year 2* and *Indoo Ki Jawani*, veteran actress Manisha Koirala (*Dil Se*, *Company*, and *1942: A Love Story*), and Canadian-Indian actress and model Lisa Ray (*Psych*, *The World Unseen*, and *Cooking with Stella*)

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Dhuhr	12.11pm
Asr	3.38pm
Maghrib	6.35pm
Isha	7.48pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4.23am

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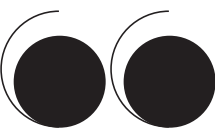


Ramadan

► **IFTAR TIMING**

6:35 pm

► **RAMADAN WORDS**



Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor.“ (Quran, 17:23)



► **HEALTH TIP**

Don’t skip Suhoor

Have a wholesome meal for Suhoor to stay energetic during the fasting hours. Make sure that you wake up 40-50 minutes before Fajr. Take a light and nutritious meal that includes carbohydrates, proteins and water to keep you active throughout the day. Ensure that you have whole wheat breads, oats, quinoa, eggs, lentils and low fat dairy products.

► **RECIPE OF THE DAY**



Roasted chicken with vegetables

INGREDIENTS

- 2 medium chicken breasts - cubed
- 1 cup mixed bell peppers, chopped to chunks
- 1/2 onion -chopped to chunks
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup tomatoes -chopped to chunks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs

PREPARATION

- Preheat oven to 400F.
- Place the chicken and vegetables in an ovenproof dish. Add the olive oil, salt, garlic salt, pepper and mixed herbs. Toss to combine well. You can also take a whole chicken.
- Bake for 20 minutes or until the vegetables are grilled and chicken is cooked.Serve hot.— *Recipe: Oneza Tabish*

► **GOOD DEED**

SHOW GRATITUDE TO YOUR PARENTS

And we have enjoined on man (to be good) to his parents: In travail upon travail did his mother bear him, and in years twain was his weaning: (hear the command), “Show gratitude to Me and to thy parents: to Me is (thy final) Goal.” (Holy Quran 31:14) It is a small thing, but one we so often forget. Take the time to thank your mother and father for specific blessings they have bestowed on you, from raising you, to specific lessons they taught you that continue to guide your life. The more specific, the better.





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JABAL KHONEH



Sa'al Steps emerges as a favourite place for hikers

MUSCAT: Jabal Khoneh or Sa'al Steps (trails) is one of the areas that is fascinating for hiking amateurs due to its beautiful landscape and the challenges they face. The road leading to Sa'al Steps is surrounded with high palm trees and other trees. The hiking sport at the area has drawn the attention of citizens and residents of both genders as the hiking sport is inspiring and represents a challenge to them.

Climbing Jabal Khoneh or Sa'al Steps is not that easy for beginners but difficult and interesting at the same time.

The distance from the foot of the mountain to the top of the mountain is 1.8 kilometres and the start area at the foot of the mountain is 190 metres above the sea level. — OMA



INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB OMAN

ISC felicitates Usman with the Indian of the Year 2021 award

MUSCAT: Any sports activities organised at the Indian Social Club Oman (ISC) meant one name — Imtiaz Usman.

Imtiazbhai, as he is popularly known as, has been involved with the ISC for more than four decades as a board member and an office-bearer. After spending 42 years in Oman, Imtiazbhai bids adieu to his second home and returns to his native place, Belgaum in the southern Indian state of Karnataka.

Acknowledging his yeoman services to ISC sports and the club, Dr Sathish Nambiar, Hon Chairman of the Indian Social Club, Oman, and the board recently felicitated him with the ISC Indian of the Year 2021.

It was a deserving honour for the man, who has served ISC since 1980 and retired from the Embassy of Germany in Oman.

Lauding Usman's services to the ISC, Dr Nambiar said, "A huge vacuum will be left behind by him. He has left big shoes to be filled and it will be a challenge for anyone who takes over his responsibilities at the club."

"He is been one of the pillars of the club for the last four decades, managing successfully the sports activities at the club amid all challenges."



Imtiaz Usman.

Dr Nambiar added, "Imtiazbhai's passion was unparalleled. The way he conducted coaching programmes in various sports annually, organised open tournaments and in-house tournaments was a major contributing factor in developing the skills and abilities of children in various disciplines of sports."

Usman arrived in Oman in 1978 and after spending his first two years in Salalah, he moved to Muscat and became an active member of the erstwhile Indian Cultural Association, which later on became the Indian Social Club. He joined the ISC board in 1985 and took over as the general secretary. A year later, he sought to take over the sports activities, which remains an everlasting love for him.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

<FROM A1 All aspects of health included

Dr Nawal Ali Al Rashdi, Director of Education and Health Awareness Programmes in the Ministry of Health (MoH), said that the concept includes all health aspects of the individual's life and his family and community. It also strengthens the community partnership between all sectors to cooperate in solving all health problems.

The target groups, participants covered by the study, identifying the tasks for each participant, development of indicators measuring interventions, as well as the specified period of time for intervention are being made by studying the indicators in the health institution and through opinion surveys of health workers and the

conclusions that help to determine the health problem.

In addition, the Director of Education and Health Awareness Programmes clarified that writing the goals of the health workers who wish to achieve when solving the problem whether in a short or long term comes after determining the health problem.

Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation
Electronic Tenders

The Internal Tenders Committee of the Ministry of Higher Education Research & Innovation announced the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Name	Company that are entitled to participate	Tender Price	Last Date for purchasing Tender	The deadline for submission of tenders
1/2021	Providing cleaning FOR services to the Ibri Vocational College	Specialized in providing Same service and registered with the Tender Board with Grade: Second, Third, Fourth	25 /= RO	08/05/2021	28/05/2021

The purchasing of the tender documents by E-Tendering system will starting on Monday 19/04 /2021 at 09:00 am. To purchasing, please visit the following link:
<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om/>

All companies that are bidding must provide a bank guarantee or a certified cheque from a bank operating in the Sultanate for at least (1%) of the tender value on behalf of His Excellency Dr. / Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee.

Preference will be given to companies' or small and medium enterprises registered with the General Authority for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) that includes the largest proportion of its tender Omanization.

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COVID VACCINE

Japan to vaccinate all aged over 16 years by late September: Minister

TOKYO: Japan will have enough coronavirus vaccines to provide them to everyone older than 16 by the end of September, Administrative Affairs Minister Taro Kono said on Sunday, in the wake of successful talks between Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Pfizer CEO.

In an interview with Fuji TV, the minister, who also supervises the country's vaccination effort, noted that Suga and the head of Pfizer, Albert Bourla, recently had a phone conversation, agreeing on additional vaccine shipments to Japan so that the country has



enough doses by late September. "This means that they have basically reached an agreement. The way things are, there will be

enough delivered vaccines for everyone who can be inoculated. We will be able to cover those over 16," Kono said.

The minister also noted that the US had launched a vaccine certification process for children aged 12-15 and that Japan would do the same.

"I think that a request will be filed soon. We will discuss this with specialists, alongside our vaccination plans," the official added.

Tokyo has vaccine supply deals with Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer. However, only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for use in the country so far and has been used to vaccinate the population since February. **ANI**

Times
OF OMAN

Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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CLIMATE CHANGE

US, China to work together to fight climate change



WASHINGTON: The US and China, the world's biggest carbon polluters, said on Saturday that they would work together urgently to fight climate change.

"The United States and China are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands," the countries said in a joint statement.

The statement follows a trip by US climate envoy John Kerry to Shanghai. Kerry is the first official from the Biden administration to visit China.

The countries said that they would co-operate in "multilateral processes" like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and "look forward" to a virtual climate summit hosted by US President Joe Biden next week.

The US and China will also develop long-term strategies to become carbon neutral, in time for the UN climate summit in Glasgow, UK in November. China has already set an ambitious target to become carbon-neutral by 2060.

The two countries also plan to boost investment in green energy in developing nations, along with

phasing out the use of hydrofluorocarbons, which are used in air conditioners and refrigerators.

US signals ambitious target, China unlikely to do so

The US is expected to announce an ambitious national target for lowering carbon emissions next week. Meanwhile, China signaled that it was unlikely to declare any new targets at next week's virtual climate summit hosted by US president Biden.

"For a country with 1.4 billion people, these goals are not easily delivered. Some countries are asking China to achieve the goals earlier. I am afraid this is not very realistic," Le Yucheng, China's vice foreign minister told The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Friday that climate change "should not become a geopolitical chip, a target for attacking other countries or an excuse for trade barriers."

Kerry, before leaving for China, told US news channel CNN that the US would co-operate with China, despite recent criticism by the former of the latter's human rights abuses in Xinjiang and crackdown on democracy activists in Hong Kong. **bw**

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Maxwell, ABD and spirited bowling hand RCB 38-run win over KKR

Andre Russell played a knock of runs for KKR, but in the end, RCB managed to hold on to record their third victory in a row this season

CHENNAI: Glenn Maxwell and AB de Villiers' knocks of 78 and 76 were backed up a spirited bowling performance as Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) defeated Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 38 runs on Sunday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Andre Russell played a knock of runs for KKR, but in the end, RCB managed to hold on to record their third victory in a row this season. This is the first time that RCB has



IPL 2021 This is the first time that RCB has managed to win their first three games in an IPL season.

managed to win their first three games in an IPL season.

Chasing 205, KKR got off to a flier as Shubman Gill scored 21 runs off just nine balls, but in trying to look for another big shot, Gill lost his wicket to Kyle Jamieson in the second over of the innings. Rahul

Tripathi then joined Nitish Rana in the middle and the duo put on 34 runs for the second wicket, but in looking for a maximum, Tripathi (25) ended up losing his wicket to Shubman Gill in the sixth over, reducing KKR to 57/2.

In the very next over, Yuzvendra

Chahal managed to send Rana (18) back to the pavilion and KKR was left in a spot of bother at 66/3. KKR fell further into a slump as Dinesh Karthik (2) failed to impress with the bat and ended up losing his wicket to Chahal. Eoin Morgan played a 29-run knock from 23

balls, but his innings was cut short by Harshal Patel with KKR still needing 91 more runs for the win.

Andre Russell came out to bat next and he even hit Yuzvendra Chahal for 19 runs in the 17th over and as a result, KKR needed 59 runs for the win from the final three overs. Shakib Al Hasan (26) and Pat Cummins (6) lost their wickets to Jamieson in the 18th over and it all boiled down to Russell. In the end, the task proved too much and KKR ended up stumbling to a 38-run loss.

Earlier, RCB might have been 9/2 in the second over, but Glenn Maxwell and AB de Villiers' knocks of 78 and 76 ensured that the side posts a total of 204/4 in the allotted twenty overs. Along with Maxwell and de Villiers, Devdutt Padikkal and Kyle Jamieson also played knocks of 25 and 11 respectively. For KKR, Varun Chakravathy returned with two wickets.

Opting to bat first, RCB got off to a bad start as the side lost wickets of Virat Kohli (5) and Rajat Patidar (1) in the second over of the innings. Varun Chakravathy pro-

vided the first two breakthroughs to KKR. Maxwell then joined Padikkal in the crease and the duo revived the innings for RCB.

Padikkal played a second fiddle while Maxwell took on the mantle of being the aggressor. The right-handed Maxwell hammered KKR bowlers all around the park and he was looking set to take RCB's score beyond the 180-run mark. Prasidh Krishna finally provided the much-needed breakthrough to KKR as he dismissed Padikkal (25) in the 12th over, ending the 86-run third-wicket partnership and reducing RCB to 95/3.

De Villiers then joined Maxwell in the middle and the duo further accelerated the innings, not giving KKR bowlers any sort of respite. Maxwell (78) finally departed in the 17th over as Pat Cummins bounced him out. However, the Proteas batsman carried on with the momentum and in the end, RCB posted a total of more than the 200-run mark. Brief Scores: RCB 204/4 (Glenn Maxwell 78, Ab de Villiers 76*, Varun Chakravathy 2-39) vs KKR 166/8 (Andre Russell 31, Eoin Morgan 29, Kyle Jamieson 3-41). **ANI**

FA CUP

Chelsea book FA Cup final berth, setback for West Ham United's hopes

LONDON: Chelsea booked their fourth FA Cup final appearance in five years and ended Manchester City's hopes of winning four trophies this season with a 1-0 win at Wembley.

Hakim Ziyech's 55th-minute goal separated the two sides, but Manchester City rarely troubled their rivals and coach Pep Guardiola will be worried after seeing Kevin de Bruyne limp off with an ankle injury shortly after the start

of the second half.

Leicester City face Southampton in the second semi-final on Sunday afternoon.

West Ham United's hopes of a top-four finish suffered a setback when they lost a thrilling game 3-2 away to Newcastle United, who in turn take a huge step towards assuring top-flight survival.

The game turned in the 36th minute when Issa Diop scored an own goal and Craig Dawson

was sent off for a second yellow card.

Joelinton doubled Newcastle's lead before the break, but Diop led a brave West Ham fight-back with a goal in the right net in the 73rd minute, before Jesse Lingard's 80th-minute penalty leveled the scores.

However, Newcastle substitute Joe Wilcock sealed three vital points with a powerful header just moments after get-

ting into the game in the 82nd minute.

Gylfi Sigurdson and Harry Kane both scored twice as Everton and Tottenham drew 2-2 on Friday night in a result that does nothing for either side's European ambitions.

Worryingly for Tottenham, Kane had to limp off with an ankle injury which makes him a serious doubt for next weekend's Carabao Cup final. **xinhua**

FOOTBALL

Barcelona beat Bilbao to Copa del Rey win

SEVILLE: FC Barcelona scored four goals in a twelve-minute second-half blitz to beat Athletic Club Bilbao 4-0 in the final of the 2020-21 Copa del Rey.

Antoine Griezmann opened the scoring following a move started by Leo Messi and ending with Frenkie de Jong's measured cross in the 60th minute.

Three minutes later De Jong stooped to nod home Barca's second of the game following a cross from Pedri and then it was

left for Leo Messi to put the icing on the cake.

The Argentinean, playing perhaps his last cup final for Barca, scored an individual goal in the 67th minute, skipping inside two challenges before sliding the ball past Athletic keeper Unai Simon.

He scored his second in the 71st minute, clipping a low shot in at the near post after a pullback from Jordi Alba as Barca killed the game in 12 minutes. **ANI**



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OIL RECOVERS PARTIALLY

After touching a 14-month high last month, the rally in oil prices eased after witnessing consistent declines at the start of April 2021, according to a new report. Demand trends across markets remained clouded but the broader optimism saw rising output across the board, Kamco Invest said.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 3,683.62 points, down 0.66 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 1.25 per cent at 526.04 points. OIFC, up 6.25 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 9.91 per cent, was the top loser.

بنك العز الإسلامي
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FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE SULTANATE, ALIZZ ISLAMIC BANK
AND THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNVEIL A CROWDFUNDING PROJECT.



You have made a significant humanitarian contribution for which we thank you.

Al Sayyida Maani Al Busaidi



Success is a journey, not a destination, and with cooperation, we will reach the goal we seek

Hani Al Zubair



This initiative is bigger than us, as it encompasses the entire country, not just Alizz Islamic Bank.

Sulaiman Al Harthi

Muscat - Sultanate of Oman:

Alizz Islamic Bank and The Ministry of Social Development unveiled a crowdfunding website (www.crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com) to raise OMR 2 million to build the Center of Excellence for Children with Disabilities, as well as an additional initiative on the platform to collect OMR 40,000 to provide "Eidiya", to distribute to orphans. The website was launched at the Ministry of Social Development, in the presence of Al Sayyida, Maani Al-Busaidi, Director General of Family Development at the Ministry of Social Development, Mr. Hani Al-Zubair, Vice Chairman of the board of Alizz Islamic Bank, and Mr. Sulaiman bin Hamad Al-Harthi, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, and a number of officials from both institutions, and Mrs. Rahma Al-Musharraf, Chairman of the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities

The crowdfunding website (www.crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com) aims to collect OMR 2 million from various segments of society and collect OMR 40,000 for orphans by using innovative digital technology. This will allow all groups and segments of society to participate and contribute in building "The Center of Excellence for Children with Disabilities" and help orphans.

The donation process is transparent and reveals the amount donated. When entering the website, donors can notice the movement of the electronic meter, the number of donors and the amount remaining to reach the desired sum. Alizz Islamic Bank has facilitated the process of donating from anywhere in the Sultanate or outside it.

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet and social media. With an aim of financing a project that serves the community, the money is collected through a specialized platform that guarantees everyone's participation in serving the nation and society. This act will also gain religious remuneration and reward for contributors. The act of donation establishes the role and responsibility of the Omani community, institutions and individuals, as a partner that provides services to Omani persons with disabilities. This plays an important role in the establishment of private rehabilitation institutions that contribute to the rehabilitation of these individuals alongside government institutions, as this solidarity leads to collaboration in building society, each according to his role. During the inauguration ceremony, an additional initiative was launched on the website (www.crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com) aiming to collect OMR 40,000 as "Eidiya" for orphans. The sum will be distributed to orphans from the Child Care Center.

Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Social Development have opened an account for every orphan at the Child Care Center, and after completing the collection of the required sum, the amount will be distributed equally to each orphan. The orphans are under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development which provides them with the necessary needs and prepares them in terms of educational, social and cultural aspects to integrate them into society.

Alizz Islamic Bank believes in providing excellent humanitarian initiatives that offer the greatest benefit to society in appreciation of every child. It also aims to preserve them as the building block on which the future of society is built. The care for persons with disabilities and orphans in the Sultanate comes from the government's keenness, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, to ensure that this group, in all its categories, has access to all rights like other citizens in the Sultanate. Among these rights are the rehabilitation of these people in the various rehabilitation institutions that provide the services that persons with disabilities need to become people who are easy to integrate into society to play their role side by side with the people of this country.

Active contribution

On a related note, Sayyida Maani Al Busaidi, Director General of the General Directorate for Family Development at the Ministry of Social Development, appreciated the launch of this website, the first of its kind in the Sultanate, touching upon how the efforts of the bank work in parallel with achieving all means of expanding the developmental roles of the Ministry of Social Development.

"It is important at the outset to thank Alizz Islamic Bank for its active contribution. We are proud to launch the crowdfunding project on the website (www.crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com) to raise funds to build "The Center of Excellence for Children with Disabilities". God willing this project will see success in a short time. This initiative will be engraved as part of history and the name of Alizz Islamic Bank will ring throughout the annals of time. It is a great honour that the cooperation will bear results that are good and righteous." She concluded her speech saying: "We praise and applaud your humanitarian duty. We express our thanks and gratitude to you and everyone who has supported us. On behalf of the Ministry of Social Development we thank you all for your kind initiative and the Ministry as well as Alizz Islamic Bank will work side by side in the future to serve various groups served by the Ministry of Social Development."

Continuing humanitarian duties

On the other hand, Mr. Hani Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the board of Alizz Islamic Bank, said: "This is not just a task between us that we have accomplished, but rather it is the opening chapter of a of the relationship between the Ministry of Social Development and Alizz Islamic Bank. This is the first step in the long journey ahead for more cooperation in the days to come. The launch of this website will enhance the fields of creativity to be inclusive in ensuring the service of various social strata and groups that fall under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Development.

We always strive to facilitate what are tough and overcome difficulties, by devising various methods and systems that lead to providing social care for the disabled, handicapped, orphans and others. We provide them with financial and in-kind assistance and rehabilitating those who can be rehabilitated. I urge you to continue carrying out humanitarian deeds, because as you know without cooperation, we will not be able to build continuous achievements, for success is a journey, not a destination. With constant cooperation we will move towards the goal we seek."

An initiative bigger than us

Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, affirmed that in all situations a distinction should be made between theory and practice, as theory enjoys freedom and possesses a wide time space, and it usually does come later than reality. Application requires immediate and direct action and this is what we are doing at the launch of this website. We all take part in doing a great service to this beloved nation and continuing to persevere in strengthening the relationship between Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Social Development in preserving the social fabric of this country and transforming all cooperation into a real tangible reality in various fields. The lesson is not in terms of nomenclature, but rather in the goals that we will all achieve, God willingly. We honour and cherish the Omani spirit in you. We say thank you and salute this high spirit and enthusiasm because we feel that this initiative is greater than us, as it includes the entire country and not just Alizz Islamic Bank.



We hope that the goal we seek will be fulfilled.

Rahma Al Musharraf



Everyone in this community has the right and ability to contribute to building the nation.

Murtadha Al Lawati



Giving back to this great nation is sure to generate wonderful results.

Zayed Al Hadidi



Giving and loyalty

Zayed bin Jumah Al Hadidi, Director of the Child Care Center: "Our desire does not stop at presenting such initiatives, but rather it will extend beyond that. We congratulate Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Social Development for launching this site to serve this category of society and we say: Giving back to this great nation generates wonderful results, everlasting giving and loyalty."

Integrating more than 2,748 children

Association of Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs is a nonprofit organisation that aims to take care of our "heroes" from infancy to nine years and qualify them to face life and discover their capabilities. It is a charitable association, established in May 2000 in order to meet the needs of children from birth until the age of 9 years with disabilities. It was established with the aim of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to children and their families. The association offers a set of programmes, including: The Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program, which is the main specialized programme in the association which provides specialized technical support for day care programs as well as Home Visits Programme. These programmes contribute to integrating these children in schools or society to the maximum extent possible, as these programmes are provided to 136 children with disabilities. During the past twenty years, the association has succeeded in serving and integrating more than 2,748 children, either in government schools or other rehabilitation centers.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

OIFC, up 6.25 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 9.91 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,683.62 points, down 0.66 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 1.25 per cent at 526.04 points. OIFC, up 6.25 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 9.91 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,032 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.38 million, with more than 22.28 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded stocks, 13 advanced, 19 declined and 11 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR393,000 while Omani investors were net buyers for OMR290,000 followed by for-

foreign investors for OMR104,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,675.81 points, down by 0.47 per cent. Al Sharqia Investments, Muscat Finance, National Bank of Oman, Sohar International Bank, and Ominvest were up 2.53 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 2.03 per cent, 1.12 per cent, and 0.67 per cent respectively. Al Batinah Development, Vision Insurance, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Investments, and Al Madina Takaful were down 9.84 per cent, 8.54 per cent, 6.82 per cent, 4.55 per cent, and 3.33 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,908.41 points, up 0.89 per cent. Oman Cables, Al Jazeera Steels, Galfar Engineering, and Raysut Cement were up 5.19 per cent, 4.33 per cent, 4.08 per cent, and 2.28 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.39 per cent before closing at 1,546.00 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 18

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	POLY CLOSE	DIFF (D)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	1,324,248	112,573	79	0.085	0.087	0.084	0.085	0.080	0.005	6.250	0.085	0.077	0.088	0.100	20,145.00	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	1,222,644	324,052	117	0.270	0.275	0.260	0.265	0.254	0.011	4.331	0.264	0.263	0.264	0.100	33,097.89	
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	2,920,680	237,813	74	0.077	0.083	0.077	0.081	0.079	0.002	2.532	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.100	7,290.00	
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	244,000	10,527	20	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	13,207.29	
OM0000004118	RYSCUT CEMENT	102,900	27,633	32	0.266	0.270	0.266	0.269	0.263	0.006	2.281	0.268	0.268	0.270	0.100	53,800.00	
OM0000003346	SOHAR INVEST BANK	18,400	1,648	08	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.175	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	1,015.98	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	50,000	19,000	4	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.376	0.004	1.064	0.380	0.370	0.380	0.100	89,835.80	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	7,900	2,383	2	0.299	0.302	0.299	0.302	0.300	0.002	0.687	0.302	0.298	0.302	0.100	24,349.47	
OM0000003277	AL OMANIYA FIN	12,000	898	2	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.073	0.075	0.100	21,895.18	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,773,711	1,062,821	74	0.390	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.386	0.004	0.990	0.390	0.380	0.390	0.100	13,944,159.19	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	50,000	19,000	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.386	-0.006	-1.554	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	38,000.00	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	61,200	45,875	10	0.772	0.772	0.748	0.748	0.760	-0.012	-1.579	0.748	0.748	0.748	0.772	100	561,000.00
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	116,479	31,045	30	0.269	0.269	0.262	0.267	0.275	-0.008	-2.909	0.263	0.263	0.266	0.100	14,685.00	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	162,850	37,895	23	0.237	0.237	0.230	0.233	0.241	-0.008	-3.320	0.230	0.230	0.232	0.230	0.100	77,093.34
OM0000003988	AL QORIEDA POWER	167,620	63,901	34	0.390	0.390	0.372	0.382	0.402	-0.010	-4.477	0.378	0.372	0.378	0.100	248,650.69	
OM0000001772	ALANVAR INVESTMENT	5,021,299	414,218	168	0.081	0.084	0.080	0.082	0.088	-0.006	-6.818	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.100	16,400.00	
Total		14,257,831	2,431,283	662													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	613,509	397,726	44	0.640	0.676	0.640	0.648	0.616	0.032	5.195	0.676	0.676	0.676	0.100	58,125.60	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	4,443,381	226,916	156	0.053	0.053	0.048	0.051	0.049	0.002	4.088	0.050	0.045	0.050	0.100	14,789.012	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	994,866	150,715	11	0.148	0.143	0.146	0.151	0.148	-0.003	-2.027	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	245,517.90	
OM0000001484	ALBARAKA POWER	35,650	1,451	3	0.055	0.087	0.055	0.087	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	38,468.84	
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	500	91	1	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.170	0.190	0.100	5,610.00	
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	151	106	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.704	0.704	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.680	0.700	0.100	10,880.00	
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	650	56	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.079	0.086	0.100	10,750.00	
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	15,600	5,113	2	0.322	0.328	0.322	0.328	0.328	0.000	0.000	0.328	0.328	0.344	0.100	17,158.08	
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN HRK	500	402	1	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.000	0.000	0.804	0.804	0.852	0.100	76,380.00	
OM0000001152	UNITED TRADING	400	18	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	10,014.24	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	427,708	29,940	12	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.063	0.070	0.100	13,974.42	
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	132,221	6,130	16	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.046	0.047	0.100	67,279.67	
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFEINS	10,360	3,897	3	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.370	0.380	0.100	100,700.00	
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	124,000	38,554	12	0.320	0.320	0.310	0.310	0.312	-0.002	-0.641	0.312	0.310	0.312	0.100	18,973.325	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	14,084	1,521	3	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0.917	0.108	0.104	0.108	0.100	210,563.006	
OM0000004420	BANK NIKHA	11,300	1,064	3	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.095	0.093	0.095	0.100	141,000.000	
OM0000001012	OMAN NAT. ENRG	15,541	1,383	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.001	1.111	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	1,110.000	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	15,000	1,530	1	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.104	-0.002	-1.923	0.102	0.102	0.109	0.100	305,827.846	
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	10,000	900	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.092	-0.002	-2.174	0.090	0.090	0.092	0.100	7,276.500	
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN	10,000	1,210	1	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.124	-0.003	-2.419	0.121	0.121	0.128	0.100	11,834.010	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	243,000	21,141	25	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.089	-0.003	-3.333	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	15,225.000	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	71,050	4,056	7	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.057	0.059	-0.002	-3.390	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	40,721.161	
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVR	305,000	6,405	6	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.022	-0.001	-4.545	0.021	0.021	0.023	0.100	4,350.179	
OM0000002930	VISION INVESTMENT	83,750	8,989	17	0.077	0.077	0.074	0.075	0.077	-0.003	-3.877	0.075	0.074	0.077	0.100	11,570.000	
OM0000002366	AL BATNAH DEV	35,000	1,825	7	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.061	-0.006	-8.586	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	1,850.000	
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD	390,000	39,000	38	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.111	-0.011	-9.910	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	3,357.145	
Total		8,003,221	948,277	368													

RELIABLE POWER

New utility scale power plant inaugurated in Iraq

BAGHDAD: The Prime Minister of Iraq, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, inaugurated the Samawa Power Plant in the Al Muthanna governorate.

GE Gas Power led the construction of the facility, which is the first new utility scale power plant to be built in the governorate since 1975. Four GE 9E gas turbines have been installed and commissioned at the plant under the first phase

of the project, helping the facility to generate up to 500 megawatts (MW) in simple cycle operations. At present, electricity is supplied from the plant through the 132 kilovolt (kV) grid to the city of Samawa, as well as surrounding areas.

Ahmed Al Abadi, the spokesperson of the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, said, "Our top priority is to deliver reliable power across Iraq."

By setting up the Samawa power plant, GE played a significant role in providing much-needed electricity, helping to ease a part of the electricity shortages experienced in the province. Looking ahead, we know that Iraq still needs to add more power capacity. To that end, we are in process of commencing work on the second phase of the Samawa project."

NEW REPORT

Oil recovers partially after trading near 8-week low

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After touching a 14-month high last month, the rally in oil prices eased after witnessing consistent declines at the start of April-2021, according to a new report.

Demand trends across markets remained clouded but the broader optimism saw rising output across the board, the Kuwait based investment strategy and research firm, Kamco Invest said.

“However, despite the increasing pace of vaccinations worldwide that supported oil prices as end product demand surged, the resurgence in COVID-19 cases in key oil markets in Europe and India over the last few weeks forced crude oil to trade near \$60 per barrel,” the report pointed out.

The rally in oil prices came to a halt during the second half of March-2021 led by a number of

factors but was primarily led by a sentiment that the levels of around \$70 per barrel were unsustainable as there were indications of higher output from the US as well as speculations over Opec+ next move on its near term output policy.

However, prices stabilised after touching \$60 per barrel despite the announcement of increasing output from the Opec+. The resilience indicated confidence in the demand outlook for the year that was backed by forecasts from several agencies across the board.

The US EIA raised its oil price forecast for this year and the next. In its STEO, the agency now expects Brent crude prices to an average of \$62.28 per barrel in 2021 against its previous forecast of \$60.67 per barrel in the previous forecast, whereas in 2022 prices are expected to average at \$60.49 per barrel against the previous forecast of \$58.51 per barrel.

The consensus estimates for Brent also shows the crude grade consistently above the \$62 per barrel mark over the next six quarters. The average price for the Opec crude basket stood at US\$64.6 per barrel during March-2021, the highest in 14-months and a monthly increase of 5.7 per cent.

Kuwait crude grade also had a growth of 5.8 per cent to average at \$64.9 per barrel whereas Brent spot crude averaged at \$65.6 per barrel, a 5.4 per cent monthly increase from \$61.3 per barrel last month, Kamco Invest said.

Trends across markets remained extremely divergent as seen from increasing travel trends in the US and strong trade data in China, as compared to new restrictions and curbs in Germany, France and India and a number of new restrictions in several other countries.

DIGITAL ORGANISATION

DCO welcomes Nigeria, Oman as founding members

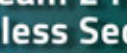
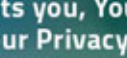
RIYADH: The Digital Cooperation Organisation (DCO), based in Riyadh, announced the joining of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Sultanate of Oman, as founding members, joining Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. Combined, the seven countries are an economic bloc of \$1.2 trillion in GDP. The population base of the seven nations is close to 480 million, 80 per cent of whom are under 35 years of age.

DCO convened its first ministerial meeting, chaired by Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Abdullah bin Amer Al-Swaha and was attended by ministers of the DCO countries.

During the meeting, an agreement was reached to launch five high impact initiatives. These initiatives aim at establishing a centre to highlight the importance of cooperation in relation to the flow of data across borders, empowerment of women in the digital labour market, in addition to serving entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to grow and achieve a digital future.

The meeting discussed ways to promote cooperation in all areas driven by innovation and acceleration of the growth of the digital economy.



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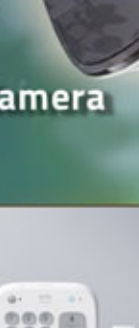


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Indian Male B.Com having 25 years experience in Oman as Insurance Manager with knowledge of Accounts upto Finalization. Looking for placement in Accounts, Clerical Jobs. Contact 98935218

Female Accountant/Admin having 15 years of experience in Oman with driving license,looking for immediate placement fulltime/parttime.NOC available. Contact. 95454279.

Indian Male MBA with 10+ Yrs experience in GCC (Qatar & Oman) Looking for Accountant/Administration jobs.Call on 91845713 or E-Mail: izameerweb@gmail.com

Indian male having 3 years experience in accounts, presently in visit looking for accounts/Office job immediately. Contact 93904321

Looking for part time accountant job. Contact 91019796

Sr Accountant, Indian male MBA,12 yrs experience in Oman,D/L,ready to join. Contact 92574937

Indian female MBA finance with family visa having 3+ yrs of work experience (India) in auditing(KPMG). Looking for suitable placement in accounts, financial services, auditing. Contact 78150143,98837143

Indian Male, B.Com, MBA, 10 Yrs experience in accounts & export coordination with Focus, Oracle & Tally seeks suitable placement. NOC, D/L available. Mob : 98747867

Senior Accountant Sri Lankan 20+years Oman experience.Looking for suitable placement. Contact 99630192

Indian MBA finance with 3 yrs Oman experience in accounting.NOC available. Contact 79396446. Email sheroofsabu@gmail.com

Indian accounts & finance professional with 15+yrs of experience in Oman as Accounts Manager, Chief acct. Contact 78039524

Indian Male Accountant, M.Com 14 years experience in Oman with D/L & NOC seeks suitable placement. Contact 99757409

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male, 12 years experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post. Holding Oman D/L&NOC. Contact: 94019955, ragkk55@outlook.com.

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

Indian Male, 12 years experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post. Holding Oman D/L & NOC. Contact vinrai99@gmail.com. M: 79734085

Indian female. B.com. Exe secretary, Admin Asst, Coordinator.DL. Contact 92243552/91190552

Indian Female 33, 7+yrs Exp in GCC, Admin, logistics,Cust Relations,VLD D/L Looking for suitable opening. Contact 71574232, 92686168

Indian male (25) BBA., LLB.(hons) / experience in administration and operations seeking for suitable job. Contact: 79896282, 78265859 Email: harisuneethan96@gmail.com

Indian Lady Lawyer with 3 years of corporate in house practice in Oman looking for new opportunity. Contact 92640225

Indian Female, MSc graduate currently in Muscat looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 94687398. Email: gayathrisprem21@gmail.com

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Masters, Male, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience - Airport Projects, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate. NOC. # 99283938

Business administration graduate MBA holder, with 3 years experience looking for suitable vacancy.. Contact 968-79387444 Email m.mukhtar2t4@gmail.com

DRIVER

15 years experienced light duty Indian driver. Contact 98993526

Looking for driving job. Contact 78059628

Looking for a driving job. # 79798556

Looking for driving job. Contact 93539260

Looking for driving job. # 96224920

Looking for driving job. # 99141165

10 yrs experience in driving (Oman) looking job. # 93770264

Looking for driving job with car, 4 yrs experience. Contact 97379365

DESIGNER / AUTOCAD D/MAN

AutoCAD / Revit (2d/3d), MEP freelancer, shop drawing works. Contact: 99857800 / 79037728 (WA)

HOSPITALITY

BSc Hospitality Management Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia.Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry. Contact 94575782 Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

IT

B. Tech computer engineer with 6 years of Oman experience looking for job in IT industry and bearing GCC license GSM No : 78240202

Indian Male, MBA (IT&SYSTEMS) 14 Years of experience as Business Analyst in Oman. Experience in supply chain management/logistics& warehouse management/E-commerce operations. Contact:96256759

Omani citizen is looking for vacancy in the field of computer. Perfect of use SQL & SQL Server. Having diploma certificate & 3 yrs experience in this field. Contact 96977368 Email talalom1@yahoo.com

LOGISTIC

Logistic officer with 15 yrs experience in oman seeking for immediate placement.NOC/local release available. Contact 95271413

Indian 24 yrs presently in Oman, graduated in BCA,experience in Rent a car in Oman, airport & in Car showroom. Contact 79224987

8 yrs experience, Customer service,operations, logistics, secretary, trading,NOC available, currently in Muscat, D/L, Excellent communication in English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam. Contact 91116374

MANAGER

Property/Facilities Manager, 10+ years Oman UAE experience+DL, can Manage any Operation. # 71052703

Operations Manager (Electrical), 10 years experience in primary and distribution substations and overhead line, D/L available. Contact 95357073

Expert in oil and gas supply chain, operation and commercial management 18 years of Oman experience as mid level executive looking for immediate placement. # 95148237

Project Civil engineer 18 yrs experience, 11 yrs in Oman Projects execution commercial, residential & governmental project. Looking for job. Contact 99470854, 97832844

Accounts/Finance Manager well experienced (29 Years), expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, monthly MIS, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact 98803439

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Safety officer looking for job with Nebosh Certification. Contact 71961786

HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926. mubashirosman89@gmail.com

FOC Splicing Network Supervisor. Indian, Male. Exp10 yrs in GCC, seeking from India. Contact +91 87787 26083. Email: leninkumar34@gmail.com.

Indian 2.6 yrs experience in fiber telecommunication as field technician, monthly salary 400. Oman license. Contact 79172708 Email greeshgk@gmail.com

10 Years experience in Plumbing, pipe fitter & camp boss assistant. Contact 93045800

Omani National Female with have Bachelor Degree in water technology. Contact 94421774

Technical supervisor, ELV, CCTV, IP/HD, Fire alarm & ups, electrical work. Have D/L. Contact 94625245

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JOB WANTED

CIVIL ENGINEER

Indian Male, Degree in Civil Engineer, 24 yrs Exp, with 15 yrs Gulf experience in handling Grid stations, OHL, Hospital Buildings, Road, MEP Worked with (Ray International, L & T, ONEC), under , OETC, Mazan, Mazoon, DPC. Having Oman D/L. Looking for suitable position. Immediate available for Join, NOC available.

Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774
Wts - 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Logistics and Operations

Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.

Contact: 79639093
Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

Sr. Sales HVAC/MEP/Industrial Products

With 10 + years of experience in Sales and Business development of HVAC / Mechanical / Industrial products in Oman market. Hold DL and available immediately.

Contact: 93843068;
mabcoman@yahoo.com

ENGINEER / DEPUTE PM

BE 15 yrs Exp Seeking job roles of Engineer - Sr.planning/Sr.cost control/Dep.PM in Building Construction/Infrastructure Utilities Projects/Consulting Firms of a growth oriented organization.

Contact 97464768

Administration

Pakistani Female with 13 years of experience in Academic Administration with excellent communication skills, on family visa. Part time also willing.

Contact 79285929

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

31 years Experienced Civil Engineer in which 20 years in Oman with valid driving license and NOC looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 95538353
Mail: camudhan38@gmail.com

Sales & Marketing

Indian male, professional in media ad sales and marketing, experienced in business development and planning and rolling out offline & online product promotion campaigns, organising product launch events & other BTL programs, looking for a suitable opportunity.

Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.

aminol2424@gmail.com
79417515

HR / Admin

Indian Female looking for job opportunities in HR/Admin or similar field. MBA with 7 yrs of experience in Oman, UAE and India in HR, Admin, Payroll n others. Experience in all HR functions. Available to start immediately.

Contact 99653715

Omani Information Technology Field

Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.

Contact: 71771213
Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.

Contact: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

WANTED PART TIME OR CONTRACT BASIS ACCOUNTING JOB UPTO FINALISATION.

CONTACT: 91720776

Mechanical Engineer

Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 5+years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.

Call 97015841
Email: khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

ASST. FINANCE MANAGER

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, ODDO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

Accounts & Audit

Accounts & Audit field with 13 years experience till finalization of accounts. Finance Ministry taxation procedures and Value added Tax procedures. Qualified in M Com, MBA , M.A. English. Also does online immigration works in various ministries.

Whatsapp: 98190314
E-mail: richy348@rediffmail.com

Senior Real Estate Manager

Well experienced in management accounting, reporting, marketing, planning and budgeting. Also has experience in the construction and fitout field. really quick learner for any other fields. Looking for a good opportunity with an international or national corporation. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: 71519695
ahmedelsaba87@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer, having 8 yrs of Oman experience in all types of building constructions & having Oman D/L & NOC available. Ready to join immediately. Contact 71267309, 96742402 (whatsapp), Email vmanand92@gmail.com

BE Civil Engineer with PMP having experience more than 21 years looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 95899628, prakashrathi7707 @gmail.com

MEP Mechanical engineer with 2 year exp. Contact 79027224

MEP QS, Indian Male. BE(EEE) Construction Exp.11yrs (7GCC+4India). Seeking from India. Contact: 9344206100, Email: erndeva@gmail.com

MEP Engineer, Indian Male DEEE. Exp 18yrs(12GCC+6India) Building Construction. Visa Transferable. With D/L. GSM:79305045. Email:renga4582@gmail.com

Mechanical project engineer, BE Mechanical, India,have almost 5 yrs experience with 2+ yrs expereincein Oman.Currently working as Mechanical engineer & have HVAC designing.Knowledge also,seeking relevant placement. Contact 97865430. Email mdn.razvi@gmail.com

BE Mechanical Engineer, with 3 years of experience in hvac design and supervision is seeking suitable position, Contact 78002650. afreedpc5779@gmail.com

Indian male, 29yrs, BE Mechanical, 6+ yrs. UAE experienced QA QC in Oil and Gas with valid D/L on visit in Oman. Looking for suitable opportunities in QA QC / project/ process. Contact 92057664 e-mail: hafisashraf14@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 10 years in Muscat, Client Meeting, AutoCAD, Quotation, Tender, High-rise Com/Res, Villas Maintenance. Having D/L and NOC. Contact 97431611

Indian Male, Diploma in Computer Engineering, 3 years' experience Worked as a System administrator & Support Engineer looking for a suitable job. Presently on visit. Contact 94243856/93894634 rashadmuhammed20@gmail.com

Site Engineer (DCE), 9 yrs experience in building construction (execution of site works, BBS, BOQ preparation) Oman D/L. Local transfer/NOC available. Contact 94334402. Email nishath.ind91@gmail.com

Indian male 23 yrs, B.Tech (EEE) is looking for suitable job,presently on visit. Contact 95055966

24, Mechanical Engineer, currently in Oman Looking to work as back-office Sales/Purchase coordinator in any field. Contact 79121923 / 78043052

B.E Civil engineer Male, with 2 years of professional experience in municipal house construction project. Equipped with a valid D/L. Fluent in English & Arabic. Contact 96749821 Email mhassan9610@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Inventory, Accounting, Purchase & Sales: Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in MNC with F&B, Customer relations and various other skills.NOC available, Contact: 96219904, Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

Indian male procurement, purchase officer having Bachelor degree in Mechanical engineering, 5 yrs experience in UAE in Electrical & Construction company & having UAE D/L. Looking for suitable job. Contact 98227904 Email nrangra@rediffmail.com

Indian male, 10+ yrs experience in the field of purchase,store,asset coordinatorValid D/L. Immediately available for joining. Contact 71596360. Email praveenskurup82@gmail.com

Indian male, experience of 12 Years in Oman as a Purchasing officer and store manager,D/L NOC available looking for suitable job. # 97099785, maniugcc@gmail.com

Procurement, purchase officer having master degree searching for job. 07 yrs exp in oman in a well known construction & maintenance group of companies. NOC available. Contact 92587919, 99423614. Email jahanzeb_athar@yahoo.com

Indian, purchase assistant, store keeper 9 years working experience in oman. Valid Oman D/L(light) Looking for suitable job. Contact 98615731 Email: sanalk73@gmail.com

Indian male, 16 yrs experience in a multinational freight forwarding & logistic co,worked under the capacity of Senior operation executive/senior accountant (Ocen freight,air freight, land transport, warehouse operations & finance & accounting). NOC available. Contact 93587605

TOUR / TRAVEL

Seeking job in Travel & Tourism. 12 years experience, Graduate (B.Sc) IATA Certified professional presently available in Oman. Contact 968 92477622, 79842322 Email: tahaspm@gmail.com

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168. e-mail: anwarijail51@gmail.com

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ACCOUNTANT

A certified VAT professional having Masters degree & 10 years of GCC experience in senior positions, is available to handle accounts & VAT compliance.

Contact 71990782

JOB WANTED

SALES / MARKETING

Inventory, Sales & Accounting, Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in MNC with F&B, Customer relations and various other skills. NOC available. Contact: 96219904, Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

14 yrs of Sales experience in FMCG, valid D/L. Looking for Supervisory / Management position. Contact 71554818. Email: mohammedsultan1977@gmail.com

MBA marketing having 12 years of experience in sales of various B2B products.Experience in making and implementing marketing plans. Capable to market any good product. Call 91690869

26, Indian male with 3 yrs of experience having valid D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales/marketing field. Contact 95858181

Marketing Professional with 5 years experience seeking job in the fields of Content Management, Marketing and Branding. Please call or Whatsapp 91998204 or vidyaramofficial@gmail.com

Indian Male 32, 5+ yrs Exp in Oman, Property Asst Manager, In Real Estate, VLD D/L, Looking for suitable opening. Contact 92686168

BM, with 26 yrs fmcg exp, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. Contact 90925520

Having 14 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing field. Having valid Dubai D/L, looking for a suitable position. Contact 94720995

Indian Male, having over 20 years experience in sales support and Arabic English translation in Automotive industry seeks suitable placement. Contact 968 99776201. Email ajmal.aleem@gmail.com

Indian male (30) MBA with oman Experience (FMCG and other) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on Visit. Contact +968 7975 5795

MBA with Engineering (Indian female) working in a reputable company in Oman, with 3 years of experience in Content writing, Digital marketing, Vendor & Budgeting. management, Contact 98945207

Indian male with 10 years GCC experience in Luxury Watches & Jewellery currently in Oman with valid driving license looking for a job in Sales/Marketing. Contact: 91901852

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ROUND-UP

NBO credit card customers can win 6thStreet vouchers with every purchase

For each spending of OMR 40 or above at 6thStreet or OMR 20 at supermarkets or grocery stores, customers will receive entries to the prize draw

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) is offering customers the chance to win one of 20 online shopping vouchers worth OMR 100 from 6thStreet, one of the region's premier online retail portals and home to top fashion brands including Calvin Klein, Lacoste,

Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger. This Ramadan simply becomes a new customer or use any existing NBO Credit Card online between 12 April and 12 May 2021 and receive free entry to the prize draw. For each spending of OMR 40 or above at 6thStreet or OMR 20 at supermarkets or grocery stores, customers will receive entries to the prize draw. Each week there will be five prize draws, one for each type of Credit Card offered by NBO, and five lucky winners will receive an eVoucher valid on the 6thStreet website worth OMR100. Maha Al Raisi, Head of Retail Product Division at NBO, said, "This is a great opportunity for NBO customers to enjoy extra value this Ramadan and win an exciting prize each time they shop online at 6thStreet. NBO's range of Credit and Debit cards have been designed with customer needs in mind and offer convenience and flexibility in their daily transactions as well as frequently adding extra value by

offering a wide range of exclusive value-added lifestyle benefits." For purchases to be eligible for the prize draw they must include a purchase from 6thStreet. Supermarket purchases alone will not be considered but will give customers an extra entry into the prize draw when accompanied by an order from 6thStreet. The draw will take place 10 working days after the end of the campaign and winners will be published on social media and contacted by the bank with details about how to claim the prize. To apply online for an NBO Credit Card please visit www.nbo.om or call NBO's Contact Centre or WhatsApp on 2477 0000 where a specialist customer adviser will be available to assist. Existing customers can download the NBO Mobile App and stay safe and bank smarter while enjoying a full range of services and exclusive lifestyle benefits by searching 'NBO mobile app' on their smartphone or mobile device.



This is a great opportunity for NBO customers to enjoy extra value this Ramadan and win an exciting prize each time they shop online at 6thStreet

Maha Al Raisi
Head of Retail Product Division, NBO

MILESTONE

Kia Cerato taxi clocks 999,999km

MUSCAT: Recently a Kia Cerato taxi owner Asa'ad Saleem Ali Al Batashi, was extremely elated on touching the 999,999-kilometre mark on the odometer. On reaching this extraordinary milestone he was felicitated by Reliable International Automotive, the distributors for Kia in Oman. Speaking at the occasion, a spokesperson from Reliable International Automotive said, "This is a remarkable feat. Something that goes on to highlight the capability of Kia vehicles. While also proving that there's a lot more to Kia vehicles than their attractive design language, advanced technology, assuring safety and more." Asa'ad Saleem Ali Al Batashi, an employee at MOH in the Hemodialysis unit in Bausher is a loyal Kia customer. Sharing his experience with the Kia Cerato taxi he said, "I have been a long-time admirer of Kia. My Kia Cerato is a 2012 YM vehicle. It has been with me on varied journeys through different climatic conditions. Even after touching 999,999 kilometres, the Cerato still feels so energetic and powerful. And I am happy that I never compromised on its upkeep. I always chose Kia service as they are the experts. And whenever there was a spare part requirement, I only opted for Kia Genuine Spare parts. And I'm really happy with the result. If I have to opt for a new vehicle as a taxi, I will choose a Kia." Asa'ad recently noticed that he was going to clock 1 million Kms on his odometer, so he immediately informed us and visited our Service centre the next day to get his odometer changed and start anew. This testimonial is proof that Kia has come a long way in terms of its quality and dependability. There is no wonder that Kia has



also topped in mainstream brands for a 6th straight year according to J.D. Power's US Initial Quality Study (IQS) 2020. The study, now in its 34th year, examines problems experienced by owners of new 2020 model-year vehicles during the first 90 days of ownership. Initial quality is determined by the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100), with a lower score reflecting higher quality. Kia (www.kia.com) is a global mobility brand with a vision to create sustainable mobility solutions for consumers, communities, and societies around the world. Found-

ed in 1944, Kia has been providing mobility solutions for more than 75 years. With 52,000 employees worldwide, a presence in more than 190 markets, and manufacturing facilities in six countries, the company today sells around three million vehicles a year. Kia is spearheading the popularization of electrified and battery electric vehicles and developing a growing range of mobility services, encouraging millions of people around the world to explore the best ways of getting around. The company's brand slogan - 'Movement that inspires' - reflects Kia's commitment to inspire consumers

through its products and services. Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers. Excellent product attributes and unmatched facilities easily ensure their absolute satisfaction, every mile of the way. No wonder then that Reliable International Automotive has been ranked amongst the top Kia distributors worldwide and has been honoured with prestigious accolades including the 'Good Partnership award', 'Family Like Care' Service award', and 'Kia Distributor of Distinction' award.

ONLINE CHESS TOURNAMENT

Winners of Zubair Chess Championship for employees' children honoured

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp), in cooperation with the Omani Chess Committee, (OCC) organised an online chess tournament for children of employees of its group companies. Twisha Prashanth Kajekar (OOISS), Elyas Adnan Al Kalbani (Ara Petroleum), Damodar Krishna Das (Zubair Electric) and Pramath Kajekar (OOISS) and Adidev (GAC) were the winners of the under-16 tournament. Grant Porter, Group Chief Financial Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer, The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp) honoured the five winners of the online chess tournament. The prize-giving ceremony was held at the Z-Corp and was attended by top executives of the Oman Chess Committee and Z-Corp. The players had to register on the website (<https://lichess.org>) to participate in the tournament. Players were given five minutes with an additional two seconds after each move. The tournament was held to promote the game of chess among children. Grant Porter, Group Chief Fi-



nancial Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer, The Zubair Corporation Z-Corp, "We witnessed an excellent quality of play from children who participated in the tournament. We would like to thank Oman Chess Committee for helping in organising the competition in a professional manner. "We are happy that the participation from employees' children belonging to different companies

of the group. Studies have found that children who play chess considerably improve their visual memory, attention span, and reasoning ability - all important factors for success." Ahmed bin Darwish Al Balushi, Chairman of the Oman Chess Committee said, "We would like to congratulate the winners and laud them on their level of performance. We are extremely happy

with the response to the tournament that was held online. "Chess helps with good thinking skills, improve concentration, memory, and calculation. Our partnership with Z-Corp has had a great impact in increasing the popularity of chess among adults and young people. Support from a reputed private organisation like Z-Corp for OCC has played a big role in promoting chess in Oman.

We are truly grateful to them for their full-hearted support. The committee wants to increase the number of people of all ages participating in chess events at all levels in Oman and to develop chess by organising tournaments." The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp) recently renewed its sponsorship agreement with Oman Chess Committee (OCC) within the framework of enhancing public

and private sector partnership. As part of the agreement, Z-Corp will support all the activities of the Oman Chess Committee in the coming years. The agreement between Z-Corp and OCC was facilitated by Oman Olympic Committee as part of their plans to assist sports associations and athletes to get the support of the private sector companies.

TYRE AND AUTOMOTIVE TEST

Nexen Tyre ranks first in ACE Lenkrad summer tyre test 2021

MUSCAT: Nexen Tyre, a leading global tyre manufacturer, announced that the N'FERA Sport has earned first place in the summer tyre test conducted by German automotive magazine Auto Club Europa (ACE) Lenkrad, one of Germany's largest and most trusted automotive clubs, conducting tyre and automotive tests throughout the year. ACE Lenkrad has around 600,000 members and offers a variety of services such as the Driver Support Program and Road Assistance. Using the Volkswagen Golf 8, experts tested nine different summer tires from manufacturers including those from Europe and America. The magazine concluded the N'FERA Sport was best for handling in wet and dry conditions, best for braking, and best in pass-by-noise. The tire, which was manufactured at Nexen Tyre's Europe plant, received outstanding reviews and performed well in a variety of other categories, earning the highest overall rating. This first-place finish in ACE Lenkrad magazine's tire test adds to a tally of accolades of strong ratings and results in tests organised by automotive associations and magazines including Germany's ADAC and Auto Bild, which also rated the N'FERA Sport as "very recommendable." "We are thrilled to learn about these latest test results, which also show that Nexen Tyre's quality and technology have progressed to a level now on par with



that of other premium global brands," said Travis Kang, Global CEO of Nexen Tyre. "We will continue to work to provide tyres that are safe, high performing, and environmentally friendly." Nexen Tyre, established in 1942, is a global tire manufacturer headquartered in South Korea. Nexen Tyre, one of the world's fastest-growing tyre manufacturers, currently interacts with approximately 150 countries around the world and owns four manufacturing plants - two in Korea (Yangsan and Changnyeong) and one in Qingdao, China. Another plant in Zatec, the Czech Republic has also begun operation in 2019. Nexen Tyre produces tires for passenger cars, SUVs, and light trucks with advanced technology and excellence in design. Nexen Tyre supplies OE tyres to global car makers in various countries around the world. In 2014, the company achieved a grand slam of the world's top 4 design awards for the first time amongst the various tire makers in the world.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat extends support to Fak Kurba

The bank’s support will help secure the release of 250 citizens who have been jailed for failing to clear financial obligations. None of these cases relates to payments involving banks or financing firms

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to partnership in sustainable development and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider, has once again extended its support to the Fak Kurba initiative launched by the Oman Lawyers Association for the fourth consecutive year. This year, the bank’s support will help secure the release of 250 citizens who have been jailed for failing to clear financial obligations. None of these cases relates to payments involving banks or financing firms. It is noteworthy that the announcement of the bank’s participa-

tion in this year’s Fak Kurba initiative came through a media meeting that was organised last Thursday. On this occasion, Dr Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Zadjali, the supervisor of Fak Kurba, said that Bank Muscat is continuing to support the initiative to secure the release of insolvent people for the fourth year in a row. He noted that the bank is one of the most important institutions that has been keenly supporting the initiative. This year the bank’s contribution will help secure the release of 250 debtors, adding to the 576 citizens it helped in the previous three years. Dr Muhammad Al-Zadjali thanked Bank Muscat for its gen-

erous and continuous support of the Fak Kurba initiative. He stressed that the support provided by institutions like Bank Muscat and other like-minded individuals and entrepreneurs are the main engine on which this noble initiative is based. Donations from all those who are able, whether small or large, go a long way in taking this initiative forward to remove the distress of some members of our community. Solidarity Al-Zadjali called on other institutions to follow Bank Muscat’s example and express their solidarity with the community by joining the initiative, especially given the increased economic distress brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year’s Fak Kurba initiative will benefit 797 imprisoned debtors, including 84 women, and help them reunite with their families. A total of more than OMR641,000 was raised for the initiative, which has resolved 3,185 cases to date. Appreciating the opportunity to partner with Oman Lawyers Association again, Sheikha Yousuf Al Farsi, Chief Strategy & Corporate Services Officer, Bank Mus-

cat, said, “It is a great privilege for Bank Muscat to partner the Oman Lawyers Association in this unique humanitarian initiative for the fourth consecutive year. This year, the bank has helped secure the release of 250 citizens so that they can have a joyous Eid reunion with their families. We thank the Oman Lawyers Association for initiating such an important programme that strengthens our community.” She added that the bank would continue to support such important CSR initiatives. The ‘Fak Kurba’ initiative was launched in 2012 by the Oman Lawyers Association in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development and the Council of Administrative Affairs for the Judiciary. The Oman Lawyers Association has been successfully managing the ‘Fak Kurba’ programme facilitating the release of hundreds of citizens imprisoned on insolvency charges every year. Many of these cases have resulted from the death of the breadwinner at home, road accidents or critical illnesses, whereby affected people got into debt obligations which they could not repay.

HOLY MONTH

Oman Air signature Iftar meal boxes return for Ramadan

MUSCAT: Once again this year, Oman Air, the national carrier for the Sultanate of Oman, has reintroduced its signature Iftar service & meal boxes on select flights to facilitate guests’ dietary needs during the holy month of Ramadan. The Iftar boxes are available in all cabin classes and are adorned with distinctive Ramadan-themed visuals and a Ramadan Mubarak logo extending best wishes to guests. This year’s Iftar boxes contain slices of fresh seasonal fruits and fruit bites, an assortment of finger sandwiches, dates and traditional maamoul, vegetables, hummus, mixed nuts, and traditional laban drink, and offer a convenient and healthy way for Muslim guests to break their fast. Muslim guests will be able to enjoy Ramadan-themed feature programmes that will run alongside the airline’s renowned in-flight entertainment. Full dining options will still be available for all non-Muslim guests during Ramadan. However, with health and safety an ongoing priority, all food and beverages continue to be served in the form of bento-style



boxes to reduce contact between guests and crew during meal service. Eng. Hashim Al-Breiki, Acting Vice-President Guest Experience & Branding, said, “Oman is recognised around the world for its openness and authentic hospitality, and this is especially true during the month of Ramadan. Our Oman Air signature Ramadan service with nutritious Iftar meal boxes and select Ramadan-themed in-flight programming is a gesture of consideration at this special time of year. As an airline, we remain committed to catering to the needs of all our guests and I extend my best wishes for health and happiness to all those observing Ramadan around the world – Ramadan Mubarak.”

STATE-OF-THE-ART CENTRE

OIFC opens new Khedmah branch in Al Khuwair

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to expand the services provided to its customers, Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC) has opened a new Khedmah branch in Nawras Commercial Centre in Al Khuwair. The state-of-the-art Khedmah centre is equipped with the latest modern technology that is in line with the full-fledged services provided by the company to meet the customers’ requirements. Through the branch, customers can pay electricity, water, telecommunications bills, and the Public Authority for Social Insurance dues, in addition to balance recharge of their phone and prepaid electricity. Speaking on the launch, Said Ahmed Safrar, Chief Executive Officer of OIFC said, “This is yet another milestone achieved in line with our strategic expansion approach. The opening of new branches is based on structural analysis of market needs. This resonates with our approach that contributes to national urban development and meets customers’ requirements.” Safrar further emphasised the commitment of Khedmah’s branch employees to constantly seek to deliver high-end services that reinstate the company’s esteemed reputation. Furthermore, he pointed out that the company intends this year to revamp and relocate a number of its branches and add several bill-paying machines in highly populated locations. “Today, our branches, kiosks, and self-service payment machines are available in many commercial centres such as Seeb City Centre, Grand Mall, Mabella Nes-to Hypermarket and Sohar Safeer Mall. Undoubtedly, the launch of the new branch will be a valuable addition to our robust network. It will target customers from Al Khuwair and its surrounding areas. They will be able to avail our services and at the same time run other errands in the Nawras Centre,” he further stated. Saud Ahmed Al Siyabi, Chief Operating Officer of OIFC, said: “The high demand on our services, growing customer base as well as the increased services and products provided to customers, prompt us to further innovate on



ways to meet customers’ aspirations. Additionally, in keeping up with the competition on the market. Over the previous two years, the branch network witnessed a great expansion and renovation focusing on the highest standards. The company also saw a strategic development that is aligned with the latest technologies used in the market. As such, we were able to provide many electronic payment channels such as the Khedmah app and the company website. Via these channels, customers can utilise all services without visiting the branches.” The new branch is larger in space and provides more parking space. This furthers ease of accessibility and convenience to OIFC’s clients. Al Siyabi further mentioned that

the new centre will have a qualified team similar to our other branches. He assures customers that the teams will cater to their needs as per the best practices used in the customer service industry. Established in 1979, OIFC is one of the leading Investment and Services Company and specialises in billing, collection & debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services in the Sultanate of Oman. The company’s various payment channels allow customers to easily pay their electricity, water and telecommunications bills. The working hours for the new centre will be from 8am to 4pm, Sunday to Thursday. A self-service payment machine is also available in the branch working around the clock.



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Splash

at centrepoint

