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**OMAN CELEBRATES
TEACHER'S DAY TODAY**

Dr Madiha bint Ahmed Al-Shaibaniah, the Minister of Education, delivered a speech congratulating all the teachers working in the educational field. **>A2**



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**HM THE SULTAN GREETES
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Kersti Kaljulaid of the Republic of Estonia on her country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Kaljulaid and her country's friendly people. **-ONA**



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OCCI TO MEASURE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN OMAN



The study is being conducted in the Wilayat of Muttrah, and could then be extended to other parts of the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Plans to help businesses that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will be drawn up by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

A study gauging the impact of the coronavirus is being conducted in the Wilayat of Muttrah, and could then be extended to other parts of the country.

This study is currently targeted at business owners in the areas of Muttrah, Hamriya, Wattayah, Ruwi, Wadi Kabir, and Darsait.

"We decided to conduct this survey in Muttrah because only now the businesses there have been affected," said Ahmed Al Hooti, head of economic research at the OCCI. "During previous developments

that affected the country, we realised that businesses in other areas of the country were impacted, but Muttrah was still doing well."

"We are carrying out this survey to find out why businesses in Muttrah are facing problems now," he added. "The most obvious answer might be that this is because of the coronavirus pandemic, but that may not be the correct reason, and may be a very simple way of looking at things."

"Of course, some of this might be related to the coronavirus and its effects, but we need to find out the exact impact of all the reasons for the decrease in business," Al Hooti said.

"It could be, for example, because there are no tourists coming to Oman for the past year, since the

start of the pandemic."

"Tourists made up a big portion of the business these establishments used to get, and the closure of borders and suspension of flights has hurt them in a big way. A lot of expatriates who lived in these areas and provided business to these people have also left, so that has most likely affected them as well," he went on to add.

The OCCI is not just looking at how the pandemic has hurt businesses' finances, but is looking at other ways in which they have been affected, such as a possible loss of manpower or whether their existing internet setup was able to handle the load of staff working remotely.

"Many of the expatriate workers were also employed in these businesses, but now a lot of them have gone back to their countries," explained Al Hooti. "It means there are fewer people there to do the job, but the amount of work that has to be done is still the same."

"We are also looking to see what sort of assistance they have received during this period, whether they have found it easy to secure

loans to keep their businesses running, or any other assistance they need," he added.

"Once we find out their problems, and are able to determine what caused it, then we can come up with solutions, and consult with the shopkeepers in Muttrah over how they need assistance," Al Hooti said. "We can put these solutions to the necessary government authorities and see how we can take it forward."

Respondents to the survey are required to enter their company name, nominate a point of contact from their organisation for the OCCI, and provide a number of other details, including their commercial registration number, their company grade, and the sector in which they operate.

Companies are required to share with the OCCI the extent to which the precautionary measures taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus have affected their business, and how much business they have been able to recoup since they were reopened following their temporary closure last year. **>A3**

FANAR

SQU environment start-up wins first prize at Arab contest

MUSCAT: Fanar, a Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) startup, secured top spot in the Arab environment contest "Innovate for Good", organised by Spread Passion, a Kuwait-based non-profit enterprise.

The Omani student startup made the achievement through its participation in a project codenamed "Let's Make Environment Smile".

Nibras Hamdan Al Shukaili, Executive Manager of Fanar, said that the startup joined a large cross-section of teams from Arab countries in promoting the "Let's Make Environment Smile" project.

After successfully contesting in early stages of the competition, Fanar team entered the final stage, after which the knockouts focused on 15 teams, then 10, and later Fanar was short-listed among three teams for the final.

It was bagged winner after the sorting of votes from within the Sultanate and abroad. It bagged 745 votes.

Nibras said that Fanar team considered options to rid the environment from harmful waste. It developed the idea of



recycling used cooking oils and engine oils, which are usually poured in wastewater pipes and eventually end up polluting sea water or other spaces of the environment.

"We decided to utilise these oils, as well as some toxic or neglected plants in Omani environment, to produce biofuel as a byproduct of a burning process that emits low-carbon gases beneficial to the environment." **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Study links lack of sleep to risk of tumours

1 Those who do not sleep well are at risk of tumours, according to a Sultan Qaboos University study conducted by Dr Elias Said from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. **>A3**

WORLD

US COVID-19 deaths cross 500,000

2 The number of COVID-19 deaths in the United States surpassed 500,000 on Monday. **>A6**

MARKET

Treasury bills worth OMR35mn issued

3 A tender of Government Treasury Bills, worth OMR35 million was announced this week. **>B1**

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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



Dhuhr.....	12.25pm
Asr.....	3.44pm
Maghrib.....	6.12pm
Isha.....	7.23pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.18am

Oman celebrates Teacher's Day

The Supreme Committee in-charge of dealing with the spread of COVID-19, took the decision of applying the blended learning curriculum with a focus on distance education



INNOVATIVE WORK: Many countries have found innovative methods of education that ensures the safety of learners and those in-charge of educational work.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Today, the Sultanate celebrates the Omani Teacher's Day, which falls on February 24 of each year.

On this occasion, Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibaniah, the Minister of Education, delivered a speech congratulating all the teachers working in the educational field.

She said, "It is my pleasure, as we celebrate the Omani Teacher's Day, to extend our sincere congratulations on this occasion, appreciating your kind efforts, your dedication to fulfilling your lofty educational mission, and your role in preparing your students for a better future for them and our dear country, so Happy Omani Teacher's Day."

She added, "The challenges facing the world after the spread of COVID-19 has had a major impact in various areas of life:

health, economy, society and so on, and cast a shadow directly on the education sector. Many countries have found innovative solutions and methods for providing educational services that ensures the safety of learners and those in-charge of educational work. Providing quality and sustainable education is now relying heavily on technology and electronic distance education, through interactive educational platforms established for this purpose."

In light of the current exceptional circumstances, she stressed, "Education in the Sultanate enjoys a great interest and diligent follow-up from His Majesty Sultan-Haitham Bin Tarik. The Supreme Committee in charge of dealing with the spread of COVID-19, took the decision of applying the blended learning curriculum with a focus on distance education. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education has laid the foundations and controls needed to implement blended education, activate e-learning as a central component of the educational process, and take precautionary measures to ensure the safety of teachers, students and school environment."

Educational platforms

"Taking advantage from the best global experiences and practices in education during this pandemic and thanks to the efforts of its employees and sincere bids for teachers, the Ministry adopted two educational platforms: the Mandharah platform for grades (1-4), and the Google classroom platform for grades (5-12) and post-basic education classes," she added.

She also indicated, "The current school year is an exceptional

year in every sense of the word. The educational process has not faced a difficult challenge as the one currently facing, but what you have made sacrifices in order to educate your students since the beginning of the pandemic. We are very proud of your remarkable role in educating students about the importance of adhering to health procedures, your positive interaction with electronic educational platforms, and your great effort in producing educational content. You have been providing lessons through various television channels, participated in training programmes remotely, found innovative methods of teaching, and built learning societies aimed at exchanging educational experiences and experiences, all of this is a proud and very important acquisition for which you deserve major praise and many thanks."

At the end of her speech, she stated, "The next stage requires you to continue the educational process with efficiency and competence. We need to preserve these gains, and build on them by multiplying efforts in improving educational practices and devising advanced methods to consolidate the principles of self-learning among students. We should work on instilling citizenship values in students, and providing them with accreditation skills on the psyche and scientific research. All that shall lead to preparing a generation capable of interacting with renewed data, and enjoys the skills of the twenty-first century, in line with the objectives of Oman 2040 Vision, which made the development of the educational system and the improvement of its outcomes a fundamental basis for the comprehensive development

of the country."

In the current academic year 2020-2021, the total number of teachers in public schools reached 56,827 of whom 48,176 were Omani. Female teachers formed the highest percentage of the total number at 72.96 per cent while the male teachers formed 27.03 per cent of the total number.

The statistics indicated that the largest number of Omani teachers is concentrated in North Al Batinah Governorate, with 10,103 teachers.

The Ministry of Education was keen to enhance the knowledge of the Omani teacher and provide him with the necessary skills to face the challenges of the spread of COVID-19, which requires providing teachers with the knowledge and methods necessary to develop their level of performance in the field of distance education.

MEETING

RNO commander receives top US naval official

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) received Vice Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command

and his accompanying delegation, at Maritime Security Centre on Tuesday.

The two sides discussed several matters related to the naval fields between the two countries.

The US guest and the SAF Chief of Staff toured the MSC's facilities. He was briefed on the tasks of the centre in leading maritime security operations, mainly search and rescue operations. -ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Institutions eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
02/2021	Employability Skills Enhancement Program (Khibrat)	-----	Tuesday 02/03/2021 2:00 pm	Wednesday 10/03/2021 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Wednesday 24/02/2021 at 07:30 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee for 1% of the total bid value issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee, provided that the original bank guarantee shall be submitted upon request by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Wednesday 10/03/2021.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN





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OHR 16,000

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TOTAL NATIONAL DAY PRIZES

OHR 55,000

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SQU study links lack of sleep to risk of tumours

The study examined the effect of sleep deprivation on changes in immune cell functions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A study at Sultan Qaboos University reveals that those who do not sleep well are at risk of tumours.

New research by Dr Elias Said from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University examines the effect of sleep deprivation on changes in immune cell functions, as well as on levels and the ability to proliferate in helper lymphocytes and its correlation with the level of chemically attractive proteins (chemokines).

These elements have great importance in the formation of effective immune responses.

Dr Elias said, "The elements of the immune system of healthy volunteers were monitored for three weeks, as the participants slept normally (for more than seven hours per day) in the first and third weeks and underwent chronic partial sleep deprivation (sleeping for only four hours a day, similar to the lack of sleep that people who sleep for less than seven hours every day suffer from)."

The results of the research showed that the ability of the volunteers' immune system to swallow and kill bacteria had been reduced due to insufficient sleep. As the ability of neutrophil immune cells, which are essential cells

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH: The results of the research by Dr Elias Said from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University were published in the "Sleep and Breathing" magazine.

in fighting bacterial infection, to swallow these germs, and to activate enzymes inside them that lead to killing germs, had decreased. The results also indicated a change in the balance of some elements of the immune system, as the amount of the protein chemically attracting cells (chemokine) "CXCL 9" increased when sleeping for a few hours, which led to a lack of its balance with other chemokines that are "CXCL 10" as well as "CCL5".

He added, "The results of the research also showed that the level of helper lymphocytes (T), which are the cells responsible for stimulating most cells of the immune system when contracting diseases, decreased due to lack of sleep, and this decrease was not due to a change in the proliferation of these cells as indicated by the levels of the nuclear protein. "KA67", but that was related to

the change in the balance between the "CXCL 9" and "CXCL 10" chemicals, which occurred as a result of reduced sleep hours. Confirming that these results suggest that people who do not sleep enough daily become more susceptible to infection with germs, and they may have an increased risk of developing tumors."

Dr Elias, stressed on the importance of sleeping enough every day in order for the immune system to function properly, saying that those who do not sleep enough must undergo periodic checks for the possibility of infection with diseases.

The research results were published in the "Sleep and Breathing" magazine, which is the official journal of the European, Australian, Japanese and Korean Academies of Sleep and Dental Medicine.

TRAVEL

No quarantine for fliers to India with negative PCR

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passengers travelling to India from Oman do not need to quarantine at home, if they provide a negative PCR to the immigration authorities on arrival.

However, they still need to enter mandatory quarantine, if the state to which they are flying requires that they do.

Passengers can take their PCR tests 72 hours before boarding their flight, in which case they must upload their results along with a self-declaration form to the portal www.newdelhiairport.in.

"Airlines will only allow boarding to those passengers who have filled in the SDF online, and uploaded the negative RT-PCR test report," said an advisory from the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. "Travellers will be segregated in-flight or while disembarking to facilitate the authorities to allow due protocol."

Passengers will need to undergo another test at their airport of first arrival in India, to be paid for at their own expense. They will be required to wait on the premises until their results are obtained, depending on which they can proceed to the next steps under India's COVID prevention plan.

If the report is negative, passengers are to be advised to self-monitor their health for 14 days," said the ministry report. "If the test report is positive, they will undergo treatment as per standard health protocol."

The states and union territories in the country are required to set up help desks at the various airports as part of the implementation of this plan. The rules concerning PCR tests cover children as well, an official from the Embassy of India in Muscat confirmed.

Children travelling from Oman to India are also required to take a PCR test before boarding flights. "There are no exemptions to this rule," said an official of the Embassy of India in Muscat. "As per the available information, children will also have to take the RT-PCR test. This has been in effect from February 22."

Arrivals in India can book their airport PCR tests in the country both online as well as offline. Airport authorities have been encouraged to process test payments digitally. As part of the self-declaration form, passengers have

to declare their travel history over the last 14 days.

While filling in the form, passengers need to make it clear whether they plan on disembarking at the airport of arrival, or have to catch a connecting flight to another destination. Passengers who are transiting need to show the airport authorities their transit receipt, so that they can be processed accordingly when they land.

"Transit passengers who have tested negative are allowed to take their connecting flights and remain in home quarantine for seven days, and need to regularly follow up with their state/district Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) officers," said the Ministry. However, those who test positive will need to move to an institutional isolation facility.

Currently, only people who are travelling to India due to a death in the family are allowed to board flights without a PCR test. However, to seek such an exemption, passengers are required to apply on the online portal, www.newdelhiairport.in, at least 72 hours before boarding. The decision taken by the government on the online portal in such cases is final.

FANAR PROJECT

< FROM A1 Seeking patent rights

"The biofuel sustains and protects environment resources and is added to other economic products such as soap, candle wax and others," said Nibras, adding that the team is currently working towards obtaining patent rights for its products, which will be unveiled shortly.

"Innovate for Good" competition was announced by Kuwait's Spread Passion establishment, which seeks to spread awareness about innovation and volunteering. Spread Passion encourages young people to unleash their potential by joining like-minded peers to form teams capable of

undertaking social projects and cooperating for the common good of all to help meet the demands of modern day life.

It is worth noting that Fanar is among Sultan Qaboos University startups taking part in the 2021 "Sharikati" (my company) competition. -ONA

PANDEMIC IMPACT

< FROM A1 Survey in Muttrah first

They are also requested to volunteer information on how the pandemic affected their business. This could be in a number of ways, including lower demand for goods and services, their supplies being delayed or cancelled due to disruptions in global shipping, and an inability to receive payments on time from those who owe them money, leading to cash flow issues.

Al Hooti said that the survey had not been rolled out in Muttrah owing to the lockdown which had previously placed it in health isolation from the rest of the country. The first cases in Oman were reported in wilayat Muttrah, and the authorities had restricted entry and exit to the wilayat to prevent the disease spreading to

other parts of Muscat and the rest of the country.

"A lot of people think the lockdown that affected Muttrah during the early days of the coronavirus affected businesses there, but actually, they were not that badly affected by it," Al Hooti went on to say. "Conversely, they actually did okay during the lockdown, because the people in Muttrah used to get all their needs met from them."

"I do not think, however, that we will conduct similar surveys in other areas, because we've seen that businesses in Muttrah have been more affected lately, as compared to those in other places, but you never know about how businesses in other areas might be impacted during these uncertain

times. If needed, then we will definitely conduct similar surveys for businesses then," he said.

As part of the questionnaire, companies can also share which effects of the coronavirus - closure of economic activities, reduced employee numbers, and following safety protocols - had the maximum impact on them. Business owners are encouraged to come up with ideas to help them adapt to and overcome current conditions.

These can include changes in the production line which provides them goods, halting production until the situation rectifies itself, laying off workers, adapting to e-commerce mechanisms, as well as any other suggestions they come up with.

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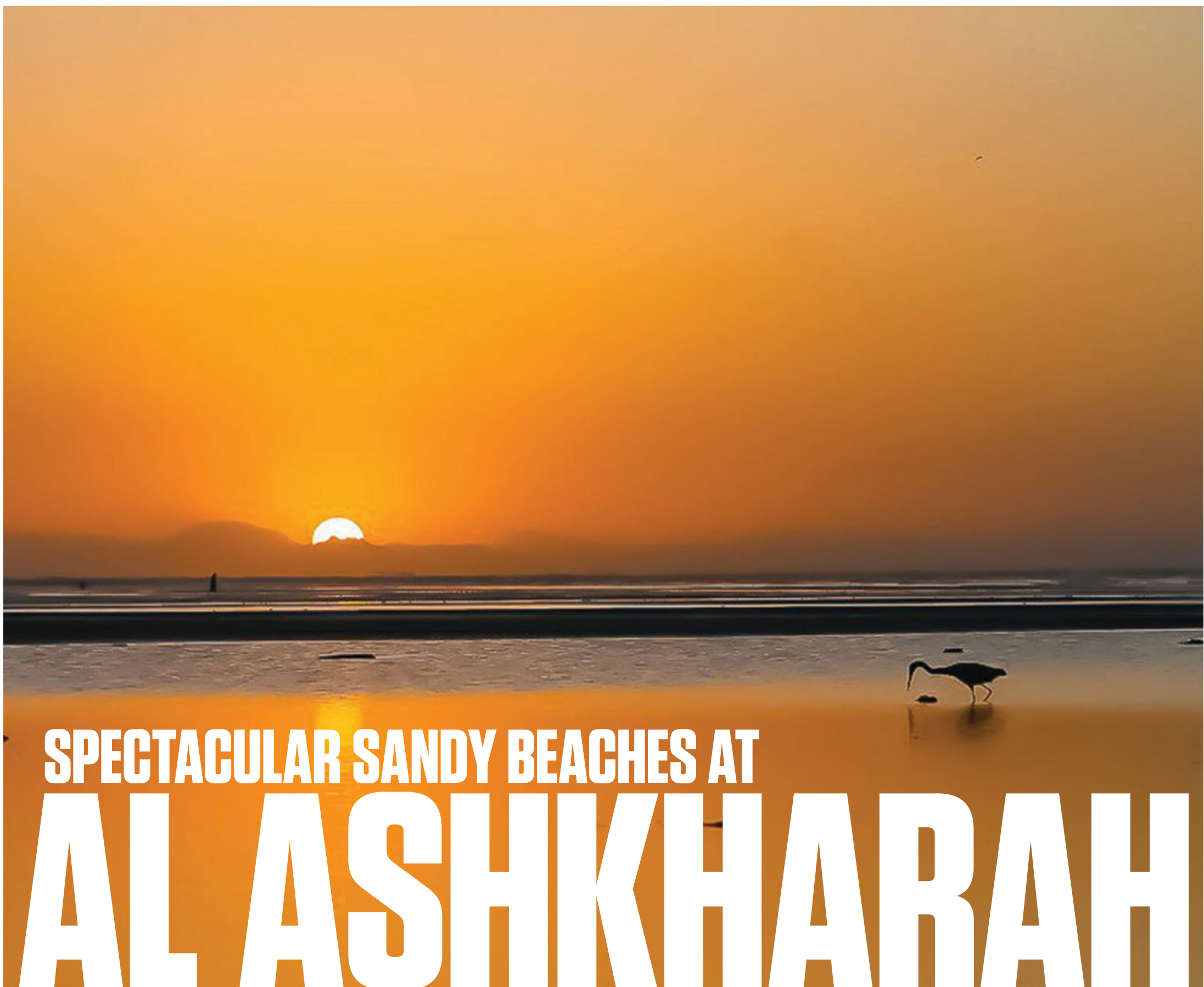
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SPECTACULAR SANDY BEACHES AT ALASHKHARAH



Approximately 300 kilometres away from Muscat lies Al Ashkharah village in Al Sharqiyah region with its vast seashore. Known for its cool weather and scenic beauty, it is often visited by people who are looking for a perfect getaway close to nature.

Al Ashkharah has several khors, of which Khor Omar and Khor Aweijah are the main ones. It is also home to sea turtles. The coastal areas along the Arabian Sea are Al Khawemah, Al Jafan, Sarg, Aurab, Asila, New Bandar, Al Suweih, Al Rowais, Al Hadda, Ras Al Khabah and Al Dafah.

The Pink Lake in Al Ashkharah, South Al Sharqiyah, is one of the most beautiful places in the Sultanate and it is one of a group of colourful lakes scattered in the Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta governorates' coasts called the pink lakes.

The pink red colour is due to the presence of certain type of algae and bacteria. It is one of the rare lakes in the Sultanate and is a destination for tourists who travel because it is close to the main road that connects Ras Al Hadd and Al Ashkha-



rah. The lakes are also a resting place for many migratory birds such as pink flamingos and many other birds.

Traditional industries such as textiles, old shipbuilding and various crafts along with fishing are the main occupation in this region. Some people also practise traditional crafts and build large fishing boats as well as their models which are presented as gifts and souvenirs.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "The spectacular sandy beaches surround Al Ashkharah on both sides and extend for several kilometres, it is embraced by Arabian Sea, and there are many umbrellas on the beach that allow tourists to enjoy seeing the beauty of the beach and its golden sands, it is also a place for flocks of Gull and wader."





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NCSI DATA

More than 49,000 small and medium enterprises registered till January end

MUSCAT: The total number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) registered with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development till the end of January 2021 stood at 49,337.

According to the data released by the National Centre for Statistics and information (NCSI) this is an increase of 14.4 per cent compared to January 2020.

Muscat tops the list

Among the governorates, the Governorate of Muscat topped the list with 33.6 per cent of the total registered SMEs till the end of January 2021, followed by the Governorate of North Al-Batinah 15.7 per cent, the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah 12.6 per cent, the Governorate of Dhofar 8.3 per cent and the rest of governorates 29.8 per cent.

The number of SMEs registered in the Governorate of Muscat stood at 16,583 at the end of January 2021, followed by the Governorate of North Al-Batinah at 7,750, the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah 6,214, the Governorate of Dhofar 4,111, the Governorate of South Al-Batinah 3,704, the Governorate of North A'Sharqiah 3,309, the Governorate of South A'Sharqiah 2,938, the Governorate of A'Dhahira 2,839 and the Governorate of Al-Buraimi at 1,052.

The number of SMEs registered in the Governorate of Al-Wusta stood at 652 and the Governorate of Musandam 185, which was the lowest among governorates registered in January 2021, the NCSI said in its latest report. - ONA





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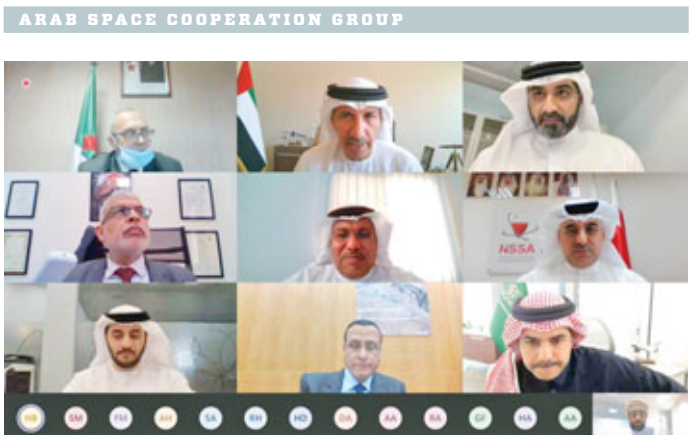
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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Oman attends Arab woman conference

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, took part in the 8th conference of the Arab Women Organisation themed 'Arab Woman and Cultural Challenges.'

— ONA



Ways to promote Arab space sector discussed at meet

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the National Space Programme Team (NSPT) at Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology took part at the 6th meeting of the Arab Space Cooperation Group.

The Sultanate was represented at the virtual meeting by Dr Saud Humaid Al Shu'a'ili, head of NSPT.

The meeting discussed many topics of concern to the joint Arab action, including the status of the Arab countries that have not signed the charter of joining the group.

The meeting also reviewed the strategic trends and the existing projects of each country in this sector, in addition to aspects of co-operation among member states to promote the Arab space sector.

The Arab Space Cooperation Group was formed as an initiative by the United Arab Emirates in 2019 as the Sultanate officially joined the group by signing the charter in 2020.

— ONA



Oman keen to boost partnership with FAO

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) on Tuesday held a meeting via video conferencing with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The meeting reviewed performance of agriculture and fisheries sectors, volume of agriculture and fisheries production in the Sultanate.

The Omani side was headed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources whilst it was chaired from the Organisation by Qu Dongyu, FAO Director General.

The Minister thanked FAO for its constant cooperation and support to the Sultanate, which culminated in implementing several projects of agriculture, fisheries and water resources.

He expressed the Sultanate's desire to enhance its strategic partnership with FAO.

— ONA

SALE OF
VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT

Leading Construction Company in Oman intends to dispose off their used vehicles and equipment, in 'as is where is' condition.

The items identified are presently located at their Al Khoud yard and will be offered for inspection to the public on 1st March 2021, 2nd March 2021 and 3rd March 2021 between 8.00 am to 12.00 pm and 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Last date for submission of closed tender is 3rd March 2021 at 5 pm. at our Al Khoud office. Interested parties may contact at:

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Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz

E-Class, CLS
Model year: 2005-2010

Date of Campaign: 24.02.2021
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:

Sales designation	Number of vehicles	Chassis number	Chassis number
E 200 KOMPRESSOR	22	WDB2110411B001986	To WDB2110411B086892
E 200 KOMPRESSOR	33	WDB2110421A772390	To WDB2110421A941870
E 230	158	WDB2110521B124956	To WDB2110521B440368
E 280	65	WDB2110541A842442	To WDB2110541A997123
E 280	316	WDB2110541B000698	To WDB2110542B307546
E 350	13	WDB2110561A805736	To WDB2110562A807641
E 240	72	WDB2110611A748015	To WDB2112611A775002
CLS 300	5	WDD2193541A166292	To WDD2193541A173549

Sales designation	Number of vehicles	Chassis number	Chassis number
CLS 350	61	WDD2193561A013688	To WDD2193561A156704
CLS 500	13	WDD2193721A113725	To WDD2193751A048815
CLS 55 AMG	3	WDD2193761A022716	To WDD2193761A039725
CLS 63 AMG	3	WDD2193771A084866	To WDD2193771A140907
E 63 AMG	2	WDB2110771B009306	& WDB2110771B027331
E 55 AMG	1	WDB2110761A834671	
E 500	1	WDB2110701A865487	
CLS 280	1	WDD2193541A149806	

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain E-Class (211 platform) and CLS (219 platform) vehicles with gasoline engine, the material of the fuel tank vent line might be subject to premature ageing and might in consequence develop cracks. Should cracks form in the fuel tank vent line, gasoline fumes might be emitted into the environment. This might lead to clearly perceptible fuel odor during refueling or when the vehicle is parked in a garage. Only during refueling, the emitted gasoline fumes might cause a static charge of the fuel tank vent line under certain ambient conditions (among others very high ambient temperatures and low air humidity). In this case, an ignition of the gasoline fumes due to static discharge cannot be excluded.

Additionally, in case of a crash, fuel might leak from a damaged fuel tank vent line, depending on the fill level of the fuel tank and the crash scenario.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will replace the fuel tank vent line on the affected vehicles. The expected workshop visit for the check and replacement of the fuel tank vent line will take around five hours and will be free of charge.

For More information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 24.02.2021 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:
Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 24.02.2021.

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HIGHEST DEATH TOLL

US marks 'heartbreaking milestone' with 500,000 COVID-19 deaths

WASHINGTON: The number of coronavirus deaths in the United States surpassed 500,000 on Monday, according to data from the Johns Hopkins University.

The US has by far the highest COVID death toll of any country in the world, with 20 per cent of the nearly 2.5 million global deaths from coronavirus. The half a million Americans who have died from COVID-19 exceeds the US death toll from World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War combined.

President Joe Biden said the death toll was a "truly grim, heartbreaking milestone," while urging people to resist "viewing each life as a statistic."

"As a nation, we can't accept



such a cruel fate. While we've been fighting this pandemic for so long, we have to resist becoming numb to sorrow," Biden said during an emotional speech at the White House.

"I ask all Americans to remem-

ber, remember those we lost and those they left behind," he said. "I also ask us to act, to remain vigilant, to stay socially distant, to mask up, to get vaccinated."

How is US commemorating the dead?

On Monday, church bells at the National Cathedral in Washington rang 500 times to symbolize the 500,000 people who lost their lives during the pandemic.

On the White House steps, 500 candles were lit to commemorate the dead as a military band played a rendition of "Amazing Grace."

President Biden has ordered all flags on federal properties and military facilities to be lowered to half-staff until Friday evening. **ow**



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www.oqic.com

Notice For Annual Ordinary General Meeting

The Board of Directors of OMAN QATAR INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 05:00 PM on 16/03/2021, via the electronic platform to hold general meetings which can be assessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting shall be held at 05:00 PM on 22/03/2021, to discuss the following agenda:

Ordinary Agendas:

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report on the activities of the company and its financial status during the financial year ended on 31 December 2020.
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report on the organization and management of the company during the financial year ended on 31 December 2020.
- To consider the auditor's report on the company's audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020.
- To approve the distributed cash dividend to the shareholders as of the meeting date for the financial year ended 31st December 2020 at the rate of 5 % of the share capital (5 Baizas per one share).
- Approval of the payment of sitting fees for the Board of Directors and Board Sub-Committees meetings held during the financial year ended 31st December 2020 and determine the sitting fees for the financial year 2021. (as per annexure 1).
- To consider and approve the proposal to distribute of Directors' Remuneration amounting to OMR 19,200 for the financial year ended 31st December 2020.
- To brief the General Assembly of the related party transactions during the financial year ended 31st December 2020. (as per annexure 2)
- To consider and approve the transaction which the Company will carry out with the related parties during the financial year ended by 31st December 2021. (as per annexure 3).
- To brief the General Assembly of the contributions made to support community services during the financial year ended on 31 December 2020. (as per annexure 4)
- Consideration and approval of the allocation of an amount of OMR 12,000 for voluntary and support social services for the financial year ending on 31st December 2021
- To elect the members of the Board of Directors of the Company (comprising shareholders or non-shareholders). Anyone who wishes to stand as a candidate shall complete the form prepared for this purpose and submit it to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the general meeting on or before Tuesday, 9th March 2021. Candidates must consider fulfilling the requirements prescribed for membership of the Company's Board of Directors
- Appointment of a third party for appraising the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ending 31st December 2021 and approve its remuneration.
- To appoint the auditor for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 and approve their remuneration.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
- Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 9320 3945 or email: omar@oqic.com

Chairman

External Auditor

Legal Advisor

OMLUB C.F.No. 1760862



Sultanate of Oman MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects

TENDR No.	Project Category	Location	Fees R.O	Grade In Tender Board Registration
RE-TENDER 18/2019	Supply	CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN OF BOWLING ALLEY FACILITIES TO MUSCAT SPORTS CLUB	25/-	Excellent & First Grade
1/2021	Services	CLEANING SERVICES TO ENTIRE CAMPUS AND FACILITIES TO MINISTRY'S VARIOUS BUILDINGS AT MUTTRAH WILLAYAT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST MAY 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021	25/-	Excellent Grade
2/2021	Services	CLEANING SERVICES TO ENTIRE CAMPUS AND FACILITIES TO MINISTRY'S VARIOUS BUILDINGS AT BAUSHER & SEEB WILLAYAT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST MAY 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021	25/-	Excellent Grade
3/2021	Services	MAINTENANCE OF LANDSCAPING WORKS TO MINISTRY'S CAMPUS AT RUWI FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST MAY 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021	25/-	First Grade
4/2021	Services	MAINTENANCE OF LANDSCAPING WORKS TO MINISTRY'S CAMPUS AT AL KHUWAIR FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST MAY 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021	25/-	First Grade
5/2021	Electromechanical and Telecommunications Contracting and Maintenance	MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRO-MECHANICAL AND AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS TO MINISTRY'S FACILITIES AT MUTTRAH WILLAYAT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST MAY 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021	25/-	First Grade
6/2021	Electromechanical and Telecommunications Contracting and Maintenance	MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRO-MECHANICAL AND AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS TO MINISTRY'S FACILITIES AT BAUSHER & SEEB WILLAYAT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST MAY 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021	25/-	First Grade

Companies, which are registered with the Tender Board and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Tender Board E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) until 13/03/2021.

The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site at 10:00am 05/04/2021

A Tender Bond equivalent to 1% of the tender sum issued from a registered bank, in the prescribed form, in Sultanate of Oman and valid for 90 days should enclosed with the tender.

Any tender without the bond will be reject and the tender committee is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender received.

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24166670 or through email etenderhd@ita.gov.om

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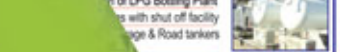
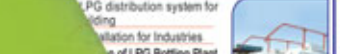
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WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME CONVOY

Italian ambassador to DR Congo killed in attack on UN convoy

KINSHASA: The Italian ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Luca Attanasio, was killed on Monday during a visit to the eastern part of the country in a World Food Programme (WFP) convoy.

“The three fatalities have been identified as the Italian Ambassador to DRC, Luca Attanasio, an Italian embassy official, and a WFP driver,” the UN agency said in a statement.

Other passengers were also injured as the delegation was set to visit a WFP school feeding program, the agency added. Italy’s Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio left a meeting in Brussels to return to Rome following the news.

“The circumstances of this brutal attack are not yet known and no effort will be spared to shed light on what happened,” Di Maio said on Facebook, honoring the victims as “two servants of the state.”

Enovy died of his injuries

Attanasio died of his injuries after the convoy was ambushed in Virunga National Park near the eastern city of Goma, the province’s governor Carly Nzanu Kavisita told reporters.



The governor added that the unidentified attackers fled after opening fire on the UN’s World Food Program (WFP) convoy. WFP said it was investigating the incident.

The Congolese army said its forces were “coming to find out who the assailants are,” according to AFP.

Media reports suggest that the ambush was an attempt to kidnap UN personnel, but authorities have not announced more information about the attackers.

Congo’s ‘deadly area’

The attack reportedly took place at around 10:15 a.m. local time near Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, where armed groups have spread violence for decades. In 2018, a group of armed men kidnapped two British nationals near the same area.

At least a hundred rebel groups are active in the area, where they fight over the country’s natural resources. **bw**

MEDIA BARGAINING LEGISLATION

Facebook to restore Australia news pages

CANBERRA: Facebook will restore Australian news pages in the next few days after Canberra agreed to amend the country’s media bargaining legislation, the government announced on Tuesday.

“The government has been advised by Facebook that it intends to restore Australian news pages in the coming days,” a statement from Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Communications Minister Paul Fletcher said, ABC news reported.

Frydenberg and Facebook indicated that the restoration would take place after reaching a compromise on key elements of a law that would force tech companies to pay media companies for news content.

“As a result of these changes, we can now work to further our investment in public interest journalism, and restore news on Facebook for Australians in the coming days,” Will Easton, managing director of Facebook Australia said.

Campbell Brown, the firm’s vice-president of global news partnerships confirmed the move in a blog post. “The government has clarified we will retain the ability to decide if news appears on Facebook so that we won’t automatically be subject to a forced negotiation,” he said.

The law would have made negotiations with media companies mandatory, and given an independent Australian arbiter the right to impose a settlement. **bw**

LONGTIME DISPUTE

US SC clears way for prosecutors to access Trump’s financial records



WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court ruled against former President Donald Trump’s effort to shield his financial records from prosecutors in New York, clearing the way for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance to get them. The decision, which marked the second time the nation’s highest court intervened in the longtime dispute, dealt a blow to Trump’s last-ditch bid to conceal his financial records, including years of tax returns.

Per its custom, the Supreme Court didn’t issue any opinion along with the order to deny Trump a stay that could have further delayed the criminal probe led by Vance, who can now require the former president’s accountants to turn over eight years of the former president’s personal and corporate tax returns.

Vance, who has been seeking the records through a grand jury subpoena since August 2019, issued a terse statement after the Monday ruling, saying on Twitter: “The work continues.”

The Supreme Court in July rejected Trump’s contention that as a sitting president then, he was immune from any part of the criminal justice system, including grand jury investigations. The justices said he could go back to the lower courts to fight the subpoena.

A federal judge in New York ruled against Trump a month later, followed by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Connecticut affirming the ruling.

The next phase in the inquiry will begin in earnest this week when investigators for Vance’s office collect the records from Mazars USA, the law firm that represents Trump’s accountants, according to The New York Times. It’s still possible that the full tax return documents, or portions of them, would become public. That happens only if Vance brings criminal charges against Trump and seeks to introduce them as evidence. **Xinhua**



Muscat Insurance Company S.A.O.G.
P.O. Box 72, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
THE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

**Financial statements for the year ended
31 December 2020**

Dear Shareholders,
After Compliments,
I am pleased to present on behalf of the Board of Directors of Muscat Insurance Company (SAOG) Annual Report on the Company's activities and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020.

General Overview of the Business Environment:
The overall business environment for 2020 in the Sultanate has seen a downturn due to the covid-19 pandemic which has impacted all sectors of the economy. With decreased mobility impacting the motor insurance sector, the market conditions remained highly competitive. The investment sector remained bearish on the back of the decline in the oil sector and the effects of the pandemic which reflected into the performance of local markets. Pursuant to the prospects, the oil prices are expected to recover comparatively during 2021 as a result of the uplift of the Vaccination drive to reduce the impact of Covid-19 and restore stability. This matter encourages the focus on the profitable sectors.

Business Results
The Gross Premiums decreased by 9% to OMR 16.817 Million from OMR 18.450 Million in 2019.
On the General Insurance side, the gross written premium was OMR 12.773 Million in 2020 as compared to OMR 15.006 Million last year, because of the decline of 30% mainly in motor premiums mainly due to the lack of mobility during lockdown. On the Life Insurance side gross written premium was OMR 4.05 Million as compared to OMR 3.42 Million last year, increase of 4%.
Our underwriting results improved by 133% to OMR 3.302 Million from OMR 1.419 Million in 2019.
General and Administrative Expenses are at OMR 3.125 Million compared to OMR 3.027 Million for the same period in 2019, increase of 3%.

The net investment result recorded declined by 19% to reach OMR 639k for 2020 compared to OMR 791k in 2019. This was due to the unrealized loss on local equity as the downward trend continues on the Muscat Securities Market.
The realised investment income was OMR 1.375 Million compared to OMR 1.016 million in 2019 and unrealised loss on investments was OMR 759k compared to unrealised loss of OMR 225K in 2019, mainly due to the unrealised loss of the local equity portfolio in line with the trend in Muscat Securities Market.

As a result of the challenges of fierce competition and the performance of the company, operations achieved a Net Profit after tax of OMR 352 k, compared to a Net Loss of OMR 748k for the year 2019.

The Company adopts a prudent dividend policy however the dividend distributions are subject to the approval of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

The amount of dividend distributed in the past five years is as follows:-

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cash Dividend	250	500	500	525	-
Bonus shares	-	100%	5%	5%	-

The Future Outlook
The Pandemic as well as the decline in the crude oil prices had added temporary uncertainty to the market. However, the economy is expected to recover in 2021 once momentum of the Vaccine drive is initiated. The Company continues its plan to further enhance the bottom line through strategic planning and diversification plans of the executive management.

Corporate Governance
The Company continues to implement the code of Corporate Governance as required by the Laws and Regulations of the Capital Market Authority and other regulatory authorities. The Company maintains a high standard of compliance and best practice as required by the Code of Corporate Governance and the Company's Corporate Governance policies.

During the year, a Directors and Officers Liability Policy was underwritten covering the company Directors' & Officers at cost of OMR 9.62 Million.

Human Resources
The company adopts the encouragement of national cadres and sustains its survival in all areas of the company's activities. The company provides internal training to meet the needs of Omani employees, motivate and increase the participation of employees in various activities at the head office and branch network. The Board of Directors is keen to encourage the national cadres. I am honoured to inform the shareholders that the Omanization rate in 22 branches of the company is 100%. This is in addition to the company's commitment to work together with the Capital Market Authority and the Ministry of Manpower to contain the proposed number of job seekers in accordance with the directives of the Council of Ministers.

Internal Control Systems
The Company, through its Audit Committee reviews the adequacy, effectiveness and compliances of the internal control procedures. Further, internal auditors and external auditors submit their reports with their observations and recommendations for enhancement of the existing internal control systems. Management reviews those recommendations and takes all necessary steps for continuous improvement.

Corporate Social Responsibility
The Board of Directors approves the Capital Market Authority's initiative on corporate social responsibility. From the Board of Directors' belief in the need to promote social contribution, the Company's General Meeting has approved payment of RO 10,000 for social welfare programs. The Board of Directors proposes to the Annual General Meeting to allocate RO 10,000 for the Company's Corporate Social Responsibility with regard to the Company's Social Responsibility Initiative Plan 2021.

Acknowledgement
The Board of Directors conveys its thanks to its Customers, Reinsurers, Bankers and Shareholders for their continued and ongoing support.

The Board of Directors especially appreciates the continued support and determined efforts made by the Management and Staff of the Company.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to express our most humble gratitude and loyalty to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for the continued peace and stability, most especially during the global pandemic. We also wish His Majesty the strength and good health to allow him to lead us on an enlightened path to future prosperity and development for Oman and its people.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors,
Aimen Bin Ahmed Al Hosni
Chairman

The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder on request either in Arabic or English within 7days of receipt of the request

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	2020 RO	2019 RO
ASSETS		
Bank balances and cash	2,302,054	5,624,801
Deposits	9,155,000	9,905,000
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	3,035,798	3,771,571
Available-for-sale investments	660,826	556,815
Premium and insurance receivables	3,061,600	3,873,461
Other receivables and prepayments	885,074	872,396
Investments held to maturity	2,265,836	2,276,336
Reinsurance contracts	13,809,091	14,993,747
Deferred tax asset	334,832	429,487
Right-of-use asset	70,078	115,494
Investment properties	9,421,278	9,896,926
Property and equipment	1,307,338	1,427,384
Intangible assets	81,771	89,404
Total assets	46,390,576	53,832,822
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Insurance contracts	20,446,586	23,323,671
Accruals and other payables	4,308,331	7,998,714
Reinsurance payables	4,683,627	6,026,371
Lease liabilities	49,969	69,909
Provision for taxation	181,212	161,833
Total liabilities	29,669,725	37,580,498
EQUITY		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	11,025,046	11,025,046
Legal reserve	3,443,659	3,408,405
Contingency reserve	2,854,658	2,471,868
Capital reserve	25,207	25,207
Fair value reserve	331,419	215,431
Accumulated losses	(959,138)	(893,633)
Total equity	16,720,851	16,252,324
Total equity and liabilities	46,390,576	53,832,822
Net assets per share	1.517	1.474

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020		
	2020 RO	2019 RO
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
INCOME		
Gross premiums written	16,817,950	18,450,316
Underwriting results	3,302,435	1,419,947
Investment income – net	639,576	791,843
Other income	24,572	152,122
	3,966,583	2,363,912
EXPENSES		
General and administration	3,125,166	3,027,371
Impairment of investment property	158,206	-
Other operating expenses	176,832	184,342
	3,460,204	3,211,713
Operating profit / (loss)	506,379	(847,801)
Finance costs	(39,806)	(55,281)
Profit / (loss) before taxation	466,573	(903,082)
Taxation	(114,034)	154,917
Profit / (loss) for the year	352,539	(748,165)
Other comprehensive income for the year:		
Potentially reclassifiable to the income statement:		
Fair value change in investments available for sale	115,988	37,005
Other comprehensive income for the year	115,988	37,005
Total comprehensive income for the year	468,527	(711,160)
Basic earnings / (loss) per share	0.032	(0.068)



Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital announce their desire to sell used furniture in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- Interested parties can view the used furniture in auction stores and receive the bidding on Sunday 28/02/2021 and Monday 01/03/2021, from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.
- Deposit of (200) Omani riyals in cash as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the used furniture, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for selling used furniture, and put the envelope in bid box.
- The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- Those who win the bidding will be contacted. They must pay the remaining sum, and they are responsible for moving their items on Wednesday and Thursday 03-04/03/2021.
- The used furniture is sold in their current condition, and SQU and SQUH are not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold material if the moving is not completed after the end of the sale, and (10) Omani riyals will be imposed for each day after 07/03/2021.

Notes:

- Prices are sorted according to groups and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through visa cards.
- Commitment to Precautionary measures and wearing a mask and only one person is allowed to enter auction's location with the buyer.
- Entering the auction stores through Gate No. (2).
- **For more information, please contact: 92907117 - 99324848**



Abdullah Al Zubair will be back behind the wheel soon

Al Zubair has decided to take part in the first round of the Oman Rally Championship this season

MUSCAT: Talented Omani rally driver Abdullah Al Zubair will be back behind the wheel after his last participation in 2020 during which he managed to achieve second place in the Jordan National Rally.

Al-Zubair has decided to take part in the first round of the Oman Rally Championship this season.

Oman International Rally
Al Zubair had taken part in the Oman International Rally in February last year and achieved a positive result despite some technical issues with the car. There was little other participation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Al-Zubair will be sitting behind the steering of SubaruIm-



MOTORSPORT: Al Zubair had taken part in the Oman International Rally in February last year and achieved a positive result despite some technical issues with the car.



MARCH 25

Oman to lock horns with Indian football team



NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday confirmed that the men's team will lock horns in two international friendlies in March. The Blue Tigers will take on Oman in the first match on March 25 while the second match is scheduled against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on March 29. Both the matches will be held in Dubai. "AIFF confirms two International Friendlies for the Indian Men's National Team in March 2021," the AIFF said in an official statement.
It was in November 2019 that the Blue Tigers last played on

the international arena in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Qualifiers against Afghanistan (in Tajikistan) and Oman (in Muscat).
India currently stands on three points from the five matches which they have played so far with two home matches against Asian Champions Qatar and Afghanistan, and an away game against Bangladesh yet to be played.
As part of the preparation for the two matches against Oman and UAE in March, the national team will assemble in a preparatory camp from March 15 on-

wards. The camp will also be held in Dubai under head coach Igor Stimac to allow the boys to acclimatise faster.
The two friendlies come on the back of the U-16 boy's national team having travelled to UAE in February 2021, and the women's national team's tour to Turkey where they played matches against Serbia, Russia, and Ukraine.
Also, India is all set to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup next year, the preparation for which has already begun, with a two-month camp in Goa, followed by three matches in Turkey. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Two goals calmed us down after 'nervous start': Pirlo

TURIN: After a win over Crotone, Juventus manager Andrea Pirlo said his side made a "nervous start" to the game but the two goals in the first half calmed them down.
Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half brace and Weston McKennie's second-half strike powered Juventus to a commanding 3-0 win over Crotone in the Serie A here on Tuesday. Juventus had suffered a defeat in their previous two games and Pirlo said the nervous start was because of their recent matches.
"We made a nervous start, possibly because of recent matches, but our two goals calmed us down and we were then able to manage the game well. It certainly wasn't our best start: our passing was sloppy, partly due to rushing and partly due to our desire to score an early goal," the club's official website quoted Pirlo as saying.
"In any case, it was important to get the three points this evening. We must try to improve our movement. [Alvaro] Morata isn't at his best and needs time. With Ronaldo up front, we need to develop our play out wide to pick him out in the box," he added.
The game had a good ebb and flow to it, with the ball moving across the field with pace. Ronaldo opened the scoring in the 38th



minute before doubling Juventus' lead in the 45+1st minute. McKennie then found the back of the net in the 66th minute, sealing an impressive win for Juventus.
Reflecting on the match, Gianluigi Buffon said: "We needed a win, but it wasn't easy. We found

it tough in the first half an hour, but what matters is staying fully focused for the full 90 minutes. The fact that Inter are ahead of us isn't a surprise; maybe the surprise is the fact that they hadn't shown what they're capable of until now." **ANI**

COMMENTARY

Can India erase 36 not out at Motera?

Anis Sajan

AS INDIA AND ENGLAND get ready for the third test starting on Wednesday, this Test has a lot of significance. First, it will be played on the newly built Motera Stadium which is a state-of-the-art stadium built with lot of precision and has the capacity to accommodate 110,000 spectators, which is the world's biggest stadium built till date for cricket.
Keeping in mind the COVID restrictions, 55,000 people will be allowed to see this game and tickets for this much-anticipated match were sold weeks ago. The second most important point for this test match that it's a Pink Ball Test match which will be played under lights and India's last experience of playing the Pink Ball Test has not yet sunk in as India were bowled out for 36 at Adelaide which is their lowest total and the scars of



Anis Sajan, Managing Director, Danube Group.

that match will always be there specially with Virat Kohli who was the captain for that match.
Though India did bounce back in that series against Australia after that match, I can promise all the players who were part of that game will still be nursing their wounds which might be still hurting them from inside. Virat Kohli and his boys will

be waiting to get their record straight in this Pink Ball Test where a lot is at stakes. First, the series is tied at 1/1 and India can't afford to lose another game as it would cost them a place in the World Championship of Cricket. Secondly, India would be mindful of the fact that the Pink Ball swings more than the traditional red ball and England definitely would bank on the huge experience of Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad who have 1,000 wickets between them. To add to it, the pace of Jofra Archer who would be raring to be back after missing the second test match due to injury.
Jofra Archer after seeing the grass on the wicket went on to tweet, "It's show time" but I believe the grass will be shaved off tomorrow which will not be a surprise that it would help the spinners and both Ashwin and Axar Patel will be hoping they get the same help as they got

in the second test match and England batsmen were clueless against the class of both the spinners. The only thing which might hamper the spinners is the due which might make the ball to skid on and might make batting easy but due is as unpredictable as how your first date turns out to be.
Virat Kohli has not scored a hundred for the whole of 2020 and also in the two test matches played this year and would not be surprised if he finally gets one in this most awaited Test match which will not lift him but whole of India who will be hoping that their champion batsman comes good.
Come Wednesday, February 24, all eyes will be on the Motera Stadium and, of course, on the Pink Ball how it behaves in twilight.
The Indian team would definitely like to remove the badge of 36 not out in as it's a scar which is like Amitabh Bachchan had it in the movie Dewaar

MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

MCC World Cricket Committee discusses concept of 'Umpire's Call'

LONDON: The Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) World Cricket Committee met recently via conference call and discussed a range of topics including the umpire's call aspect of the Decision Review System (DRS). While some members felt that it would be simpler if the original decision was disregarded on review, other members expressed satisfaction with the current system.
"The committee debated the use of 'Umpire's Call' for LBW decisions made via the Decision Review System, which some members felt was confusing to the watching public, particularly when the same ball could either be Out or Not out depending on the on-field umpire's original decision. They felt it would be simpler if the original decision was disregarded on review, and that there was a simple Out or Not out, with no Umpire's Call," MCC said in a statement. "The 'hitting



zone' of the stumps would still be retained, which had to be hit by at least 50% of the ball for an Out decision. If such a protocol was introduced, they felt it should also include a reduction to one unsuccessful review per team, or for the relevant review to be lost irrespective of its outcome. Other members were satisfied with the current system, feeling that it was important to retain the human element of the on-field umpire's decision, which takes into account the 'benefit of the doubt' that has existed in umpires' decisions for many years. They felt that supporters did understand the concept of 'Umpire's Call,'" it added.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2021 reaching \$63.07, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.71 from the price of Monday, which was \$61.36. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,574.59 points, up 0.38 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 1.10 per cent at 542.0 points. Madina Takaful, up 9.41 per cent, was the top gainer while the Oman Emirates, down 5.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR35mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 182 days, starting from February 24, Wednesday until August 25, 2021

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR35 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 182 days, starting from February 24, Wednesday until August 25, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.604 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.575 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.79504 per cent and 0.79820 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready li-



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. - **ONA**

quidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the dis-

count rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 1 per cent. Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark

yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

ANNUAL REPORT

Sohar Port reveals its CSR report for 2020

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone published its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report for the year 2020, which outlines the company's activities to support society and the environment, in accordance with its sustainable strategic plan.

Commenting on the issuance of the report, Mohsin Al Jabri, Executive Manager - Corporate Affairs at Sohar Port and Freezone, said, "During the COVID-19 pandemic the last year we faced several challenges. That being said, we continued to enhance our efforts to reduce the negative impact on our employees, tenants and the local community. We were successful in mitigating the effects, together with the support and collaboration of concerned entities, while simultaneously carrying out various activities on other fronts to support segments of society and to protect the environment. We are delighted to announce our annual report, which reinforces the commitment of Sohar towards focusing on social activities, in conjunction with our corporate efforts. Together, we look forward to another year of success in 2021."

The annual CSR report was divided into 5 sections. These included a focus on activities related to combating the effects of COVID-19 and the provision of support to the local community. Other sections comprise sports initiatives to



Mohsin Al Jabri, Executive Manager - Corporate Affairs at Sohar Port and Freezone

promote a healthy lifestyle, as well as the support of cultural and environmental programmes.

"Sohar seeks to strengthen its social efforts, in line with a sustainable strategy that aims to yield significant results in the long run. Therefore, our focus areas are divided into several sectors that cover society, education, health, entrepreneurship and the environment. These activities are implemented either as part of initiatives launched by Sohar or as a joint effort with other entities that share the same objectives. We believe that through the implementation of these programmes, we can strengthen cooperation with all our shareholders and tenants, in turn, further enhancing the desired impact of these social activities," Mohsin added.

FINANCING SUPPORT

Bank Nizwa signs pact to construct multispeciality hospital

MUSCAT: As part of its strategic efforts to contribute to the development of the healthcare sector in the Sultanate, Bank Nizwa recently signed an agreement to finance the construction of a state-of-the-art multispeciality private hospital in the Sultanate.

Shifa Hospital is designed, owned and will be operated solely by Omani pioneers with a core focus in surgical specialities. The hospital is envisaged to provide in-country value by filling the gap in the country's healthcare requirements and provide employment opportunities. Shifa Hospital specialising in sports medicine is also seen as a promising option for athletes in Oman.

Bank Nizwa is honoured to be associated with providing the necessary financing support to such a worthy sustainable development venture. The financing agreement was signed by Khalid Al Kayed, CEO, Bank Nizwa and Dr Salim Al Ghannami, CEO, Shifa Hospital at the bank's head office recently. The event took place in the presence of key officials from Shifa Hospital and Bank Nizwa, including Dr Samiya Al Ghannami one of the founders of the Hospital and R. Narasimhan, GM of Wholesale Banking at Bank Nizwa and other management team members. This



STRATEGIC PACT: The financing agreement was signed by Khalid Al Kayed, CEO, Bank Nizwa and Dr Salim Al Ghannami, CEO, Shifa Hospital at the bank's head office recently. - **Supplied picture**

was yet another milestone by the bank to extend its support to key establishments in Oman.

Khalid Al Kayed commented, "Bank Nizwa has been leading

the way in Islamic banking in the Sultanate and we believe in investing in projects that go beyond just promising financial returns. We want to ensure they also benefit

the communities. Quality healthcare is an integral building block of a thriving economy. By supporting ventures that have the same goal as Oman's Vision 2040, we want to do

our part to enhance the healthcare system in the country."

Al Kayed added, "With thoughtful partnerships that drive not just economic returns but also play an active role in rendering its services to society, we are proud to say that our varied portfolio reflects some of the most noteworthy Islamic financing agreements in the Sultanate."

Uplifting healthcare system

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Salim Al Ghannami said, "The construction of the new private hospital will support the national socio-economic sector and uplift the healthcare system which resonates with our believes and principles. This will be achieved through the provision of modern and high standard medical services available at the facility."

"Build on more than 10,000 sq. m land, Shifa hospital will start operating with a 100 bedded multispeciality in the first phase. It will contain nine state-of-the-art care facilities mainly focusing on surgical specialities'. The objective of this venture is to meet the people needs for medical services under one roof. A qualified national workforce will manage the hospital, he added further."

Bank Nizwa has been at the forefront of investing in ventures that

help in the economic growth of the country and has undertaken various initiatives that have helped fuel the economy, positively affecting the local communities and generating employment for the local workforce.

Last year Bank Nizwa successfully signed landmark agreements with multiple organizations including a financing agreement for dates processing project with Nakheel Oman Development Company, a financing agreement with Oman National Engineering and Investment Company to establish Sahalnoot sanitation network for Salalah Sanitary Drainage Services Co, and a partnership agreement with Arab Open University to finance the construction of its new campus in Oman.

The addition of the upcoming hospital has furthered widened Bank Nizwa's Wholesale Banking Group portfolio and is a testament to the quality ventures it has undertaken in the past. Bank Nizwa's Wholesale Banking team offers advisory services through some of the most qualified experts in the industry. These consultants guide in the fields of corporate banking, project finance, SME, global markets, government and investment banking, international banking, and trade finance.

OMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS CENTRE

OABC hosts key session for senior executives in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its mission to update, inform, and connect Oman's business community, the Oman American Business Centre (OABC) hosted 'Workforce Planning: Key Trends in Immigration, Travel, and Labour Policies', with speakers from Fragomen, CMS Oman, and Qatar Airways on February 22, for OABC members and special guests.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly created significant obstacles for companies in Oman, especially regarding workforce requirements," says Rebecca Olson, Executive Director of the OABC. "There is an increased need to respond quickly and effectively to employee mobility challenges while continuing to comply with evolving travel requirements, increased focus on Omanisation and precautionary restrictions. Planning is vital to ensure companies navigate this complex landscape,"



says Shayan Sultan, Director of Fragomen.

Given the strategic importance of maintaining and refreshing the talent in Oman, the session examined current immigration and labour policies and discussed what workforce planning and mobilisation look like for companies now and in the near future.

Shayan Sultan, Director - Mid-



dle East and North Africa at Fragomen, Ajay Jacob, Regional Manager GCC at Qatar Airways, and Ben Ewing, Partner at CMS Oman, each presented in turn, leaving time for Q&A.

The Oman American Business Centre (OABC) is best known for hosting high-level professional networking events and informational sessions for professionals



across the Sultanate.

As the official affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce in Oman, the OABC is devoted to supporting the development of commercial relations between Oman and the US and also focuses heavily on networking Oman's business community through unique events, knowledge-sharing events, and programmes year-round.

DUBAI AEROSPACE ENTERPRISE



DAE signs long-term lease agreement with IndiGo

DUBAI: Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) Ltd announced that it had signed long-term lease agreements for 7 Airbus A321neo aircraft with IndiGo, India's largest passenger airline. All 7 aircraft will be powered by CFM International's Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion (LEAP) engines and are scheduled to be delivered in 2021.

Firoz Tarapore, Chief Executive Officer of DAE said, "We are delighted to add this fuel-efficient aircraft and popular aircraft type to our leased aircraft

portfolio. This investment reiterates our commitment to investing in new, fuel-efficient aircraft to minimise carbon and nitrogen emissions as well as noise while at the same time increase performance, reliability and environmental sustainability. Further, we are delighted to deepen our long-term relationship with IndiGo and wish them great success with their growth story. The introduction of these aircraft will allow the airline to expand the range of their exceptional product offering."

Madina Takaful, up 9.41 per cent, was the top gainer while the Oman Emirates, down 5.00 per cent, was the top loser

A total number of 470 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.01 million, with more than 29.90 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded stocks, 12 advanced, 8 declined and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR152,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR152,000.

Services index was up by 0.41 per cent before closing at 1,551.57 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,574.93	3,563.42	3,574.59	3,561.20	13.38	0.38
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,339.79	5,324.62	5,334.76	5,323.72	11.05	0.21
Services Index	1,552.72	1,545.24	1,551.57	1,545.27	6.30	0.41
Industry Index	4,613.80	4,607.69	4,607.69	4,612.91	-5.22	-0.11
MSM Shariah Index	543.45	540.76	542.00	536.11	5.89	1.10
MSM TR INDEX	4,079.80	4,066.66	4,079.41	4,064.14	15.27	0.38

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
29,903,154.....	4,018,980.....	470.....	20,281,545,456.....	12.....	8.....	21.....	41.....

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PO	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (PO)	DIFF %	LAST PO	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	P&H VALUE	MARKET CA
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003968	OREDOO	795,340	325,919	23	0.408	0.412	0.408	0.410	0.400	0.010	2.500	0.410	0.400	0.410	0.100	266,887,134
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	846,055	659,923	30	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.768	0.012	1.563	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.100	555,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTL BANK	344,469	26,175	4	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.073	0.077	0.000	18,020,512
OM0000005005	ALMATH CERAMICS	439,358	11,580	57	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.075	0.002	0.787	0.075	0.073	0.075	0.100	14,130,000
OM0000001097	OMAN UNITED INSUR	94,180	37,295	8	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.000	0.000	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.100	350,000,000
OM0000000418	RAYSTU CEMENT	28,563	8,855	2	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.300	0.310	0.100	62,000,000
OM0000000525	OMAN INVST&FIN	187,148	14,972	12	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000000133	OMINVEST	104,950	33,902	12	0.316	0.326	0.316	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.326	0.320	0.326	0.100	28,718,235
OM0000000270	ALOMANIAN INVESTMENT	61,832	4,026	13	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000000079	AL OMANIA FINS	42,000	7,000	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	25,435,469
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	256,105	53,667	28	0.210	0.210	0.208	0.210	0.210	0.000	0.000	0.209	0.209	0.210	0.100	26,238,572
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	168,825	67,192	17	0.398	0.400	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.100	1,293,309,951
OM00000002440	AL SHARQAI INV	48,000	3,173	8	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.068	-0.002	-2.941	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	5,940,000
OM00000001160	NATIONAL BANK	104,770	13,954	15	0.139	0.139	0.132	0.133	0.139	-0.006	-4.317	0.132	0.132	0.139	0.100	13,905,000

Account	Account Description	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1
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Bitcoin falls as much as 6% as it pulls back from record high

in a \$10,000 range. It's up nearly 90 per cent from the year's low of \$27,734, Reuters reported. Ether, the coin linked to the ethereum blockchain, also dropped more than 5 per cent and last bought \$1,707, down almost 17 per cent from last week's record peak. -BNA

\$25mn line
of financing
agreement
signed

Sejny commented, "This Line of Financing facility will be utilised by Uzbek Industrial and Construction Bank to support economic activities and recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond." He added, "SMEs have a crucial role to play in a country's growth and development. ICD is now focusing on increasing access to Islamic finance by channelling funds to established financial institutions in its member countries."



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R0

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30
R0

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Telephone: 97711584

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Contact: 96332608

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Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.

Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com

Finance Manager / CFO

Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 99884291 / 99741875 VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.

Contact: 92999419 d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.

Contact whatsapp: 99477009
Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Srilankan Senior Accountant looking for a suitable opportunity. 7 years experience in Oman & capable of handling accounts up to finalization. On hand experience in Tally, Spur, QB etc. Having D/L.

CONTACT: 92821932

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male, 41 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (13 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager,Internal Auditor and statutory auditor. currently working as Accounts Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.

Contact: 99169501

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwil.

Mob: 95073054
Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Civil engineer more than 10 years experience in GCC country. Already have visa. Contact 98913676

Civil Engineer fresh graduate, 6 months UAE/ Oman intensive training in construction and infrastructure, holder of valid D/L, Arab native who speaks 3 languages on a visit visa. seeking a job. Contact 97727285

Indian 25 yrs, Mechanical engineer, having Oman valid D/L. Looking for suitable placement. # 78043052

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian, 1 year Exp, living in Oman seeks job. Contact 94227623

BSc.Civil Engineer PMP Certified with 12 years experience in construction and road works. # 99715328

B.E Civil engineer having 12 years oman experience looking for sub contracting works like block work,plaster, tiling, false ceiling and so on. Please contact 72132426

Indian male Diploma Electrical Engineer, with 15 years of experience with 8 yrs exp in Oman with CEP and NOC available. Valid Oman D/L. Looking for suitable placement can join immediately. Contact 99579171

Electrical Engineer, 20 yrs experience in Oman worked in construction sector as MEP project Coordinator with valid DL & visa (NOC available. Contact 99068277. Whatsapp 91-9567621821. email vijayanki1965@gmail.com

Arabic civil engineer excellent spoken and written english - 6 years experience in projects coordination & supervision, preparing submittals & engineering softwares resident and have DL. Contact 95432250

Civil engineer with 2 years of professional experience in municipal house construction project.Fluent in English & Arabic.Equipped with a valid D/L, engineering employment Visa & NOC (if required). # 96749821 Email mhassan9610@gmail.com

Srilankan Quantity Surveyor, Degree (Civil) with 6 yrs experiences (GCC), immediately available (with NOC). D/L Oman & Sri Lanka. Contact 98593262 Email thanseermusaleen@mail.com

Senior Civil Engineer with 12 years Exp in government and private construction projects. looking for a suitable position. Contact 95962450. Email: solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

Safety officer (engineer), 5 years experience in GCC, two years in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid D.L. Contact 79318246

M.Tech Civil engineer 24 yrs GCC experience in all types of building in consultant office seeks suitable position. Contact 96750674

Civil and Structural engineer with 8years experience in construction projects, Gulf experience and D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 97906770

B.E civil engineer having 10 years Oman exp looking for false ceiling works. Contact 79882467

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years of experience in Oman. Hand on experience in MOTC, MOD and RCA prestigious projects. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 97118102 Email: probir1982@gmail.com

BE civil Engineer with 15 years of experience in Oman. Construction of Residential Commercial buildings, Hotels, Resorts, and industrial buildings. With valid visa & D/L.Contact 92779334, 95056144. Email anisubash12@gmail.com

Electrical engineer, having 4 years experience in motors maintains, electrical control, distribution panel and VFD, fluency in English and Arabic mother tongue, have resident in Oman. Contact 96434550

Civil engineer with 9years exp in Oman .Contact 97646908

Quantity Surveyor having 10 yrs, total exp, 6yrs in Oman in Infra & building projects. Looking for a suitable position having Oman DL. Contact 91401880

Omani is looking for job. UK graduate since 1991. B.Engg+MBA, experience PDO, Diwan, AbuDhabi, group of companies as GM. Contact/ Whatsapp 94174443

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience, Admin/Operations/Purchase/ Stores, etc. NOC,D/L. # 78363835

Procurement & Logistics Head with 17+ yrs exp, Indian # 99224623

TOUR / TRAVEL

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

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168. e-mail: anwarjaili51@gmail.com

MANAGER

Project manager searching for job of managing projects for client company for construction.Presently working with high profile client,handling all the projects. Contact 99116074

Male having 10 years Experience (Oman), working as a "Fleet Manager" looking for a suitable position. Contact 93363316

JOB WANTED

SALES / MARKETING

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

Indian Male 15 years Experience (MBA) looking for job in Sales & Marketing, Currently in Oman with Valid Driving License and Valid Visa. Contact 91127809

Indian males Sales officer with 3 years experience capable to manage from quotation till finalization tally. Contact 79880058

Indian Male, Graduate having 8 yr Oman & 7yr India experience in Marketing and Sales field looking for suitable placement. Contact 79584458, 92369044. Email: rkumarkotian21@gmail.com

Indiam male MBA post graduate, 9 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing, Oman DL holder. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 71537034

B.Tech MBA, Indian 10 yrs experience, sales,marketing IT. Contact 90725202

Sales, Business development manager, construction, FMCG,UPVC 7 years GCC experience Oman D/L. Contact 95842228

Indian male 27 yrs MBA graduate with specialized degree in Management seeking suitable placementvalid Oman DL available. # 91209360. Email amirasadc@gmail.com

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Bank Muscat Private: Redefining private banking in Sultanate

Bank Muscat Private Banking has been a constant innovator in terms of new products and services in line with the bank’s customer-centric vision

MUSCAT: Reaching out to Ultra High Networth Individuals (UHNIs) and High Networth Individuals (HNIs), Bank Muscat Private Banking offerings have been unmatched in the Sultanate for nearly two decades.

Reflecting the bank’s customer-centric vision ‘To serve you better, every day’, these offerings include access to an exclusive Private Banking branch at the Bank Muscat Head Office. All Private Banking clients have access to a dedicated Relationship Manager (RM) who is available to discuss their requirements and accordingly suggest wealth products. The RMs are backed by a strong team with multiple years of wealth management experience.

Abdulnasir Al Raisi, DGM - Premier Banking, said, “Bank Muscat Private Banking has been a constant innovator in terms of new products and services in line with the bank’s customer-centric vision. We follow the highest standards of professionalism conforming to international norms, standards and practices, which have been well recognised on the global stage with multiple awards being received over the past. We have won the “Best Private Bank in Oman” award from prestigious publications including Global Finance, EMEA Finance and from



Professional Wealth Management/The Banker. Private Banking has been steadily launching new and innovative services over the past many years for the benefits of its exclusive clientele.”

A number of new investment offerings and wealth management solutions across various asset classes are currently offered to the bank’s clients.

A robust execution platform administered by experienced and dedicated RMs ensures that clients have an exceptional experience. Also, the bank regularly engages with clients, giving insights through research-based sectoral analysis highlighting investment and business opportunities.

Private Banking clients receive research reports regularly including 2 fortnightly Global Macro Economic Reports, a monthly Fixed Income Report (Insights) and an Economic Flash Report (Spotlight). In addition to these research reports, all clients also receive a monthly newsletter on Oman’s economy and the markets.

To further improve the research offerings, Bank Muscat has introduced a monthly “Investment Product Pack” which provides an informative summary of various investment products across different asset classes like equity, fixed income and alternative investments. Clients can enjoy access to trading across global markets,

global ETFs and global mutual funds in the equity class while fixed income, global bond trading, local issues, global mutual funds and global ETFs are among the options available. Private Equity Funds, Real Estate Funds, Commodity ETFs and offshore banking and portfolio management through reputed global counterparties are some of the alternate investment possibilities available for clients.

COVID-19 has restricted in-person meetings with global fund managers and Bank Muscat Private Banking has come up with innovative investment webinars as a solution to this issue.

As part of this initiative, cus-

tomers get to interact with global fund managers regularly through a state-of-art online video communication platform.

Apart from Wealth Management solutions, Private Banking clients have access to a whole large number of other features and benefits including the Private Banking Visa Platinum Debit Card, the Private Banking Visa Infinite Credit Card, exclusive offers from high-end merchants, exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping in addition to many travel discounts through the VISA offers Mena app, unlimited complimentary access to 50 lounges worldwide including Majan Lounge at Muscat Interna-

tional Airport and tailored credit solutions and financing options. The Private Banking Visa Platinum Debit card features a higher daily cash withdrawal limit of OMR1,500 and a daily purchase limit of OMR30,000. The Private Banking Visa Infinite credit card has a credit limit starting from OMR15,000 and offers 1 per cent cashback rewards on all expenditures made through the card. It also offers complimentary unlimited access to over 1,000 airport lounges globally. Private Banking clients also enjoy complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat International Airport, multi-trip travel insurance and Global Concierge Service.

SERVING CUSTOMERS

Lulu launches online delivery in Nizwa



MUSCAT: Lulu Oman has flagged off the operation of its online delivery service in Nizwa, bringing a world of products to customers’ fingertips. The new channel has been launched keeping in mind the safety and convenience of online shoppers to meet the rising customer demand for online delivery services. The commencement of the Nizwa operations follows the successful launch of similar operations across Muscat and Sohar.

The online delivery store was inaugurated by Hamdan Naser Masoud, a member of the Majlis Shura and Ali Saeed Al Jamudi, a senior official from the Nizwa Municipality, along with officials and staff of Lulu.

The operations have a modern infrastructure for more convenient handling of goods and are well

equipped to cater to the needs of the customers around Nizwa.

Hassle-free delivery

The new online store will enable hassle-free delivery of grocery and non-food products right at customers’ doorsteps. Shoppers can browse and shop from an online selection of a range of products from everyday groceries, fresh food and dairy products to more trending electronics like mobiles, laptops, tablets, smartphones, mobile accessories to clothing & accessories, furniture, large & small appliances, home furnishings, as well as toys and household products. An expansive fleet of specially designed vehicles will reach the orders to the customers’ doorstep in a safe and hygienic environment. The vehicles are fitted with

three temperature-controlled compartments for frozen, chilled and ambient requirements.

Speaking on the launch of the online operations, Ananth A V, Regional Director of Lulu Hypermarkets Oman & India, said “The launch of the online delivery demonstrates Lulu’s continuous quest for innovation and commitment to serve its customers in the most efficient manner. Online sales is a response to the changes in customer behaviour with a website and app that features a unique assortment of the brands and values that Lulu is known for. We are excited for customers to experience the brand in this new way.”

Shabeer K.A, Regional Director of Lulu Oman, remarked, “We are working very hard to keep in pace with the growing demands of our

online customers and to enhance their buying experience. With the constantly evolving trends that the shoppers want, just as they do for stores, the Lulu online portals deliver new products periodically, so that the shoppers can discover new deals on the brands they love.”

Shoppers can shop on the go by accessing the Lulu Shopping App to enjoy a more convenient shopping experience either by logging in to Luluhypermarket.com or downloading the app on IOS App Store or Google Play. The site brings the Lulu shopping experience online, curating an ever-changing, fresh mix of merchandise from the brands shoppers look forward to. The new online services will offer customers an efficient, convenient and safe way to shop for all their essentials.

LUXURIOUS CROSSOVER COUPE



Changan CS85 coupe offers dynamic, elegant and luxurious driving experience

MUSCAT: Changan CS85, the luxurious crossover coupe combines the dynamic handling of an SUV with the sporty aesthetics of a coupe to give owners the best of both worlds. Packed with a 2.0L turbocharged engine that produces 233 horses and 360 Nm of torque, an 8 speed Changan CS85 Coupe redefines the definition of smoothness.

Positioned as a premium coupe SUV, the model stands out from its counterparts by its sleek appearance, focus on the high quality and application of the latest technology in the vehicle’s many features.

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 CS95.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, “Changan CS85 Coupe is a sporty coupe designed SUV which reflects one’s personality. Style and fashion will be the new constant in your life once you own this sporty coupe. Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides highly efficient and energy-saving performance.”

With all the vehicles’ key components originating from the world’s leading suppliers, the CS85 Coupe delivers top-grade enjoyment from every angle - visual, tactile, auditory and safety - coming together to create the perfect driving experience.

With its wide body and muscular shoulders accentuated by horizontal contours that sweep through the sides, the CS85 makes a sporty style statement.

The slick exterior styling is matched by a luxurious interior crafted using high-quality materials and supported by hi-tech features. Equipped with innovative driving technologies, the CS85 keeps owners at ease with everything under control when on the road. It has features including a 360° HD Camera, blind area monitoring, forward collision warning, adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning.

19” Alloy Wheels, LED Headlamps with LED DRLs, Auto Headlamps, Follow me Home Function, Matrix Fog Lamps, Roof Rails, Quad Exhaust Pipes in Chrome, Panoramic Sunroof, Electrically Adjustable, Folding ORVMs with Heating and Memory.

The overall interior style of Changan’s CS85 coupe is dynamic, elegant and luxurious.

ROUND-UP



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Best time to own a Lexus ES is now with benefits

The provocative elegance of the design starts up front with the brand's signature grille but adds individual cues that are unique to the ES such as the vertical grille pattern and satin-plated trim and slim headlamps with distinctive L-shaped marker lights



MUSCAT: Lexus' most popular luxury sedan, the Lexus ES with its classic design, advanced features and premium luxury detailing, makes a fine mark on luxury enthusiasts. Those interested in owning the ES can look forward to free service 3 years / 30,000km

and free registration (Conditions Apply. For more details, please visit the nearest Lexus showroom).

The provocative elegance of the design starts up front with the brand's signature grille but adds individual cues that are unique to the ES such as the vertical grille

pattern and satin-plated trim and slim headlamps with distinctive L-shaped marker lights.

The Lexus ES lineup includes the ES300h, a Hybrid Electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and two electric motors with zero-fuel consumption and carbon emissions producing a combined system output of 215 hp.

The class-leading hybrid electric model enables customers to contribute to a sustainable future while enjoying increased driving satisfaction and engagement provided by its advanced technologies and cabin quietness, as well as its acceleration smoothness, especially when starting. The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain come with 8 years /160,000km warranty and are automatically charged either by a petrol engine or during braking or decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. The ES300h offers an impressive 24.1 km/L mileage.

INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Renaissance gets ISO 27001 information security accreditation

MUSCAT: Renaissance Services, Oman's leading services solutions company, said that it has secured the ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification for its robust and state-of-the-art Information Security Management System.

After successfully implementing all the stringent requirements, the Renaissance has been officially certified with this accreditation by SGS, the world's leading inspection, verification, testing, and certification firm. Renaissance is the first company in the IFM industry in Oman to gain this accreditation, which demonstrates that the company has identified the risks, assessed the implications, and put in place systemised controls to secure information.

Vishal Goenka, Group CFO & Deputy CEO, Renaissance said, "This achievement marks yet another milestone in our journey and commitment to adopt global standards in all aspects of our business. Information Security and maintaining a robust risk management framework is pivotal to our approach and underlines the trust we maintain with our customers and vendors. With accelerated digital transformation demands in the industry, our cus-

tomers and business partners can rest assured of the highest levels of excellence in the way we manage their data and information."

Meeting the standards for this certification requires organisations to demonstrate an overall enhancement of their information security systems, following proven diligent processes and maintaining high standards.

"We have taken a proactive approach to invest and continually upgrade our digital infrastructure. This is a proud moment for Renaissance and we are confident that this will also inspire the industry," Vishal added.

Renaissance constantly evaluates and adopts technologies in its operations that enable the company to provide a better experience for its clients, while optimising costs and resources. The company already holds ISO certifications for Quality Management, Environment Management, Food Safety, and Occupational Health & Safety. The company is also a certified HACCP food safety process compliant besides holding HSE compliance certification from OPAL and Highfields Body for Compliance (HABC).

HOME FINANCE

Get the home of your dreams with Alizz Islamic Bank home financing



MUSCAT: In order to fulfil the dreams and desires of customers to own the home of their dream, Alizz Islamic Bank offers home finance for the purchase or construction of the home that they want, through Alizz Islamic Bank home financing offers.

Fast approvals

Home finance is open to Omani nationals and resident expatriates with fast approvals and a simple documentation process, the settlement term can be up to 25

years with maximum financing of OMR450,000.

The minimum salary required is OMR300 only for government employees, and OMR350 for private sector employees.

Sharia-compliant

"Alizz has designed the home finance product to enable our customers to own their dream home through Sharia-compliant solutions. The profit rates are competitive while the approval process is fast and the application proce-

dures are simple. As part of our efforts to offer integrated services, this option is available for customers that are purchasing a new home or constructing one," said Mohammed Al-Ghassani, Acting Chief Consumer Banking Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank.

Alizz delivers a variety of Sharia-based products and services that meet the requirements of customers. Supported by state-of-the-art technology, these options are aimed at enabling customers to realize their dreams in life.

PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Zubair SEC participates in entrepreneurs' forum titled 'promising future prospects'

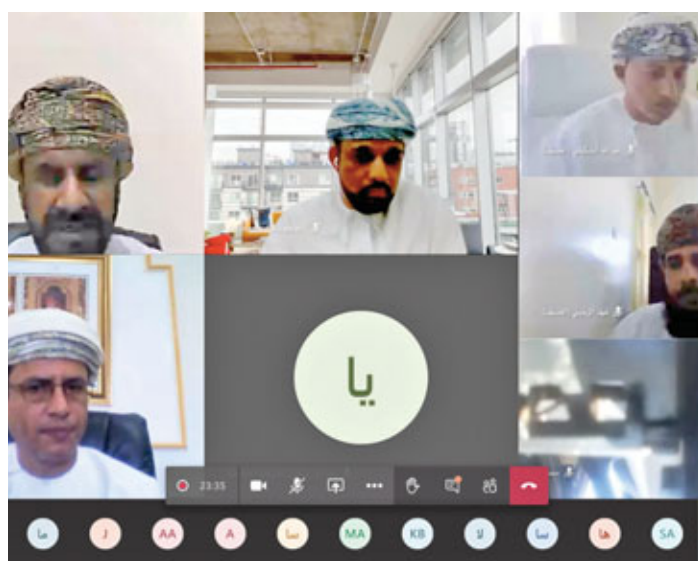
MUSCAT: On the invitation of the General Directorate of Education, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, Department of Vocational Guidance Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) participated in the entrepreneurs' forum held to promote entrepreneurship among students.

This forum titled 'promising future prospects' was organised by the Ministry of Education, Al Dakhiliyah, as part of its strategy to equip young people with the ideals to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

The forum brought together a panel of expert entrepreneurs, subject specialists, students, and parents and offered key insights on entrepreneurial challenges and models of success.

Ali Shaker, Adviser, Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, Zubair SEC who made an introductory presentation spoke about the centre's accomplishments and the importance of instilling a culture of entrepreneurship among students aimed towards the common good of creating a better society both economically and socially.

The presentation included some cases of businesses that started as an idea but today is considered a successful business. Students were encouraged not to give up but take their entrepreneurial ideas forward with confi-



dence just like the successful examples presented.

Ali Shaker said, "Promoting entrepreneurship among students is an important step towards developing the human capital necessary for the future. Building a society that encourages youth entrepreneurship is the responsibility of every society. Zubair SEC believes in the importance of influential groups participating in cultivating and developing entrepreneurship so that the desired results can be reached with their cooperation and support. The Centre is always keen to be present and participate in

such events which receive the attention of youth. Youth have to be empowered with the necessary skills and motivation to spark entrepreneurship innovation and economic growth."

He added, "Zubair SEC likes to participate in such platforms as it allows young people to think innovatively and analytically, identify business opportunities, take initiative, endure through failure, communicate cogently, and develop an entrepreneurial mindset. Through this forum, participants got acquainted with success stories of entrepreneurs in Oman."

Hamad bin Salem Al Kindi, head

of the vocational guidance section at the General Directorate of Education in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, said, "Encouraging students to become entrepreneurs has a lot of advantages in terms of paving way for the innovation, self-development and growth of the country too. Understanding the need for creating and nurturing entrepreneurship among young people, we have taken up this strategic initiative aimed at imparting entrepreneurial knowledge. We thank Zubair SEC for their participation and encouragement to students."

To inspire and encourage, Zubair SEC has been sharing success stories and promoting the entrepreneurial accomplishments of its members on various platforms.

Zubair SEC, a social responsibility initiative of Z-Corp continues building solid business grounds and facilitating business development opportunities for all its members. Through Zubair SEC, its members have been getting better access to knowledge, innovation and understanding of the market.

To achieve its goal, Zubair SEC built a comprehensive support ecosystem that includes providing business development assistance, organising workshops, specialist advisory support, networking opportunities, serviced office space and partnerships.

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