

33% OF WOMEN AFFLICTED WITH BREAST CANCER IN OMAN REPORT IT LATE

A study conducted by some specialists in Oman shows that 33 per cent of women who suffer from breast cancer report about it at a late stage (usually after the disease enters the third or fourth stage). **>A5**



AUTOMOBILE FIRE INCIDENTS IN OMAN DECLINE BY 21 PER CENT

The number of automobile fire incidents in Oman dropped by 21.1 per cent to 606 in 2020 compared to 769 in 2019, the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA), said on Monday. Automobile fires happen as a result of negligence, failure to maintain the vehicles, or conduct safety checks on them, the CDAA added. **>A5**



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IMPLEMENTATION OF ROYAL DIRECTIVES

Royal Army of Oman begins recruitment drive



MUSCAT: In implementation of the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to speed up the process of employment for job seekers and, in pursuance of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) keenness to provide opportunities to all to join military service, the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) on Monday began steps for the recruitment of job seekers who applied recently.

Coordinated with the Ministry of Labour, the employment procedures were finalised after the

assessment and approval of the applicants, who will then be given training as soldier recruits at the RAO.

The RAO put all its administrative, health and transport means at the service of the selected candidates to help them join the ranks of military service and serve their nation alongside their seniors.

The efforts reflect the SAF's willingness to provide employment for job seekers in accordance with plans set for recruitment by the Defence Ministry. **-ONA**

ECONOMY

Ministry launches 50 investment opportunities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Investors who wish to contribute to Oman's industrial development now have 50 new opportunities to do so.

Qais bin Muhammad Al Youssef, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, inaugurated the new initiative, which is part of the 100 industrial opportunities being run in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman, and Madayn, the Public Authority for Industrial Estates.

Key part

Dr Saleh bin Saeed Masan, the Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry, said industrial development is a key part of Oman Vision 2040, which pursues diversification to reduce reliance on exports, build a resilient economy, and withstand global fluctuations, while providing good employment and living standards for people in the country.

"We would like to emphasise the commitment of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion with all partners towards this strategic partnership," he added.

"We will work to promote these opportunities to attract both local and foreign investors, and help provide all of the support they require to set up their businesses." **>A5**

NEW LABOUR RULES COME INTO EFFECT FROM TODAY



New rules encourage Omanisation, while still retaining skilled expatriate workers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rules devised by the Ministry of Labour to encourage Omanisation, while still retaining skilled expatriates, have now come into effect.

Starting today, the new hiring fees for expatriates come into effect, in keeping with Ministerial

Decision No. 12/2021.

"The new fees for work permits for non-Omani workforces for upper and intermediate occupations and technical and specialised professions, as well as for new work permits and fees for new businesses, will be in force starting from June 1, 2021," said a statement from the Ministry of Labour.

However, to incentivise higher Omanisation rates, firms that meet certain criteria will have their expat hiring fees cut by up to 50 per cent. This is part of an "economic stimulus plan for establishments concerning reduction in work permits for the expatriate workforce, regarding high-and-middle-level positions, and certain professions and occupations," according to the ministry.

Companies that do have an Omani workforce will have their expat hiring fees reduced by 25 per cent, whereas those that have met their Omanisation quotas will have their expat work permit fees slashed by up to 50 per cent.

Omanisation rates will be calculated according to the distribution of workers across the various activities conducted by companies.

For the months of June, July, and August, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, workers employed at construction sites and other open areas will enjoy a mid-day break. Welcoming the new decisions, Shahswar Al Balushi, a manpower sector consultant, said this would encourage firms to provide jobs to locals, rationalise costs, and encourage competitiveness. Firms would benefit further by prioritising hiring of Omanis who have the qualifications and skills that companies are looking for. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman-Canada trade crosses OMR45mn

1 Trade between Oman and Canada crossed the OMR45 million mark in 2020, remaining healthy despite the pandemic and is expected to increase in future, as both countries look to build stronger ties. The bilateral trade rose from about OMR40 million in 2017 to OMR46.4 million. **>A4**

WORLD China announces three-child policy

2 In a major shift, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) announced that it will allow all couples to have three children, ending a two-child policy that has failed to boost the country's declining birthrate and ageing population. China's once-a-decade census showed that 12 million babies were born in the last year. **>A7**

MARKET Challenges faced by factories explored

3 A team representing Madayn Research Chair at Sultan Qaboos University and Madayn Industrial Academy organised field visits to a number of factories in Nizwa Industrial City to explore the challenges and obstacles facing the companies and factories, and identify possible solutions. **>B1**

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BILATERAL TIES

Oman-Canada trade crosses OMR45mn, expected to rise

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Trade between Oman and Canada crossed the OMR45 million mark in 2020, remaining healthy despite the pandemic and is expected to increase in future, as both countries look to build stronger ties over areas of common interest. The bilateral trade rose from about CA\$127 million (OMR40 million) in 2017 to CA\$145.5 million (OMR46.4 million) in 2020. Oman's primary exports to Canada are base metal products, iron and steel, aluminium, perfumes, essential oils, plastics, rubber, chemicals, minerals, and glass and stone products. Canadian investment in Oman is also about CA\$95 million (OMR30.1 million).

Omani imports from Canada include machinery, electronic goods, specialised instruments, vegetables and their products, cereals, pharmaceutical products, chemicals, and vehicles and the equipment associated with them. "Canada looks forward to further strengthening our economic ties, promoting trade and investment opportunities as well as exploring avenues for broadening and deepening our relations with Oman," said Jason Kung, spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian government's international relations department. "Now more than ever, Oman's independent, moderate, and facilitating role in the region centring on dialogue and diplomacy is critical."

Canada's diplomatic representation in Oman is in the form of



EXPORT-IMPORT: Oman's biggest exports to Canada last year were plastics and rubber products and base metal products, while its imports were specialised instruments machinery, mechanical, and electronic goods and vegetable products.

the Honorary Consulate in Muscat, and its embassy in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. Oman's dealings with Canada are conducted through its embassy in Washington DC.

"Canada values its relationship with Oman, and is always looking for ways to expand upon existing relations with reliable regional partners with common goals and shared interests on a variety of issues," explained Kung.

Oman's biggest exports to Canada last year were plastics and rubber products (CA\$17.8mn, OMR5.7mn) and base metal products (CA\$27mn, OMR8.6mn), while the largest portion of imports were in the form of specialised instruments (CA\$18mn, OMR5.74mn), machinery, mechanical, and electronic goods (CA\$32.4mn, OMR10.3mn), and vegetable products (CA\$14.5mn, OMR4.6mn). The two nations also held their first annual Oman-

Canada bilateral consultations last April, and are expected to take place every year to strengthen ties across areas of common interest.

"We plan to bolster our relations by holding annual consultations going forward," said Kung. "These discussions were robust and allowed for a fruitful bilateral exchange on issues of mutual importance, including bilateral and multilateral engagement, economic and commercial cooperation as well as regional developments."

Over the last five years, trade between Canada and Oman has remained high. The total value of trade stood at CA\$176.1mn (OMR56.1mn) in 2016, before dipping to CA\$126.7mn (OMR40.4mn) in 2017. It reached its highest during this period in 2018, at CA\$208.4mn (OMR66.4mn), before dropping once again to CA\$151.9mn (OMR48.4mn) in 2019.

LABOUR RULES

< FROM A1 Incentives for Omanisation

This way, he added, companies would be able to meet their Omanisation quotas, while expatriates can impart their skills to Omanis in other sectors, and make them work-ready in future.

"Let us say, for example, that Oman has a large number of graduates with human resources degrees or banking degrees," explained Al Balushi, who previously served as head of the Tanfeedh Labour Labs. "Then, companies can hire Omanis from this pool of graduates, and phase out the expatriates working in these fields over a certain agreed-upon period of time, say, three years."

"Similarly, because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, companies will look at their budgets," he added. "To get the best out of their workers, let them look at the salary allocations they have, and plan how many expatriates and Omanis they are able to hire under their budgets. Let them allocate, say 20 per cent of their salary for expats, or however much they need, and then use the rest for Omanis. It is important right now to not go over budget."

Another suggestion put forward by Al Balushi, the former head of the Oman Society of Contractors, is for companies to be able to readily replace workers who do not meet their standards.

"Let companies set internal policies that all employees have to adhere to," he said. "If an employ-

ee is unwilling to give it their all, despite the best efforts of the company, then they must understand that they can be replaced. Whether it is an Omani or expatriate, if they are performing at only 70 per cent of their capacity, and the rest of their colleagues are working hard, then companies need to be able to replace them."

"If they want to replace an Omani, then they must make sure they hire another Omani in their place, to maintain Omanisation levels," he added. Under the new regulations, hiring a foreign national in a top-level position will now cost OMR2,001, those in mid-level management will each fetch a fee of OMR1,001, specialists and technicians will set companies back OMR601 per employee, and the cost of a permit for an expat fisherman is OMR361.

Households that wish to hire up to three domestic workers need to pay OMR141 for each of them, and should they plan on hiring more workers once they have reached this quota, they need to pay OMR241 for every additional work permit. Hiring up to three farmers or animal breeders will cost companies OMR201 per worker, and every additional worker beyond that will set them back OMR301.

A fee of OMR5 will be charged whenever a worker's details need to be updated, and whenever a worker switches employers.



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Ref	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/HQ-65/2021	Replacement of Switches and Circuit Breakers at Sur Hospital in North Al Sharqiya Governorate	10/ June /2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 07/July/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-66/2021	Supply and Installation of Portable Container and Modification Works at Laboratory in Blood Bank Services building in Muscat Governorate	10/ June /2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 07/July/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board in The Second Grade	R.O 25.000 Per set

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

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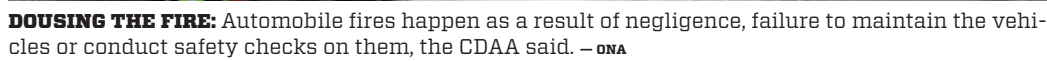




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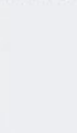


Children should never be left alone in cars with running engines, said the CDAA, which stressed that when a vehicle is at high temperature or catching fire, it should be parked immediately on the side of the road and not driven any further. - **ONA**

Breast Cancer Tumor Treatment, as well as the Cancer Treatment Unit at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. — **ONA**

"Good support is the basis for achieving a good investment climate in any country," she added. "We are committed to a supportive approach towards attracting investors, stimulating investments, and maintaining sustainable development."

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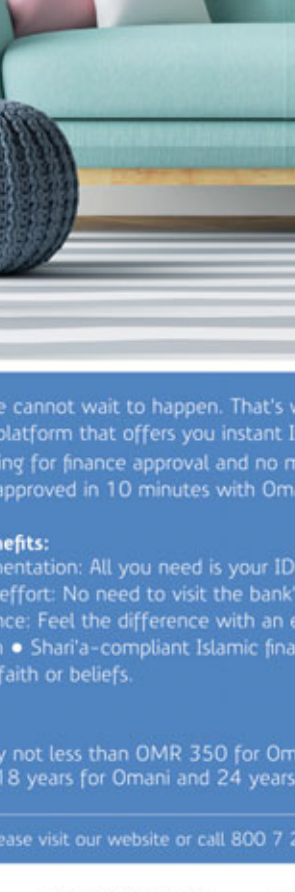


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"Good support is the basis for achieving a good investment climate in any country," she added. "We are committed to a supportive approach towards attracting investors, stimulating investments, and maintaining sustainable development."



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'ONE-IN-A-HUNDRED-YEAR'

Downpours, floods hit New Zealand's South Island

WELLINGTON: Downpours and floods that forecasters said could be "one-in-a-hundred-year" continued to hit New Zealand's South Island on Monday after a whole day and night's persistent and heavy rain that started on Sunday.

The heavy rain caused severe floods, evacuations of more than 240 homes, power cuts and rising rivers. Several bridges were

seen broken amid the floods. In some eastern areas of Christchurch, the biggest city in the Canterbury region, rivers ran high after consecutive rains. Some schools had to be closed on Monday due to high flooding risks in surrounding areas.

More than 1,000 homes were without power across Christchurch on Sunday night, with freez-

ing weather accompanying the heavy rains. About 100 of these households still suffered power outage on Monday.

Local authorities declared a state of local emergency for the whole Canterbury region of the South Island. People have been advised to stay at home to avoid road closure and flooding risks.

According to MetService, New

Zealand's national weather authority, the red alert was lifted for the Canterbury region at 7:00 p.m., as the rainfall started to ease during Monday night.

Red level warnings in the country are "issued for the most extreme weather systems which may cause widespread disruption and severe impacts," according to MetService. **ANI**



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Scores of schoolchildren abducted in Nigeria



The Niger state government said "an unconfirmed number" were taken

ABUJA: One person was killed and a large number of students were abducted on Sunday at a religious seminary in Nigeria's north-central Niger State, a police spokesman said.

Some 200 children were at the school when the incident took place. The Niger state government said "an unconfirmed number" were taken.

Wasiu Abiodun, the Niger state police spokesman, said the abduction was carried out by "armed bandits on board motorcycles."

The gunmen fired "indiscriminately" he said, adding that the attackers shot one person dead in the process. All "tactical teams" have been mobilized to rescue the victims and the police will "ensure that the children are rescued unhurt," according to the police spokesman.



KIDNAPPINGS: Some 200 children were at the school when the incident took place.

The school's owner, Abubakar Tegina, witnessed the attack. "I personally saw between 20 and 25 motorcycles with heavily armed people. They entered the school and went away with about 150 or more of the students," Tegina, who lives around 150 meters from the school, told Reuters news agency.

Fear of kidnappings forces schools to close

The incident is the latest in

a series of mass abductions in Nigerian schools by armed gangs.

The groups have been raiding schools in northern Nigeria in recent months, with hundreds of students abducted for ransom in recent months.

Since December 2020, 730 children and students have been kidnapped, without taking the Sunday attack into account.

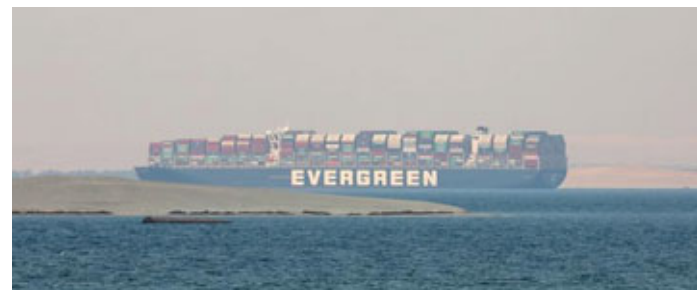
The worst incident this year oc-

curred at the Government Girls Secondary School Jangebe in February, when 279 girls were abducted and later released.

Many schools in the region have been forced to close due to frequent incidents.

On Saturday, 14 university students and staff who had been abducted from Greenfield University in Kaduna state on April 20 were freed after spending more than a month in captivity. **DW**

COMPENSATION



Egypt demands \$550 million from Japanese cargo ship owner

TOKYO: Egyptian authorities are demanding \$550 million in compensation from the Japanese owner of a cargo ship that blocked the Suez Canal for nearly a week in March.

The large container ship Ever Given got stuck in the key waterway and prevented the passage of all other vessels for several days, NHK World reported. The Suez Canal Authority initially demanded about 920 million dollars in compensation.

During a press conference on Sunday in the Egyptian city of Ismailia, the officials of canal authority said that more than 600 workers were needed to refloat the ship, and that the demand includes compensation for a worker who was killed when a

salvage ship sank. The officials argued that the amount they are demanding is appropriate. They also said the ship's owner, Shoen Kisen Kaisha, based in Ehime Prefecture, western Japan, has offered to pay 150 million USD.

While, the Egyptians said they will not neglect their rights, although they would like to maintain good relations with the ship owner, and intend to continue the negotiations.

Under a court decision, the Ever Given will remain in Egypt until compensation money is paid. The Ever Given was stuck in early March, paralyzing the crucial waterway. The damage to global trade can run into one billion US dollars, according to the canal authority. **ANI**



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China announces three-child policy amid declining birthrate

China's census, released this month, showed that 12 million babies were born last year, the lowest since 1961

BELJING: In a major shift, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on Monday announced that it will allow all couples to have three children, ending a two-child policy that has failed to boost the country's declining birthrate and ageing population. China's once-a-decade census, released this month, showed that 12 million babies were born in the last year, the lowest since 1961, during the Great Famine, report-



DECLINING BIRTHRATE: This comes after the census 2020 showed an alarming fall in the country's fertility rate.

ed South China Morning Post (SCMP). This comes after the census 2020 showed an alarming fall in the country's fertility rate. According to the seventh na-

tionwide census of 2020, China's population has grown by merely 5.38 per cent over the last 10 years. China's birthrate has been on the decline since 2017, despite

easing of the 'one-child policy' in order to avert an incoming demographic crisis. Despite the relaxation of the one-child policy in 2016, the num-

ber of live births per 1,000 people fell to a record low of 10.48 in 2019, down from 10.94 in 2018. This has sparked fears of an impending demographic crisis. According to The New York Times, the CCP made the announcement after a meeting by the Politburo, its top decision-making body. It said the decision would "help improve our country's population structure and help implement a national strategy to actively respond to the aging population." In China, the working-age population has shrunk by some 3.4 million per year over the last decade. Those who are joining the workforce today were largely born when the fertility rate was already below the replacement level. Demographers in China have long lobbied for the government to abandon all birth restrictions, but Beijing has moved slowly despite signs that the two-child policy was not working. Meanwhile, many experts were taken by surprise by the latest move. "This was a bit sudden and earlier than I expected. The deci-

sion makers have probably realized that the population situation is relatively severe," said He Yafu, an independent demographer. The New York Times reports that the party's announcement on Monday is likely to revive longstanding complaints about the government's invasive control over women's bodies in China. Chinese social media users also slammed the move as ineffective. "Don't they know that most young people are already tired enough just trying to feed themselves?" wrote one user. For decades, China's family planning restrictions empowered the authorities to compel hundreds of millions of Chinese women to have abortions or undergo sterilisation operations in order to control the population. As the 2020 census shows a falling fertility rate in China, Chinese millennial couples are reluctant to have children as the lack of affordable public healthcare, rising living costs and grueling hours are worrying the world's most populous country. **ANI**

FRESH INVESTIGATION

US officials press China to provide more transparency on COVID-19 origins

WASHINGTON: With a renewed focus on a fresh investigation into the origins of the novel coronavirus, US experts and officials on Sunday called on China to provide greater transparency and speed inquiries into whether the pandemic began with a leak from a lab. "There's going to be COVID-26 and COVID-32 unless we fully understand the origins of COVID-19," said Peter J. Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and co-director of the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development on US media, reported The New York Times. Hotez said on Sunday that the US President Joe Biden's push for an inquiry into the virus origins might not yield much new information because the United States had already "pushed intelligence about as far as we can". He suggested that the world needed a sweeping new scientific search for outbreak answers, most especially in China, including an independent team of scientists, epidemiologists and virologists



working in China for a period of six months to a year so the world can "fully unravel the origins of COVID-19." "The team would have to interview scientists and scrutinise their lab notebooks in order to investigate the possibility of a lab leak," he said, adding that the world needs to put a lot of pressure on China, including possible sanctions. Matthew Pottinger, who served as deputy national security adviser to former President Donald Trump, said that Biden's call for a

fresh look at the evidence and the intelligence could prompt scientists in China to step forward, reported The New York Times. "If this thing came out of a lab, there are people in China who probably know that," he said. US Republican Representative Michael McCaul told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that intercepted intelligence communications had provided intriguing clues pointing to a lab leak. "We have signals intelligence and human and other forms of

intelligence," he said, that while not certain in nature, suggest a lab leak is "more likely than not". Biden last week said he has asked the US intelligence community to "redouble their efforts" to come to a conclusion on the origins of COVID-19 and report back to him within 90 days. "I have now asked the Intelligence Community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Biden said in a statement on the investigation into the origins of COVID-19. In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian termed the Biden administration's move as disrespect for science. "Some people in the US completely ignore facts and science, do not pay attention to ambiguous parts of their own research and their failures in the fight against the pandemic, over and over making the buzz that a re-investigation needs to be conducted regarding China," Zhao said. **ANI**

LOWEST RISE

With 152,734 new COVID-19 cases, India sees lowest daily rise in 50 days

NEW DELHI: With 152,734 COVID-19 infections in the last 24 hours India maintained its declining trend of new cases and reported the lowest-single day COVID-19 rise in 50 days, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Monday. With this, the total cases have reached 28,047,534, and the daily positivity rate stands at 9.07 per cent, which is less than 10 per cent for the seventh consecutive day. Also, the weekly positivity rate dropped to 9.04 per cent. According to the health ministry, a total of 3,128 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 329,100 in the country. Meanwhile, recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for the 18th consecutive day, as India witnessed 238,022 recoveries in the last 24 hours, the ministry said. The recovery tally of India has reached 25,692,342 and



the recovery rate stands at 91.60 per cent. Active caseload further declined to 2,026,092 after cases decreased by 88,416 in the last 24 hours. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, a total of 1,683,135 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country and cumulatively 344,866,883 tests have been done so far. The Union Health Ministry has informed that nearly 213,154,129 vaccine doses have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive. **ANI**

MANHUNT

Former French soldier on the run captured

PARIS: French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin announced on Twitter on Monday that a former soldier, who allegedly fired at a patrol responding to a domestic violence call the previous evening, had been "neutralised" after being on the run in southwestern France. The manhunt for the 29-year-old, who was armed with a hunting rifle and sustained injuries during his capture, was brought to an end by the gendarmes — France's paramilitary police. Interior Minister Darmanin thanked the gendarmes and other state security services that had been mobilized in pursuit of the fugitive. Elite tactical teams and some 300 gendarmes swept through a forested area in the Dordogne region to look for the gunman with the help of seven armored vehicles, seven helicopters and sniffer dogs. "Combing the area will be long and painstaking... It could take many more hours yet," Dordogne prefect Frederic Perissat had told reporters. Escaped while wearing an electronic bracelet The man fired at the police after attacking his former partner's new boyfriend in Lardin-Saint-Lazare, a village near Sarlat. Perigueux prosecutor Solene

Belaouar told the media that the man had been convicted of domestic violence four times. He was also wearing an electronic bracelet when he fled on Sunday. Andre Petillot, commander of the regional police force, said he "knows the area well and adapts easily". The suspect could have the profile of someone who wanted to be killed by police, the commander told the France Info radio station. **'The goal is to bring him alive'** Frederic Perrisat said that police had established contact with the gunman several times during Sunday's standoff, but each time he opened fire. "We are doing everything we can to get him to surrender but we also want to avoid a tragedy within our ranks," added the police representative. "The goal is to bring him alive. If we wanted to neutralize him we would have already done it." The news of the manhunt comes two weeks after a similar case in Belgium, when a soldier stole weapons from an army barracks and went on a run after threatening a well-known virologist and other public figures. **DW**



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Juventus, Real Madrid, Barcelona have paralysed themselves, says UEFA chief

Earlier, UEFA opened disciplinary proceedings against Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus for their involvement in the ESL

ZURICH: UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin has said Barcelona, Juventus, and Real Madrid have paralysed themselves with their approach to the breakaway and rebel European Super League.

Last week, Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Juventus had issued a fresh statement over their involvement in the breakaway European Super League (ESL) and



ESL: Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Juventus had issued a fresh statement over their involvement in the breakaway European Super League.

these three clubs also hit out at UEFA for continuously criticising their plans. "They paralysed themselves with the approach they took. It's strange to read press releases that the three clubs out of thousands of clubs think their idea will save football and nobody else likes it," Ceferin told Sky Italia, as reported by Goal.com. Earlier, UEFA opened disciplinary proceedings against Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus for their involvement in the ESL. UEFA had stated that it intends to punish the three clubs for still choosing to be a part of the European Super League.

"Our disciplinary committee is independent so the moment they start to work on a case, I don't have a reach or information there. I don't know when, if or how the sanctions would be. For me what is strange is that you publish you are still part of the Super League and then you send a letter applying to play in the Champions League," said Ceferin.

"So you are in Super League but

play Champions League. It's quite hard to understand what they mean. They should call us, send us a letter, ask for a meeting. They just sent some press releases saying they want to have a dialogue. It's quite a strange approach," he added. Earlier, Gabriele Gravina, President of the Italian Football Association (FIGC) had said that Juventus will be banned from Serie A next season if they still choose to remain a part of the breakaway and rebel ESL. "The rules are clear. If Juventus is still part of the Super League when it enters next season, it can't participate in Serie A," Gabriele Gravina told Radio Kiss Kiss, as reported by Goal.com. "I would be sorry for the fans but rules are rules and they apply to everyone. I hope this holdout ends soon," he added.

The announcement to form a breakaway ESL made by 12 founding clubs including Manchester City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United, and Tottenham Hotspur, was met with widespread criticism. **ANI**

OPEN LETTER

Zidane fires back at former club Real Madrid and its President

MADRID: Zinedine Zidane has fired back at former club Real Madrid and its President Florentino Perez following his resignation as team's head coach. The former World Cup winner decided to leave Real Madrid after the club failed to win the La Liga title for the 2020-21 season.

The former boss has accused Real Madrid members of not respecting him during his stint with the La Liga club. In an open letter to fans, Zidane thanked everyone for the love and support he received while he was with Real Madrid. The former boss also explained the reason behind his decision to step down as head coach of the club.

"Dear Real Madrid fans, for more than 20 years, from the first day I arrived in Madrid and wore the white shirt, you've shown me your love. I wanted to write this



letter, to say goodbye to you and explain my decision to leave the coaching job," Spanish publication AS published Zidane's open letter, as reported by goal.com.

"I'm going, but I'm not jumping overboard, nor am I tired of coaching. In May 2018 I left because after two and a half years, with so many victories and so many trophies, I felt the team needed a new approach to stay at

the very highest level. Right now, things are different. I'm leaving because I feel the club no longer has the faith in me I need, nor the support to build something in the medium or long term.

"I understand football and I know the demands of a club like Real Madrid. I know when you don't win, you have to leave. But with this a very important thing has been forgotten, everything I

built day-to-day has been forgotten, what I brought to my relationships with the players, with the 150 people who work with and around the team.

"I'm a natural-born winner and I was here to win trophies, but even more important than this are the people, their feelings, life itself and I have the sensation these things have not been taken into account, that there has been a failure to understand that these things also keep the dynamics of a great club going. To some extent I have even been rebuked for it.

"I want there to be respect for what we have achieved together. I would have liked my relationship with the club and the president over the past few months to have been a little different to that of other coaches. I wasn't asking for privileges, of course not, just a little more recollection. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Man City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne suffers fractures to eye socket, nose

PORTO: Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne suffered a nose bone and left orbital fracture during his side's 0-1 defeat against Chelsea in the Champions League final.

This was the first time that Chelsea had made it to the finals of the Champions League after winning the title way back in 2012. Kevin on Sunday informed that he is feeling "okay" but is still disappointed about the loss Manchester City had to face in the final on Saturday.

"Hi guys just got back from the hospital. My diagnosis is Acute nose bone fracture and left orbital fracture. I feel okay now. Still disappointed about yesterday obviously but we will be back," Kevin tweeted.

In the match, Manchester City held on to the ball for 61 per cent of the match while Chelsea kept the ball for just 39 per cent of the match. However, City was not able to capitalise.

The city had just one shot on target in the entire match while Chelsea had two shots on target.

Kai Havertz's goal finally came in the 42nd minute of the match and this gave Chelsea a 1-0 lead in the match, and this threw Manchester City on the backfoot.

City tried their best to get the equaliser but Chelsea's defence managed to hang on and in the end, the Blues walked away with a famous victory. **ANI**



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2021 reaching \$68.03, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 31 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$67.72. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,852.61 points, up 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.74 per cent at 557.51 points. Salalah Mills, up 7.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Omaniya Financial Bonds, down 14.29 per cent, was the top loser.

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f t i y o i n

Challenges faced by factories at Nizwa Industrial City explored

Madayn officials visited three major companies representing different industries to identify the obstacles related to water and wastewater treatment as well as the challenges related to energy and its sources



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: During the visits to Nizwa Food Industries, Pragati Glass Gulf and Schlumberger, possible solutions were highlighted to support Madayn in accommodating additional quantities of wastewater, as well as water samples were collected. - Supplied picture

samples were collected. The team will also organise visits to Raysut, Sur and Sohar Industrial Cities as part of the visits planned for this year.

Quality research

It is worthwhile mentioning that Madayn Research Chair at Sultan Qaboos University aims to building indigenous research capacity in areas related to industrial cities and free zones through providing quality research and studies in the field of industrial cities and free zones by conducting applied research, academic events, and outreach research activities that directly contribute to the Sultanate's social and economic development.

Established in 2019, Madayn Industrial Academy aims at providing training opportunities for the national cadres to enhance administrative, financial and technical skills and raise their productivity to contribute to providing value-adding services to the investors in the industrial cities. The academy organises a series of programmes that address trending topics and challenges that are observed locally and globally and thus provides scientific and practical training opportunities to the cadres to meet the needs of the industrial sector.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A team representing Madayn Research Chair at Sultan Qaboos University and Madayn Industrial Academy organised field visits to a number of factories

in Nizwa Industrial City to explore the challenges and obstacles facing the companies and factories, and identify a range of possible solutions.

Headed by Prof. Abdullah Al Badi, Chairman of Madayn Research Chair, the team visited

three major companies representing different industries to identify the obstacles related to water and wastewater treatment as well as the challenges related to energy and its sources.

Mohammed Al Ajmi, team member and representative of Ma-

dayn Industrial Academy, stated that the visits focused mainly on the sewage plant in Nizwa Industrial City, and the quality of the chemical and organic materials emerging from wastewater of each company that may contradict the specifications of the plant.

During the visits to Nizwa Food Industries, Pragati Glass Gulf and Schlumberger, possible solutions were highlighted to support Madayn in accommodating the additional quantities of wastewater, wastewater treatment methods were underscored, as well as water

NON-BINDING MOU

Al Maha Ceramics plans to acquire majority stake in Al Hael Ceramics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Maha Ceramics, the leading Ceramic manufactures in the region, is exploring the possibility to acquire a majority stake in Al Hael Ceramics Co.

Al Maha, in this regard, announced that it has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the shareholders of Al Hael Ceramics Co. (Al Hael).

Al Hael is based in Oman with a state-of-the-art plant equipped with the world's best Italian production lines in terms of types of machinery and the latest technology. It has an annual production capacity of 15 million sqm to produce world-class premium quality and large sizes of porcelain and ceramic tiles. The acquisition will help Al Maha to substantially increase its production capacity and add to its



STATE-OF-THE-ART PLANT: Al Hael is based in Oman with a state-of-the-art plant equipped with the world's best Italian production lines in terms of types of machinery and latest technology. - Supplied picture

product portfolio while benefiting from economies of scale.

The transactions contemplated by the MOU are conditional, inter alia, on the completion by Al Maha Ceramics and Al Anwar Investment of a satisfactory financial and

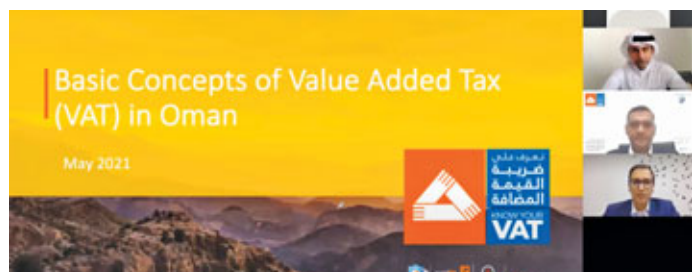
legal due diligence investigation and evaluation of Al Hael, the negotiation and execution of definitive transaction documents with the Al Hael's shareholders (including a share purchase agreement and a shareholders' agreement),

and receipt of all necessary corporate approvals, regulatory approvals and third-party consents. The disclosure on MSX by Al Maha Ceramics stated that it will provide an update about the transaction in due course.

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INFORMATIVE SESSION



Webinar focuses on 'Basic Concepts of VAT in Oman' for SMEs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A VAT-focused webinar was organised on May 26 titled 'Basic Concepts of Value Added Tax (VAT) in Oman'.

Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC), in partnership with the Omani International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest), completed its second VAT-focused webinar for SMEs in Oman.

This is the second in a series of five webinars as part of its 'Know Your VAT' initiative executed by Moore. In addition to the five webinars, the initiative will also include five short animated videos, a digital downloadable booklet, and one-to-one sessions where required.

It was effectively an extension of the first and covered two core topics - VAT exemptions versus zero-rating and tax implications on key business transactions. The latter of the two topics covered the sale of goods, reverse charge mechanism, exports, sales return, damages, discounts, bad debts, and more.

The webinar was attended by over 100 Zubair SEC members as well as some large private-sector corporations. Each of them expressed their appreciation to the

organisers, as well as expressed their desire to return for the remaining three webinars.

Adel Al Hubaishi - Executive Manager at Zubair SEC said, "The Value-Added Tax law, which was implemented in the Sultanate on April 16, applies to any company whose taxable turnover exceeds OMR38,500. This includes the majority of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country; many of which are not familiar with all the steps and procedures required to be fully VAT compliant. These series of webinars have been designed specifically to address these concepts and help them be fully prepared."

Adel Al Hubaishi added, "At Zubair SEC, we are very pleased with the number of participants and the level of engagement between the SMEs and speakers. The questions raised shows that our members value the importance of the topic and are eager to understand and properly setup their businesses for the implementation of VAT."

The next 'Know Your VAT' webinar will be focused on 'Explaining key compliances, such as issuing VAT compliant invoice, credit, and debit notes, and depositing VAT'.

MIDDLE EAST ENCRYPTION TRENDS STUDY

59% of firms in region experienced data breach

DUBAI: Security and IT professionals in the Middle East are demonstrating a rising desire to secure critical applications and data, adopting encryption at a higher rate for newer use cases like containers and IoT platforms, as well as for email and private cloud infrastructures.

This and other findings are highlighted in the Entrust 2021 Middle East Encryption Trends study, the sixteenth annual multinational survey by the Ponemon Institute. The study reports on the cybersecurity challenges organisations face today, and how and why organisations deploy encryption.

Identified threats and priorities

According to respondents from the region, the most important feature associated with encryption solutions is support for cloud and on-premises deployment. The adoption of encryption for Private cloud infrastructure is up 8 per cent over the past two years and Bring Your Own Key (BYOK) management support was cited as an important feature of cloud encryption solutions by 42 per cent (vs. 34 per cent globally), making this the 4th straight year that this was above the global average.

When it comes to what's driving

data encryption data in the Middle East, the top priorities are to protect customer personal information (59 per cent of respondents vs. 54 per cent globally) and intellectual property (57 per cent vs. 49 per cent globally).

The fastest-growing drivers are limiting liability from breaches or inadvertent disclosure (47 per cent up from 39 per cent last year) and to comply with external privacy or data security regulations and requirements (39 per cent, up 11 per cent over the past 2 years).

Unfortunately, while encryption is the foundation of data protection, just one in three (29 per cent)

Middle East companies surveyed indicate that they have a consistently applied encryption plan/strategy - well below this year's global average of 50 per cent.

At the same time, the majority (59 per cent) of these organisations report that they have experienced a data breach, the 2nd highest rate worldwide and well ahead of the global average of 44 per cent.

Across the Middle East, over two-thirds (68 per cent) of organisations surveyed use Hardware Security Modules (HSMs), one of the highest adoption rates across all regions surveyed.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Salalah Mills, up 7.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Omaniya Financial Bonds, down 14.29 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,852.61 points, up 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.74 per cent at 557.51 points. Salalah Mills, up 7.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Omaniya Financial Bonds, down 14.29 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Omaniya Financial Service were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Al Anwar Ceramic was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 789 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3 million, with more than 13 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded stocks, 14 advanced, 11 declined and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR321,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR204,000 followed by local

investors for OMR117,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 5,979.84 points, up 0.46 per cent. Al Madina Investment, Al Omaniya Financial Service, Ahli Bank and Sohar International Bank were down 4.76 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 2.78 per cent and 1.15 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Investment, Madina Takaful and Bank Muscat were down 1.10 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,548.54 points, up 0.57 per cent. Salalah Mills, National Aluminum Product, Jazeera Steel Product, Al Maha Ceramic and Al Anwar Ceramic were up 7.33 per cent, 2.99 per cent, 1.61 per cent, 0.61 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively. Galfar Engineering was the only loser by 2.04 per cent. Services Index was up by 0.12 per cent closing at 1,621.85 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	3,852.61	3,830.36	3,852.61	3,836.36	16.26	0.42
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,979.85	5,933.97	5,979.85	5,952.39	27.46	0.46
Industry Index	5,552.73	5,517.48	5,548.54	5,516.83	31.72	0.57
Services Index	1,625.59	1,620.53	1,623.79	1,621.85	1.94	0.12
MSX Shariah Index	558.06	553.70	557.51	553.41	4.10	0.74
MSX TR INDEX	4,624.09	4,597.38	4,624.09	4,604.58	19.51	0.42

Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal
12,865,660	3,138,584	789	21,150,870,575	14	11	22
Sec. Traded						
47						

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MAY 31

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

OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	2,136,217	247,015	94	0.112	0.117	0.112	0.116	0.112	0.004	3.571	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	33,864,480
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	450,000	49,987	8	0.108	0.112	0.108	0.111	0.108	0.003	2.778	0.112	0.108	0.111	0.100	216,411,979
OM0000002178	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	141,170	53,335	17	0.378	0.380	0.376	0.378	0.372	0.006	1.613	0.378	0.376	0.378	0.100	47,211,429
OM0000002398	SOHAR INT. BANK	140,000	12,390	13	0.086	0.090	0.086	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.090	0.088	0.091	0.100	214,236,500
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	537,425	208,528	25	0.388	0.400	0.388	0.388	0.384	0.004	1.042	0.400	0.392	0.400	0.100	23,747,258
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	661,448	521,096	60	0.784	0.796	0.780	0.788	0.780	0.008	1.026	0.788	0.780	0.788	0.100	591,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	50,000	19,980	8	0.388	0.400	0.388	0.400	0.396	0.004	1.010	0.400	0.390	0.408	0.100	260,377,692
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	369,674	121,983	57	0.330	0.332	0.328	0.330	0.328	0.002	0.610	0.332	0.332	0.340	0.100	18,150,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	252,000	105,820	10	0.418	0.420	0.418	0.420	0.418	0.002	0.478	0.420	0.412	0.418	0.100	96,292,200
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,290,030	619,155	27	0.478	0.484	0.478	0.480	0.478	0.002	0.418	0.480	0.472	0.524	0.100	105,600,000
OM0000004118	RAYST CEMENT	215,900	62,751	21	0.290	0.292	0.290	0.291	0.291	0.000	0.000	0.292	0.292	0.294	0.100	58,200,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	476,321	150,584	23	0.310	0.320	0.308	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.312	0.320	0.100	255,256,056
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	100,000	4,500	5	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.049	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	2,200	1,971	1	0.886	0.886	0.886	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.886	0.000	0.886	0.100	80,730,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	211,142	19,284	17	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.100	8,190,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	885,243	345,245	44	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.392	-0.002	-0.510	0.390	0.390	0.396	0.100	1394,045,169
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	40,806	5,900	6	0.149	0.149	0.146	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.146	0.146	0.148	0.100	12,485,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	565,740	51,167	42	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.091	0.090	0.093	0.100	18,000,000
Total	18	8,525,316	2,600,782	478												

Parallel Market

OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	7,456	4,802	3	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.600	0.044	7.333	0.644	0.650	0.000	0.100	32,176,213
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	50,850	1,119	2	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.001	0.001	4.762	0.022	0.019	0.023	0.100	4,632,300
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,960,839	270,192	160	0.136	0.139	0.136	0.138	0.134	0.004	2.985	0.138	0.138	0.139	0.100	4,632,300
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MTK.	35,300	27,455	6	0.800	0.812	0.800	0.808	0.800	0.008	1.000	0.808	0.788	0.808	0.100	76,760,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. BANK	10,000	1,000	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.085	0.091	0.100	214,236,500
OM0000001301	DHOFA CATTLE	74,146	6,757	6	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	7,357,350
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	443,878	73,685	4	0.166	0.167	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.000	0.000	0.167	0.167	0.169	0.100	269,907,095
OM0000001509	DHOFA INT.	100	25	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.267	0.267	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.100	69,078,240
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	280,000	13,210	10	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	8,215,625
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	150	23	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.100	13,500,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEMI.	5,832	595	1	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.100	0.107	0.100	2,142,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	110,992	4,781	5	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	10,013,210
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	620	496	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.732	0.732	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.804	0.100	44,853,300
OM0000002711	SOHAR POWER	4,890	222	2	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.047	0.100	10,608,480
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	3,881	365	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.096	0.100	11,400,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	68,758	3,672	11	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.054	0.056	0.100	37,118,809
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,240	70	4	0.056	0.058	0.056	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.100	40,721,161
OM0000005380	OMAN ARAB BANK	7,918	1,204	1	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.152	0.167	0.100	253,750,350
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	393,304	37,023	13	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.094	0.100	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	29,000	2,616	12	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.089	0.093	0.100	58,928,305
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	31,000	2,449	3	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	75,411,184
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	457,316	22,108	26	0.050	0.050	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.100	13,919,071
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	74,223	3,313	9	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.048	-0.001	-2.083	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	68,742,289
Total	23	4,028,293	477,288	284												

DATA

India's GDP grows 1.6% in January-March quarter

NEW DELHI: India's GDP grew by 1.6 per cent in the January to March quarter (Q4 FY21) but contracted by 7.3 per cent in the entire financial year, government data released showed. A continuing fall in domestic consumption due to the Covid-19 pandemic was behind the sluggish pace. Real GDP or gross domestic product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in 2020-

21 are estimated to attain a level of Rs 135.13 lakh crore as against the first revised estimate of GDP for 2019-20 of Rs 145.69 lakh crore. "The growth in GDP during 2020-21 is estimated at minus 7.3 per cent as compared to 4 per cent in 2019-20," said the National Statistical Office (NSO). "GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q4 of 2020-21 is esti-

mated at Rs 38.96 lakh crore as against Rs 38.33 lakh crore in Q4 of 2019-20, showing a growth of 1.6 per cent." GDP is derived as the sum of the gross value added at basic prices plus all taxes on products less all subsidies on products. The total tax revenue used for GDP compilation includes non-GST revenue and GST revenue. -ANI

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC launches electronic system to submit applications for high voltage connection

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) launched an electronic system to receive requests high voltage electrical conductivity to keep pace with the digital transformation in various sectors and the advancement of work mechanisms and the development of its electronic services.

This is also in line with the company's alignment with the pillars and outputs of Oman 2040 Vision, and in order to achieve its objectives in accelerating the steps of digital transformation, reaching the smart government and facilitating connection requests. It previously relied on a traditional system based on letters of demand and paper presentations and following them up via an internally accredited electronic system only. As for the new system, it is an



electronic system that allows the beneficiary companies to submit connection requests at anytime and anywhere via the company's website. It has been linked to an electronic payment gateway that allows the beneficiaries to complete the payment of connection request fees OETC network in a safe and fast manner. The beneficiaries also can track

the status of the request through the system without the need to visit the company, which will contribute to facilitating procedures for customers, saving time and effort, as well as ensuring the provision of quality at its best levels. Requests for connection to the transmission network will be available through OETC website at the link shown <https://www.omangrid.com/en/Pages/Services.aspx>, through which requests can be submitted and modified, the required documents attached and the process proceeded.

Eng. Saleh Nasser Majid Al Rumhi, CEO of the company, confirmed that the system has been available for use by beneficiaries since last month, as the system is expected to serve the electricity distribution companies and the Omani company for the purchase of energy and water as well as the category of connection requesters from companies and factories.

TRANSFORMATION

Courier industry pins hopes on digital transformation

DUBAI: The UAE courier industry has been passing through a transformation phase amid stiff market competition in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and rapid progress on the technology front, industry experts say.

Sachin Gupta, general manager of Gulf Pinnacle Investments (GPI), the UAE subsidiary of Gulf Pinnacle Logistics, said most of the courier companies are well placed to reap the benefits of their digital transformation strategies, which have accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said most of the industry players are in process of upgrading their technology infrastructure to facilitate consumers in line with the international market trends.

"Courier industry invests significantly to upgrade technology infrastructure to improve consumer experience and reduce delivery costs as well as time. Technology plays a pivotal role to stimulate growth in the industry despite the COVID-19 challenges and most courier companies regularly upgrade their infrastructure to survive the stiff competition in the market," Gupta elaborated.

Gulf Pinnacle Logistics is a logistics and transportation company based in Dubai.

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7.	Site Surveyor for Road / Earth works	1	Diploma in Civil Engg. - 6 years
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Electrical Engineer with 4 years experience in Oman , LV system , TX maintenance , water transmission line , motors control , with valid visa and driving license. Contact 91936392

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Electrical Engineer with 7 years experience in Construction - Infrastructure, Roads, Buildings Available in Oman with valid transferable Visa and Oman DL, seeking new opportunities. Have ability to work as Estimation Engineer, Procurement Engineer, Design Engineer, Site Engineer and QA/QC Engineer in MEP department. Contact 96739500

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Civil Engineer/Facility Manager

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise (7 years in Oman) in Civil Construction operation, Project Management, Facilities Management looking for suitable placement. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303
shiv60769@gmail.com

Finance Manager

BSc, MBA, ACCA, 20 years' experience in Financial Statements, Management Accounts, Risk management, SAP and VAT compliance. NOC available. Can start immediately.

Phone 90213906

Sr Accountant/Financial Controller

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

Contact 94684007
Email: vveer555@gmail.com

Senior BSc Civil Engineer

(Having valid Engineering Visa with Oman D/L) with more than 24 years experience including more than 10 years in Oman (Buildings and Roads) worked for the consultants and contractors available with release for immediate recruitment.

Contact: 96753667
Email ID: mohamedishahan@gmail.com

Indian Chartered Accountant

Indian Female CA with 8 years' experience in Audit, Accounts, Finance, Investment, Consultancy looking for suitable assignments.

Contact: +968 9914 7922

HR / Admin

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

Contact 79285929

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

Administration & Public Relations

Female, Omani nationality, available to work having 06 years' experience in administration and public relations. Highly motivated, good communication and interpersonal skills, fluent in English and Arabic with a passion to learn and grow and very adaptable. Fluent in Arabic and English. Very professional with a positive attitude.

Contact Ebty420@gmail.com, Tel : 9337 9044

SR. ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finace & Admin, upto finalisation, 0000, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, NOC/Release Available.

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

Accounts/Finance/Audit Professional

ACCA,CIA, CRMA and Masters Degree with 9 years of diversified experience and valid Oman driving licence; looking for suitable opportunity in Finance/Accounting /Audit.

Contact No: +96891735780
Email: cia.acca1989@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

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

GSM: 78259755

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

JOB WANTED

HOSPITALITY

BSc Hospitality Management
Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia. Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry.
Contact 94575782
Email dhrurvatul58@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272
Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

Logistics Coordinator, Indian Male, Age 27, with 2 and a half years experience in supply chain and knowledge of ERP looking for a suitable placement. Contact 71423342
Email: zakwansheikh@gmail.com

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

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

Logistics Coordinator, Indian Male, Age 27, with 2 and a half years experience in supply chain and knowledge of ERP looking for a suitable placement. Contact 71423342
Email: zakwansheikh@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING

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

Indain male kerala 31 with 6 yrs of experience in Oman(FMCG sales and other) Oman D/L looking for any suitable placement [now on visa]. Contact 78104649

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272
Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

Indian 25 yrs male with 2 yrs of experience in Oman seeking for immediate placement. Currently in oman ready to join immediately. Contact 93978831
Email faigmukri@gmail.com

Indian male (30) MBA with Oman experience (FMCG and other) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on visit. Contact 7975 5795

Indian, BA, looking for a placement 12 yrs Experience in FMCG with Oman DL. Contact 97898905
Email karthilchy@gmail.com

1 year experience in SM Man-agement, Marketing and Content Writing. Looking for opportunities in Marketing (Digital), Brand Development. Advertising, HR. # 92866372

Sr. Accountant (BSc, CA Inter)

Indian (male) with 10 years' experience in Accounting up to finalization. Tally, Focus and excellent in Excel functions. Oman DL.

Contact: 78072563

Office/Admin, Sales & Marketing

Male, 29years, B.E Electronics & communication, 5+ years experience in Oman. With valid GCC D/L.

Contact 94947706

IT

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

Indian female, 26 years, Software professional (MCA), having nearly 4 years exp. in India seeks suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit. Contact 78037607

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

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

MANAGER

HSE Advisor/Manager With 14 yrs exp. 8 years in Oman with D/L. Expertise in Construction & COVID measures in large scale.Currently in Oman in a reputed company.Available in August. Contact 97477573.
Email hse.muscatoman@gmail.com

Senior Manager having 20+ yrs expertise in Business opearations.P&L management,strategy planning& client servicing. Whatsapp 97855808, 96349110

Factory manager (carpentry & aluminum) more than 25 years' experience. D/L available. # 92691841

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Indian Male 26yrs, looking job for Traveling Agent in Oman, qualification Plus Two with IATA certificate experience 5year in KSA. Contact 79168215
Email: Muheenpatgar08@gmail.com

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FEATURES

GREECE IS OFFICIALLY OPEN – BUT WILL THE TOURISTS COME?



As Greece reopens to tourists, PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis says the Greek islands will be COVID-free by June, but will it be soon enough to save the country's tourist industry?

Heidi Fuller-Love reports from Crete.

With only 74 million visitors last year — compared to 34 million in 2019 — Greece is desperate to restart tourism, but on May 14, the first day of the country's official opening to international visitors who have proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or a negative COVID-19 PCR test, here on Crete it's difficult to see the difference.

Despite perfect blue skies, balmy waters and temperatures of 27 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit), the island's golden-sand beaches are almost deserted, countless cafes are shuttered and many hotels and resorts are closed. "It's crazy — there's no one here. Usually, we open just after Easter and the streets are full of kids on quad bikes, but this year it won't be worth opening until June," says Sofokleas, who owns George's bistro in the island's notorious party town of Malia.

Giorgos Kaloutsakis, owner of luxury hotel Abaton Island in the — usually lively — resort of Hersonissos, agrees. "We are

waiting to open later in the month, on the 28th of May. It costs a lot of money to open a resort like this, so we need to be sure of bookings first," he says.

Businesses struggling to open

According to a recent report by the Bank of Greece, the country's banks have the highest level of non-performing loans in the European Union, with NPLs accounting for 30.2 per cent of their portfolios, which is more than 10 times the EU average. Tourism employs one in five of the country's workforce, but the figure is more like one in two here on Greece's megalo nisi (big island), which has been badly affected by the loss of visitors.

"Many companies are crippled with debt, and many staff in other hotels have lost their jobs. Even here we have been working with a skeleton staff all winter. Now tourism is starting again but many of the smaller hotels will be unable to open because it costs too much money," says Evgenia Chasapidou, manager of Capsis Astoria, one of the few city hotels that stayed open during lockdown.

Leonidas Aretakis, who owns The Home, a boho bistro near Heraklion's Lion's Square says that restaurants have also been badly hit by the crisis. "I only opened this restaurant a year ago and it's been closed for the past eight months. Now I'm open, but although I have 34 tables I can only serve to the seven that are out in the courtyard. I'll still have to pay all the bills, though — it's very difficult," he says.

With around 1,500 new cases of COVID-19 per day and one of the slowest vaccination rollouts in the EU — which has been further hampered by thrombosis fears linked to the AstraZeneca jab — the Greek business owners are struggling to convince tourists that it's safe to travel.

"I think it will not be an easy season for us here in Crete," says Evgenia Chasapidou. "So far all the bookings are last minute. People all want to be vaccinated before travel — to feel safe."

Frenchman Patrice Lamouroux, who moved to Greece several months ago to "escape" lockdown in France, says that most of his friends are scared to travel anywhere, let alone Greece. "There's been so much talk of the new strains of the virus. I keep telling them Crete is safe — we've had relatively few cases — but they just won't believe me," he says.

In a bid to reassure travelers that Greece is, indeed, a safe destination, Mitsotakis recently launched Operation Blue Freedom, a campaign that

aims to vaccinate all of the country's islands — including the popular resorts of Crete, Rhode, Corfu and Santorini — by early June. "I want to send the clear message: Greece is open again," Greece's prime minister said.

In a major boost for Greek tourism, last week Germany announced that visitors to Greece who have fully vaccinated or have a negative COVID test or a certificate of full recovery from the disease will no longer have to quarantine on their return from vacation.

Travel company TUI, which will be sending at least 120 flights to Greek destinations this month, is also convinced that Greece will be a top destination for Germans this summer — and Crete is touted to be their favorite island. "Once the borders open, popular hotels will fill bookings quickly," said TUI's Germany CEO Marek Andryszak.

Celebrating the end of lockdown

Despite the fact that there are very few tourists on the streets of the island's capital, Heraklion, there's an air of rejoicing as locals crowd into the shops, cafes and tavernas that have been closed for past six months.

"For a while, we could only travel two kilometres from our homes and only with a text message to the government and curfew was at 6 pm — it was too much!" says Giorgos Terizakis, Capsis Astoria's restaurant manager. "We are so tired after so many months of lockdown; we just want to live again." —**HF**

ROUND-UP

Oman Air, Qatar Airways further expand their strategic cooperation

Oman Air passengers will now be able to book travel to more than 80 destinations with Qatar Airways, including new gateways such as Atlanta, Seattle, Johannesburg, Abuja, and Bodrum

DOHA: Qatar Airways and Oman Air have taken the next step in further strengthening strategic cooperation, expanding their codeshare partnership to cover more than 80 destinations on Qatar Airways’ network.

The expansion of the agreement will provide more convenient and seamless travel options for both airlines’ passengers. This expansion follows shortly after the two airlines announced an agreement to significantly strengthen strategic cooperation between the two airlines in December 2020.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said, “We are delighted to further expand our partnership with Oman Air, so recently after announcing our plans in December 2020 to further strengthen strategic cooperation between our two leading Gulf air-

lines. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have remained committed to forging and expanding our global network of partners to provide more seamless and flexible travel options for our millions of passengers. Having first established commercial cooperation with Oman Air over 20 years ago, we look forward to continuing to build upon our strong and historic partnership and offering our customers in Oman and across the globe even more benefits.”

Greater flexibility

Oman Air Chief Executive Officer Abdulaziz Al Raisi, said: “Oman Air’s expanding partnership with Qatar Airways underscores the commitment of both airlines to provide their guests with more flights, more choice of destinations, and greater flexibility



throughout their travels with us. For Oman Air and many airlines around the world, the key to post-pandemic recovery lies in strategic collaborations with industry partners and in identifying innovative route expansion opportunities as we navigate a constantly changing environment. Our longstanding cooperation with Qatar Airways—an airline that shares our commitment to product and service ex-

cellence—reflects a highly valued relationship and we look forward to growing our networks together.”

This most recent expansion of the strategic partnership will enable Oman Air passengers to enjoy seamless connections via the Best Airport in the Middle East to and from 16 new routes, subject to regulatory approval – Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bodrum, Istanbul Sabiha and Izmir in Turkey; Berlin

and Munich, Germany; Mykonos, Greece; St. Petersburg, Russia; Zurich, Switzerland; Atlanta and Seattle in the USA; Abuja, Nigeria; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Gassim, Saudi Arabia.

The national carrier of the State of Qatar continues to rebuild its network, which currently stands at over 130 destinations with plans to increase to more than 1,200 weekly flights to over 140 destina-

tions by end of July 2021.

As travellers return to the skies with Qatar Airways, they can take comfort knowing that they are travelling with the only airline in the world that has, together with its state-of-the-art global hub Hamad International Airport, achieved four 5-Star Skytrax ratings – including the prestigious 5-Star Airline Rating, 5-Star Airport Rating, 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating and 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating. These achievements highlight Qatar Airways’ commitment to providing our passengers with an industry-leading experience at every point of their journey, including the highest possible level of health and safety standards that safeguard the wellbeing of our passengers both on the ground and in the air. A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named ‘World’s Best Airline’ by the 2019 World Airline Awards, managed by the international air transport rating organisation Skytrax.

It was also named ‘Best Airline in the Middle East’, ‘World’s Best Business Class’, and ‘Best Business Class Seat’, in recognition of its ground-breaking Business Class experience, Qsuite. Qsuite is available on flights to more than 40 destinations including Casablanca, Montreal, New York, Paris and Singapore.

ATTRACTIVE OFFER

Experience fantastic benefits until June 6 on family sedan Changan EADO



MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) has announced an attractive offer on Changan EADO as part of its exclusive Ramadan promotion for the benefit of its customers.

AGAE’s ‘Driving Forward This Ramadan’ offers a surfeit of attractive benefits for customers of Changan EADO including assured cash gift, free service, free assured fuel card, manufacturer’s warranty and low EMI. All customers purchasing Changan EADO till June 6, 2021, will be eligible to participate in the campaign scheme.

The C-segment refined family sedan Changan EADO continues to impress auto enthusiasts in Oman with its composed performance, tasteful interiors, uncompromising safety, smart technology and great fuel economy.

The charismatic Changan EADO’s inherent design language integrates style with function and practicality.

- Assured cash gift**
Under the special offer, customers of Changan EADO can avail assured cash gift of OMR 1400.
- Free service**
Customers of Changan EADO can avail of a Periodic Maintenance Service of three years/55,000km.
- Free assured fuel card**
Customers of Changan EADO can avail free fuel card of OMR 100
- Manufacturer’s warranty**
Customers of Changan EADO can enjoy a manufacturer’s warranty for 5 years/150,000 km whichever is earlier.
- EMI for six years**
Customers of Changan EADO Trend can avail of an EMI starting OMR 120. Easy monthly instalments are calculated based on a 20%



down payment for six-year loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from banks and financial companies.

EADO, a C-segment sedan built to charm families with its appealing exterior, luxurious and spacious interior, interactive dashboard, driver-assist features for utmost safety is more than just a saloon. Under the hood is a 1.6L engine that produces 126 hp and 168 Nm of torque mated with a 6 speed AT for one of the most comfortable rides. With a boot space of 500 L and 35 storage spaces inside the car, EADO is always ready to give you the comfort of your home anywhere you go.

A spokesperson for AGAE says, “We are pleased to offer EADO is stylish, energetic, and practical and has a perfect design that integrates fashion with function. The C-segment sedan is equipped with Changan’s new BLUE CORE powertrain that ensures efficiency and reliability. Designed by Changan global R&D team, it is manufactured to meet and exceed international standards. Changan EADO is truly about extraordinary action dominating outcome.”

Spacious interior

The sedan has a plush and spacious interior that creates a com-

fortable space for both driver and the passengers. It also allows them to feel safe in the comprehensive protection offered with forward-thinking intelligent technology. Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides owners with a highly efficient and energy-saving performance.

Host of features

Under the hood, it has a 1.6-litre 4-cylinder engine, mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. Features in the EADO are top of the range includes Leather Seats, 17” Alloy wheels, LED Headlamps, Electrically foldable ORVMs, Power Driver Seat. The Eado Limited equipped with advanced safety features like Forward Collision Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control, Front side airbags which are generally seen in luxury sedan variants.

The Standard safety features include like Electronic Parking Brake, Rear Parking Sensors, Front dual airbags, ESP: ABS, Electronic brake force distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA) Traction control and Hill assist as well as 10” inch Infotainment Touch Screen, Mirror link, USB ports, Keyless Start, Keyless Entry and LED DRL’s.

Noise reduction

The EADO has technologies employed for vibration and noise reduction: PVB sound insulation, 10% thicker glass, barrier material, and damping film which result in uniform 68.5 dB level internal noise at Express highways.

EADO specifications

Changan EADO’s vehicle specifications include length x width x height of 4710 mm x 1820 mm c 1505 mm, a 1.6L GDi Blue Core engine, the output of 116 HP, maximum torque of 168 Nm, wheelbase of 2700 mm, and a fuel tank capacity of 53 litres.

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

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, recently announced a partnership with leading international automotive group Changan Automobile Co. Ltd to bring its range of passenger vehicles to Oman including Changan EADO.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment which is part of Bahwan International Group has set up a spacious and state of the art Showroom in Al Qurum and Service centre in Ghala, Muscat. AGAE has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in many cities including Salalah, Sohar, Sur, Nizwa, Ibra and Barka etc. Changan Oman offers five years or 150,000 km manufacturer warranty on all passenger vehicles in Oman.

HOME FINANCE



Bank Muscat’s Baituna makes your dream home come true

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced the availability of its Baituna home finance at competitive interest rates in line with its commitment to national development and priorities.

Omani customers looking for the best home finance deals in the Sultanate will find Baituna with its maximum tenor of 25 years a particularly attractive option. Based on customer feedback, the bank is continuing to launch new innovative features and benefits for customers in its various financing options.

Speaking about the special campaign on Baituna, Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, Deputy General Manager - Institutional Sales & Product Development, said, “The real estate sector is a major component of the national economy and Bank Muscat is committed to supporting this crucial sector and strengthening its role in the development and growth of the Omani economy. Baituna facilitates the purchase and construction of new homes as well as land for residential use. It also offers insurance coverage and fast processing of applications across the bank’s extensive network of branches and dedicated sales centres.

“The finance offers flexible

payment options and requires only simple documentation. We encourage our customers to make their dream homes a reality with the convenience of Baituna home finance.”

Baituna home finance is available for salaried government employees (Omani) with a minimum salary of OMR 250 and minimum service of 3 months for up to 25 years of home financing while employees of Tier 1 private sector companies (Omani) minimum salary of OMR 500 and a minimum of 6 months of service are eligible for home loans having a tenure of up to 25 years.

Loans of up to OMR 500,000 are available through Baituna subject to the applicant fulfilling the relevant criteria.

Customers can obtain easy and convenient financing approval at any of the dedicated Baituna Sales Centres at Qurum, Mabela, Nizwa, Salalah, Barka, Sur, Saham, Sohar, Ibra, Buraimi and Ibra or at the bank’s retail banking branches across the Sultanate.

Bank Muscat Baituna offers a number of advantages including easy processing, competitive interest rates and excellent guidance during the application process. Customers can rest assured that they can access some of the best home financing options in the Sultanate at Bank Muscat.

ROUND-UP

Alizz Islamic Bank launches fintech solution for instant goods financing

The bank has inaugurated this instant finance solution with Danube Home's Al Khuwair branch as the first outlet to welcome Alizz Islamic Bank customers who can avail of instant finance on their furniture right at the store

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank and IFIN (first Islamic fintech of its kind) have partnered to launch the first instant 'Goods Financing' product. This launch comes with the backdrop of Alizz Islamic Bank's constant pursuit to provide its clients with innovative financial solutions.

The bank has inaugurated this instant finance solution with Danube Home's Al Khuwair Branch as the first outlet to welcome Alizz Islamic Bank customers able to avail instant finance on their furniture right at the store. The service is



being rolled out across the entire branch network of Danube Home over the next few weeks.

This new service will allow customers to instantly take home their desired goods from the store having them financed for up to 120 months without the need of visiting any bank branch.

The process of availing of finance has been simplified into a simple 10-minute process at the store's checkout counter, where the customer will go through an online verification process and sign the finance contract following an immediate approval.

IFIN is the world's first Sharia-

compliant, multi-institutional, multi-product, multi-channel Islamic fintech solution facilitating instant Islamic financing at the retailer outlets. This game-changing solution is geared to redefine the way Islamic financing is being done, making it secure, quick and easy for everyone.

Speaking at the occasion of the launch, Mohammed Al Ghasani, IAGM – Acting Chief Consumer Banking Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank, said, “The launch of the IFIN instant financing solution comes as part of our plans to provide a wide range of carefully designed solutions that meet all clients’ needs. The way people bank has changed, convenience and speed are keys to the modern customer, and thanks to the efforts of our team, we are extremely proud to be the first Islamic bank to launch this innovative solution.”

Al Ghasani added, “Alizz Islamic Bank has always been at the forefront of digitalisation. As people increasingly rely on digital technology to the bank, it is crucial that we, as an organisation, embrace digital strategies that meet our customers’ needs, with utmost transparency.

“For this pilot phase, we have launched it with Danube Home but we have several other merchants in the pipeline and invite

others to join us.”

Also speaking on the occasion Dr. Shaher Abbas, Founder and Managing Director of IFIN said, "We are immensely proud of partnering with Alizz Islamic Bank to pioneer this instant financing solution in Oman. IFIN effectively transforms retailers' stores into pseudo branches for the banks where the finance application is submitted and processed instantly through secure digital channels, without the customer having to visit the bank branches. This revolutionises the way Alizz Islamic Bank operates by automating the entire financing process to offer an unprecedented customer experience."

Touching upon this launch Shubhjojit Mahalanobis, Director – Danube Home said, "It is a privilege for Danube Home to be the first merchant to partner with Alizz Islamic Bank on this game-changing and innovative solution. The IFIN instant finance solution transforms the way finance applications for goods are done. In previous years obtaining approval on a finance request could take several days but it now takes no more than 10 minutes thereby offering a customer experience that is second to none."

Since its inception in 2013, Alizz Islamic Bank has bridged the gap between customers and the bank using the latest technology solutions built on solid infrastructure. The bank is committed to providing its customers with innovative financial solutions and responsive customer services via its corporate website, online banking, mobile banking, short message service, call centre, ATM, ITM, and branch banking.

ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY

Lexus achieves distinction with sale of 2 million electrified vehicles

MUSCAT: Lexus has been a pioneer of new technologies that promote environment-friendly solutions. For years together the Hybrid Electric range from Lexus has led the way becoming a major source of inspiration for many.

Recently Lexus announced that the luxury brand eclipsed the milestone of 2 million global sales of electrified vehicles at the end of April 2021.

Since the launch of the RX400h in 2005, Lexus has been a pioneer of electrification in the luxury market, and the models have continued to evolve on the mission of balancing excellent driving performance with environmental sensitivity. Lexus has continued to expand its line-up of electrified vehicles to provide a wide range of options tailored to meet the needs of our customers and society. Based on a philosophy of "right time, right product, right place", Lexus hopes to further develop its electrified product portfolio to best respond to a varied range of energy sources and infrastructure environments encountered around the world.

As a result, Lexus now sells nine models of electrified vehicles, including HEVs and BEVs, in approximately 90 countries and regions around the world. In 2020, 33% of the Lexus models sold globally were of the electrified variety. Since 2005, Lexus electrified vehicles have contributed to a cumulative reduction in CO₂ emissions of approximately 19 million tons. This reduction is equivalent to the combined CO₂ output of approximately 300,000 passenger cars each year for the past 15 years. Lexus will continue to lead the steady growth of electrified vehicles and the reduction of CO₂ emissions in line with our corporate mission of



carbon neutrality and Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the "Lexus Electrified" vision announced in 2019, Lexus will evolve its electrification technology to realize enhanced vehicle performance characteristics and continue to provide customers with the fun and joy that the car brings. By 2025, Lexus will introduce 20 new or improved models, including more than 10 BEVs.

PHEVs, and HEVs.

That year is also the target for the brand to offer electrified vehicle options across the entire Lexus product range. The future expectation is that the sales of electrified models will exceed that of the pure-petrol variety. In addition, by 2050, Lexus will achieve carbon neutrality throughout the entire vehicle lifecycle such as materials, parts, and vehicle manufacturing.

along with logistics, driving, and disposal/recycling.

To further accelerate the spread of electric vehicles, Lexus plans to introduce the first PHEV in a mass-market model in 2021 and a completely new model dedicated to BEVs in 2022. In addition, by utilizing the electrification technologies such as motors, inverters, and batteries that Lexus has cultivated over the year in the field of

HEVs, we will create a new value and driving experience unique to Lexus electrified vehicles.

Future Lexus electrified models will feature DIRECT4 and steer-by-wire systems. DIRECT4, our four-wheel-drive torque distribution technology, combines highly precise drive force control with responsive steer-by-wire systems that greatly enhance vehicle reflexes, resulting in a high level of

dynamic performance and a driving experience that appeals to all five senses that are unmatched by conventional cars.

Lexus will continue to promote all possible initiatives for the realisation of a sustainable society, while at the same time pursuing both the fun and enjoyment of cars. Lexus will endeavour to develop vehicles tailored to diversifying customers' needs.



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RO 20 NOS.

22 CARAT 4 GMS GOLD COIN



RO 200 NOS.

10 OMAN OASIS 5 GALLON WATER COUPONS

Offer valid from 1st May 2021 to 31st July 2021. Total of 3 raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Azabia. Draw Dates: 1st June 2021, 1st July 2021 and 2nd August 2021. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary.



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Offer valid from 15th April to 6th June 2021 on all models purchased through the CHANGAN Showroom Retail Offer. *Assured Cash Gift amount varies between models, model variants, model year & manufacturing year. For details please contact the CHANGAN showroom. #Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 KMS Service Intervals. ^^Through Fuel Card. @Whichever is earlier. *Easy monthly installments are calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 year loan tenure for the respective CHANGAN basic model inclusive of 5% VAT. Subject to credit approvals from Banks & Financial companies. Vehicle Images shown are for illustrative purpose only and actual may vary as per model variant. To know more, visit the CHANGAN showroom.

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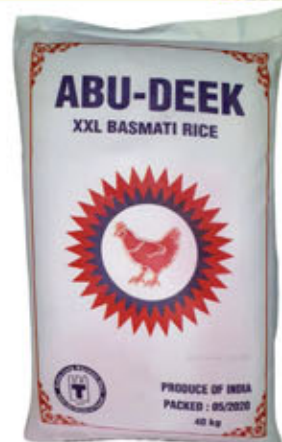
BIGGER SUMMER DEALS

عروض صيفية أكبر



زيت زيتون (الكورة) ٥٠٠ مل
Al koura olive oil 500ml

MyCLUB
points +5
SAVE 50%
1 RIAL .670
0 RIAL .835



أرز بسمي (أبو ديك) ٤٠ كيلو
Abu deek basmati rice 40kg

MyCLUB
points +30
SAVE 30%
20 RIAL .500
14 RIAL .350



زيت دوار الشمس (بران) ٤ لتر
Pran sunflower oil 4L

MyCLUB
points +20
SAVE 34.39%
4 RIAL .100
2 RIAL .690



شوكولاتة (بست أوف مينز) ٥٠٠ غرام
Best Of Minis chocolate 500g

MyCLUB
points +20
3 Pieces
SAVE 50%
8 RIAL .280
4 RIAL .140



عسل نحل (الشفاء) ٢٥٠ غرام
Al Shifa honey 250g

MyCLUB
points +10
3 Pieces
SAVE 35.19%
3 RIAL .240
2 RIAL .100



أرز بسمي (بوابة الهند) ٢٠ كيلو
India Gate basmati rice 20kg

MyCLUB
points +30
SAVE 30.47%
19 RIAL .990
13 RIAL .900



كاتشاب الطماطم (هينز) ٥٧٠ غرام
Heinz tomato ketchup 570g

MyCLUB
points +10
2 Pieces
SAVE 45%
1 RIAL .800
0 RIAL .990



صوص كريم سيزر (هينز) ٤٠٠ مل
Heinz salad caesar cream 400ml

MyCLUB
points +10
2 Pieces
SAVE 37.50%
3 RIAL .200
2 RIAL .000



مياه للشرب (مسافي) ١,٥ لتر
Masafi drinking water 1.5L

12 Pieces
SAVE 50%
1 RIAL .740
0 RIAL .870



مارجرين (نوتراليت) ٢٥٠ غرام
Nutralite spread margarine 250g

SAVE 50%
0 RIAL .940
0 RIAL .470



بطاطس نصف مقلية (أمريكانا) ٢,٥ كيلو
Americana potato fries 2.5kg

MyCLUB
points +5
SAVE 34.56%
1 RIAL .360
0 RIAL .890



شرائح زيتون (أكورسا) ٢٣٠ غرام
Acorsa slice green olives 230g

MyCLUB
points +10
2 Pieces
SAVE 31.51%
1 RIAL .460
1 RIAL .000



أفخاذ دجاج (ساديا) ٩٠٠ غرام
Sadia chicken thighs 900g

MyCLUB
points +5
2 Pieces
SAVE 40%
2 RIAL .900
1 RIAL .740



صدر دجاج (الإسلامي) ٢ كيلو
Al Islami chicken breast 2kg

MyCLUB
points +5
SAVE 27.77%
2 RIAL .755
1 RIAL .990



نقانق الدجاج (أمريكانا) ٣٤٠ غرام
Americana chicken franks 340g

4 Pieces
SAVE 50%
1 RIAL .500
0 RIAL .750



خضروات مشكلية (أمريكانا) ٩٠٠ غرام
Americana mixed vegetables 900g

SAVE 47.06%
0 RIAL .850
0 RIAL .450



شوكولاتة (جالاكسي) ٦٥٠ غرام
Galaxy Jewels chocolate 650g

MyCLUB
points +15
SAVE 26.89%
4 RIAL .090
2 RIAL .990



بسكويت بالحليب (بريتانيا) ٩٠ غرام x ٨
Britannia milk bikis biscuits 90g x 8

MyCLUB
points +10
2 Pieces
SAVE 42.41%
2 RIAL .240
1 RIAL .290



أفخاذ دجاج (الإسلامي) ٩٠٠ غرام
Allslami chicken drumstick 900g

MyCLUB
points +5
2 Pieces
SAVE 34.82%
3 RIAL .360
2 RIAL .190



دجاج كامل (ساديا) ٨٠٠ غرام
Sadia whole chicken 800g

MyCLUB
points +10
10 Pieces
SAVE 30.96%
9 RIAL .400
6 RIAL .490



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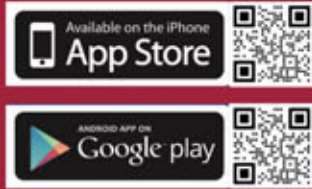
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POWER موزع مياه (باور) Power water dispenser PBW1169 SAVE 40.57% 41 RIAL .900 24 RIAL .900	Whirlpool 1.5 Ton مكيف الهواء سبليت (وايرلپول) Whirlpool split AC SPOW4184 159 RIAL .900 Also available متوفر أيضا 2.5 Ton RIAL 299.900	SAMSUNG 1.5 Ton مكيف الهواء سبليت (سامسونج) Samsung split AC AR18TRHQ 156 RIAL .900 Also available متوفر أيضا 2 Ton RIAL 199.900	
Impex مروحة (إميكس) Impex table fan D1 SAVE 37.81% 7 RIAL .880 4 RIAL .900	NIKAI 110L براد (نيكاي) Nikai fridge NRF1305S1 SAVE 25.56% 52 RIAL .395 39 RIAL .900	SAMSUNG 450L براد (سامسونج) Samsung fridge RT5K5000 MyCLUB points +500 139 RIAL .900	عروض مبهجة أكبر براد (بيكو) Biko fridge RDNE630K2VXP SAVE 26.44% 262 RIAL .400 193 RIAL .000
Impex مبرد هواء متحرك (باور) Power aircooler PACL650R SAVE 37.15% 95 RIAL .450 59 RIAL .900	DAEWOO 108L فريزر أفقي (داوو) Daewoo chest freezer WCFW15WML SAVE 28.20% 69 RIAL .500 49 RIAL .900	NIKAI 138L فريزر أفقي (نيكاي) Nikai chest freezer NCF200N7S MyCLUB points +500 69 RIAL .900	Tefal طقم طهي (تيفال) Tefal Prima cooking set MyCLUB points +100 15 Pieces SAVE 33.56% 45 RIAL .140 29 RIAL .990
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HK tool set box صندوق عدة (إتش كيه) HK tool set box 80 Pieces MyCLUB points +50 SAVE 48.75% 13 RIAL .640 6 RIAL .990	Blumen 7L 4L إباء طهي بالبخار (بلومان) Blumen pressure cooker MyCLUB points +100 SAVE 33.34% 29 RIAL .990 19 RIAL .990	MILTON وعاء لحفظ الطعام الساخن (ميلتون) Milton casserole set MyCLUB points +50 3 Pieces SAVE 37.55% 7 RIAL .990 4 RIAL .990	



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