



HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Nicolas Maduro of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes of good health and wellbeing to President Maduro. His Majesty also wished the friendly people of Venezuela further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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A DEATH EVERY 30 MINUTES

OMAN SEES 143 COVID-19 DEATHS IN 3 DAYS

On the positive side, the recovery rate for COVID patients in the Sultanate has outpaced the number of new infections reported over the weekend



Times News Service

MUSCAT: One person died nearly every half an hour from COVID-19 between Thursday, July 1 and Saturday, July 3, taking the death toll from the disease in the country to 3,283 people.

50 people passed away from COVID-19 on Thursday, another 48 died on Friday, and 45 people succumbed to the virus on Saturday, which meant the disease took away another 143 lives this weekend. On average, this amounts to nearly 48 people dying every day, or one person every 30 minutes.

54 of the deaths took place in Muscat, 20 of them in Bausher, and a further 16 in Seeb. The capital aside, 42 people died in North Al Batinah.

Additionally, 12 people died in both South Al Batinah and Al Dakhiliyah, 11 in South Al Sharqi-

yah, five in Buraimi, three in North Al Sharqiyah, and two each in Dho-far and Al Dhahirah.

No deaths were reported in Al Wusta and Musandam.

4,662 more people tested positive for the virus over the weekend as well. 1,821 more infections were reported on Thursday, 1,569 on Friday, and 1,272 on Saturday. 171 people have been admitted to hospital over the last 24 hours. This means there are currently 1,589 people undergoing COVID treatment in hospitals across the country, with 532 of them in intensive care.

Recovery rate

The number of people currently infected with COVID-19 is slightly above 29,000.

The recovery rate, however, outpaced the numbers of new infections over the weekend: 5,886 people recovered from the virus,

Specified hotels allowed to operate dining halls

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has allowed hotels to operate dining halls at restaurants and cafes during the night closure period, which begins at 8 pm.

The Ministry said in a state-

ment: "With reference to the existing coordination between the Ministry of Heritage and Culture and the Supreme Committee, the Ministry would like to note that 4 and 5 star hotel establishments are allowed to

operate dining halls in restaurants and cafes during the ban on movement from eight in the evening until 4 in the morning, provided that it is limited to guests only, as of today, July 4, 2021 until further notice."

statement from the Directorate General of Health Services in Al Dhahirah, advising people over when they can expect to be fully vaccinated.

Pregnant women

Pregnant women have also been included among the target groups of people who can now be vaccinated, with health services across the country encouraging those eligible to also sign up for their vaccine jabs.

"All pregnant women who wish to receive the vaccination against COVID-19, and have reached the fourth month of their pregnancy (are at a gestational age of 13 weeks and above) can book an advance appointment, which will take place in the vaccination centres in the governorate," said a notice from the DG of Health Services in North Al Sharqiyah. **>A5**

pushing the total number of recoveries to 242,874, or 88.3 percent of the country's total caseload.

As part of efforts to bring down case numbers and protect more and more people from the disease, the Ministry of Health has begun vaccinating people aged 18

and above. Those eligible for the vaccine are requested to register themselves at the earliest, so as to help protect themselves, their families, and those around them, as well as reduce the pressure faced by doctors and other health-care workers in terms of treating

COVID-infected patients.

"We would like to inform you that only the first dose of the vaccine is currently being provided to the target groups of people aged 18 and above, as part of the expanded national campaign for immunisation against COVID-19," said a

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Over 700 indebted freed from jails

1 The Fak Kurbah initiative managed to secure the release of more than 700 prisoners during its eighth edition of 2021 taking the overall total to more than 3,934 prisoners. In its eighth edition, the initiative has released 749 prisoners. **>A3**

WORLD Canada firefighters battle 170 wildfires

2 Over 170 wildfires were raging in the western Canadian province of British Columbia (BC), as the region experiences a record heat wave. The Canadian military was put on standby to help fight the blazes and evacuate citizens from affected towns. Many of the fires were caused by lightning strikes. **>A7**

MARKET Mala'a services to boost credit rating

3 Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre (Mala'a) offers credit bureau services to enhance the creditworthiness of the individuals and corporates in Oman in line with Oman Vision 2040, said Mala'a's Managing Director Aadi Al Saadi. **>B1**



COVID-19 vaccination begins for 18 plus

A2

WEATHER

Warm, dry winds from Empty Quarter push up Muscat temperature

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in Muscat and many other parts of the country are feeling the heat because of one reason: it is summertime.

This year, however, summer is significantly hotter because of warm, dry winds blowing towards the northern regions of Oman from the Empty Quarter to the southwest.

These winds pass over elevated mountain areas and down into flatter locations, making them considerably warmer.

'Gift' from Rub Al Khali

"Well, the natural answer is that it is now summertime," said a forecaster at the Department of Meteorology at the Civil Aviation Authority.

"But this year is hotter and drier because of the desert winds



from the Rub Al Khali. When these winds blow up and then down the slopes of mountains, a warm and dry wind called Foehn's Wind is created."

"Because Muscat is primarily surrounded by mountains, people in the capital will be feeling this effect more," he added.

"This is particularly true in areas like Amerat and Seeb." **>A5**

NATIONAL RECORDS & ARCHIVES AUTHORITY

Works of reputed scholar documented in Oman

Times News Service

MAHDAH: The National Records & Archives Authority (NRAA) has indexed, renovated and documented electronically in twenty volumes hundreds of manuscripts and records of the works of a noted scholar Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Saif bin Mohammed Al Ka'abi.

Hailing from Masah Village in the Wilayat of Mahdah, Governorate of Al Buraimi, Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Saif bin Mohammed Al Ka'abi lived from 1870 to 1950.

Sheikh Abdulrahman Al Ka'abi excelled in various sciences, and arts and used to teach his students at the Mosque of Masah Village, located 11 kilometres from the centre of the wilayat.

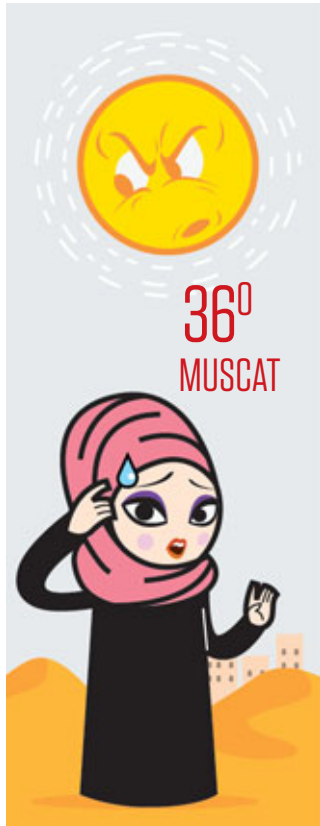
A majority of these manuscripts were hand-written by Sheikh Abdulrahman Al Ka'abi and others under his guidance.

The manuscripts cover a number of topics, including the Hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) and writings in the fields of Ifta (legal opinion), poetry, art and interpretation of the Holy Quran among other fields.

Expressed thanks

Khalid bin Said bin Abdulrahman Al Ka'abi one of the grandsons of scholar Sheikh Abdulrahman Al Ka'abi expressed thanks to the NRAA for documenting such manuscripts as they are of historic value and evidence for the intellectual products of scholars, artists and poets.

He added that the National Records & Archives Authority has maintained, indexed, renovated, documented, photocopied and preserved the manuscripts in a professional manner and with due care and attention. **-With inputs from ONA**





COVID-19: Vaccination of people aged 18 years and above begins



A number of targeted people for vaccination expressed their satisfaction with the drive and the easiness of procedures in vaccination centres

MUSCAT: Within the National Strategy for Immunisation against Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Ministry of Health on Sunday began administering vaccines to a new target segment, which includes people aged 18 and above in all governorates of the Sultanate.

A number of targeted people for vaccination expressed their satisfaction with the drive and the easiness of procedures in vaccination centres. They also valued the efforts of the government in ensuring the health of citizens and residents alike.

Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat and Sahil Health Centre in the Wilayat of Quriyat have started receiving tar-

geted people with full adherence to health measures.

The Directorate General of Health Services in Muscat Governorate also continues providing the drive-thru vaccination service at Oman Automobile Association.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Thamra Said Al-Ghafri, acting Director General of Health Services in the Governorate of Muscat, said that the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre saw a good turnout of people and a smooth vaccination process.

Al-Ghafri added that the drive-thru vaccination service in the Oman Automobile Association is offered from 2 to 7 pm. Further updates will

be given weekly on this service.

Moreover, the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah yesterday started vaccinating people aged 18 and above with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The complex also continues vaccinating other targeted age groups.

The Ministry of Health has emphasized the importance of booking an appointment through the website <https://covid19.moh.gov.om> or through Tarassud Plus application before heading to government vaccination centres in various governorates of the Sultanate to ensure a safe and smooth vaccination process. -ONA



VACCINATION DRIVE: Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat and Sahil Health Centre in the Wilayat of Quriyat have started receiving targeted people with full adherence to health measures. - ONA

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There are four main factors that determine the severity of COVID-19 in patients, and their chances of recovery from the disease.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM



Story on Covid-19 deaths in Oman
A story on Covid-19 deaths in Oman reached 33,810 people and had 6,477 engagements on Facebook.

 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

6,100 VIEWS

MINUTE



Omanis safe in Japan after massive landslide



Morning Minute video on Omanis in Japan
The Morning Minute video on Omanis in Japan had 6,100 views and reached 13,300 people on Facebook.

 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

3,792 VIEWS



The Ministry of Health will start vaccinating people who are aged 18 years and above from Sunday, July 4, as part of the national campaign for immunisation against COVID-19.



Morning Minute video on vaccination in Oman
The Morning Minute video on vaccination in Oman had 3,792 views and 231 likes on Instagram.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Oman Air is ICCA Middle East partner

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air has announced its collaboration with the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), becoming official airline partner for the Middle East as part of ICCA's Regional Travel Partnership Programme.

As newest member to the programme, Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate, brings 5-Star COVID-19 safety and network connectivity across the Middle East to association meetings professionals so they can re-connect with colleagues and work towards reviving face-to-face, in-person meetings in the post-pandemic landscape.

"In securing this partnership, we are pleased to connect our ICCA members in the Middle East with an airline that will serve them under exceptional standards of health and safety. Meeting face-to-face is vital to our industry and we at ICCA World believe we can begin to do so once again as we continue to adhere to best practices in pandemic safety," said Senthil Gopinath, ICCA CEO.

"Throughout COVID-19, Oman Air has implemented and maintained exceptional health and safety standards on board our aircraft and across the entire passenger journey," said Eng. Abdulaziz AlRaisi, CEO of Oman Air.

"In-person, face-to-face meetings—whether association and industry meetings or the full offering of corporate travel and events—are crucial for the recovery of local economies and Oman Air is proud to partner with ICCA to offer safe travels for its members throughout the Middle East, and beyond, as we work together towards a robust restart of the interconnected aviation, MICE and tourism sectors."

Over 700 indebted freed from prison

The Fak Kurbah initiative helps secure release of prisoners whose circumstances led them into financial claims they have been unable to pay

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Fak Kurbah initiative managed to secure the release of more than 700 prisoners during its eighth edition this year.

Over the past seven editions, the initiative succeeded in releasing more than 3,185 prisoners. In its eighth edition, the initiative has released an additional 749 prisoners, bringing the total to 3,934. The total amount of money collected to release the prisoners was OMR760,342,400.

Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zad-

This year the initiative came under exceptional circumstances, said Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Omani lawyers association chairman.

jali, the chairman of Omani lawyers association, said, "The initiative came this year under exceptional circumstances, coinciding with the economic repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic.

Eight years
However, the initiative teams, along with other government initiatives, has been able to release 749 prisoners, bringing the total released cases over the past eight years to 3,934. This is a clear evidence of the solidarity and cooperation in the Omani society."

"This initiative primarily targets the prisoners, whose circum-

stances led them into financial claims they have been unable to pay. These cases are thoroughly studied by the lawyers in coordination with the competent courts, to ensure that the initiative reaches those in need," Al Zadjali added.

Appreciation
"I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the teams and charitable societies in all the governorates of the Sultanate, which have taken similar initiatives aimed at relieving the distress of the prisoners," he added.

Of those released, 226 were in Muscat Governorate, 151 in North Al Batinah, 85 in South Al Batinah and 70 in Al Buraimi. In South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, 56 insolvent persons was released through Fak Kurbah initiative, 48 in North Al Sharqiyah, 39 in Al Dakhiliyah, 23 in Dhofar, 34 persons in Al Dhahirah, eight in Musandam and nine in Al Wusta. In order to develop the experience of Fak Kurbah initiative, a special website has been established for the initiative, through which people can donate, and see the number of cases that they will help. Zadjali explained, "This step came in response to the proposals we have received in order to move forward towards the sustainability of this humanitarian project."



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Outside is a world of opportunities – explore it

IF YOU'VE BEEN following this series, you'll know that we have been unravelling the journey of career development in the last couple of articles. The first step was to 'look inward' – to find your career interests, skills and aptitude. After looking inward and understanding our own preferences and capabilities, we now look outward at what's available ahead. Outside is a world of opportunities!

So, today, let's delve into the next two stages – gathering information and exploring opportunities that go hand-in-hand. Once you have completed a self-assessment and figured out your interests, skills and values, you can then start learning about the different fields, industries and occupations that catch your attention.

Gathering information

The first step could be to talk to your parents, student counsellor or teacher, and they could assist you with both online and offline resources. In addition, seek help from friends, acquaintances, alumni members and the extended community. Interview everyone you know about their jobs – ask them details like a typical day, salary range, their skillsets, and their motivations to practice their occupation. Participate in job fairs, career awareness events and field trips to understand the diverse roles and occupations possible in any industry.

Of course, complementing this is the internet – a great, often free source of information. Begin your online search with Career Guidance websites that are run by educational institutions or governments, as

The first step was to 'look inward' - to find your career interests, skills and aptitude. After looking inward and understanding our own preferences and capabilities, we now look outward at what's available ahead. Outside is a world of opportunities!



such sites are student-centric and offer credible and free guidance. Job search sites too are helpful to give you a perspective of the jobs and job descriptions in a field.

Exploring opportunities

The author and psychologist Barry Schwartz talks about a paradox of choice: having a large number of options in fact makes it harder

for us to be satisfied with our final decision. Hence, to avoid feeling overwhelmed, let's break up the process into bite-sized choices by organising the search.

Career clusters exploration

Career clusters are an excellent place to start your exploration. As per the US National Career Clusters Framework, there are a total of 16 career clusters across six career fields – Agriculture, Food & Natural Products; Arts, Communications & Information Systems; Engineering, Manufacturing, & Technology; Health Science Technology; Human Services; and Business, Management & Administration. Further down the line, under each cluster group, there are career pathways. These are small groups of occupations that share common features, knowledge and skills. For example, in the model explained above, there are about 80 career pathways, each of them leading to multiple job options.

You can also utilise career match websites in order to find the following: careers that match your skills; careers that match your interests; and careers that match your values. Note down these and explore where careers overlap across these lists.

Now, as you find occupations that interest you, create an inventory of career interests; or if you have made a mind map after the self-assessment, you could add these to the map.

Career research

This involves learning more about a specific occupation. As

you explore an industry or field, go through the websites and social media pages of some companies/ organisations active in that industry for an insider's view of that field. You can also select a few role models from the industry and follow them on social media. Through schools or external organisations that facilitate Job Shadowing, you can test the field by actually getting a taste of the industry by observing a professional as they carry out their job. For example, you can follow a doctor as she attends to her patients or watch an engineer at work. Work-based learning, internships and volunteering are other ways to gain similar hands-on exposure to different fields.

Career pathways exploration

This involves identifying all the milestones to reach a particular occupation/ industry, starting from the stream/ subjects required in school, the elective courses, the preparation needed, like the extra/ co-curricular involvement, standardized tests, and the qualifications and training necessary for that position or industry.

It is best to start the exploration process as early as you can while still in junior/ high school. That way, you can chart out a growth and career plan for yourself and prepare well in advance.

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



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FALAJ AL BUZAILI: AN ANCIENT AFLAJ IN DHANK



FALAJ AL BUZAILI at Al Buzaili Village in the Wilayat of Dhank, Al Dhahirah Governorate is located some 30 kilometres from the centre of the Wilayat of Dhank. It is one of the oldest and most famous Aflaj, established during the era of the State of Al Ya'ariba (The Ya'arubid Dynasty) during the rule of Imam Saif bin Sultan Al Ya'arubi.

Dr. Abdullah bin Said Al Ghafri, Professor of the UNESCO Chair on Aflaj Studies at the University of Nizwa said that the Falaj of Al Buzaili was constructed on a spacious fertile land at the village. He also pointed to the probability that the area was once where the wadis had plenty of water.

The Falaj was of great importance to Oman at the time as it is one of the largest Aflaj in terms of cultivated area and it irrigated almost 400 hectares, where

The Falaj was of great importance to Oman at the time as it is one of the largest Aflaj in terms of cultivated area and it irrigated almost 400 hectares, where people grew oats, wheat, vegetables, beans and farm crops.

people grew oats, wheat, vegetables, beans and farm crops.

He said that the Falaj was constructed during the second half of the 17th century and continued up to the rule of Al Ya'ariba. He also pointed out that some of the old tunnels of the Falaj are present till today.

Dr. Ghafri also said that the source of the Falaj was some seven kilometres from the Wilayat

of Dhank and was used for irrigation of the farms for almost eighty years. He also pointed to the presence of a number of facilities and other archaeological pieces close to the Falaj, which were probably a residence for the people supervising the Falaj or were stores for the crops. He also pointed at the presence of the remains of old pottery items and stone items in the area.



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FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Sadia donates more than OMR10,000 to Dar Al Atta’a

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Shamsa Al Harthi, Director General of Dar Al Atta’a Association, received a donation of OMR10,271 offered by Sadia Oman. The cheque was handed over by Shabeer K.A, the Regional Director of Lulu Oman. The amount, which comes within the initiative of Sadia is for the needy families registered with Dar Al Atta’a Association. Under the initiative, on each purchase of Sadia products at

Lulu, an amount of OMR0.100 went to Dar Al Atta’a as part of Sadia initiative during the month of Ramadan.

Thanks and gratitude
Didier Gabriel, general manager of BRF (Sadia chicken) in Oman, said that the company has always been proud of maintaining their partnership with Dar Al Atta’a and has worked with all partners on provision of innovative and sustainable solutions to ensure the success of such charity initiative, during the month of Ramadan.

the needy families registered with Dar Al Atta’a,” she added.

Sustainable solutions
Didier Gabriel, general manager of BRF (Sadia chicken) in Oman, said that the company has always been proud of maintaining their partnership with Dar Al Atta’a and has worked with all partners on provision of innovative and sustainable solutions to ensure the success of such charity initiative, during the month of Ramadan.

BILATERAL TRADE

Oman, Sri Lanka to host virtual business forum

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sri Lanka Embassy in Oman in association with the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will organise a ‘Three-in-One’ virtual Business Forum on July 7, 2021. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two chambers will be virtually signed to promote business cooperation between the private sectors of both countries followed by a virtual Business Forum and a B2B Matchmaking session.

Two national chambers
Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman Ameer Ajwad pointed out that this is the first ever Business Forum of its kind to be held between the two national chambers of Sri Lanka and the Sultanate of Oman. The business communities in both countries including exporters, importers as well as investors, could seize this opportunity to ascertain market information and to establish potential business links with their counterparts, he added. The MoU will be ceremonially signed by the Chairperson of the NCCSL in the presence of the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Sri Lanka at the NCCSL premises in Colombo and by the Chairperson of the OCCI in the presence of Ambassador of Sri

FREE - ONLINE

"Oman - Sri Lanka Business Forum & B2B Meeting"
(Improving Oman - Sri Lanka Business & Trade Partnership and Co-operation)

SPEAKERS/RESOURCE PERSONS FROM OMAN:

- Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Sri Lanka
- Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
- Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones

SPEAKERS/RESOURCE PERSONS FROM SRI LANKA:

- Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman
- President - The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka
- Chairman - Board of Investment of Sri Lanka
- Director General - Sri Lanka Export Development Board
- Chairperson - Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM)

THE IDENTIFIED/PROPOSED BUSINESS SECTORS:
(Priority Representations are expected to speak)

- Health & Tourism sector
- Livestock / farming sector
- Boat Building Industry
- Fisheries sector
- Food sector
- ICT Sector
- Garments
- Agriculture Sector

TARGET AUDIENCE:
Chamber members and business community interested in doing business with Oman, including Exporters and Importers.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Contact : Dilrukshi - 076 255 5707/ Nirmani - 077 675 9540
Email: nishanthi@nationalchamber.lk, sg@nationalchamber.lk

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Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman at the OCCI premises in Muscat. The Business Forum will be addressed by the representatives/resource persons of the NCCSL, Board of Investment (BOI), Export Development Board (EDB) and Sri Lanka Association for Software and Services Companies (SLASSCOM). Representatives/resource persons from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion as well as Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones will address the Business Forum representing the Omani side. The Forum is open to all who

are interested in exploring business opportunities in both countries. The third segment will be the B2B matchmaking between Sri Lankan companies and their Omani counterparts who make prior registration with the NCCSL and the OCCI. The focused sectors for the B2B matchmaking include health, agriculture, food, farming, tourism, boat building, fisheries, garments and ICT. Sri Lankan and Omani companies who wish to participate at this virtual B2B matchmaking are invited to register themselves by accessing to the barcodes provided by the NCCSL and OCCI in their respective flyers appended herewith.

WEATHER

< FROM A1 South cooler due to Monsoon

Unlike the north, Oman's south is currently experiencing far better weather, because of the monsoon winds that are blowing in from the Indian Ocean, heralding the start of the Khareef season. In the Dhofar region, and its capital Salalah, the Khareef season is characterised by continual rainfall, cool breezes and refreshing mists, all of which also work to turn the surrounding lands green with vegetation. "In the south, it is now about 15 degrees cooler than it is in Muscat and other surrounding areas," explained the weather official. The intense heat felt during the day often carries on into the night as well, reducing the effectiveness

of air conditioners that many have switched on to keep the high temperatures at bay. "The hot winds in Muscat are expected to end around July 15, after which they will be replaced by cooler winds coming in from the northeast - the Arabian Sea and the Sea of Oman," explained the forecaster. "Temperatures will still be high, but the ACs will work better at cooling, because the air will be moister, with a humidity of about 60 to 70 per cent." He added that hot weather of this nature is felt every summer, and that the heat will begin to subside in August. In Muscat, Seeb on July 4,

Seeb recorded temperatures of 36 degrees, while Amerat was significantly hotter at 43 degrees. Buraimi on the border with the United Arab Emirates was the hottest place in the country at 47 degrees, Ibri, Adam, and Fahud saw temperatures of 46 degrees, as did Marmul in the south. Sur, Samail, and Haima (45 degrees), Nizwa, Bahla, Rustaq, and Al Mudheibi (44 degrees), and Khasab, the capital of the northern governorate of Musandam, at 41 degrees, all recorded high temperatures. Conversely, Salalah in the south had a maximum of 30 degrees, while Jabal Samhan, up in the mountains of the Dhofar, was five degrees cooler.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

< FROM A1 People urged not to listen to rumours, false information

The Ministry of Health has also asked people to not listen to rumours and false information regarding vaccines and their eligibility, after many posts concerning the same were circulated on social media. To help stop the spread of COVID-19, people are advised to adhere to the precautions concerning COVID-19, which include avoiding large scale gatherings and meeting in large numbers, wearing a mask, maintaining a physical distance of at least two metres from each other, and regularly washing one's hands with soap or hand sanitiser. People are also reminded that they shouldn't touch their face, nose, mouth, and eyes often, must refrain from leaving their home unless necessary, are to follow

healthy habits when sneezing/coughing, and must follow all the protocols concerning isolation, if they display symptoms or have been in touch with people currently infected with the disease.

ALGERIA AND CABO VERDE

HM sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes of good health, wellbeing and a long life to President Tebboune. His Majesty also prayed to the Almighty Allah for the return of this and similar occasions on President Tebboune while the brotherly Algerian people enjoy aspirations of progress and prosperity. His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Jorge Carlos Fonseca of the Republic of Cabo Verde on the occasion of his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes to President Fonseca and the friendly people of his country. - ONA

ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN

RNO Commander heads to UK

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and his accompanying military delegation left here yesterday heading to the United Kingdom (UK) on an official several-day visit.

- ONA

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC)
"Electricity Service" invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/074
Subject	Supply, Installation, testing, commissioning of GPRS Router (compactable to configure UNIPOWER Power Quality Meter) at DISC Primary Substations.
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id's for tender document.
Experience	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The Tenderer must show previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past.
Pre-qualification	Contractor should be submitted along with technical bid showing the past successful configuration experience of GPRS router with Unipower PQM using smartcom service.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 19 th July 2021
Last date for seeking pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 22 nd July 2021
Last date for providing pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 26 th July 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 2 nd August 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (2% of the quoted bid price and having 150 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company
شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة ا.ص. ب. ٢٩٠٩، الرمز البريدي ٨٨، شارع ٢٣، بونيو خلف مركز صلالة الغربية الصحي - صلالة - محافظة ظفار - الرقم المصنعي ٨٠٠٧٧٧٠٠
P.O. Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, 23rd July Street, behind West Salalah Health Center
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QUARTERLY RETURNS

Tax Authority begins to receive value added tax returns

MUSCAT: With effect from July 1, the Tax Authority began to receive the first set of value added tax (VAT) tax returns via the authority's electronic website for a period of 30 days.

The quarterly tax return for VAT registrants covers the added value of imports, accruals, deductibles, due tax and refundable tax credits.

The Tax Authority pointed out

that, over the past period, it published an advisory guide through which it explained the mechanism of presenting tax returns for VAT registrants, as well as terms for tax refund, rectification of submitted tax returns and ways of maintaining tax registers and bills. The Tax Authority underscored the significance of taxpayers' presenting their disclosures in time to avoid penalties stated in the VAT

Law's Article (101), which penalizes any person who fails to submit the tax return or presents false data or commits any other violations stated in the law.

Penalty

The penalty includes imprisonment ranging between one year and three months of imprisonment and a fine ranging between

OMR5,000 and OMR20,000 or either of the two penalties (imprisonment, fines).

With effect from July 1, the Tax Authority started receiving registrations of merchants and service providers committed to paying the VAT from among those whose baseline annual imports or expected imports range between OMR250,000 and OMR499,999. — ONA



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Oman and Saudi chambers discuss ways to promote joint investments

In a virtual meeting, the Omani side was led by Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of the OCCI while Ajlan Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, Head of Saudi Chambers, led his country's team



the OCCI while Ajlan Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, Head of Saudi Chambers, led his country's team.

Commercial cooperation

Eng. Ridha underscored the significance of efforts being undertaken to foster economic and commercial cooperation between the private sectors in both countries.

His speech also dealt with ways of exchanging expertise and consolidating the efforts of business and economic firms specialised

in the two countries' target sectors and visions, which are Oman Vision 2040 and the Saudi Vision 2030.

Eng. Ridha also spoke about statistics and indicators shared by the Sultanate and Saudi Arabia, notably data pertaining to commercial exchange, tourism, commerce and joint investment.

He pointed out that commercial exchange between the two countries comprises 7.32 per cent of the volume of non-oil commercial

exchange between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and GCC states during 2020. The value of Saudi investments registered in the Sultanate stands at OMR105 million.

Economic relations

Al Ajlan's speech focused on the depth of Omani-Saudi strategic economic relations, noting that the Kingdom, in its 2030 vision, seeks to enhance ties with other countries, including Oman and this, he

said, affirms the Saudi parties support for the economic drive.

"In this meeting, we strive to expand aspects of cooperation in all economic spheres and study investment and business opportunities available in the two countries' private sectors," said Al Ajlan.

This, he observed, involves a greater sense of responsibility to be shouldered by both parties with a view to augmenting the volume of commercial exchange to the levels desired to be attained by the private sectors.

The meeting touched on a number of joint economic fields.

To this effect, His Highness Sayyid Faisal Turki Al Said, the Sultanate's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, stressed the importance of stimulating economic action.

"In the near future, we may sign a number of commercial agreements between the two sides and many of these agreements will deal with the private sectors," said HH Sayyid Faisal.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Saud Al Anzi, KSA Ambassador to the Sultanate, said that the meeting responds to the two countries' visions of economic development.

He underlined the need to devise a joint working plan and a follow-up team to pursue related

programmes and initiatives to be floated in business and investment areas.

Ali Hamad Al Kalbani, Head of the Oman side at the Oman-Saudi Business Council, said that the business council was formed recently to support the approaches of the two countries' leaderships and governments on aspects of developing economic partnerships.

Joint projects

Nasser Said Al Hajiri, Head of the Saudi side at the Omani-Saudi Business Council, spoke about opportunities for cooperation in the fields of chemical industries and setting up of joint projects to promote cooperation in the logistics sector.

Al Hajiri opined that a proposed Saudi industrial estate proposed to be set up in the Sultanate "should be established along the sea and to focus on converting industries."

He pointed out that Saudi and other GCC investors tap the Sultanate for better investment opportunities and investment attracting incentives, among them the existence of an industrial investments bank, the supply of gas at encouraging prices and the formulation of a coordination team to liaise among investors. — ONA

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION CENTRE

44,779 students registered in HEAC

MUSCAT: The Higher Education Admission Centre (HEAC) at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation completed the two-month registration phase (May-July 2021).

Dr Hamad Khalfan Al Numani, HEAC Director General said that the number of General Education Diploma (GED) students and its equivalent registered for the academic year 2020/2021 reached 44,779 of them 23,040 males and 21,739 females. As many as 38,865

students made their initial study programme choices.

Al Numani added in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the centre is preparing for the upcoming registration and admission stages, which are as important as the initial registration. He explained that their dates coincide with the announcement of GED students' final results for the academic year 2020/2021.

— ONA





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Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC)
"Electricity Service" invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/073
Subject	Rectification Work of 33 KV Network Damages Due to Heavy Rain in 2020 (Zone 3) Phase -02 Part-2 (Re-Tender)
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id's for tender document.
Experience	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be registered electrical contractor with valid Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) certificate, Sultanate of Oman and should have performed similar jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Grade – B Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DPC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 19 th July 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 26 th July 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

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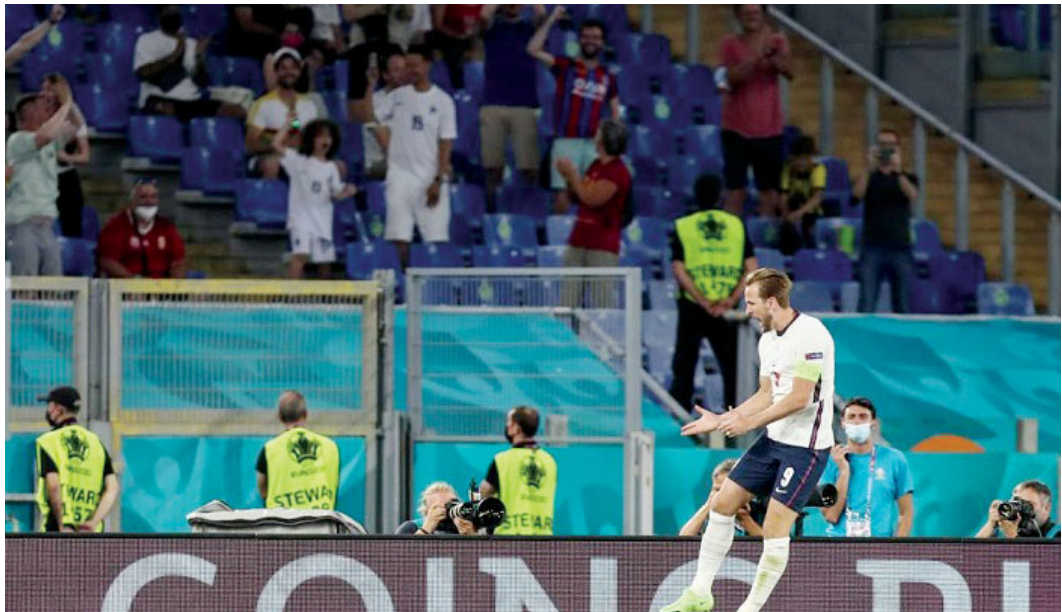
England cruise past Ukraine into the Euro 2020 semifinals

England came off with a perfect start and opened the scoring with only four minutes into the game

ROME: A flying start into both halves helped the Three Lions to knockout uninspired Ukraine 4-0 in the quarterfinals at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on Saturday.

England came off with a perfect start and opened the scoring with only four minutes into the game as Raheem Sterling's fine through ball allowed Harry Kane to fire past Heorhiy Bushcan from very close range. Ukraine needed some time to gain a foothold into the contest but had their first effort on target with 17 minutes played when Roman Yaremchuk unleashed a dangerous shot to test England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

However, it remained Ukraine's only chance on target in the first 45 minutes as England controlled possession without creating clear-cut opportunities.



UKRAINE VS ENGLAND: With the result, England advance into their first Euro semi since 1996 and will now return to Wembley to encounter in-form Denmark on home soil.

After the restart, the Three Lions gave the Ukrainians a mountain to climb as Harry Maguire doubled the advantage after nodding home Luke Shaw's free kick into the box with two minutes into the second half.

Andriy Shevchenko's side was shocked and unable to respond whereas relentless Englishman made it three in the 50th minute when Shaw's second assist found Kane, who nutmegged Bushcan with a header from central position. Ukraine couldn't put up

resistance against dominating England as Bushcan neutralized Kane's volley with a diving parry before Jordan Henderson headed home the subsequent corner to round off the 4-0 victory.

England controlled the proceedings for the remainder of the game as Ukraine lacked in ideas and penetration.

With the result, England advance into their first Euro semi since 1996 and will now return to Wembley to encounter in-form Denmark on home soil.

"It is a great feeling. Back-to-back semi-finals at a major tournament is a great achievement. I don't want to be a party pooper, but we don't stop here. We've got another big game coming up and we want to go further this time," England defender Harry Maguire said. "It is a special night for England. All players have staged a great performance in this tournament, but we have to continue and stay focussed," England head coach Gareth Southgate said. **Xinhua**

England players were decisive, ruthless all night: Gareth Southgate

ROME: England head coach Gareth Southgate said the English players were decisive and ruthless all night in the quarterfinal clash against Ukraine at the ongoing Euro 2020.

Harry Kane scored a brace while Harry Maguire and Jordan Henderson registered one goal each as England thrashed Ukraine 4-0 in the last 8 here at the Stadio Olimpico on Saturday.

With this win, the Three Lions have set up a semifinal clash against Denmark at the Wembley Stadium on Wednesday. "We didn't want to take a backward step. We wanted to really grasp the opportunity rather than hope we might win or let fate have a chance to play its part. I thought the players were decisive and ruthless all night," UEFA quoted Gareth after the match.

"It's fabulous. I suppose it's still sinking in that it's another semi-final - three in three years. We want to go two steps further. I know what will be happening at home. It's lovely to see everyone on a Saturday night, They should enjoy it. It's been a long year for everyone. I'm chuffed the two performances have brought so much happiness to people. It's fabulous for our country - a semi-final at Wembley. Everyone can really look forward to that - it's brilliant."

England had lost the semi-finals of the 2018 FIFA World Cup against Croatia and now three years later, they would be playing another semifinal of a



major tournament.

England got off the blocks quickly as Harry Kane made no mistake in converting a lovely cross from Raheem Sterling into a goal in just the 4th minute of the game. After that, no more goals were scored in the first half, and as a result, the Three Lions went into the interval with a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, England displayed its A-game and managed to score three more goals to eventually win the match 4-0. First, Jordan Henderson netted the ball into the goalpost in the 46th minute and four minutes later, Kane scored again to give England a 3-0 lead, leaving Ukraine search for all kinds of answers. The final nail in the coffin for Ukraine came in the 63rd minute as Henderson got among the goal-scoring charts and in the end, England walked away with a 4-0 win. **ANI**

EURO CUP



Denmark beat Czech Republic to enter Euro Cup semifinals after 29 years

BAKU: Thomas Delaney and Kasper Dolberg starred in the match as Denmark defeated the Czech Republic 2-1 to enter the semi-finals of the ongoing Euro Cup on Saturday.

The 1992 champions Denmark reached their first Euro Cup semifinal in 29 years after registering a win over the Czech Republic. Denmark got off to a dream start as Delaney scored from the corner in the fifth minute. In the dying minutes of the first half, Dolberg doubled Denmark's lead.

The Czech Republic started the second half on backfoot but Patrik Schick pulled one back for his side

with a right-footed shot.

The Czech Republic tried hard but wasn't able to net an equaliser as the Euro Cup campaign ended for the side with a 2-1 loss against Denmark.

Denmark will now lock horns with Ukraine or England for a place in the Euro Cup final. Denmark is the first team ever to progress from the Euro group stage after losing the opening two games.

On Friday, Mikel Oyarzabal held his nerves to score the crucial penalty as Spain entered the semi-finals of the ongoing Euro Cup after beating Switzerland 3-1

on penalties.

The match had gone to penalties after their last-eight tie had ended in a 1-1 draw. Even the extra time wasn't able to separate the two sides before it all came down to the penalty shootouts for deciding the winner.

In another match, Nicolo Barella and Lorenzo Insigne got among the scoring charts as Italy defeated Belgium 2-1 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

With this win, Italy entered the semi-finals of the tournament. The side will now lock horns against Spain in the semifinals at the Wembley Stadium. **ANI**

SOUTH AFRICA VS WEST INDIES

Markram, Ngidi star as South Africa defeat Windies in fifth T20I, win series

ST GEORGE: Victory by 25 runs in the fifth and final T20I, gave South Africa a 3-2 series triumph over the current ICC T20 World Cup Champions, West Indies here at the National Cricket Stadium on Saturday (local time).

This means that South Africa has successfully claimed back-to-back series wins against the home team following the Dean Elgar-led Test series sweep. The T20I series win also marks Temba Bavuma's first series win in his new position as T20 team captain.

A match-winning, 128-run, second-wicket stand between Quinton de Kock and Aiden Markram set up the visitors' road to their final score of 168/4 at the end of their allotted overs. De Kock made a 42-ball 60 while Markram returned a career-best score of 70 off 48.

David Miller and Wiaan Mulder then returned unbeaten for 18 and nine respectively.

With the ball, Tabraiz Shamsi did not disappoint in keeping the West Indian batsmen quiet, but it was the inclusion of Wiaan Mulder (2/31) into the attack that provided the game changing moment of the day.

He took the consecutive wick-



ets of captain Kieron Pollard (13) and Andre Russell (0) to halt the Windies' chase, while Kagiso Rabada (2/24) and Lungi Ngidi (3/32), polished off the tail at the death after beginning with good strides up front.

Markram was named Player of

the Match and Shamsi received the Player of the Series accolade.

Brief Scores: South Africa 168/4 (Aiden Markram 70, Quinton de Kock 60, Fidel Edwards 2-19); West Indies 143/9 (Evin Lewis 52, Shimron Hetmyer 33, Lungi Ngidi 3-32). **ANI**

WIMBLEDON

Roger Federer beats Norrie to enter fourth round for 18th time

LONDON: Swiss tennis maestro Roger Federer on Saturday entered the fourth round of the ongoing Wimbledon Championships.

Federer wobbled in the game after winning the first two sets but came back strongly to defeat Cameron Norrie in the third round. The sixth-seeded Federer defeated Norrie 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in a match win after in two hours and 35 minutes at the Centre Court to reach the fourth round for the 18th time.

Having won the first two sets, Federer was riding high on confidence before the British tennis player stunned him in the third essay.

Federer, whose only loss to



a British player at Wimbledon came against Tim Henman in the 2001 quarter-finals, came back in the fourth set to clinch the game.

The Swiss tennis maestro will next lock horns with Italian 23rd seed Lorenzo Sonego in his quest for a record-breaking 21st Grand Slam singles title. Earlier in the day, star India player Sania Mirza and her doubles partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands were knocked out of the Wimbledon Championships. They lost their second-round match to Russian tennis players Veronika Kudermetova and Elena Vesnina 4-6, 3-6.

In the first set, Sania and Bethanie Mattek-Sands fought hard but the Russian duo took the game away from them. **ANI**

LONDON: The mixed doubles pair of Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna on Saturday progressed to the third round of the ongoing Wimbledon 2021.

The Indian duo defeated Britain's pair of Aidan McHugh and Emily Webley-Smith 6-3, 6-1 to enter the next round of the tournament. Mirza and Bopanna brought their A-game to Court 18 and in the end, the duo was able to win the match in straight sets.

The Indian pair will now lock horns against Andreja Klepac and Jean-Julien Rojer in the round of 16 on July 6. Earlier on Saturday, the women's doubles pair of Mirza and Bethanie Mattek-Sands were knocked out of the ongoing Wimbledon Championships. They lost



their second-round match to Russian tennis players Veronika Kudermetova and Elena Vesnina 4-6, 3-6. In the first set, Sania and Bethanie Mattek-Sands fought hard but the Russian duo took the game away from them.

Riding on the winning momentum, Kudermetova and Vesnina clinched the second set quite easily as Sania and Mattek-Sands pair bowed out of the tournament. **ANI**

INDIA'S ECONOMY

India's economic damage due to the second wave of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns will remain restricted to the April to June quarter, Moody's Investors Service said in a new macroeconomic outlook.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,048.46 points, up 0.48 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.22 per cent at 598.63 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 3.30 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemical, down 3.10 per cent, was the top loser.

Mala'a offers services to boost creditworthiness in Sultanate

Mala'a credit score is a dynamic indicator that is generated according to a world-class scoring engine to reflect the analysis of historical credit information of individuals and corporates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre (Mala'a) offers credit bureau services to enhance the creditworthiness of the individuals and corporates in the Sultanate in line with Oman Vision 2040, said Mala'a's Managing Director Aadil Al Saadi.



“

The credit score is a proven world-class system in advanced and emerging markets and supports credit providers in assessing credit risk. The credit score information is based on Oman's actual credit data for the last 10 years, and compliant with the World Bank Credit Information Reporting Standards.

Aadil Al Saadi
Mala'a's Managing Director

This supports financial inclusion by ensuring responsible financing in addition to improved credit risk management. Al Saadi stated that Mala'a's

tre aims to fulfil its objectives by being Oman's National Data Bank and reference to all credit & financial information, offering credit reports, and credit score for in-

dividuals and corporates, instant credit decision engines and a range of Data Analytics Solutions. The availability of credit scores for individuals and corporates

enables lenders to make informed credit decisions.

He added that Mala'a credit score is a dynamic indicator that is generated according to a world-class scoring engine to reflect the analysis of historical credit information of individuals and corporates based on Oman actual credit data from the banking sector. Mala'a Credit Score is the quantitative measure that ranges from 300 to 900 where the higher number reflects lower risk.

The credit score is a proven world-class system in advanced and emerging markets and supports credit providers in assessing credit risk. The credit score information is based on Oman's actual credit data for the last 10 years, and compliant with the World Bank Credit Information Reporting Standards.

"Mala'a contributes through its innovative products to enable access to credit through reliable and accessible credit information. Elaborating on risk mitigation, he said that the Mala'a Credit Score is an indicator of the creditworthiness of individuals and corporates, it is a valuable credit risk management tool. The Mala'a Score is dynamic and changes according to

credit and financial history. The Credit score is calculated based on the information derived from credit providers taking into consideration over-indebtedness, positive history, and payment behaviour. Al Saadi noted that positive financial and credit behaviours lead to higher credit score.

In addition, work is currently underway to establish online channels for self-service, such as a portal and a smartphone application, which will help individuals and corporates to utilise the centre's services in the future. It also aims to raise awareness about the financial and credit principles in the Sultanate.

Mala'a's comprehensive data covers over 10 years of corporate and consumer credit history offering credit providers an accurate data source enabling them effective credit risk assessment.

Presently, GCC member states are in discussions to sharing credit information across-border to enable cross-states and a cohesive business environment, Al Saadi noted. It is worth mentioning that Mala'a initiative is the deliverable of an ambitious 3-year strategy for an Oman Credit Bureau (OCB), spearheaded by the Central Bank of Oman.

EXPANSION PROJECTS

Tanweer enhances power infrastructure in Duqm with projects worth more than OMR22 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer), member of Nama Group, continues its expansion projects to develop and enhance the electricity infrastructure in the Duqm Special Economic Zone, with OMR22.6 million worth of projects, as part of efforts to accelerate economic growth in the special zone.

Tanweer is developing five major projects during 2021, including expanding the existing Duqm North Switching Station and Duqm south primary substation, which is due to be completed by the end of the second quarter. The project will enhance the electricity system in the Special Economic

Tanweer is developing five major projects during 2021, including expanding the existing Duqm North Switching Station and Duqm south primary substation

Zone at Duqm and meet the increasing demand for electricity in various industrial, commercial, tourism, and residential sectors in the zone.

In addition, Tanweer is working on completing a lay of 33 kV cables

to connect the two sub-stations in the north and south of Duqm. The project connects one of the key investments in Oman, the "Karwa" bus assembly plant. The interconnection project is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.

The projects that Tanweer is working on completing - before the end of the year - also include three vital primary substations.

The first is in the Fisheries Industries Area, the second is in the Light Industries Zone and the Showroom Area, and the third is in the Heavy Industries Zone.

Apart from the ongoing projects, the company is striving to complete procedures for a critical phase of one of the country's most significant national project to the

national grid in the north of Oman with Dhofar electricity transmission network "Rabt". The project has specified connecting Duqm to the national grid as a priority phase. Accordingly, Tanweer has floated the tender to interconnect Tanweer's 33kV distribution system with the 400kV line from the Main Interconnection System (MIS) that connects the north of Oman.

Tanweer's diverse portfolio of projects includes developing 11kV distribution transformers to serve the Duqm Industrial Land area and Duqm cement located at Port of Duqm.

Tanweer aims to develop and enhance the electrical infrastructure in the Special Economic Zone of Duqm. To serve the aspirations

and needs of current and future investors, especially in light of the extensive investment facilities provided by the Sultanate for investments located in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and other Free & Special Economic Zones.

Ahmed bin Said Al Harthy, Tanweer CEO Acting, assures that those projects and the expansion in the electricity networks in the area are within the infrastructure development plan for the electricity network that the company currently are working to implement them, which was agreed with other main stakeholders including the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones and the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

US adds solid 850,000 jobs as economy extends its gains

WASHINGTON: In an encouraging burst of hiring, America's employers added 850,000 jobs in June, well above the average of the previous three months and a sign that companies may be having an easier time finding enough workers to fill open jobs.

Friday's report from the Labor Department was the latest evidence that the reopening of the economy is propelling a powerful rebound from the pandemic recession.

Restaurant traffic across the country is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, and more people are shopping, travelling and attending sports and entertainment events. -BNA

UNITED NATIONS REPORT

Global tourism losses 'could top \$4 trillion'



LOSS: A worldwide travel halt since the beginning of the pandemic resulted in a \$2.4 trillion loss in tourism and related sectors last year. -DW

WASHINGTON: The global tourism economy could face a loss of more than \$4 trillion (€3.3 trillion), a United Nations report said on Wednesday.

The joint report by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said a slow pace of vaccination in developing countries is contributing to the losses. Many developing nations' economies are dependent on tourism.

"Tourism is a lifeline for millions, and advancing vaccination to protect communities and support tourism's safe restart is critical to the recovery of jobs and generation of much-needed resources," UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said in a statement.

A worldwide travel halt since

the beginning of the pandemic resulted in a \$2.4 trillion loss in tourism and related sectors last year. A similar hole may occur this year depending on the distribution of vaccines, the report warned. Reduced travel resulted in an average 5.5 per cent rise in unemployment of unskilled labour. Tourism sector workers in countries without welfare schemes are expected to suffer more income losses.

"The asymmetric rollout of vaccines magnifies the economic blow tourism has suffered in developing countries, as they could account for up to 60 per cent of the global GDP losses," said the report.

Tourism revival in countries such as France, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland are expected to revive quicker. -DW

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Oman REIT Fund, up 3.30 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemical, down 3.10 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,048.46 points, up 0.48 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.22 per cent at 598.63 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 3.30 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemical, down 3.10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 571 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.5 million, with more than 10.6 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded stocks, 16 advanced, 6 declined and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR140,000 while Local investors were net sellers for OMR127,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR14,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at

6,516.27 points, up 0.60 per cent. Bank Dhofar, Global Investment Holding, Ominvest, Taageer Finance and Dhofar Insurance were up 2.38 per cent, 1.52 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 1.18 per cent and 1.10 per cent respectively. Vision Insurance and Madina Takaful were down 1.10 per cent and 0.93 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index remained unchanged at 6,042.70 points, 0.00 per cent. Galfar Engineering and National Aluminum Product were up 1.19 per cent and 0.59 per cent respectively. Gulf International Chemical and Oman Flour Mills were down 3.10 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.36 per cent before closing at 1,733.90 points. Shell Oman Marketing, Oman Investment & Financials and Renaissance Services were up 2.55 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 1.46 per cent respectively.

Al Jazeera Services and Muscat Gases were down 1.83 per cent and 1.62 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,098.47	4,079.17	4,098.47	4,079.09	19.38	0.48	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,516.27	6,477.69	6,516.27	6,477.69	38.58	0.60	
Industry Index	6,053.60	6,042.08	6,042.71	6,042.70	0.01	0.00	
Services Index	1,733.90	1,726.99	1,733.90	1,727.63	6.27	0.36	
MSX Shariah Index	600.91	598.64	598.64	599.98	-1.35	-0.22	
MSX TR INDEX	4,921.38	4,898.21	4,921.38	4,898.11	23.27	0.48	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,620,896	1,562,810	571	21,613,961,483	16	6	25	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JULY 4

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST& FIN.	1,309,159	151,646	63	0.115	0.117	0.115	0.116	0.114	0.002	1.754	0.115	0.115	0.116	0.100	27,492,000
OM0000002224 RENAISSANCE SER.	184,900	77,280	23	0.420	0.420	0.416	0.418	0.412	0.006	1.456	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	98,819,380
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	18,000	5,724	5	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.314	0.004	1.274	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.100	256,871,601
OM0000002786 BANK MUSCAT	727,917	310,204	24	0.424	0.428	0.422	0.426	0.424	0.002	0.472	0.428	0.428	0.430	0.100	1,522,726,261
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	167,800	25,462	30	0.155	0.155	0.150	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	12,820,000
OM0000001418 RASUT CEMENT	3,315	965	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.299	0.299	0.001	0.000	0.300	0.298	0.302	0.100	59,800,000
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	209,031	13,169	17	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.066	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR	3,700	4,283	4	1.190	1.190	1.120	1.185	1.185	0.000	0.000	1.165	1.165	1.185	0.100	106,294,500
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	252,858	63,272	21	0.252	0.253	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.249	0.250	0.100	84,715,175
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,205,000	135,886	24	0.112	0.113	0.111	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.109	0.112	0.100	22,600,000
OM0000002077 AL OMANIYA FINS.	100,000	12,700	2	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.123	0.127	0.100	37,073,767
OM0000002188 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	4,000	1,948	1	0.462	0.462	0.462	0.476	0.476	0.000	0.000	0.462	0.466	0.480	0.100	104,720,000
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV.	122,500	12,618	8	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.100	9,270,000
OM0000003000 AI MAHA MARKTING	7,021	4,915	2	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.696	0.700	0.100	48,300,000
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	39,915	31,078	5	0.796	0.800	0.796	0.796	0.796	0.000	0.000	0.796	0.796	0.800	0.100	597,000,000
OM0000003358 SOHAR INT. BANK	10,000	970	2	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.094	0.097	0.100	236,147,153
OM0000003968 COREDOO	53,321	22,288	7	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.000	0.000	0.418	0.418	0.420	0.100	272,094,688
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	284,481	108,707	36	0.376	0.380	0.372	0.374	0.374	0.000	0.000	0.372	0.372	0.380	0.100	20,570,000
OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	19,000	15,104	12	0.780	0.786	0.780	0.786	0.800	-0.004	-0.500	0.786	0.780	0.796	0.100	125,370,000
OM0000006920 VISION INSURANCE	75,000	6,750	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	9,000,000
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	16,889	7,282	5	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.438	-0.008	-1.828	0.430	0.424	0.430	0.100	25,317,557
Total	4,813,376	1,010,180	296												
Parallel Market															
OM0000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	30,000	2,820	3	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.091	0.003	3.297	0.094	0.090	0.100	0.100	61,547,340
OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MRK.	10,010	9,642	5	0.952	1.000	0.952	0.964	0.940	0.024	2.553	0.960	0.900	0.960	0.100	91,580,000
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	60,000	7,740	3	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.126	0.003	2.381	0.129	0.128	0.130	0.100	386,529,335
OM0000003125 GLOBAL INV. H.	1,869,368	85,001	42	0.068	0.068	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.066	0.062	0.066	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000003321 GALFAR ENGINEER	268,569	22,813	23	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	17,253,848
OM0000003281 TAAGEER FINANCE	24,500	2,107	4	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	21,808,740
OM0000001095 DHOFAR INSURANCE	30,226	5,562	5	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.182	0.002	1.099	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	1,584,553	153,356	49	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	147,000,000
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	10,000	1,015	2	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000006979 OMAN QATAR INSUR.	68,206	10,367	5	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.151	0.151	0.001	0.662	0.152	0.140	0.152	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	396,850	67,987	38	0.172	0.172	0.170	0.171	0.170	0.001	0.888	0.170	0.170	0.171	0.100	5,740,718
OM0000001132 OMAN NAT. ENG.	20,000	1,920	2	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	12,490,000
OM0000001855 MAJAN GLASS	5,000	810	2	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.179	0.179	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	7,522,171
OM0000001962 AL MADINA INV.	20,000	480	1	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.022	0.024	0.100	4,971,633
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	284,000	17,608	13	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.061	0.064	0.100	21,646,953
OM0000002572 OMAN OIL MARKETING	3,000	2,988	1	0.996	0.996	0.996	0.996	0.996	0.000	0.000	0.996	0.994	0.996	0.100	39,490,349
OM0000004735 SEMBOCORP SALALAH	15,200	1,277	4	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	80,184,044
OM0000004776 TAKAFUL OMAN	74,800	7,480	6	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	83,617	4,516	9	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.100	34,443,921
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	31,500	1,733	3	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	526,798	25,814	17	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000007290 ARABIA FALCON INS.	255	33	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.135	0.100	13,222,612
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	960,925	102,484	27	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.108	-0.001	-0.928	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	18,725,000
OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	23,043	4,302	4	0.184	0.184	0.182	0.182	0.185	-0.003	-1.622	0.182	0.182	0.184	0.100	5,460,000
OM0000002028 GULF INT'CHEMI	7,000	878	1	0.128	0.128	0.125	0.125	0.129	-0.004	-3.101	0.125	0.117	0.135	0.100	2,625,000
Total	5,807,420	542,631	274												

INVESTMENT BANKERS

Citigroup to raise base pay for junior bankers

NEW YORK: Citigroup Inc (C.N) will lift the base salaries of its junior investment bankers, according to an internal memo seen by Reuters days after media reports of a similar move by rival JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N). -BNA

AGREEMENT

Aldar Properties signs five years loan facility with HSBC

ABU DHABI: Aldar Properties has signed an AED300 million facility with HSBC that links the interest margin payable under the facility to the achievement of sustainability targets.

The agreement sees Aldar become the first real estate company in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to enter into this type of financing.

The innovative five-year term sustainability-linked loan includes a mechanism to adjust Aldar's interest margin annually in line with the achievement of targets on energy and water intensity, waste recycling and worker welfare. These targets, which are aligned with Aldar's sustainability strategy, were identified to be material to both Aldar and the wider real estate sector. As part of the agreement, Aldar has also committed to investing a fixed amount in one or more qualifying environmental, social and gov-

ernance (ESG) projects if it does not reach agreed annual targets.

The transaction is structured in alignment with the Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles published by the Loan Market Association (LMA), Asia Pacific Loan Market Association, and Loan Syndications & Trading Association. The loan will be used for general corporate purposes, including the roll-out of ESG initiatives across the group.

Sustainability strategy

Greg Fewer, Group Chief Financial and Sustainability Officer at Aldar, said, "Aldar is deeply committed to its sustainability strategy. Adopting and embedding sustainability into everything we do ensures that our business is future-proof and best positioned for long term sustainable value creation. We're proud to be issuing our first sustainability linked loan that reflects how integrated

sustainability is within our operations and in particular our best in class treasury function.

"Our financial stakeholders are increasingly factoring sustainability assessments into their portfolio strategies. At Aldar, we believe this shift in capital allocation is a positive force that creates a powerful incentive for companies to up their sustainability game to benefit from these capital flows. As a leader in our market, Aldar is ideally positioned to benefit from this trend."

Mohammed Al Marzouqi, Head of Global Banking, HSBC UAE, said, "The real estate sector plays an important role in helping the world tackle climate change, considering up to 70 per cent of emissions in a large city are related to its buildings. This transaction also highlights the strength of our partnership with Aldar as we work together towards building a more sustainable and prosperous future for the UAE."

MOODY'S INVESTORS

India's economic hit from second COVID wave to be limited to April to June quarter

SINGAPORE: India's economic damage due to the second wave of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns will remain restricted to the April to June quarter, Moody's Investors Service said in a new macroeconomic outlook.

"We currently expect India's real GDP to grow at 9.6 per cent in 2021 and 7 per cent in 2022," it said. "With states now easing restrictions, economic activity in May is likely to signify the trough."

It assessed the overall economic effect of the second wave to be softer than that during the first wave of pandemic last year, although delivery of and access to vaccines will determine the durability of the recovery.

"We expect the current lockdowns to have less of an adverse impact on economic activity than the nationwide lockdown in April 2020 because the latest restrictions have been more targeted, localised and less stringent," said Moody's.

"Also, consumers and businesses have adapted. The second wave has mainly affected aggregate demand in contrast to last year when the national lockdown also constrained supply." -ANI

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT
Tender No. Tender Name Last date for Tender Clarification Last date for bids submission Refundable Deposit
ORC/6/2021 Yearly Contract for Daily Solid Waste Collection & Removal 12 /07/2021 13/07/2021 RO. 300/-
Oman Refreshment Company SAOG invites bids for the annual contract of solid waste "various scrap materials" collection and removal.
List of solid waste "scrap materials" can be obtained from the Central Procurement Department, Oman Refreshment Co.
Type of solid waste being collected on daily basis can be checked at our yard at Oman Refreshment Co premise at Al Ghubra between 09.00 AM & 12.00 noon on any working day (Sunday-Thursday) till the last clarification date stated above.
Segregation of the scrap would be done by the buyer by deputing two of his employees to the site daily pursuant to the best management practice applicable to its category/type.
Successful bidder will be required to sign a contract with company for minimum period of one year.
Tenderers are requested to pay a deposit in cash as per above table, payment receipts will be handed upon receipt of ID card copy and two business cards of the company's representative. The deposit will be refunded if the bid was unsuccessful, subject to presenting the payment receipt.
The Tenders are to be submitted in sealed envelope and to be signed, stamped and addressed to Oman Refreshment Tender Committee and marked with Tender Number & Name.
The bids should be sent to the Secretary, Oman Refreshment Tender Committee, Oman Refreshment SAOG Head Office located next to Al Ghoubrah's traffic lights, opposite Avenues Mall.
The submission date/time shall be on or before the deadline specified in the above table. Any proposal submitted after the given date/time will not be considered.
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Looking for experienced Engine Cylinder Head Technician. Contact 99418428

MEDICAL

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SALES/MARKETING

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian, MBA Finance with 14 + years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 99510161
 Email: vinodpanchaman@gmail.com

Female ACCA qualified member, 4+ years work experience in Oman, driving license, NOC available, looking to join a finance team. Contact 95785272

Accountant with 3 years Oman experience (6 years total Experience), MBA Finance, well versed in VAT, NOC Available. Contact 97874226

Srilankan with 5 yrs experience & have completed BBA in Accounting looking for an Accountant job. Contact: 98981998, 9388825

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MEP - Civil Designer/Draftsman 14 years GCC experience. (Full time - Freelance). Contact 90518123

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Indian male having 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Hr/ Admin. Contact 95425764

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Admin / Hr / - Contact 95425764

BM, with 26 yrs exp of large FMCG distribution looking for better prospect. Contact 90925520

DRIVER

Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience in Oman. Languages known - Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact 97002240

Looking for a L/D job 3 years experience in building materials outdoor salesman. Can speak English, Arabic & Hindi, NOC available. Contact 91550548

IT

Indian Female, Master Degree in Computer Science. Seeking for suitable jobs. Currently available in Oman (Sohar). Contact 79566592..

ENGINEER

MEP Engineer 15 Yrs, EXP. Maintenance Manager Arabic/English D/L. Contact 95752101

An Egyptian construction engineer with 11 years experience in government projects and another with great experience in reviewing the designs of all types of constructions and following up and completing the project to the fullest. Contact 96965100

Looking for a paid internship in the Electronics, Telecom or Cyber security field. Fresh Graduate in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering with fluency in English. Please call 97061970

Sales Engineer, Sudanese, BSc Mechanical Engineering, 7years Experience in Oman. D/L, NOC. Contact 79027138

Sudanese Mechanical Engineer, Projects 7 years experience in Oman. DL, NOC. Contact 99329938

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MEP Engineer, 16yrs experience in Building construction in MEP works seeks new opportunity. Contact 94556412.
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Email: suhasdkini@gmail.com

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FINANCE
Female, MBA Finance, 3 years experience (1.5 years in a Big Four as Tax Consultant), immediately available for Finance/Accounts job.
Contact +968-93213813

Project Director / Contracts Administrator
Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer, Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
Please contact – 78022980

Accounts & Finance
Indian Male with more than 25 years experience in Accounts and Finance field, holding Omani driving license, NOC available, seeking challenging opportunity.
Contact on Tel : 95803522

Indian Chartered Accountant
With 6 years of experience (Oman) in Accounts, Audit, Taxation, VAT, Investment, Budgeting seek suitable placement.
Contact 79848875

Software Engineer
Male, Master's degree, worked as Software Engineer seeking IT job. Visa status - Employment, NOC available.
Contact 79830312

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

Indian Chartered Accountant
Indian Female CA with 8 years' experience in Audit, Accounts, Finance, Investment, Consultancy looking for suitable assignments.
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HR / Admin
Female with 13yrs of experience in HR/Admin field is looking for job opportunities. Available to start immediately.
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Email: siyabi1430@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO
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Contact 97264447

HR / ADMIN.
Certified HR Pro, MBA with 14 yrs. of Oman exp. in the field of HR / Admin. (Bldg. Const.). Office Mgt., Operations, Communication, Induction. Pakistani Male with NOC & Immediately available.
GSM: 96409439
Email: farhansiddiqi2014@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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Contact 98921022
akhfarmahmood3137@gmail.com

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

JOB WANTED

MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL

HSE Officer with valid Oman D/L. 7 years experience in Oman. Contact 94743007 (Oman), +917902565053 (Indian). Email: ajeesh4god@yahoo.com

TRAVEL/TOUR

Ticketing agent / travel co-ordinator with total 16 years of experience. 8 years in Oman looking for openings. Contact 91377630
Email: maheshkv83@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

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

PURCHASE

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Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

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EURO 2020



ERIKSEN INCIDENT DID SOMETHING TO THE DENMARK SQUAD, SAYS CAPTAIN KJAER

Denmark captain Simon Kjaer has said that Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest in the opening game of Euro 2020 brought the squad together and it helped them reach the semi-finals of the ongoing competition. Kjaer's remarks came after Denmark defeated the Czech Republic 2-1 in the quarterfinals on Saturday in Baku and now the side will lock horns against England in the semifinals at the Wembley Stadium on Wednesday. "It did something to the group. We thrive and we're safe together. We know we can trust the people around us. We know that if one of us is in trouble, then someone else is there for you," Goal.com quoted Kjaer as saying.

"It gives us security and of course it makes Christian feel good. We can press because we know that the player next to us is there to back us up," he added.

The group-stage match between Denmark and Finland had to be stopped in the closing minutes of the first half as Eriksen collapsed on the pitch and had to be taken off due to medical emergency. Later, it was revealed that the midfielder suffered a cardiac arrest.

Talking about the win against the Czech Republic, Kjaer said: "It's huge, this is insane. We aimed to go to Wembley and now we will. But I would be lying if I said we're OK with that. Now we have to enjoy it and recover, but we also have a match in four days."

Thomas Delaney and Kasper Dolberg starred in the match as Denmark defeated the Czech Republic 2-1 to enter the semi-finals of the ongoing Euro Cup on Saturday. The 1992 champions Denmark reached their first Euro Cup semi-final in 29 years after registering a win over the Czech Republic.

“

It did something to the group. We thrive and we're safe together. We know we can trust the people around us. We know that if one of us is in trouble, then someone else is there for you.



ROUND-UP

Pilot Maha Al Balushi inundates Nissan Patrol with host of accolades

Professional pilot and adventure seeker, Maha Al Balushi who took the Nissan Patrol out for a drive showered the conqueror of terrains with a host of accolades

MUSCAT: The legendary SUV Nissan Patrol, which boasts of striking design, enhanced luxury features and the latest advanced Intelligent Mobility technologies, has received stupendous praise from a keen auto enthusiast.

Professional pilot and adventure seeker, Maha Al Balushi who took the Nissan Patrol out for a drive showered the conqueror of terrains with a host of accolades. She complimented the model with exceptional on and off-road “Go Anywhere” capabilities for its great hydraulic system and advanced technologies.

She said, “This is the perfect premium luxury vehicle for people who are looking for an all-terrain family SUV. It has excellent safety features like the hydraulic system giving the drivers and passengers comfort on roads, wadis and sands. The hydraulic system is automatic, and the car has many great advanced technologies. I can go on about the car and its features! All I would like to say is that it is the best option.”

Nissan Patrol which impresses customers with its class-leading power is available on low EMI. Customers can now avail an exceptionally low EMI rate of OMR 372. EMIs are calculated based on



a 2.99% rate of Interest, 20% down payment, six-year loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals.

A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), said, “We are not surprised that Nissan Patrol continues to get a lot of accolades. The Nissan Patrol, which was given a major makeover recently with a bold new look, advanced safety technology, and Nissan Intelligent Mobility features has continued to further strengthen its position and win the hearts of customers. We are pleased to offer low EMI on Nissan Patrol which holds a special place in the hearts and minds of customers in Oman who value performance even in the toughest of conditions, a key attribute of the Patrol.”

The Nissan Patrol, the brand’s SUV flagship, delivers even higher levels of comfort, safety and connectivity.

Sleek despite its size

Nissan Patrol’s look has a new attitude forgoing pure brawn for sophistication as the design moves to be more tech-forward. Extensive front and rear alterations have created a Patrol that is somehow sleek despite its size.

The signature design changes for the new model include an impressive new interpretation of Nissan’s V-motion grille, which is the foundation for what surrounds it. The angles of each element that makes up the front end playoff the V-motion grille in perfect harmony. Boomerang-shaped LED headlights have been interpreted in a new way for SUVs, to highlight both the strong front graphic and improved technology.

There are also two unique front bumper treatments available. One is an aerodynamic city bumper while the other is a more robust bumper for off-road.

The rear of the Patrol has also undergone a complete refresh that seamlessly integrates new boomerang-shaped taillights and a larger chrome nameplate. Like the front, the rear bumper is upright and angular, elevating the refinement of the vehicle’s overall design. Sequential rear turn indicators have also been added for the new Patrol, the first time it has been implemented on a Nissan vehicle.

The Platinum version received a new 20-inch wheel design subtly updating the previous Patrol’s 12-spoke design with six additional bisecting spindles. Inside, a new centre console incorporates dual displays, an 8-inch upper display and a 7-inch lower touchscreen. Both feature all-new graphics with a 250% improvement in resolution. The commander switch that helps easily navigate between infotainment settings has been moved directly underneath the

shifter, making it easier to operate. The instrument cluster also gets a rethink with new analogue gauges bracketing a stunning 7-inch digital display that delivers an array of information to the driver from navigation cues to fuel economy.

Driving for fuel efficiency

The 2020 Nissan Patrol retains the most powerful powertrains in the segment, a four-wheel-drive system with switchable modes and an assortment of advanced tech. Both the Patrol’s available engines are the best in class when it comes to power. The base 4.0-litre V6 produces 275 horsepower and 394 Nm of torque. Move up to the 5.6-litre V8 and power increases to 400 horses and 560 Nm of torque. An ECO mode is new for 2020 in V8 models to maximise driving for fuel-efficiency.

The V8 engine’s direct injection system provides better wide-open throttle performance and improved fuel economy and emissions performance. The powerful engines ensure customers have enough power on the highway and to tackle the most challenging conditions off-road. Both versions are equipped with an advanced 7-speed automatic transmission with Adaptive Shift Control. A 140-litre fuel tank provides an ample driving range.

Hydraulic Body Motion Control (HBMC) available on V8 engine models is an advanced suspension system, which reduces vehicle lean while turning for a more comfortable on-road driving experience. When off-roading the HBMC system allows maximum suspension stroke as part of delivering Patrol’s Go Anywhere capability.

This system gives Patrol superb stability on rugged and sandy terrain while delivering a smooth ride on city streets. The standard bumper allows customers to attack even the most challenging off-road conditions with an approach angle of 34.4 degrees and the departure angle to 26.3 degrees, while an aerodynamic stylish city bumper adds to the overall

prestige look of the vehicle.

Hill Start Assist helps avoid any rollback when moving up a steep incline while Hill Descent Control assists you down severe or slippery slopes at a constant low speed without the need for braking.

Responsive braking is provided by a 4-wheel disc brake system with Anti-lock Braking System with Electronic Brake force Distribution and Brake Assist. Also standard is 4-wheel limited-slip and a Vehicle Dynamic Control system (which includes a deactivation switch). Steering is provided by an engine-speed-sensitive power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering system.

The V8s durable independent double-wishbone front and rear suspension provide smooth ride comfort and responsive handling for both on-road and off-road driving. The front stabilizer bar is 36 mm in diameter, while the rear measures 26.5 mm. Twin-tube shock absorbers are featured on each corner.

Connected, confident ride

The model year 2020 Patrol also stands out for its extensive suite of available advanced safety and security systems. They are part of the Nissan Intelligent Mobility platform, which delivers a safer, more connected, and confident ride.

The newly added Intelligent Emergency Braking with pedestrian detection will bring the Patrol to a full stop if a collision is determined to be imminent. It can also sense whether the collision would be caused by another vehicle or a pedestrian.

This comes in addition to the standard Intelligent Forward Collision Warning system that can help warn the driver of risks that lie beyond the driver’s forward field of vision.

The advanced radar system not only can sense the relative velocity and distance of a vehicle directly ahead but also of a vehicle travelling in front of the preceding one. Also included is standard Intelligent Cruise Control.

CORPORATE BRAND

Hitachi ABB Power Grids to change name to Hitachi Energy from October



MUSCAT: Hitachi ABB Power Grids announced that it will be evolving to become Hitachi Energy from October 2021. The decision to change the name has board and shareholder consent and coincides with the business’ first anniversary since it started operations on July 1, 2020. Hitachi Ltd. has an 80.1 per cent stake in the joint venture and ABB Ltd. holds the balance.

Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, the global technology and market leader brings a rich heritage of pioneering breakthroughs, which have helped to increase access to safe, secure, and reliable electricity for more than one century. These range from pioneering innovations such as long-distance commercial HVDC technology, that enables countries to efficiently transmit large amounts of power with minimum losses over thousands of kilometres while reducing carbon footprint, to providing microgrids and energy storage solutions that combined with state-of-the-art intelligent control systems, ensure reliable distributed power availability. The business has played a leading role in enabling a stronger, smarter and greener global energy system.

Today, combating climate change is of paramount importance and one of the most urgent challenges of our times. According to the IEA’s ‘Net-Zero by 2050’

report, ‘the path to net-zero emissions is narrow’ and staying on it requires increased investment in infrastructure, and specifically, an ‘immediate and massive deployment of all available clean and efficient energy technologies.’ By 2030, the world economy is expected to be some 40 per cent larger but consuming seven per cent less energy to be on track for net zero in 2050. By this time ‘the energy sector will be dominated by renewables’ and ‘electricity will account for almost 50 per cent of the total global energy consumption’ – up from about 20 per cent today. An equitable and sustainable energy transition is at the centre of this global challenge, where electricity will be the backbone of the entire energy system.

Hitachi ABB Power Grids places sustainability at the heart of its purpose: powering well for a sustainable energy future. The transition to the Hitachi Energy name reflects the rapidly evolving energy landscape and the opportunity to create economic, environmental and social value, and with Hitachi enabling the business to position its pioneering and digital technologies to serve existing and future customers, going beyond the grid – opening up a breadth of opportunities in areas like sustainable mobility, smart life, and data centres. By combining advanced

digital solutions and services, such as Hitachi Lumada, with an energy platform that is built on unique domain expertise and experience, the business is serving customers and partners co-creating global solutions to solve the global challenge of an inclusive and equitable carbon-neutral future.

Toshiaki Higashihara, Executive Chairman and CEO of Hitachi, said, “With climate change and increasing natural disasters, there is a need to solve three social issues worldwide: environment, resilience, and security and safety.” He continued, “Hitachi ABB Power Grids provides a variety of solutions that solve these social issues, and by changing the company name to Hitachi Energy, we are further strengthening our commitment to the realisation of a sustainable society. Hitachi and Hitachi Energy will contribute to solve social issues and improve people’s QoL by realising social innovation in the energy field with customers and partners.”

Keiji Kojima, President and COO of Hitachi, said, “To realise a sustainable society, the use of digital technology is becoming indispensable in all fields.” He continued, “In the energy field, power grids are expected to be at the core of innovation since they have a high affinity with digital technology, and I am confident that Hitachi Energy will

lead this innovation. Hitachi will combine digital technologies such as Lumada with Hitachi Energy’s advanced energy technologies to provide innovative energy solutions that create social, environmental and economic values.”

“The energy landscape continues to evolve and so do we,” said Claudio Facchin, CEO of Hitachi ABB Power Grids. He continued, “With our new name ‘Hitachi Energy’ we are broadening our commitment to creating further value for customers, our employees and society. The past year has been demanding for everyone, but we look forward with optimism. I am proud of our talented people in 90 countries, and through our passion, authenticity and culture of diversity and inclusion, we continue on our journey – Powering good for a sustainable energy future, pioneering and digital technologies, as the partner of choice for enabling a stronger, smarter and greener energy system.”

Hitachi ABB Power Grids will change its name to Hitachi Energy from October. At the same time, we will change our corporate brand to the Hitachi brand and use it for external and internal communications. The business formally registered Hitachi Energy Ltd. on June 30, 2021, and is now undertaking the formal process for the change of names globally.

MAXIMUM SAFETY



Mercedes-Benz offers complimentary 15-point vehicle health check

MUSCAT: Providing impressive ride comfort and maximum safety mile after mile, Mercedes-Benz Oman is offering its customers a complimentary 15-point vehicle health check along with 55 per cent off when changing their shock absorbers and engine suspension mounts.

Valid between July 11 and September 11, 2021, the offer is available at the Service Centres in Sohar and Salalah, ensuring unbeatable value and convenience.

“At Mercedes-Benz Oman, our aftersales care is as important as the sale itself. Fitted by our certified technicians, Mercedes-Benz Genuine Parts embody our entire know-how as a vehicle manufacturer, offering excellent quality, proven safety and a high level of reliability,” said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman. “With our special offer, we are making it easier than ever for our customers to keep their vehicles in op-

timum condition for the longest amount of time.”

Offering top-level comfort and safety even on the toughest roads, Mercedes-Benz shock absorbers and engine suspension mounts are perfectly designed to work seamlessly with the safety systems in Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Adding even more value, the complimentary 15-point vehicle health check includes checks on engine oil level, engine oil leaks, engine air filter, all engine and chassis suspensions, brake fluid level, and front and rear brake pads. It also includes checks on windscreen wiper condition, vehicle undercarriage, AC temperature, AC filters, suspension components, steering components, bodywork inspection, electronic diagnostic test and a vacuum and washes.

The offer is valid on all models registered before January 30, 2018, excluding Mercedes-AMG vehicles.

ROUND-UP



Enhance every moment with Toyota Fortuner

The Fortuner makes its bold presence felt with its stylish appearance. On the inside, its detailed and thoughtful appointments make every drive in it comfortable and exciting too

MUSCAT: The legendary powerhouse is the perfect four-wheel drive SUV to take you places both on-road and off-road too. The Fortuner makes its bold presence felt with its stylish appearance. On the inside, its detailed and thoughtful appointments make every drive in it comfortable and exciting too.

The Fortuner is available with petrol engines that include a 2.7 litre four-cylinder engine producing 164 HP & 25.0 Kg-m of Torque. The 4.0 Litre V6 Engine churns out 235 HP along with 38.3 Kg-m of Torque. The 6-speed Automatic Transmission, available as a standard option, provides thrilling acceleration.

The Fortuner is equipped with Comprehensive Safety Systems to protect its occupants. These include Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) that prevents the tyres from locking during braking. The Fortuner is equipped with SRS Driver Airbag, SRS Front Passenger Airbag, Side Airbag, Curtain Airbag and SRS Knee Airbag (driver only). In terms of seatbelts, three-point Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR) seatbelts are equipped. When an impact is experienced during a collision, the Seatbelt Locks to restrain the passenger. Other reassuring safety features include the Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and the Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS). Rugged and adroit, the Fortuner also is known for its high standards on the inside. Premium Leather

Seats, Leather and Wood finished Steering Wheel with Paddle Shifts, Cool Glove Box, Cruise Control and a whole bunch of other goodies augment its interior ambience. Toyota Fortuner has a powerful air conditioner. Other innovative touches include a Navigation System. The Rear View Camera ensures peace of mind when Reverse Parking. The 6-speaker Audio System enhances its harmonious ambience. And to add to the convenience, there is a Power Back Door System which adds to the sheer convenience. In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality. No wonder that today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

DIGITAL PAYMENT

Khedmah signs agreement with Direct Software for bouquet of entertainment recharge



MUSCAT: Oman Investment & Finance Co. (Khedmah), one of the leading investments and services companies in Oman, has signed an agreement with Direct Software to provide one-touch access to many top-up and recharge services associated with the world's top retailers, especially in the entertainment space. The agreement was signed by Saud Ahmed Al Siyabi, Chief Operating Officer of OIFC, and Dr Ibrahim Abdullah Al Rahbi, Chief Operating Officer of Direct Software.

Under the agreement, Khedmah will have the right to sell and recharge games, gift cards and digital subscriptions for many retailers such as Netflix, Amazon, Microsoft Office, iTunes, Google Play, PlayStation, Xbox, and many more services offered as part of the platform. These features can be availed through the Khedmah smartphone application and the website. Speaking on this effective service, Saud Al Siyabi said, "We are delighted to have collaborated with Direct Software to enhance our popular digital payments platform - Khedmah. These efforts come as part of OIFC's constant strive to cement its leadership in the market through the Khedmah

app, which has become a household name in a short period. The company seeks to keep abreast with technological advancements and new trends by offering new innovative products and unparalleled services, to meet clients' evolving requirements and fulfil their aspirations, ultimately achieving our desired objectives." "Over the previous period, the number of Khedmah app downloads surpassed half a million. This benchmark encourages us to further innovate and improve our digital transformation methodology, which comes in line with the Sultanate's efforts towards instilling a digital-first culture with the community," he added. Commenting on this partnership, Dr Ibrahim Al Rahbi said, "We are proud of this partnership with OIFC and we aspire to increase the synergies between us. Through our services in the field of top-up and recharge, we aim to create a secure and efficient platform that allows the consumers to benefit from all of our offerings at the push of a button. This resonates with the Khedmah app and its services. We also endeavour, through our combined efforts, to bring about positive change and revolutionise how digital services are perceived in the community."

AUTOMATED HOISTS

Al Shawamikh receives groundbreaking hi-tech hoists in Muscat

MUSCAT: An inaugural accomplishment by a local company, Al Shawamikh Oil Services (Al Shawamikh), a leading Super Local Community Contractor (SLCC), has received two hi-tech automated hoists, the first of their kind in the Sultanate. These hoists are committed to service within Petroleum Development Oman's (PDO) assigned concession areas of Bahla and Adam in North Oman. The arrival of these hoists is made possible through a strategic alliance with Highwood Global, a leading Canadian manufacturer of trusted oil services equipment. The equipment was air-freighted aboard an Antonov-124, one of the largest cargo planes in the world, which recently landed at Muscat International Airport – a rare occurrence in the Sultanate. These hoists will contribute to enhancing the quality of oil extraction services and elevating the skills of Omani technicians and engineers in the oil and gas sector. Weighing more than 120 tonnes in total, the hoists were designed and manufactured to the highest international standards and assembled in record time, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. For Al Shawamikh, the successful delivery of the hoists from Canada to the Sultanate, within half the time it usually takes to manufacture and ship such equipment, represents a major milestone in its history.



Complex technical machines of this kind typically take about a year to design, fabricate and deliver. Adding to the remarkable feat was the company's deployment of a giant Antonov-124 cargo plane to ship these hoists instead of via the normal ocean route. Its partner in this commendable initiative, Highwood Global, will be laying the groundwork for a national project centralised on the establishment of a factory specialising in assembling, servicing and maintaining hoists in the Sultanate. The project will enable the transfer of specialist technology

and know-how to the Sultanate – a goal enshrined in Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to enhance economic diversification notably through the advancement of the industrial sector, and supporting In-Country Value (ICV) development linked to oil and gas projects. Dr Aflah Al-Hadhrani, CEO of Al Shawamikh said, "The strategic partnership between Al Shawamikh and Highwood has won praise from the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and among other institutions and companies in the oil and gas sector, for promoting the transfer of the latest hoists technology in

this vital sector. This partnership achieves one of the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 by enabling the transfer of technologies while also attracting foreign investment into the Sultanate, notably through the establishment of a national factory by Highwood, the first of its kind locally, to manufacture this type of hoists with the 'Made in Oman' label. This project will contribute to ICV development and local added value, besides creating job opportunities for nationals, raising the level of local competencies in the oil and gas sector and open up prospects for the expansion of Al Shawamikh

in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region." Al-Hadhrani praised the unrelenting support of PDO in its concession areas in line with the Royal Directives of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 2011 – a move that has helped such companies build their competitive capabilities locally, regionally and internationally. Al Shawamikh today represents the success story of this support to empower, nurture and build local capabilities and ICV development. The latest Omani-Canadian partnership agreement will lead to raising the level of production and advancing the components of the national economy. "From this standpoint, we see the potential to harness all capabilities in developing the skillset of Omanis across various disciplines, while also raising efficiency levels, as well as the technologies and quality of services now available to our customers, shareholders and the local communities in which we serve," he added. The strategic partnership with Highwood Global, said Al-Hadhrani, encouraged Highwood Global to establish a national factory specialising in the production of hi-tech 'Made in Oman' goods and services at Lekhwaier – operated and managed by a workforce of more than 150 Omanis. Kevin Kerr, CEO of Highwood Global, said the new plant will en-

able modern drilling rig technologies to be transferred to Oman for the benefit of operators and service providers in the wider Middle East region. Further, as part of its strategic partnership with Al Shawamikh, the Canadian firm also launched a branch of the company, to be named 'Highwood Oman', as a demonstration of its support for its Omani partner and to affirm its commitment to providing truly high-quality services to the Omani market. It is worth noting that Al Shawamikh is one of the leading SLCC companies, set up as a private national joint-stock company with 100 per cent Omani ownership. It was established in 2011 to serve as an investment vehicle for citizens residing in the oil concession areas in the wilayats of Bahla and Adam. Al Shawamikh aspires to develop Omani citizens by attracting expertise and competencies from various countries to strengthen local capabilities and ensure the company's continued growth locally, regionally and globally. In June 2020, Al Shawamikh embarked on an internal transformation initiative aptly named the "Journey of Excellence". This strategic alliance with Highwood Global, a leader in oil and gas equipment manufacturing as well as the record-breaking delivery of top-end hoists into Oman via the Antonov, are monumental feats, a testament to Al Shawamikh's focus and aggressive pursuit of its vision for the future.



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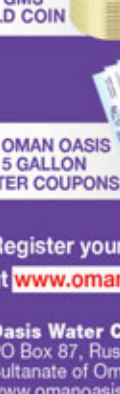
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