

The General Directorate for Education in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate said, "Students of schools are gradually returning to classes and they are taking precautionary measures through blended education." **>A5**



Focusing on local market the way forward for hotels in Oman

Thomas Guss, the newly arrived General Manager of The Chedi Muscat, says the coronavirus pandemic has shown to the world just how fragile businesses can be, and has laid out his plans to help the hotel resume brisk business

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Focusing on the local market and going the extra mile for guests to make sure their needs are met is how one of Oman's premium hotels aims to ensure they retain business during the pandemic.

Thomas Guss, the newly arrived General Manager of The Chedi Muscat, says the coronavirus pandemic has shown hotels in Oman and all over the world, just how fragile businesses can be, and has laid out his plans to help the hotel resume brisk business in the months to come.

With over 30 years' experience in hospitality, Thomas comes from a family of hoteliers and brings with him an authentic luxury experience from around the world.

He now leads the team at The Chedi Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman with the aim of overseeing the hotel's vision and driving its continued success

Can you give me a little bit about your background?

I have over 30 years of experience in the hospitality business. I started my career as a chef and later moved into a management training programme which gave me the opportunity to learn and work in various departments across the industry for an all-rounded hospitality experience.

At the age of 32, I took up my first position as General Manager and since then have excelled in the role. I am now bringing my vast experience to The Chedi Muscat to oversee its vision and drive success.

Globally, what are the challenges being faced by the hotel industry?

We are in a challenging world, but I believe in the hotel industry, we see challenges as an opportunity, an opportunity to innovate, develop and grow. Traveller and guest behaviours are constantly evolving and due to this change, they have evolving expectations.

At The Chedi Muscat we see this as an opportunity to cater to our guests better than before and meet their expectations to ensure their stay is exceptional.

How do you think your experiences overseas will help you develop The Chedi in Oman?

The key to success depends on a few key factors such as service, emotional intelligence, engagement with guests and your colleagues.

The Chedi Muscat is an iconic hotel in the GCC, winning a range of awards in our industry year after year. My experience and market knowledge combined with the reputation of The Chedi Muscat will bring new horizons for myself and the team to explore.

What advice would you give to hoteliers in the country right now?

In this challenging time, every hotel must have their positioning



Thomas Guss - GM at The Chedi Muscat.

statement right and targeted offerings to promote the destination to a wider audience.

What have been the biggest challenges faced by The Chedi and other hotels in Oman and the GCC?

From the current pandemic, I believe we have all learned just how fragile our business is and how easily it can be impacted. This has given way to a need for focusing on the local market and making sure that our guests at home are tended first.

How can these challenges be overcome? Can all of them be overcome, though?

Challenges always come with opportunities. Those who value these challenges, stay ahead in the crisis, and evolve with their customer's needs will benefit the most and continue to be successful.

What does one learn from such challenging times?

I have learned that it is extremely

important to stay true to your core value and company culture. Your guests and employees alike will remember the action you took during those time and this will be the stepping stone to success.

What does the future for the hospitality industry hold?

Most experts predict a full recovery by 2024 and 2025 where we will be able to reach the numbers we sought after at end of 2019. I strongly believe that the recovery will be much faster, and people will travel again very soon, and we see the pandemic become history.

We all need a break; some vacation time and we cannot stop people from continuing to discover and explore the world. In my opinion, we will see a great influx in weddings and events since most couples had to postpone their engagements to this year.

Consumer spending, as well as confidence has been hit by the pandemic. How long before it returns?



I believe travel will return to Oman faster than we think. Oman has one of the highest repeat guest ratios in the GCC and loyal guests are keen to come back to enjoy the authentic hospitality that Oman has to offer. Consumer power of spending has increased as many guests were unable to travel and enjoy incredible experiences and exceptional cuisine across the world. They were obliged to stay home for their safety and as wanderlust grows, we will see an influx of guests looking to travel to unique destinations such as Oman.

A great deal was lost as we were not able to interact with our families and friends or even take short-term travel breaks or organise any social events, therefore there will be a need to spend for that connect. Demand in many segments will rise faster than we think, and we need to be prepared.

What are the other factors that need to resolve themselves for tourists to visit again?

Oman's positive track record of handling the pandemic is recognised to be one of the best in the GCC. This will play a great role when tourists and businesses will choose to first travel as they will look onto the countries that handled the pandemic with strong measures and positive track re-

cord. Increased confidence in these measures will attract the travellers back to Oman.

How do you see the hotel landscape in 2021 and beyond?

How will this affect your day-to-day running?

The local market drives anywhere between 10 and 20 percent of the hotel's occupancy at the moment, especially on the weekends. Most of the airlines have reduced their flight frequency or cancelled a few routes entirely, therefore it will take time for them to come back to 2019's numbers.

I believe that consumers will look more and more for direct flight connections instead of stopover destinations and this will greatly impact their decision on where to go on vacation.

What are you planning for the future? How do you find Oman?

At The Chedi Muscat, we are planning to offer more services than before. Above my love for Oman is the love for Omani people. Their humble nature, natural kindness and spirit to serve is unmatched. From the beautiful Royal Opera House to multiple museums and majestic mountains to a range of adventurous activities such as diving, and wadi hiking, Oman has a great deal to offer.

Tender Notice

Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), announces following E-Tender for 2021:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Deadline for Specifications Request	Deadline for tender bids	Tender Price
02/2021	Supply of laptops & tablets with accessories	1-Feb-2021	15-Feb-2021	62.5 OMR

Interested companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender document from the E-Tendering website: <http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

The Tenderer should enclose scanned copy of bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2%) of the Tender value validity for (120) days from the deadline for the tender bids and addressed to Public Authority for Social Insurance. And original document of the same should be submitted later directly to the Administration Department - Purchase and General Services Section / Third Floor, PASI Head Office in Bawshar.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender inquiry : All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at E-Tendering system (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
2. E-Tendering system inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel : +968 24166670 , E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

PASI is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender that may be received



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MEETING

Health facilities across Oman helped stem the COVID-19 tide



PATIENT SAFETY PLAN: A delegation led by Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health and First Deputy of WHO-EB, takes part in the virtual meeting of the World Health Organization's on Monday. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: The Sultanate participated in the virtual meeting of the Executive Board of World Health Organization on Monday. A delegation led by Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health and First Deputy of WHO-EB, took part in the meeting.

In his speech, Dr. Al Saidi commended the WHO on the framework structure of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030, with its seven global strategic objectives, five strategies, six principles, and five milestones.

Al Saidi stated that in the context of COVID-19, patient safety was the focus of Oman's health emergency preparedness and response, through different initiatives to minimise the risk of transmission.

He added that having a wide-reaching network of primary healthcare facilities throughout the country proved to be an advantage in terms of preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as it facilitated more streamlined triage and testing, resulting in lower transmission rates.

The health minister emphasised that patient safety is a top priority in Oman's health strategy, since it contributes significantly to the improvement of the overall health of the population, aiming to make sure that patients

receive highly safe and quality health services at all healthcare facilities in Oman.

He added that this action plan represents a comprehensive reference for member states to develop their national strategies and operational plans towards enhancing patient safety. It is also fully aligned with the Sustainable Developmental Goals and closely mapped with the WHA resolution 72.6.

The Health Minister stressed that global action on patient safety is at the core of many other global health issues and Sustainable Development Goals. It relates not only to people-centric, but also to hygiene, expanded access to information and technology, innovation, expanded healthcare coverage, adequate infrastructure, and international cooperation.

Health emergencies

The meeting highlighted health emergencies including preparedness and response particularly COVID-19 response where updates on activities to combat the pandemic of coronavirus (COVID-19) were provided. The Board also noted a report on strengthening WHO's global emergency preparedness and response.

The nine-day 148th session of the Executive Board focused

on main pillars including one billion more people benefitting from universal coverage, one billion more people better protected from health emergencies, one billion more people enjoying better health and well-being, and more effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries.

The meeting reviewed report of the regional committees to the Executive Board and considered the recommendations and comments of the regional committees. In addition, it touched upon the report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board as well as reports relevant to the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health.

Moreover, the Board advised countries to continue intensifying activities for containment of polioviruses and ratified a regional strategy to enhance access to medicines and vaccines.

The Sultanate's delegation included Dr. Saeed Al Lamki, Director General of Primary Healthcare, Dr. Saif Al Abri, Director General of Diseases Control and Surveillance, and Dr. Jumana Al Abdawani, Director of International Relations and Organisations. - **ONA**



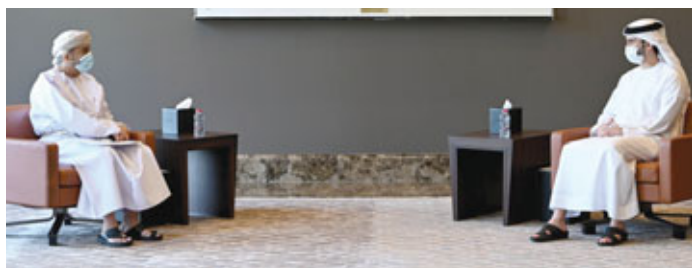
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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman’s envoy to UAE presents his credentials



ABU DHABI: Sayyid Dr. Ahmed Hilal Saud Al Busaidi, Sultanate’s Ambassador appointed to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) presented on Monday a copy of his credentials to Khalid Abdullah Belhouli, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) of the UAE.

The meeting discussed the bilateral relations binding the two countries and means of promoting them to achieve aspirations of the two countries’ people.

The credentials’ presentation ceremony was attended by MoFAIC officials. -ONA

No Muscat Festival this year



Scheduled to be held from January 16 to February 15, the Festival has been cancelled as a precaution to limit the spread of the coronavirus

Times News Service

MUSCAT: This year’s Muscat Festival will be cancelled, amidst efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus in Oman.

“Muscat Festival, which was scheduled to be held from January 16 to February 15, has been cancelled, according to the Supreme Committee directives of the country, as a precaution to limit the spread of the coronavirus and preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents of the country,” a Muscat Municipality official told *Times of Oman*.

Second consecutive time

This is the second consecutive time the Muscat Festival has been cancelled. The event was

scrapped last year due to the death of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour. Last year’s festival was expected to feature a number of returning favourites, and many new events, including the Baby Shark event, which was to be held at a Winter Village themed exhibit in the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The second edition of the Sufi Music Festival was also on the cards, featuring ensembles from Turkey, Oman, Egypt and Iran.

A number of other competitive sporting events are held in parallel or in the build up to the festival. On the agenda last year was the first round of the Oman International Drift Championship, the MENA Karting Championship, and the Tour of Oman, which traditionally features cyclists from across the world.

In its 2019 edition, Muscat Festival drew more than 700,000 visitors, with the number of people visiting the various cultural attractions, kiddie rides, live shows, exhibitions, and open-air markets rising significantly over the weekend, and as the festival drew to a close.

The festival is usually held at two large public parks in Muscat: Naseem Garden drew about 361,000 visitors in 2019, while Al Amerat Park saw about 311,000 people visit the attractions within. Nearly 33,000 festival goers visited the other venues at which events were being held.



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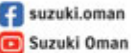
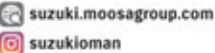


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POPCORN DAY: A CRUNCH WE ALL LOVE

IF YOU ARE A POPCORN aficionado then January 19 is certainly your day. It's the day to celebrate your favourite snack, and though the origin of this day is not known exactly but most believe that it started because of the Super Bowl. After all, nothing can be more gratifying than watching the Super Bowl with a big bucket of your favourite popcorn.

Whether it in the form of the simple salted ones or those that are caramelised, buttered or tossed with nuts and chocolate, this is undoubtedly a crunch that we all love to enjoy.

But do you know who invented popcorn? In the 16th century, the Aztecs used popcorn in their head-dresses. Later popcorn started becoming popular in the United States in the middle 1800s. Charles Cre-tors, a candy-store owner, developed a machine for popping corn with steam. By 1900 he had horse-drawn popcorn wagons going through the streets of Chicago. In 1948, Herbert Dick and Earle Smith discovered small heads of corn and individually popped kernels deep in a dry cave known as the "Bat Cave."

Over the years the love for popcorn has grown manifolds and this street snack has made a place in our hearts so much that we cannot imagine going to the movie theatres without getting a box of popcorn. Our eyes

cannot feast on the big screens till we feast our taste buds with these crunchy bites. But how did popcorn become the quintessential movie snack?

According to Andrew F. Smith, author of *Popped Culture: A Social History of Popcorn in America* this was because it was a cheap snack and convenient too. As mentioned in the *Britannica*, "Popcorn does not refer to the popped kernel alone. It's also the name for the specific type of corn that is used to make the snack. It was originally grown in Central America and became popular in the U.S. in the mid-1800s.

"Compared with other snacks at the time, it was super easy to make, and it got easier in 1885 when the mobile steam-powered popcorn maker was invented. What hit the streets in the late 19th century was a fleet of independent popcorn purveyors. They were like the great-grandfathers of food trucks." In the US, Popcorn Day is celebrated by enjoying this snack or even by making popcorn necklaces.

And for those of us in Oman, let us celebrate popcorn in our own special way. David Gerrold, an American science fiction screenwriter and novelist had rightly said: "Of course life is bizarre, the more bizarre it gets, the more interesting it is. The only way to approach it is to make yourself some popcorn and enjoy the show."



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ANNUAL RESEARCH FORUM



Sayyid Theyazin honours research award winners

Times News Service

Muscat: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announced the winners of the seventh edition of the Annual Research Forum on Monday.

The function was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth. Twelve projects won the national research awards in six research fields, including Culture and Human and Basic Sciences; Education and Human Resources, Energy and Industry, Environment and Biological Resources, Health and Social Services and Communication and Information Systems.

New logo unveiled

The new logo of Oman Animal and Plant Genetic Resources Centre (Mawarid) was launched on the sidelines of the forum.

Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, gave a speech in which she praised the efforts of the Ministry for organising the annual forum and the award function.

She said that the seventh edition of the award witnessed tough competition. Sayyid Theyazin honoured the winners of the 12 winning projects. Six winning projects were for the PhD holders and six for young researchers (other than PhD holders).



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

< FROM A1 Guardians need to sign commitment form to teach students at home

The General Directorate for Education in Musandam Governorate said, “The gradual return of students in the governorate schools according to the integrated education system for the first, fourth, fifth, ninth and eleventh grades began as a first stage.”

The General Directorate for Education in Dhofar Governorate said, “After 309 days, students of the distance education system in Dhofar Education gradually return to their classes according to the blended education system.”

An official from the Ministry of Education confirmed to the *Times of Oman* that the guardian of the student who does not agree to the presence of his son to study needs to sign the commitment form to teach him at home. “The student’s guardian must sign a form pledging to teach him, as in the event that he does not receive education, the Ministry is responsible for that from a legal point of view as stipulated in international conventions, unless the guardian is the one who is responsible for that.”

Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, the Undersecretary of Ministry of Education, said at the 21st press conference of the Supreme Committee in charge to deal with COVID-19, “We would like to assure everyone that not all students will go back to schools on Sunday. There will be a gradual return during the next week and time can make this transition happen in a safe and easy way.”

“Returning to school will be gradual and is subject to the epidemiological evaluation of the virus in the Sultanate. The vaccine

will also be provided to individuals. The current health situation in the Sultanate is being evaluated. There are also other possible considerations, upon which decisions will be taken of either returning back to schools or continuing the blended learning for semester two. If the pandemic continues to exist, the conceived scenario is sticking to the blended learning. The face to face instruction will be held differently during the second semester of this academic year, in line with the epidemiological situation,” he added.

Dr. Ali bin Humaid Al Jahwari, the Director General of the General Directorate of Education of the Governorate of Muscat, said, “School buses are available and the Ministry has been ready for this step for a long time. Bus contracts have been signed since the beginning of last November. The school operation plans include the size of the required buses.”

Dr. Al Jahwari also said that the Ministry has requested, among the precautionary measures in buses, that the current capacity of each bus shall not exceed 50 per cent of its total capacity. Temperature measuring devices and sterilisers shall be provided in each bus.

“It’s important that school administrations meet the bus drivers to inform them of the health and preventive measures.”

The Supreme Committee in charge to deal with COVID-19 had decided to suspend studies in all educational institutions in the Sultanate of all levels on March 14, 2020 to limit the spread of coronavirus pandemic.

WRITTEN MESSAGE

Sayyid Shihab receives invite

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik bin Taimour Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs has received a written message from Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence of the UAE, inviting Sayyid Shihab to attend the 15th Inter-

national Defence Exhibition and Conference and the Naval Defence and Maritime Security Exhibition during next February.

This came when Sayyid Shihab received Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE envoy to the Sultanate, at Al Murtafaa Camp on Monday.

-ONA





Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
TENDER FOR THE MTC MICROSOFT SCHOOL LICENSES	02/2021	09/02/2021	16/02/2021	50 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

3. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman



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Interested companies and individuals are hereby invited to submit the information and preferred locations for undertaking sub-contract works to uditha.galapatha@altasnim.com within 07 days of this notice.

Al Tasmim will provide all details of subcontract works and commence the selection of sub-contractors after receipt of the information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/HQ-8/2021	Provision of Operation and Maintenance of Equipment at Al Nahdha Hospital in Muscat Governorate	28/January/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 24/February/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board in the Excellent Grade	R.O 155.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-9/2021	Supply of Surgical Items (Endoscopy) for The Royal Hospital	28/January/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 17/February/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-10/2021	Supply of Surgical Items (Covid -19)	27/January/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 03/February/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-11/2021	Supply of Laboratory Items	04/February/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 24/February/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set

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

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

Any Clarification, you may contact via

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US states see small protests ahead of Joe Biden’s swearing in

Federal and state law enforcement officials warned of possible fresh disturbances around state legislatures



WASHINGTON: Police and National Guard troops were deployed Sunday to fortified US government houses around the country in preparation for a potential wave of violent protests by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Federal and state law enforcement officials warned of possible fresh disturbances around state legislatures after a large pro-Trump mob stormed the US Capitol building in Washington DC on January 6.

The riot led to dozens of arrests and the second impeach-

ment of the president.

Trump supporters believe that he won the election and that fraud was committed on a massive scale, despite strong evidence to the contrary and no evidence surfacing to prove their point of view in dozens of courts that heard cases on the matter.

Sunday’s protests began in a quiet and peaceful manner, including at the Ohio, South Carolina, Texas and Michigan statehouses, where some of the demonstrators were reported to be armed.

A newspaper reported that the extremist Boogaloo bois movement was present in several locations, carrying military-style rifles. It said the men were part of a group who hopes that a second civil war will lead to the overthrow of the US government.

In addition to increasing police presence, and erecting barriers to protect their legislatures, some states, including Pennsylvania, Texas and Kentucky, took the further step of closing their capitol grounds to the public.

FBI warns of extremist groups

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has warned that armed protesters could turn up, as right-wing extremists have been emboldened by the deadly siege in Washington.

Security officials have singled out the anti-government “boogaloo” movement in particular, as one that has made plans weeks ago to hold rallies in all 50 states.

It remained unclear whether the increased security presence could lead some protesters to stay at home.

Some right-wing militia groups have canceled a long-planned pro-gun demonstration, like that of the state of Virginia, which was planned for Monday.

They have told followers to stay home this weekend, citing the increase in security as law enforcement traps.

Security officials on Sunday arrested an elected official from New Mexico who had vowed to travel to Washington with firearms to protest President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration, according to the US Justice State Department. **bw**



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At least 96 killed, nearly 70,000 displaced as quake, floods hit Indonesia

JAKARTA: The death toll from a strong earthquake and floods in the central parts of Indonesia has risen to 96, with nearly 70,000 people forced to flee home and take shelter, the National Disaster Management Agency said Monday.

A total of 81 people were killed after the 6.2-magnitude quake and the 5.9-magnitude aftershock struck West Sulawesi province on Thursday and Friday, and 15 people were reported dead in South Kalimantan province as floods have hit the province since January 14, the agency’s spokesman Raditya Jati said.

The quakes have forced about 28,000 people to take shelter in 25 evacuation centers in West Sulawesi province’s city of Mamuju and district of Majene, while the floods caused nearly 40,000 others to take shelter in South Kalimantan province, Jati said.

The number of houses damaged by the quakes rose to 1,150 units in the district, and five school buildings were also destroyed there, he said.

The assessment of risks of the quakes in the city and the district was still going on, Jati said.



Fearing the possibility of further spread of COVID-19 among the evacuees, rapid tests will be applied to them and the shelters for the displaced people will be separated from each other, according to the agency’s head Doni Monardo.

“There will be antigen tests to ensure that the evacuees have not been infected by the COVID-19 virus,” Monardo said.

Meanwhile, in South Kalimantan province, the floods have inundated nearly 25,000 houses, Jati said.

An emergency status has been declared there since Jan. 14 and the risk assessment has been undertaken, he added.

The province has been hit by massive floods since Jan. 14 after heavy rains pounded the area, according to the agency. **Xinhua**

Olympics will go ahead, Japan’s PM tells parliament

TOKYO: Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga tried to reassure lawmakers on Monday, saying that Japan would hold the already-postponed Olympics this summer and pledging to get the coronavirus outbreak in the country under control. Suga said hosting the Olympics would be “a proof of human victory against the coronavirus.”

“We will have full anti-infection

measures in place and proceed with preparation with a determination to achieve the Games that can deliver hope and courage throughout the world,” he said. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach recently voiced a similar hope, saying he wanted the Tokyo Olympics to be a “light at the end of the tunnel” in the fight against the pandemic.

Majority of Japanese doubt the Games will go ahead

Japan’s people do not currently seem to share Suga and Bach’s optimism.

Local media polls show about 80% of the Japanese public think the Olympics either will not or should not happen.

Japanese newspaper Yomiuri reported on Monday that the In-

ternational Olympic Committee expects just 6,000 athletes at the opening ceremony, down from an initial number of around 11,000 from 200 countries.

Athletes will not be permitted to arrive at the Olympic Village more than five days before they compete and will be required to leave within two days of completion of their events, the paper said. **bw**



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WORLD

KREMLIN CRITIC

Alexei Navalny detained after landing in Moscow

MOSCOW: Fierce Kremlin critic and political campaigner Alexei Navalny was detained after flying out of Germany and returning to Russia on Sunday, defying warnings by Russian authorities. His detention has been slammed by European and US officials, who are calling for Russian authorities to “immediately” release him.

What happened?

After landing at Moscow’s Sheremetyevo airport, Navalny said all charges against him were trumped up and that he was “not afraid of anything and asking you not to be afraid of anything,” according to a video published by Russia’s Dozhd TV. Navalny also said that he never had second thoughts about returning to Russia. “This is my home,” he said. He then headed to passport control where he was detained by police. His aide Ilya Yashin shared a video of the confrontation, during which Navalny is heard asking for his lawyer to be given access to him. The police denied the request, according to Yashin. After being detained at the airport, Navalny was taken to a nearby police station, his allies said on Twitter. Navalny’s wife, Yulia Navalnaya, said that the authorities was scared of her husband and were showing that by disrupting flights and detained a large number of people “just over a man who is returning to his motherland.”



“The most important thing Alexei said tonight is that he’s not afraid. I’m not afraid either. And I call on you all not to be afraid,” she told reporters before leaving Sheremetyevo.

Airports switched last-minute

Navalny left Berlin on a flight operated by Russian airline Pobeda and was scheduled to land at Moscow’s Vnukovo airport. Just minutes before his arrival, however, Pobeda said the hub was closed for arriving planes. The screens at Vnukovo then showed the flight as being diverted to Moscow’s largest airport, Sheremetyevo.

According to a Reuters reporter on board Navalny’s plane, the plane’s captain announced the change of course after the descent to Vnukovo

had already started. The pilot reportedly spoke of “technical difficulties” before adding, with audible amusement: “Instead we will calmly make our way to Sheremetyevo airport... where the weather is great!” While the reasons for switching airports were not immediately clear, Russian authorities have made no secret of their plans to arrest Navalny upon return. The 44-year-old called on his supporters to meet him at Vnukovo, but authorities warned against unauthorized rallies on the premises. On Sunday, Moscow police detained several of his aides at Vnukovo airport and cleared the crowd that gathered to welcome him at his scheduled destination. Security had been tightened around the Moscow airport awaiting Navalny’s arrival. **mw**

CASE OF BRIBERY

Samsung’s Lee sentenced to 30 months in prison by Seoul High Court

PYONGYANG: The Vice President of Samsung Electronics, billionaire Lee Jae-Yong, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for bribery and embezzlement on Monday by the Seoul High Court. His conviction is connected to the corruption scandal that brought down former President Park Guen-hye. Lee “actively provided bribes and implicitly asked the president to use her power to help

his smooth succession” at Samsung, the Seoul court said in its verdict.

Eembezzlement case

The city’s highest court found Lee guilty of bribery, embezzlement and concealment of criminal proceeds worth about 8.6 billion won (\$7.8 million, €6.5 million), and said the independent compliance committee Samsung set up in 2020 must still be-

come fully effective. Monday’s verdict could prove the culmination of a retrial in a long-running legal battle for Lee. Lee was sentenced in 2017 for offering millions of dollars in bribes to Park and her longtime friend Choi Soon-sil. His initial conviction to five years was later reduced and suspended at appeal after he denied wrongdoing, and he was released after serving a year. **mw**



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology



إعلان Notice

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology In AL Khuwair invites for the Following Project:

TENDER NO	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
(MOTs/HQ-1/1/2021)	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF CONFIRMATORY DISTANCE AND ADVANCE DIRECTION SIGNS ON NATIONAL ROADS	18/1/2021	1/2/2021	22/2/2021	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED THE WITH GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE TENDER BOARD IN (FIRST CLASS)	(25/-) TWINTY FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to (Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee). And hard copy of the same should be submitted manually to the Tenders Section, Tenders and Contracts Department (1st Floor), Ministry of Transport Building at Al Khuwair before 11:00 am on submission date .

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:

Tel: +968 24166670 e-mail : etenderhd@mtc.gov.om

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE



www.mtcit.gov.om

AHEAD OF INAUGURATION

Donald Trump expected to issue 100 pardons, commutations on his last day at White House

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is reportedly preparing to issue around 100 pardons and commutations on his final day at the White House on Tuesday, according to three people familiar with the matter. The planned pardons ahead of the Inauguration Day include white-collar criminals, high-profile rappers and others, reported

CNN. Sources have informed that the White House has held a meeting on Sunday to finalise the list of pardons. Trump had put a pause on the list of pardons in the days leading up to and directly after riots at the US Capitol two weeks ago, according to officials. White House officials had expected them to resume after January 6, but Trump retreated after he was blamed for

encouraging a mob of his supporters to incite the riots at the Capitol. According to CNN, two major batches had initially been ready to roll out, one at the end of last week and one on Tuesday. Now, officials expect the last batch to be the only one unless Trump decides at the last minute to grant pardons to controversial allies, members of his family or himself. **ANI**



TENDER NOTICE

Majis announce the following tender

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Description	Bids fees In R.O.	Last date for Obtaining Tender Documents	Last date for tender Submission
1.	Majis-01-2021	Supply and Installation of Sludge Drying at MAJIS' CETRP Plot, Sohar Industrial Port area	200/-	1st February 2021	1st March 2021

- Interested companies may obtain the Tender documents from the e-tendering website: <http://tendering.majis.om/VendorLogin.aspx> against non refundable payment as mentioned above. Tender documents will be published to such firms only.
- Tenders should be submitted online on the given website; no documents can be accepted as manual submission except original Tender Bond
- The Tenderer shall register in E-tendering portal to enable purchase and collection of the tender documents
- All correspondences pertaining to the Tender enquiry much be online at the e-tendering system and sent to email ID: tender@miscoman.com
- Any clarification pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email ID: vendor@miscoman.com and phone No. 26852421.
- Majis is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

TENDER NOTICE

The Internal Tender Committee of Port of Duqm Company SAOC., hereby announces the following Tender:

Tender No.	Description	Last Date of receiving Specifications	Date of Bid Submission	Suppliers	Tender Fee OMR	Place of Submission
ITC/T/001/2021	Design, Fabrication, Supply, and Commissioning of Mobile Steel Hoppers. 02 Nos	02 nd Feb 2021	23 rd Feb 2021	Only Specialized Companies	355/- OMR Non Refundable	Port of Duqm Company 3rd floor

Taking into consideration the following:
All specialized companies that wish to participate in the tender must deposit the tender amount into the bank account of the Company (details of the bank account is set out hereunder) and submit the original payment receipt of the tender along with a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate and the contact details of the authorized individual (business card) to the address presented below.

From 08:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 (Sunday – Thursday).

Payment Information:

1- Bank Transfer:

Account Name	Port of Duqm Company S.A.O.C
Account Number	0423047518510013
Bank Name	Bank Muscat
Branch	Ghala Corporate Branch
Bank ID Code	BMUSOMRXXXX

2- Credit/Debit Card at Port of Duqm Muscat Office.

Complete Tender documents should be submitted in sealed envelope with red wax with tender number and title and addressed to the "Chairman of Internal Tender Committee". The envelope should not make any reference to the bidder details. All applicants are required to submit the Tender in the Tender box in the main office of Port of Duqm Company at or before 02:00 PM on the assigned date for submission of the Tender. Tenders submitted after the above mentioned date and time shall not be considered.

* The company is not obliged to accept the lowest offer or any other offer without any justifiable reasons.
* The company reserve the right to issue the order either in part or full for the quoted items without any justifiable reasons.
*The company reserve the right to reject the tenders not complying with the tender documentation requirement.
For any clarification, please contact us through tenders@portduqm.com

Port of Duqm Company S.A.O.C.
PO Box: 2409, PC: 111, Sultanate of Oman,
Almashreq Building, 18 November Street, N. Azaiba
T: (+968) 24342800 | F: (+968) 24587343 | www.portofduqm.com

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Thriller on the cards as India need 324 to win on final day

A win will see the ‘injury-ravaged’ Indians register back-to-back series wins on Australian soil

BRISBANE: The ongoing Test series between Australia and India has been nothing short of a thriller. And the climax looks set to give a Hollywood movie a run for its money. The visitors need 324 runs on the final day with 10 wickets in the bag at Australia’s fortress -The Gabba.

A win will see the ‘injury-ravaged’ Indians register back-to-back series wins on Australian soil and a draw will see them retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against all odds. But the pitch isn’t getting any better at The Gabba and with the odd ball misbehaving after hitting the cracks, the Indian batsmen need to ensure that they keep the scoreboard moving at every given opportunity. Buying time in the middle might not be the best idea as there will be unplayable deliveries every now and then which will have a batsman’s name on it.

With rain playing spoilsport, the Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill could face just



CELEBRATION: India’s Rohit Sharma celebrates after taking the catch of Australian batsman Tim Paine on the 4th day of the fourth test match between Australia and India, at The Gabba.

1.5 overs on the fourth evening before the umpires decided to call for early stumps. With Rohit unbeaten on 4 off 6 balls and Gill yet to score from the five balls he has faced, it will all be about starting afresh for the visitors on the final morning.

Earlier, it was poetic justice that Mohammed Siraj picked his maiden fifer as India dismissed Australia for 294 in their second innings - a target of 328. The hosts began the third session on 243/7 with Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc at the crease. But the Indians did not take much time to get the first breakthrough

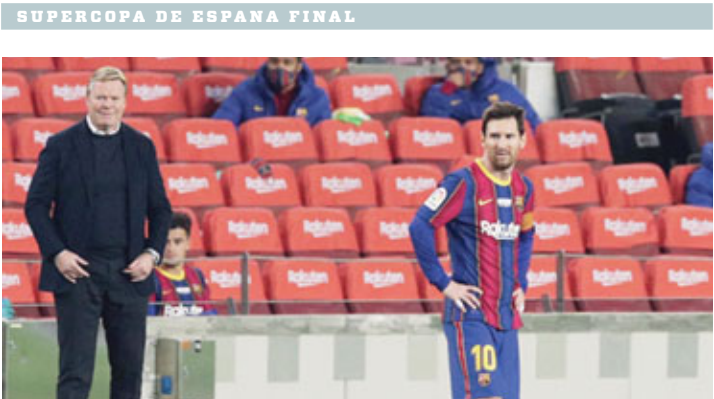
of the session as Siraj dismissed Starc (1), bringing Nathan Lyon to the crease.

While Cummins (unbeaten on 28) and Lyon (13) did trouble the Indian bowling a bit, it was a decent enough performance from the Indian pacers to pick the last three wickets for 52 runs. While Siraj finished with figures of 5/73, Shardul Thakur picked four wickets and Washington Sundar picked one. The first two sessions saw both teams looking to grab advantage and while certain periods were dominated by the likes of Steve Smith (55) and Cameron Green (37), the Indian bowlers

also kept putting in their 100 per cent as they looked to attack and dismiss the Australian batsmen rather than waiting for them to make mistakes.

While Smith and Green added 73 important runs, skipper Tim Paine and Green then stitched a brief 31-run partnership before Shardul removed the all-rounder in the 61st over. The innings saw another crucial partnership between Cummins and Lyon that fetched the hosts 27 runs.

Brief Scores: Australia 369 and 294 (Steven Smith 55; Mohammed Siraj 5/73); India 336 and 4/0. **ANI**



Don’t know how many times Messi was fouled, says Barcelona manager

SEVILLE: Barcelona manager Ronald Koeman defended Lionel Messi, who received a red card during the Supercopa de Espana final against Athletic Club, saying that it was a “normal” reaction from the Argentine as the opponents fouled him many times.

The red card was shown to Messi for violent conduct on Asier Villalibre, an incident that was spotted by the VAR, near the end of the clash. Messi was sent off for the first time in his Barcelona career. “I can understand what Messi did. I don’t know how many times they fouled him, and it’s normal to react when they keep trying to foul you as a player who is looking to dribble with the ball, but I need to see it again properly,” Goal.com quoted Koeman as saying.

During the match, Barcelona’s Antoine Griezmann scored a brace but it was not enough for the club to win the Supercopa de Espana final as Athletic Club clinched the title with a 3-2 win here on Monday.

Griezmann scored the opening goal of the match, putting Barcelona ahead in the 40th minute. However, the lead lasted for just two minutes as Oscar de Marcos

netted an equaliser. Griezmann then found the back of the net in the 70th minute with Barcelona again taking the lead. Athletic Club’s Villalibre levelled the scores in the 90th minute before Inaki Williams scored the winning goal three minutes later.

Koeman admitted that he is disappointed with the result while stressing that his side has to be more “forceful in defence”.

“We are sad, disappointed by the result. We played the final to win and not to lose that, yes, but there is no time to get off. We’ll be playing soon, there’s a cup and a league, there’s no time for regrets. We have done positive things, we have improved. We have failed in the goals received,” he said.

“We have to be more forceful in defence. We must defend better in the area and not let the opponents think, they cannot control, turn and shoot easily. We can improve. My work, I give the maximum I can. My work is not very good if we had won, nor very bad for losing. We are on the way, there are positive things, although losing today is very hard,” Koeman added. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Man United stay on top after goalless draw against Liverpool

LIVERPOOL: Manchester United kept their top spot on the Premier League table after witnessing a goalless draw against defending champions Liverpool here on Sunday.

With this draw, Manchester United now have 37 points at the top while Liverpool have slipped to the fourth position with 34 points as Manchester City jumped to second after a win over Crystal Palace. Liverpool enjoyed much of the first-half possession and created several chances. Liverpool went closest to breaking the deadlock via Roberto Firmino in the first half, but the Brazilian struck straight into the arms of David de Gea after the ball had deflected into his path.

Manchester United could have won it late on; however, Alisson Becker produced a fine block to



keep out Paul Pogba’s close-range effort, ensuring the points were shared.

Also, Manchester United are now unbeaten in 16 away matches in the Premier League - winning 12 and drawing four - a run that will stretch more than a calendar year as their last loss came at Anfield, in

January 2020.

After being held to a goalless draw by Manchester United, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said his side produced a “good enough” performance to win the game but they were restricted to a draw because they could not score goals. **ANI**

CRICKET

I will be available for Pakistan only once this management leaves: Amir

LAHORE: One month after announcing his retirement from international cricket, pacer Mohammad Amir on Monday said that he will only think about playing for Pakistan once the current management led by head coach Misbah-ul-Haq leaves.

“I would like to clarify that yes I will be available for Pakistan only once this management leaves. So please stop spreading fake news just to sell your story,” Amir tweeted. Amir had earlier said that his decision to retire was not based on him being dropped for the New Zealand series, rather it was based on how some members of the PCB management kept on going about his decision to not play Test cricket.

“The issue started when I announced my retirement from Test cricket. All was fine after the 2019 World Cup, then-coach

Mickey Arthur was fine with it and he understood the decision. However, some members in the PCB management once they took charge selected me for white-ball leg, and we even went to Australia, but when Pakistan lost the Test series there, the head coach and bowling coach started giving statements against me not playing Tests, some PCB management members said that Amir ditched us, they said I left Test cricket for T20 leagues. I was handling it for one year,” Amir had said on his official YouTube channel.

“I never said that I would not play ODIs and T20Is for Pakistan just because of T20 leagues, these members of PCB management kept on saying that I left Tests for T20 leagues and this proved crucial in destroying my image and people started talking about it. I am not weak, if I was I would have

never been able to make a comeback after 2010. I do not have issues with Wasim Khan and Ehsan Mani, I just have a problem with the current PCB management who is dealing with the players,” he added. Earlier, Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq had said that Amir should have gone back to domestic cricket to prove his worth rather than making up circumstances surrounding his sudden retirement. “There was talk about Waqar Younis related to Amir but there is no truth in it at all. There were six [association] coaches as selectors, me as chief selector, and then there was a captain. So this is absolutely not possible, [the idea] that one person out of all could have influenced the decision. Nobody was supporting his selection on the basis of performance,” ESPNcricinfo had quoted Misbah as saying. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Al Jadidi posts eight-wicket victory, Pitspot win too

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Manikandan Rajagopal’s superb 63 helped Al Jadidi Engineering and Contracting to an 8-wicket victory against Safara International in a D Division T20 League game at Muscat Municipality ground 3 in Amerat on Friday. Sandesh Pusalkar topscored with 44 as Safara collected 154 for 6 in 20 overs. Nikesh V bowled well, taking 3 for 22.

Al Jadidi’s chase was spearheaded by Manikandan (63 not out off 51) and Dhanesh Krishnan (36 not out off 24) as it scored 155 for 2 in the 19th over.

Brief Scores (D Division): Safara International 154 for 6 in 20 overs (Sandesh Pusalkar 44 – 5x4, Imran Khan 34 – 4x4, 1x6, Nikesh V 3-22, Gokul Gopinath 2-28) lost to Al Jadidi Engineering and Contracting 155 for 2 in 18.3 overs (Manikandan Rajagopal 63 – 6x4, Dhanesh Krishnan 36 – 4x4, Syed Uzair Saman 2-35) by 8 wickets.

Wajid, Gopakumar star in Pitspot win
In another D Division game, open-



Gopakumar and Wajid Ali of Pitspot.

er Wajid Ali slammed an unbeaten 105 off 66 while Gopakumar Gopalakrishnan picked up 5 for 24 to steer Pitspot to a 15-run win over Al Rehwan at Muscat Municipality ground 4.

Pitspot posted 179 for 4 on the board, thanks to brilliant batting by Wajid and Fahad Hamsa (33 off 23). Al Rehwan fought well but fell short by 15 runs, scoring 164 for 7 largely due to magnificent spell by Gopakumar. Puthen Purayil (55) and Raniz Muhammed (40) were main scorers.

Brief Scores (D Division): Pitspot 179 for 4 in 20 overs (Wajid Ali 105 – 15x4, Fahad Hamsa 33 – 4x4) beat Al Rehwan 164 for 7 in 20 overs (Puthen Purayil 55 – 7x4, Raniz Muhammed 40 – 4x4, Gopakumar Gopalakrishnan 5-24) by 15 runs.

Rajeesh, Shakar help Danmark to victory
Rajeesh Ravindran’s 4 for 27 and Shankar Gayathri’s unbeaten 66 off 48 were the highlights of Danmark’s exciting 5-wicket victory against OCT Al Hail B in an E Division match at Muscat Municipality ground 4.

Danmark did well to restrict Al Hail B to 154 for 7 due to excellent bowling by Rajeesh and then chased down the total in the 18th over, scoring 156 for 5 thanks to brilliant knocks by Shankar and Doresh Davender (47 off 42). Taiz Malla claimed 3 for 38.

Brief Scores (E Division): OCT Al Hail ‘B’ 154 for 7 in 20 overs (Abdul Jalil Al Balushi 38 – 3x4, 2x6, Mohamed Issa Al Balushi 24 – 2x4, Rajeesh Ravindran 4-27, Waqas Sohail 2-23) lost to Danmark CT 156 for 5 in 17.4 overs (Shankar Gayathri 66 – 7x4, Doresh Devender 47 – 5x4, 1x6, Taiz Malla Al Balushi 3-38) by 5 wickets.

OCT Al Nahdha beat Aflag Group
In the day’s other E Division match, Nadil Al Balushi’s 4 for 22 and Rafeeq Mohammed’s 51 were instrumental in OCT Al Nahdha defeating Aflag Group at Muscat Municipality ground 4.

Nadil was the most successful Al Nahdha bowler as Aflag was bundled out for 126 in 17.2 overs.

A Nahdha then surpassed the total in 17 overs, scoring 127 for 2 thanks to major contributions from Rafeeq and Abdullah Al Balushi (30).

Brief Scores (E Division): Aflag Group Ct 126 all out in 17.2 overs (Thiyagu Subramanian 34 – 5x4, Nadil Al Balushi 4-22, Mohamed Haneef 2-17, Abdullah Al Balushi 2-21) lost to OCT Al Nahdha 127 for 2 in 17 overs (Rafeeq Mohammed 51 – 7x4, Abdullah Al Balushi 30 – 6x4) by 8 wickets.

Brief Scores (F Division): KCA Deutag 140 all out in 19.1 overs (Khalid Balushi 40 – 5x4, Prathish Hema Ramesh 3-24, Ayush Karthiyc 2-32) beat Muscat Young Stars 118 for 6 in 20 overs (Roshan Kumar 31 – 1x4, Aaryan Nishit Punja 29, Ameer Hamza 2-18, Sultan Al 2-20) by 22 runs.

Brief Scores (F Division): Mazon Dairy Company Saoc 166 for 9 in 20 overs (Peter Shipin 54 – 7x4, Amir Munir 2-35, Muhammad Islam 2-34) lost to Israr Ghala 167 for 7 in 19.5 overs (Amir Munir 40 – 5x4, Asim Shaheen 37 – 4x4, 1x6, Ameer 3- 10, Hewa Dewage 2-19) by 3 wickets.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by March 2020 reaching \$54.20, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman declined \$1.18 from the price of Friday, which was \$55.38. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS FLAT

The MSM index closed at 3,643.523 points. The Sharia Index ended flat at 524.027 points. Al Jazeera Steel Products, up 4.49 per cent, was the top gainer while Aluminium Products, down 5.33 per cent, was the top loser.

OCCI meet discusses pandemic challenges

The heads of the joint business councils highlighted the challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic, which has cast a shadow over various commercial and industrial activities, both locally and internationally



OCCI MEETING: The meeting was chaired by Redha bin Juma'a Al Saleh, the chairman of the OCCI, and attended by the heads of the councils. - **Supplied picture**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The joint business councils across the country held a meeting with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss the challenges posed to companies by the COVID-19 pandemic and look at ways to overcome them.

The meeting was chaired by Redha bin Juma'a Al Saleh, the chairman of the OCCI, and attended by the heads of the councils, whose terms run from 2018 to 2022. It was held at the chamber's headquarters in Muscat.

Among the matters brought to light during the meeting was the need to accelerate the work being done by the councils to work faster in their efforts to help businesses contribute more to the economy.

The heads of the councils discussed the challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic, which has cast a shadow over various commercial and industrial activities, both locally and internationally. They stressed the needs to study investment trends with those countries that have joint business councils with Oman so that they could unify their efforts with other parties and achieve better results in negating the impact of the novel coronavirus.

"The heads of the joint business councils also indicated the importance of integration between the various parties in the public and

private sectors to facilitate investment opportunities, make them attractive and encouraging, and help Oman benefit from its joint trade agreements with other countries," said the OCCI in a statement.

Key to these efforts is a well-thought-out strategy to provide integrated projects with well-researched economic feasibility across a number of targeted economic sectors and to promote and market the Sultanate as a gateway to trade with the larger world.

"The meeting touched on the importance of holding meetings with officials in government agencies to discuss the most important

challenges affecting the improvement of the investment climate in the Sultanate, and to follow up on finding solutions that help attract investment opportunities," added the OCCI statement. There was also need to work to "facilitate and simplify procedures for registering investment companies."

The members also discussed the importance of holding council meetings periodically to view work accomplished and motivate council members to participate more effectively to encourage investment and trade exchange between the Sultanate and its partner countries on the joint business councils.

COMMENTARY

Special VAT treatment for Oman's free zones



Sarweshwar Biyani

OMAN is located on the south-east coast of the Arabian Peninsula which gives Oman a strategic location as a shipping and trading centre for markets in Europe, Africa and Asia. To realise the economic benefits of this location, currently, Oman is the home of three free zones, viz. Sohar Free Zone, Salalah Free Zone and Al Mazunah Free Zone. According to Asyad, Sohar and Salalah free zones attracted 120 projects with an estimated investment OMR3.7 billion by the end of 2019.

Oman market will see 5 per cent VAT invoices from April 21. As a consumption tax, VAT is applied on most supplies of goods and services across the country.

Generally, a special VAT treatment is provided to Free Zones to exempt from VAT for specific supplies of goods and services to encourage economic activities. However, this special treatment is based on strict criteria by Tax Authority including control, fenced geographical area, security,

custom and specified internal procedures of the free zone. Strict criteria are put in place to enable any kind of tax avoidance. Free zones must comply with these criteria to enjoy VAT exemption. Free zones businesses are expected to keep a detailed record and comply with VAT regulations to receive VAT-free purchases and other benefits.

As a practice, many supplies of goods to free zone businesses are outside the purview of VAT and also VAT is not applicable for services performed in free zones.

The exception to the general rule, VAT is applicable if supplied goods to a person or businesses in the free zone are consumed or utilized by them. For example, a business purchases furniture's, electronic items, vehicles, fuel for vehicles, stationery, computers, food and similar goods to run the business, these purchased goods will attract VAT as these are consumed by business. An individual in free zone buying goods for his purpose will be paying the VAT.

However, if the purchaser of goods in free zone plans to resell the goods then these goods are exempted from VAT. Also, supplied goods becoming part of another good in free zone will be outside the scope of VAT.

The writer CA. Sarweshwar Biyani is the Vice President - Finance and Accounts, SV Pittie Sohar Textiles [FZC] SAOC, Sohar Free Zone

OMAN CHAPTER

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners nominates new office-bearers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Association of Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Oman Chapter announced that Jose Chacko, Partner - Forensic Technology Services of Crowe Oman has taken over as the president of the chapter.

Jose has taken over as the president after serving ACFE Oman as the Vice President for five years. The newly elected officers took over from the present board from January 1, 2021.

Fathiya Al Maskari of EY has been elected as the Training Director for the Chapter. The other board members are Khalil Al Rawahi as the vice president, Somya Sreedharan as Secretary, Kevin D Souza as Treasurer, Salim Al Mushaifri as the Membership Director and Murad Al Balushi as Director at Large.

Davis Kallukaran, the outgoing president will continue in the board as an adviser and past president.

"The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organisation and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together, with more than 85,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession," said Jose Chacko.

According to a new report from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), a single case of occupational fraud costs the victim organisation an average of more than \$1.5 million, and Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs) estimate that organisations lose 5 per cent of their revenues each year to fraud. In the ACFE's 2020 Report to the Nations, a study of 2,504 cases of occupational fraud investigated by CFEs in 125 countries, the typical fraud lasted 14 months



Salim Al Mushaifri.

before it was detected and caused a median loss of \$8,300 a month.

ACFE Oman has achieved tremendous growth in terms of membership and certified members during the tenure of the previous board under the leadership of Davis Kallukaran.

The CFE credential stands for proven expertise in fraud prevention, detection and deterrence. CFEs around the world help protect the global economy by uncovering fraud and putting in place processes to prevent fraud from occurring.

ACFE Oman Chapter is sponsored by the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) and acknowledged the excellent support provided for the growth of the Chapter.

"The recent fraud cases around the world points out the need for enhanced fraud awareness and education. It is very important to note that a large number of nationals are attracted to the profession in recent years and it will add a lot of value to Oman. A series of educational events will be organised during the year towards fraud awareness," added Khalil Al Rawahi, vice president of the Chapter.

NEW REPORT

Tax authorities should engage with businesses and their supply chains

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In 2017, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries agreed and announced the first-ever Value Added Tax (VAT) framework to allow member nations to develop legislation to start a 5 per cent VAT rate in their respective countries.

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and law firm Al Tamimi & Company have joined forces to launch the new report - Value Added Tax - Middle East lessons learnt - which examines how the GCC countries adopted an indirect tax legal framework to replace decades of a tax-free environment. It also provides insight into the early transition period, highlighting the learning curve businesses, big and small, had to undertake to be VAT ready and compliant.

The study also showcases the interconnectedness between the work of professional accountants and the legal profession and offers a combination of commercial substance and legal perspectives.

ACCA's head of Middle East, Fa-



Fazeela Gopalani

zeela Gopalani, says, "This is the third in the series of reports looking at VAT in the Middle East and we were delighted to work with our Al Tamimi partners. Up until 1 January 2018, the Middle East was a relatively tax-free haven attracting companies and individuals to its high disposable income shores. The global financial crash, political upheaval and falling demand in oil all contributed to the reverse

in fortunes for the GCC nations and triggered a new approach to their finances. The growing trend of consumerism in the GCC nations represented an opportunity to collect a tax based on consumption, easy to collect at source, with a simple formula, and tried and tested globally. The accountancy profession and the legal fraternity have together provided the compliance safety net for businesses."

Shiraz Khan, Partner, Head of Tax, Al Tamimi quoted, "With the objective of diversifying their economies and reducing dependence on hydrocarbons, the GCC countries have undergone significant tax reform in recent years.

In addition to modernising their existing tax systems to bring them in line with international standards and regulations, the GCC states have sought to expand their tax base to include indirect taxes.

All taxes are imposed by law and the legal profession plays a key role in the development of tax laws, practice and precedent globally. Due to the rapidly changing tax environment in the Middle East and across the globe, it is becoming

more important for the legal and accountancy professions to share knowledge and experiences and work together to navigate through the changes."

This report also makes several recommendations, such as:

Engaging key stakeholders: tax authorities could consider a consultation period to enable businesses to give feedback on draft regulations before they become law.

Awareness campaigns: Tax authorities could launch awareness campaigns before the launch of VAT to help business understand how they will be affected and to educate businesses on their compliance obligations. They should also ensure detailed guidelines are issued ahead of launch

Adequate human and technological resources: it will be important for tax authorities to ensure they have adequate human and technological resources to administer the VAT system and to deal with public queries to facilitate taxpayers' compliance with the VAT legislation. A website is integral to allow online VAT registration, filing and payment.

KASPERSKY REPORT

Digitalisation of education to maintain momentum

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The beginning of the year is always a nice time to take a look at the main developments and incidents that took place in the cybersecurity industry over the past year. To review the impact these events had on organisations and individuals, and predict what they could mean for the overall evolution of the threat landscape, Kaspersky shares its vision on what we could face in terms of cyber threats in such areas as healthcare, education and ICS attacks in 2021.

Lockdown measures driven by the ongoing epidemiologic situation have changed education sys-

tems around the world. Digitalisation, which is the main driver of these changes, will maintain momentum in 2021. The integration of social media, video services and games in the educational process have proved to be effective and more of such content is set to be created in 2021. While the number of online students rises, so do related privacy threats.

Both students and educators need to pay more attention to the security of their data. If the correct security settings are not in place, students' and teachers' personal information can be compromised - or individuals could even fall victim to attacks propagated via educational platforms.

Additionally, distanced learning also brings new risks for cyberbullying.

Targeted threats

Each year actors develop more and more advanced targeted threats. Some closely examined features of industrial businesses and gained access to vast amounts of information about their technological networks. This trend is expected to continue in 2021. Ransomware attacks against ICS systems, in particular, will become more targeted and, as a result, even more, sophisticated using APT tactics. This is a significant threat since industrial networks have become more vulnerable due to the limits imposed on onsite work and

onsite personnel, coupled with an increase in the number of people accessing networks remotely.

Using medical and healthcare topics as bait will continue next year and will remain relevant, at least until the end of the pandemic. The main reason for attackers' growing interest in medical research was the development of a vaccine against COVID-19. In 2021, the efforts to steal coronavirus research data will continue. As long as the global healthcare community continues to fight the disease, any company that claims significant success in the development of a vaccine will become a potential victim of targeted attacks.

MARKET

MSM index closes flat

Al Jazeera Steel Products, up 4.49 per cent, was the top gainer, while Aluminium Products, down 5.33 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index ended unchanged on Monday at 3,643.523 points.

The Sharia Index too ended flat at 524.027 points. Al Jazeera Steel Products, up 4.49 per cent, was the top gainer, while Aluminium Products, down 5.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Ooredoo was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded and also was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 426 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.90 million, with more than 7.81 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded stocks, 10 advanced, 20 declined and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, local Investors were net sellers for OMR141,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR132,000 fol-

lowed by foreign investors for OMR8,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,594.23 points, down by 0.10 per cent. Arabia Falcon and United Finance were up by 3.90 per cent and 2.33 per cent respectively. Oman & Emirates Holding, Al Sharqia Investment and National Bank of Oman were down by 2.33 per cent, 1.39 per cent and 1.36 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,463.55 points, up 1.46 per cent. Jazeera Steel, Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics and Oman Cement were up by 8.56 per cent, 6.98 per cent, 2.88 per cent and 2.03 per cent respectively. Aluminium Products was down by 4.49 per cent.

Services index was up by 0.04 per cent before closing at 1,604.86 points. Al Jazeera Service was up by 2.81 per cent. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,643.52	3,638.73	3,643.52	3,641.95	1.57	0.04
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,598.47	5,591.16	5,594.23	5,600.03	-5.80	-0.10
Services Index	1,606.09	1,603.34	1,604.81	1,604.21	0.59	0.04
Industry Index	4,463.56	4,399.28	4,463.56	4,399.28	64.28	1.46
MSM Shariah Index	524.23	522.42	524.03	521.46	2.57	0.49
MSM TR INDEX	4,158.08	4,152.61	4,158.08	4,156.29	1.79	0.04

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,813,267	1,908,109	426	20,248,210,884	11	6	16	33

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 18

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

OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	1,009,845	205,038	77	0.200	0.205	0.200	0.203	0.187	0.016	8.556	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	25,354,286
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	165,726	41,526	28	0.248	0.252	0.248	0.250	0.243	0.007	2.881	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.100	13,750,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,100	1,782	2	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.246	0.005	2.033	0.251	0.252	0.254	0.100	83,049,050
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	200,000	12,895	8	0.064	0.067	0.063	0.064	0.063	0.001	1.587	0.067	0.065	0.067	0.100	12,800,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	36,541	11,136	15	0.300	0.310	0.300	0.304	0.300	0.004	1.333	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.100	60,800,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	162,315	65,750	12	0.406	0.406	0.404	0.404	0.404	0.000	0.000	0.404	0.400	0.404	0.100	1,312,807,106
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	21,350	15,457	4	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.000	0.000	0.724	0.704	0.724	0.100	543,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	2,068,712	798,850	12	0.386	0.390	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.388	0.390	0.100	251,264,473
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	191,000	64,872	19	0.340	0.340	0.338	0.338	0.340	-0.002	-0.588	0.338	0.336	0.338	0.100	79,906,580
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	145,000	13,290	14	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.092	-0.001	-1.087	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	18,200,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	223,800	15,946	19	0.071	0.072	0.070	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,390,000
Total	11	4,231,389	1,246,542	210												

Parallel Market

OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,932,583	89,079	56	0.043	0.047	0.043	0.046	0.043	0.003	6.977	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.100	13,339,109
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS.	22,842	1,827	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.077	0.003	3.896	0.080	0.080	0.082	0.100	8,264,133
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	18,000	1,836	6	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.099	0.003	3.030	0.102	0.093	0.102	0.100	20,400,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	233,900	60,092	25	0.254	0.260	0.254	0.256	0.249	0.007	2.811	0.254	0.250	0.265	0.100	15,668,294
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	10,000	440	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.328	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.100	15,362,354
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	204,380	57,167	49	0.278	0.285	0.275	0.279	0.278	0.001	0.360	0.285	0.280	0.285	0.100	82,643,617
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	2,500	518	2	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.000	0.207	0.100	6,210,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,650	2,005	1	1.215	1.215	1.215	1.105	1.105	0.000	0.000	1.215	1.215	0.000	0.100	55,250,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	10,000	220	1	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.022	0.022	0.024	0.100	4,557,330
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,814	338	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	197,958,896
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	22,792	2,302	3	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.103	0.100	302,631,450
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	460	20	1	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.100	9,945,450
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	7,351	698	2	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	142,500,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	270,010	26,392	11	0.097	0.098	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.100	92,593,479
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	298,341	23,017	11	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	85,000	4,250	8	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.052	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,537	235	2	0.095	0.095	0.092	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.105	0.100	15,088,389
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	225,312	32,894	18	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.145	0.147	-0.002	-1.361	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.100	235,762,222
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	57,156	2,448	4	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.043	-0.001	-2.326	0.042	0.042	0.046	0.100	5,118,750
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	74,000	4,390	8	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.089	-0.004	-4.494	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	2,853,573
Total	20	3,481,628	312,067	213												

OMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS CENTRE

New mobile app offers exciting benefits for OABC members

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman American Business Centre (AmCham Oman) has released a new mobile application for its 160 member companies, giving executives and professionals in Oman a chance to access member discounts and promotions in

the palms of their hands.

The new application was sponsored by HSBC, a premium member of the OABC. It allows each company to highlight their own business via special offers and VIP benefits, only for fellow members.

“Our commitment to sustainability was a big part of moving

away from plastic membership cards,” says Rebecca Olson, Executive Director of the OABC. “But in 2021, it’s also about ease of use and safety — why ask busy executives to carry and remember a physical card to pass around when there are easier ways to connect them with membership benefits?”

SUSTAINABILITY

UAE is keen to diversify its energy sources

ABU DHABI: The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure is cooperating with federal and local authorities to achieve goals 6, 7 and 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, through implementing projects and initiatives aimed at making cities and communities comprehensive, safe, flexible and sustainable by 2030, in line with the UAE Centennial 2071 and the ministry’s contributions to the UAE’s preparations for the next 50 years.

Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, stated that the ministry, in cooperation with its partners in federal and local authorities and the private sector, has launched a range of projects and initiatives to achieve the future aspirations of the country, including the “Buildings and Roads Sustainability Framework,” which aims to implement the federal roads and buildings sustainability guidelines that were drafted, in line with the best global practices, to meet the UAE’s needs and requirements.

“The UAE is keen to diversify its energy sources and protect the environment. The country has followed a long-term approach to plan the future of the energy sector,” he added. — WAM

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• **Secretary** for a residence. Bilingual Arabic/English. To look after travel booking, household affairs and book keeping for house expenditures.

• **Omani Marketing Representative**

Send CV to:
aikido.oman2020@gmail.com

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MEDICAL

Urgently required a Pharmacist & staff Nurse with MOH License to work in a well reputed clinic.
Contact 79947844.
Email drsubualath@yahoo.co.in

Pharmacy Sales Representative for a medical supplies company based in Muscat. Minimum 2 years experience and a valid driving licence. E-mail: magedaltafaol@gmail.com
whatsapp only: 71554549

Wanted for Pharmacy, B.Pharm with 2 yrs experience in Oman.
Contact 99471699

NOTICE

I, **Rinku** (holder of Indian Passport No. L7667281) son/daughter of Tirkol Singh having permanent residence in H.No. 164, New Tilpat, Faridabad, Haryana (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in AL Tasnim Enterprises LLC, PO-103, Postal Code - 113, Muscat, Oman (complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **Rinku** (old name) to **Akshay Bhandari** (new name) for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box No. 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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Accountant, office administration Indian Male B.com + Diploma Oman Experience. Tally , Peachtree, QB , Tradeasy knowledge and have DL.Contact : 79841591Email : murshidmuch41513@gmail.com

Looking for Senior Accountant Position. Having 10 Years Experience, and driving license also. Mob - 79202007

Finance, ERP, audit & taxation, project & market study business modelling, business process with professional & corporate experience full time or part time. # 93671585

Accounting manager / Chief accountant, 15+ years of experience in Oman & UAE, have NOC on visit. Contact: 79007124 / 78039524 Email: shkkader@gmail.com

Female looking for a part time job in accounts. Contact 97125362

Senior accountant, 18 yrs experience in accounts & finance along with 14 yrs experience in Oman seeking suitable replacement.Oman DL. Independently can handle accounts upto finalization, tax returns etc. Contact 93653482

Indian Male Bcom MBA. 19 years experience in Finance, MIS,Audit, Budget, banking, Tax, Payroll, ERP (Orion, Tally, Sage, Epicor). NOC available. GSM 91190552.

Accountant (CA Inter) - Indian (male) with 10 years' experience Accounting. Oman DL. # 94450401.

BCom Graduate with DL & Experience looking for suitable placement. Contact 92695069.
Email: zameelpv@gmail.com

MBA Finance 16+ Exp of Oman in Accounts up to finalization,looking for suitable senior position Contact: 92383882

Indian Male, Senior Accountant over 16 years Oman experience in Accounts looking for a Job & have NOC. Contact: 95851920, 78258270

Indian male B.Com, tally experience,accounts upto finalization with DL. Contact 94532610. vargheseekkuttikattil@gmail.com

Male accountant M.S finance, 7yrs gulf experience with DL.Contact 95318382. Email salmanriaz1988.thumrait.int@gmail.com

Indian male 18+ yrs experience in finance,debt collection & credit,audit operation available for immediate joining. # 95500941, 78159940. Email tatabrezaziz@gmail.com

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• Experience in **Building and Factory projects with Ministry & Private Clients.**
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GSM: 94125368 ; premjithpremanathan@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer
Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.
Please contact me on 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

Omani Mechanical Engineer
Omani, looking for a job, Bachelor in Mechanical Engg from the United States of America, +2 yrs of experience in Oil & Gas. + NEBOSH certification Holder.
Contact: 95070748 Email: siyabi430@gmail.com

Facility Manager / Operation (Project-Civil) Manager
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Construction Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Security & Surveillance, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer
Indian Post graduate civil engineer with 37 years of professional experience in Oman in property development and construction management seeks senior management opportunities in similar field.
Contact 96504377 jobsearchzac@gmail.com

Senior MEP Manager

Indian Male: Btech, having 23 years GCC experience with valid Oman driving licence seeks suitable placement.

Contact GSM: 79880377 Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

Accountant Indian Male
MBA Finance 2 years experience in india with good knowledge in tally seeks placement.
9539 1786

Structural/Civil Engineer
with 14 years of experience (**8 years in USA and 4 years in Oman**) in PEB, RCC, Pipeline, Offshore, and Marine structures and have Master degree from USA. Seeking for placement as Project Engineer or Manager.
Please contact me on +968-93368626 irfan.sanjari.syed@gmail.com

SR. Manager/GM/VP (Plant)
Indian Male, with more than 23 years exp. in repair/ maint/deployment/logistic/procurement of Vehicles/Heavy construction equipment in a large reputed construction industry seeks suitable placement in senior management level. NOC available.
Contact: 79198709

ELECTRICAL MANAGER
Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.
Contact: 968-94029112 Email: sakhthiveljothi@gmail.com

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION/CEO OFFICE/OPS/HR /CORPORATE COMMUNICATION/ADMIN/MKTG
Smart Indian, Masters, excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp including Multi-Billion Airports Project, Hospital, Media, EPC handling Project Administration, CEO Office Management, Corporate Communication, Admin, HR, Operations, Customer Relations. # **99283938**

MBA, seeking job, 27 yrs experience in capable managerial candidature with rich experience in Business operations, Vendor development, Procurement and HR generalist. Can join immediately.
Whatsapp: 7730012111 Mobile: 94268870 Email: mvssmgbr@gmail.com

Moroccan Sales Engineer with over 6 years of industrial experience in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.
GSM: 93823132 Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.com

SENIOR CORPORATE AND RETAIL BANKER
With over 30 years experience in Credit Management, Relationship Management, Credit Administration, Operations Management and Recoveries/ IFRS9 Provisioning Methodologies seeks suitable placement.
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QUALITY MANAGER
Indian, Quality Manager, 18 years exp.4.3 years at Abu Dhabi, looking for top/senior management position in quality. Coordinating RFQ to Mass production, Time, Resource & Quality planning, Process design, Project execution, etc. Available to join shortly.
Contact: 91-9952022345, venkatavaradu@rediffmail.com

Project Engineer
32 yrs old - Having 10 years of experience (6 yrs in Oman) in oil & gas field - Intense work experience in fabrication of Pressure Vessels, Structural Steel fabrication & erection, Manufacturing of Skid Packages, Piping Spools & supports, Storage Tanks, Stack & Ducts, Pig Traps. EPC & Turnaround projects.
Having DL & Current Visa expires in Feb/2021.
Contact # boopathiraja88@gmail.com / 97412105

Finance Manager / CFO
Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.
Contact: 99884291 / 99741875 Simply Write: VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.
Contact whatsapp: 99477009 Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

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Contact: 78235621/bsda@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO
Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.
Contact 97264447

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

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.
Mob: 95073054 Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.
Contact: 92999419 d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

General Manager/ Sr. Manager Role, Indian Professional (BE, MBA, PMP, FIDIC) with 25 years experience into Civil and Infrastructure Constructions and Project Management. NOC available.
Contact 94634053

Senior Software Test Engineer
Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.
Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com

Graduate Civil Engineer
From India with over 11 years Project Management Experience with Consultant and Client in Oman with local release & driving license seeks suitable opportunities.
Email: contactsyedshams@gmail.com; GSM: +968 98500235

Bsc In Civil Engineering, MBA in Project Management, PMP certified, having 14 yrs experience(12yrs in Oman) with experience of construction of 4 star hotel, Airports, commercial & residential buildings, factories, Oil stations, is looking for a suitable placement. Having Oman Driving licence with NOC.
Contact: 99721926, tanvircivil@gmail.com

Junior Architect with 3-years Oman experience in designing, proficiency in AutoCAD, Sketchup, Lumion Vray & Photoshop. Has worked in quantity estimations. Looking for suitable placement in Muscat.
Contact 95972625

Finance/Accounts Manager
Indian male (MBA Fin) with 20 yrs working exp as Accounts & Finance Manager (Strategic planning, Procurement, Finance, Accounting, HR Admin, Audit, Tax, VAT) seeking suitable post. Valid Oman DL. NOC available.
Contact No.99705790 email: thoms_mat@yahoo.com

Omani DL holder Indian from Kerala looking for a job in F M C G sector.
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M: 9641 6394 / Mail: soms.acc133@gmail.com

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Indian male graduate 14 years of experiences in Secretarial and office administration seeking a suitable position Mob 99341481, mhd82ajaz@gmail.com

Indian Female 7 years experience Exe. Secretary, Admin Asst, Project Asst, Collection Followup. # 92243552

Filipino male w/ release. , with 2 years exp. in Philippines Admin, Data encoder and 4 years exp here in Oman Salesman, Merchandising Contact 97157688, email: markasla-rona@yahoo.com

Looking for job Document Controller/Admin/Camp boss, 11 years experience. Contact 79245674

DRIVER

Looking for Driver job. Contact 95137694

Experienced driver with car, looking job in office/company for contract. Contact 79250786

10 yrs experience driver looking job. Contact 91335595

IT

CRM, ERP & MIS analyst, experience 5 yrs. Contact 71561266

Sudanese, Male, BSc with honors in Computer Science. 5 yrs Experience in IT support, Android apps Development, ERB Systems, and systems management & Administration. Contact 96606209. Email Blackmode21@gmail.com

IT graduate, Pakistani, looking for IT job. Contact 97444530. Email mdmesam@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Irani Civil engg +18 yrs experience in GCC, looking for job. Contact 79135430

Electrical Engineer having 7 years of experience in construction sector in Oman in MEP Data cabling, BMS works, ELV systems looking for opportunities. Contact: +968-96335725

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 92180869, E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

Omani HSE engineer with 1.5 yrs experience in Oil & Gas & construction seeks job.DL available. contact 70707011. Email malisyabi@gmail.com

Looking for a job for the post of Electrical Engineer with Btech and 15 years exp in Oman. NOC and Release available Contact 92254336. Email ameen1667@gmail.com

Indian male having diploma in mech engg & valid Oman DL have 6 yrs experience in Oman Contact 95645241

Civil Engineer, Indian female with 3 yrs experience in Oman, 28 yrs old, looking for a suitable job in a construction Company. Oman DL, valid visa. Contact 99772710, 99256371

Mechanical Engineer, 10 yrs exp with Oman DL,looking for sponsor/ position in MEP solar,Oil & Gas. Contact 79550976, +919446253959. Email afsalhyder@gmail.com

Senior Civil engineer with 12 yrs exp in government & private construction projects,looking for a suitable position. Contact 95962450. email solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer having over all 14 yrs Experience in building & Roads with consultant and contractor. NOC available immediate joining. Contact 94011294. Email: adnanluky@gmail.com

Indian 22/male, Computer Science graduate from SRM University is looking for an immediate placement in any available field, Contact 95495877, nikhileshlalam@gmail.com

Arabic/English speaking Civil engineer, 5 yrs experience in Projects coordination, preparing submittals & engineering software, resident & have valid DL. Contact 95432250

Planning Engineer, Indian 20 yrs experience in using Primavera P6 for oil & gas, water pipeline & building, MEP works scheduling seek suitable senior position with release & Oman DL. # 92651105, 90643701 reji_mathai@hotmail.com

Safety officer (engineer), two years experience in Oil field in Oman, ne-bosh IGC, valid D.L. # 79318246

Planning Engineer: Pakistani National with BE Civil, 13 years of experience including 8 years in Oman in Project Planning, Scheduling and Delay Analysis looking for a suitable position. Local transfer - NOC, Contact: 97018909.

Mechanical Engineer (B.E) with 7+ yrs exp in MEP projects,Oil&Gas piping projects.NOC & Oman DL available. Contact 91293770. email jebilk212@gmail.com

Senior civil engineer with over 10 yrs experience on high end projects(RE) Contact 78270396

LOGISTIC

Seeking opportunity in managerial position in logistics, having 4 yrs exp in administering logistic through air, sea, land & documentation within Oman & 6 yrs in India. Contact 98347003 Email jibyjjohn28@gmail.com

Logistics & machinery coordinator, 15 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 98533143

MANAGER

Electrical Project Manager with 10 Years Experience in (Primary & Distribution) Substations and Over head lines,Oman DL. # 99022692

Accounts/Finance Manager well experienced (28 Yrs) ,expert in cashflow & Credit management ,arranging loans ,monthly MIS , budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc Contact: 95598477

Indian with 13 yrs of Banking exp, worked as SME Relationship manager in GCC with good knowledge in Trade finance,forex,compliance,looking for a suitable position,valid DL available. contact 72524421. email dreamzct2020@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Lady G P. With M O H licence. Full or part-time, for Capital area only. Contact 99470508

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing,painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837, 98937266

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Sri Lanka male in Oman seeking a job as, procurement, store manager, operation & Administration, Degree, fluent in Supply Chain Management-Oracle ERP. Contact 98878815

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Store Incharge, Sales associate, customer service, retail, warehouse logistics and merchandiser with driving license. Contact no. 95042624

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Business development Executive with vast marketing knowledge 20 yrs experience seeks employment. Whatsapp 95950370

Sales Executive, 14 yrs experience in FMCG/IT/Oilfield supplies with DL, looking for suitable placement. Contact 90174597

Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) & Digital Marketing. Valid Oman DL. Looking for job in Sales or Marketing having 03 years sales experience. Contact: 9427 1666.

6 years experienced Sales officer looking for the suitable job. Valid, Omani driving license available. Contact 98424254

20 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing of Central Air Conditioning & Structural steel etc. Contact 968-95950370

MBA Marketing/HR, 5 years working experience in India. Experience in Sales, Marketing and operations. Contact +96896652549

Experienced outdoor sales rep having own visa & vehicle seeks a suitable placement in outdoor sales in Capital area til Seeb on salary or commission basis. Contact 71928724. email arscreeens04@gmail.com

15 yrs exp in perfumes & cosmetics in GCC. DL holder. Contact 78399076, 95868684

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The Carnival takes you to a place where superior design and truly smart features combine with a deep understanding of your practical driving needs

MUSCAT: Kia is offering enthusiasts who love to journey away from the routine and along with their loved ones, an opportunity to make the most of with exclusive benefits on the spacious Carnival MPV and the impressively capable Sorento SUV.

Customers looking forward to owning the Kia Carnival can benefit with cash gift up to OMR2,400 (Varies on MY / Grade selected), insurance (comprehensive & private), Up to 10 years/100,000km service package and registration 1 year (Conditions apply. For details please visit any Kia showroom).

Customers interested in owning the Kia Sorento can benefit with cash gift up to OMR3,400 (Varies on MY / Grade selected), insurance (comprehensive & private), Up to 10 years/100,000km service package and registration 1 year (Conditions apply. For details please visit any Kia showroom).

The Carnival takes you to a place where superior design and truly smart features combine with a deep understanding of your practical driving needs. It's a place where maximum luxury goes hand in hand with respect for the economy - a place where the exceptional



meets the everyday.

An abundance of space is key to creating an interior ambience that is truly relaxing. The cabin of the Carnival is designed to achieve the ultimate realisation of maximised space for all occupants' convenience and pleasure. The Carnival's impressive interior adds more refinement. Up-front, drivers are treated to a more modern centre fascia.

An available USB charge point comes in handy especially during activities such as outdoor family picnics or camping. During longer road trips, it's nice to have additional entertainment, especially with little ones in tow. An available audio system with Aux and USB and controls on the steering wheel encourages you to enjoy your favourite songs on the go. To keep the interior cool and comfortable even on a hot summer day is the available dual full automatic air conditioner and 3rd row AC vents. A great way to share the cool!

The Carnival's proportions continue to provide flexible seating. To begin with, dual sliding doors add to the convenience of easily getting in or out of the Carnival.

The 2-way power lumbar driver's seat includes a height adjuster. The 2nd-row seats are stand up/sliding side seats and the 3rd-row seats have a seatback folding and sinking with 6:4 split option.

The Carnival has a host of safety features that encourage fun journeys. They include driver and passenger airbags, anti-lock braking system, electronic stability program, hill-start assist control, tyre pressure monitoring system, front and rear fog lamp, auto light control, front and rear parking assist system, auto cruise control, rear-view camera and more.

To power the Carnival to the most desired destination around town or out of town is the 266 hp, 3.3L, Euro 4 engine that is paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission.

The Sorento has a solid legacy of hard-working, all-weather practicality forged in the great outdoors. Now with even more refined styling, its resourcefulness proves just as appealing on the most sophisticated city streets.

With a more commanding presence and advanced technologies for drivers and passengers alike,

the Kia Sorento stands out among today's SUVs.

The Sorento is powered by a 3.5L 276hp engine that is paired to an 8-speed automatic transmission. To power your journeys the Sorento is equipped with the Drive Mode select to make every drive fun and thoroughly engaging.

Depending on the grade, the Sorento is loaded with a list of driver and passenger-friendly features that include Keyless Entry System, Smart Key with Button Start, Audio Remote control, Bluetooth, 3rd Row AC Vents, 8" Navigation System, Panoramic Sunroof, Premium Harmon Kardon Music System, Smartphone Wireless Charger, Smart Tailgate and more.

At the moment in life when driving enjoyment meets a need for space and a taste for sophistication, the Sorento arrives to save the day. The Sorento is designed to offer true practicality when you need to load, stow and carry cargo. The interior space quickly accommodates even large or bulky items. The available 2nd Row 4:2:4 Split Folding and Sliding Seats and 3rd Row 5:5 Split Folding Down Seatback Folding makes for ample space to carry all that you need for the journey or back home.

For everything that won't fit inside, a roof rack comes as standard. Feel protected inside the Sorento cabin where you are surrounded by a safety cage design fortified with ultra-high-tension steel and a 6-airbag SRS system.

Thoroughly tested in countless crash simulations and actual collision tests, the Sorento puts occupant safety above all else. Available features that maximise the feeling of safety include blind spot detection, front parking assist system, rear parking assist, tyre pressure monitoring system, vehicle stability management, electronic stability programme, anti-lock braking system and more.

Huawei continues to drive change in consumer behaviour and personal fitness

MUSCAT: Powered mainly by their smartphone, consumers now download various fitness apps to get their workouts done and health apps to keep track of their progress.

One example is how they can use the Huawei Mate 40 Pro along with Huawei Health app to have an idea of how many steps they take and how many calories are burnt. This is further complemented by smart wearables like the Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase collection, which tracks all the important data from various workouts which are then stored in the Huawei Health app. The Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase collection is capable of tracking data from various types of workouts such as swimming, running, elliptical machine and more. It also provides users with pre-installed jogging courses. The success of this can be noted by the increasing popularity of smart wearables especially Huawei's lineup.

According to IDC's report for Q2 of 2020, Huawei ranked at the top globally for wrist wearables and second for watches in the global market share. In addition to all this, immersive audio solutions, the likes of the Huawei FreeBuds Pro for example, further enhance the audio experience while working out. Complemented by Huawei Music, consumers can enjoy workout motivational music at the gym or while out for a run, while the Huawei Sound X Bluetooth speaker creates the perfect ambient environment at home Yoga or Pilates sessions.

This synergy between smartphones, wearables and cloud services is a result of Huawei's work into building its intercon-



nected ecosystem, which is all connected under one Huawei ID, allowing for a smarter experience when carrying out daily tasks.

On the other hand, social media plays a vital role for consumers as well. Apart from being able to find various gyms or workout sources, consumers now have a platform to share their progress. This not only enables them to find a communal sense but also helps in creating a feeling of achievement and encouragement. Additionally, consumers can now also download various fitness apps, through platforms like Huawei AppGallery and Petal Search, that gives them workout routines and plans according to their needs.

Technology has certainly revolutionised the fitness industry, from multiple perspectives. Both for business owners and consumers, the change brought about by smartphones, internet, apps and connected devices, takes a whole new perspective to the industry and there is no end to how much further this can evolve.



Drive your Ambition



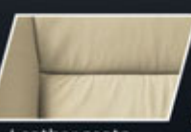
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PREMIUM AUTOMOTIVE BRAND

Changan CS75 delivers dynamism, comfort, safety and technology

MUSCAT: The premium automotive brand Changan recently launched by Bahwan international Group in Oman has received overwhelming response among the customers. Changan Automobile boasts of a comprehensive portfolio of a range of products including sedan, crossovers and SUVs like EADO - Family Sedan, CS35 PLUS Crossover, CS75 4WD Crossover, CS85 Coupe & CS95 7 Seater 4WD.

Changan CS75 SUV excites with stylish looks, distinctive agility and all-terrain capability delivers a greatly satisfying driving experience to the astute consumer. The 4WD SUV Changan CS75 is a perfect combination of dynamism and intelligence for professionals, families or avid travellers who want to explore new places every day.

Its intelligent all-wheel-drive system helps conquer different terrains since the Changan CS75 4WD comes with a 1.8-litre turbocharged engine which produces 170hp and 245 nm of torque and is mated with a 6 speed AT. It delivers an excellent fuel economy of 12.2 kilometres per litre as per GSO rating.

A spokesperson for AGAE says, "Changan CS75 makes everyone explore new territories with its exceptional on-road performance and all-terrain capabilities. Along



with the off-road prowess, CS75 is also instilled with everyday practicality, form and function to be prepared for all kinds of a weekend adventure."

He added, "Its features include Push Start Button, 10" Infotainment Touch Screen, Navigation, 360°View Camera, Blind Spot Detection, Side Assist, Side Airbags, Leather Seats, Cruise control, Panoramic sunroof, Electronic parking brake and Rear Vehicle approaching alarm, etc."

By seamlessly integrating the luxurious interior with thoughtful technologies, Changan CS75 creates a level of ride comfort, even

on rough roads. With a range of innovative driving technologies, the Changan CS75 gives the driver the confidence to control the vehicle in challenging situations.

Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology, based on the principles of power, clean and quiet, provides owners with a highly efficient and energy-saving performance.

Exterior

Among its exterior features are 19-inch alloy wheels, LED headlights with auto headlamps, panoramic sunroof, roof rails, LED taillights, twin exhaust pipes, electrically adjustable, folding ORVMS with

heating, puddle lamps.

Interior

Its interior boasts of Leather seats, Navigation, Multi-function steering, wheel, Cruise control, Bluetooth, Keyless Entry with Push-button start and 10" Infotainment Touch Screen.

Safety

Its safety and security features front, side and curtain airbags, ESP (ABS+TCS) + EBD, hill hold and hill descent control, auto-hold function, front and rear parking sensors, 360° view camera, electronic parking brake.

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Offer valid from 11th January to 10th March 2021 on 2019 MY (A115) and 2020 MY (X35 and X65) models purchased through the BAIC Showroom Retail Offer. *The shown prices are excluding Cash Gift amount. Cash Gift amount for each model variant – A115 Hatchback (OMR 950), X35 (OMR 1250), X65 Basic (OMR 1600) & X65 Comfort (OMR 1600). **For 1st year Oman & UAE only. Applicable on private registrations, not applicable on commercial registrations. ^For 1st year only. Applicable on private registrations, not applicable on commercial registrations. #Periodic Maintenance Service only. Whichever is earlier. 1 Year/10,000 KMS applicable on A115 Hatchback & X35 only. 3 Years/50,000 KMS applicable on X65 only. This excludes battery, wear & tear parts. Offer includes only 10,000 KMS service intervals.