

TOP OMANI WOMAN PERSONALITIES TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSION

The Sultanate will organise a discussion forum with the participation of a number of prominent Omani woman personalities from the various sectors at Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai on Sunday. **>A5**



AHAD FOUNDATION TO SEND CONVOY TO CYCLONE-HIT WILAYATS

Acting from its strong conviction in the importance of social and humanitarian action, Ahad Foundation is operating a relief aid convoy today to the wilayats stricken by the tropical cyclone (Shaheen) in the Sultanate. The mission, which coincides with Omani Women's Day, reflects the Foundation's concern for society. **>A5**



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T20 WORLD CUP

Sayyid Theyazin to be chief patron at WC cricket opening ceremony

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth will be the chief patron at today's opening ceremony of the final qualifiers for the T20 Cricket World Cup.

The T20 Cricket World Cup ceremony will be held in Oman, represented by the Oman Cricket Club, on the grounds of the Oman Cricket Academy in the wilayat of Al Amerat. The Oman national cricket team will play against Papua New Guinea immediately after the opening ceremony, which will be held at 1:30 pm, while at 6 pm, Bangladesh will face Scotland.

On the coming Tuesday, at 2 pm, Scotland and Papua New Guinea will meet, while at 6 pm, Oman will meet Bangladesh. On the final day of the qualifiers, October 21, Bangladesh will face Papua New Guinea, and Oman will face



off against Scotland. Two of these qualifiers will qualify for the final rounds, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates, with the participation of 12 qualified teams from different continents.

The opening ceremony includes a number of musical performances presented by the Royal Cavalry music wing, in addition

to the entry of the flags of the participating countries carried by members of the Royal Cavalry.

The opening ceremony will be attended by Manu Sawhney, CEO of the International Cricket Council, heads of federations participating in the qualifiers, and Pankaj Khimji, chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Cricket.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Deaf community in cyclone cleanup

1 Using sign language among themselves and at the same time overcoming difficulties communicating with other relief workers and victims, a group of young deaf people dip into the mud to do their part in the huge clean up operations a week after Cyclone Shaheen ripped through the country. **>A6**

WORLD Tributes paid to slain UK lawmaker

2 UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer and Home Secretary Priti Patel were among politicians who paid tributes to late Member of Parliament David Amess, 69, who was stabbed to death in his constituency east of London. **>A6**



MARKET GDP rises by 10% to reach OMR15.3bn

3 The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices in the Sultanate rose by more than 10 per cent to reach OMR15.3 billion at the end of the second quarter of the current year, in comparison to an amount of OMR13.9 billion in the same quarter of the previous year. **>B1**



33°
MUSCAT



Omani windsurfers triumph on home waters at the Asian Windsurfing Championship

A6

OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

WOMEN HAVE KEY ROLE IN OMAN'S PROGRESS



Oman has always believed in and supported the cause of women, supported each individual irrespective of gender and ethnicity.

Lujaina Mohsin Darwish,
MHD-ITICS, Chairperson and State Council member



I work side by side with my colleagues to communicate the voices of society, and help achieve its aspirations.

Tahira Al Lawati,
Majlis Al Shura member



Do not allow challenges, whatever they are, to break our determination and slow down our resolve.

Nadhira Al Harthy,
First Omani woman to scale Mt. Everest

role they will continue to adopt, to guide today's youth as well.

"I am sure the current generation of Omani women – especially those in leadership roles – is able to give and contribute positively to building a renewed nation," she said. "What I aim to do as a doctor, is to empower the next generation to develop their scientific and practical careers, as well as create an environment that stimulates and encourages work, innovation, and the continuous development of technical, administrative, and research skills."

This was also the opinion of Maryam Al Hashmi, the head of the Omani Women's Association in Kamil and Al Wafi, who added that dedicating a day for Omani women is testament to their skill and dedication.

"The country continues to witness great interest in empowering women and youth in the labour market, as these two sections of people play an important factor in the development of all sectors of the national economy," she said. "Together, we aspire to build a better future for this country that is dear to all of us." **>A3**

On the occasion of Omani Women's Day, *Times of Oman* spoke to 10 Omani women to understand their contributions, and their future role in the nation's development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani women have played a crucial role in the development of the country for generations, and will be integral to nation-building in the future.

Those are the views of 10 Omani women interviewed for Omani Women's Day, which falls on 17 October every year. Standing side by side with their male colleagues, Omani women also play an active role to achieve the aspirations of communities and societies, as well as their own, said Tahira Al Lawati, a Majlis Al Shura member.

"Social development cannot be limited to one group of people,

without considering others," she said. "Instead, we must make sure everyone benefits. I urge Omani women to continue on their path of giving their best, and contributing to the development of society in whatever field they find themselves in. Let us also not lose sight of our pivotal and fundamental role to care for the family, and raise our future generations."

In this context, Dr. Fathiya Al Qassabi, a senior consultant family physician at the Ministry of Health, said the role of Omani women had been pivotal to society during ancient times as well, helping enrich the communities of which they were a part. It is a

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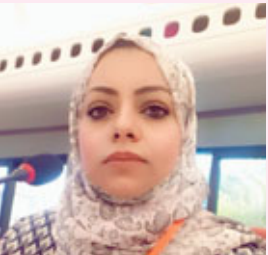
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OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

< FROM A1

An honour for women



"Since ancient times, the Omani women have been a major contributor to civilisation and humanity, in many fields."

Fathiya Al Qassabi,
Senior family consultant physician, Ministry of Health



"Women and youth represent an important factor in the development of all sectors of the national economy, and for a better future."

Maryam Al Hashmi,
Head of Omani Women's Association in Al Kamil and Al Wafi



"There is no doubt that this occasion is an honour and a mandate for Omani women, and an incentive for them to do more."

Rahma Al Musafer,
Chairperson of the Board, Al Rahma Association for Motherhood and Child Welfare



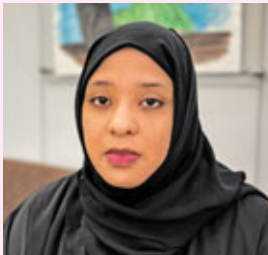
"Achieving personal goals, professional goals, and family goals. These are the three aspirations of a modern Omani woman."

Maimunah Al Shebani,
Founder, The Retail Agency



"Do not look at challenges as an obstacle, but turn into a means for continuity, development, and growth."

Sharifa Al Barami,
Co-founder, Markeetex



"It's heartening to see that women's participation in developing Oman's economy is explicitly stated in Vision 2040."

Rasmiya Al Jahwary,
Procurement and administrative assistant, UNICEF Oman

Rahma Al Musafer, the chairperson of the board of Al Rahma Association for Women and Child Welfare, added: "There is no doubt that this occasion is an honour and a mandate for Omani women, and an incentive for them to do more."

Women who lead businesses in the private sector also had advice to share on the occasion of Omani Women's Day, advising their peers to overcome challenges, because doing so made them stronger.

Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, the chairperson of MHD-IT-ICS, said women in the public eye have an obligation to guide today's youth so that they are ready to take up the roles expected of them in future.

"I personally promote the achievements of other women in the fields of business, education, or sports and adventure," she said. "I encourage women to enter domains dominated by men, so that they can go on to be role models for others. The courage of your convictions – this is the primary requirement.

"Persistence and determination are also vital characteristics," added Darwish, who is also a member of Oman's State Council. "By having a clearly defined plan and rigorously following her chosen path, ignoring the contrarian voices around her, a woman business leader will establish herself among the powerful leaders in the region."

To help others so they can contribute better, Sharifa Al Barami, the co-founder of e-commerce platform Markeetex, has set up a virtual academy so that people can sharpen the skills required to succeed in business.

"Most of the time, I see that there are women who are hesi-

"Omani women should be proud of being a key partner in the renaissance and growth of this country"

Maryam Al Balushi,
Fashion designer

tant to step into work environments, not because of a lack of knowledge, but because they seek confidence in their own abilities, and because of fear of failure," she said.

"What I am attempting to do is enhance skills by taking them away from their emotions," she added. "We must come to terms with the idea of failure, because in business, failure is possible, but we must all have the courage to face fears and accept them," Al Barami added.

Few people know more about challenges, however, than Nadhira Al Harthy. The first Omani woman to successfully scale Mount Everest, Nadhira refuses to be beaten by the hurdles in front of her, choosing instead to meet them with a smile and learn from her experiences, so she can come back stronger.

"We must be proud of ourselves and the dreams that we

strive to achieve, and must not allow challenges, whatever they are, to break our determination and slow down our resolve," she said. "Having dreams that we strive for makes it worth the effort taken to pursue them, and the joy we get on their achievement."

Given the roles Omani women hold in society, they must be proud of their accomplishments, and the potential they have to make things better, explained Maryam Al Balushi, a fashion designer. "Every one of us is a mother, an educator, the guardian of future generations, who makes sacrifices for them," she said. "She holds the reins of many responsibilities, and is a key partner in the development and renaissance of Oman."

Maimunah Al Shebani, founder of The Retail Agency, added the women strive to find balance in all things that they do: a very important quality in every aspect of life.

"Women do two full-time jobs – the one at the workplace that contributes to the economy and the one at home that contributes to the development of the society," she added. "Both jobs are equally important to the long-term development of the nation."

Involved in the development of society for many years, Rasmiya Al Jahwary of UNICEF Oman also had sound advice to give to today's women.

She said, "Believe in yourself! And don't be pushed off course by negativity. Omani women contribute in so many spheres – government, the private sector, civil society – as well as family life. For me, what's great to see is the emergence of female entrepreneurs who will play a huge role in the future prosperity of our country."

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WIDE COLLECTION

LC Waikiki opens its second store in Mall of Oman



MUSCAT: International fashion and lifestyle retail brand, LC Waikiki, has opened its second store in Oman at Mall of Oman this Tuesday. This is the largest store in the region at 20,000 square feet and includes a wide collection of apparel and lifestyle products catering to every member of the family. LC Waikiki offers a versatile range of high-quality fashion at great value. The collections include women's on-trend modest fashion styles, the latest in men's and kids' fashion as well as home accessories.

At the inauguration event of the store, Mr. Neeraj Tekchandani, CEO of Apparel Group said "We are proud to be partnering up with MAF and further expanding LC Waikiki's strong retail footprint in the Oman market. Our brands' expansion with Mall of Oman is in line with our strategy of being responsive to consumer demand. Oman continues to be a strategic market for us and we are proud to be part of the country's growth."

About LC Waikiki

Born in France, fostered in Turkey, LC Waikiki is a multi-cultural fashion brand which has continuously grown in the global market

over the last 33 years. LC Waikiki today has more than 1,200 stores in 51 countries with over 50,000 employees and a brand range that includes clothes and accessories for men, women and children of all ages, including babies, style-aware individuals and families. The brand accompanies itself with a distinctive methodology – high-quality clothes at great value. From close-fitting, stylish knitwear for men, to fashionable shoes and slippers for young girls, LC Waikiki has exactly what you need, when you need it.

About Apparel Group

Apparel Group caters to thousands of eager shoppers through its more than 1750+ stores and 75+ brands across all platforms employing 16,500 multicultural staff covering four continents. Apparel group has carved its strong presence not only in the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia but opened thriving gateways to market in India, South Africa, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. Apparel Group operates brands from around the world, originating from USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia.



OMAN CRICKET OFFICIAL HEALTHCARE PARTNER

Apollo Hospital Muscat ties up with Oman Cricket as official healthcare partner



MUSCAT: Apollo Hospital Muscat signed an agreement with Oman Cricket (OC) as a healthcare partner recently. The agreement was signed officially by VT Sateshwaran, Managing Director of Apollo Hospital and Pankaj Khimji, Chairman, Oman Cricket.

"We are extremely grateful to the management of Apollo Hospitals for collaborating with Oman Cricket as its official healthcare partner and supporting our efforts to promote Oman as a sporting destination," said Pankaj Khimji, Chairman, Oman Cricket who signed the agreement on behalf of OC.

VT Sateshwaran, Managing Director of Apollo Hospital reiterated their support and said: "We have a strong team in sports medicine and we are happy to join OC, the official governing body of the cricket sport in Oman in making the sport reach and maintain its international standards in technical level by providing the best of medical support."

Apollo Hospital Muscat is a well-known healthcare provider in Oman, which provides the state-of-the-art health-care services under one roof with highly motivated and dedicated professionals. The multi-specialty hospital is looking at the development in the sports field with enthusiasm and has its facilities and experience steered for the new role.

K P Shobha, Chief Operating Officer, Apollo Hospital Muscat said, "We look forward to providing holistic healthcare services including prevention, treatment,

rehabilitation and health education for the cricket players. We offer approximately thirty specialty clinics and we can proudly claim that we are one of the hospitals in the Sultanate, offering regular super specialty consultation clinics under the expertise of visiting doctors from India, Germany and Jordan in the field of Spine, Orthopedics, Urogynaecology, Urology and Neurosurgery."

Well geared to all on-field and outdoor emergencies

The Hospital team is well equipped and prepared to provide prompt and emergency healthcare services from the cricket academy grounds to the hospital, according to the internists Dr. Dilip Kumar Singhvi and Dr. Wahid Khan and orthopedicians at Apollo Hospitals Muscat.

"The most common injuries occur during the fielding in a cricket match, when trying to catch the ball which sometimes could cause finger fractures of the players. Most players are prone to what is called as on field injuries which would need primary healthcare attention – from preliminary examinations to clear the player basically if they are to fit enough to proceed with the game. In case of a sprain or ligament tear, the players would be shifted to the hospital with immediate management of the injury. Whatever the injury is we have the facilities to manage the treatments," said Dr Raghavan, Orthopedic Surgeon.

The Orthopaedic and Sports surgeon of Apollo Hospital Muscat Dr Saseendar Shanmugasundaram, explained that the most common injuries comprise of ligament tears of the knee (ACL, PCL, meniscus tears, shoulder dislocations (Bankart tear), as well as ankle ligament tears. "Injuries from cricket can range from minor to major – can be finger injuries, or sometimes can be Knee or shoulder dislocations. We manage all these injuries with a goal of getting them back to sports performance at the earliest," said Dr Saseendar Shanmugasundaram.

"The treatment of an athlete is always different from treating a regular patient. A sports person is all about performance, not simple pain management. So rehabilitation plays major role with them. We, Apollo hospitals being the official healthcare partner of Oman cricket, have assigned a designated sports medicine specialty team to take care of the players when they arrive here during the matches. We also have an efficient on field medical team who will be on constant contact with the hospital team. On field injuries will be attended to on priority with our ambulance ready to pick the players and bring them to the hospital. Regular follow ups with the Oman Cricket physiotherapist will also be done. Our goal would be to provide the best and prompt treatment and to make sure the player is fit as soon as possible to resume the match," elucidated M. Vijay Kaliswaran MPT (Sports) MIAP, Sports physi-



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ON OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

Ahad Foundation to operate aid convoy to cyclone-hit wilayats

MUSCAT: Acting from its strong conviction in the importance of social and humanitarian action, Ahad Foundation is operating a relief aid convoy on Sunday, (October 17, 2021 to the wilayats stricken by the tropical cyclone (Shaheen) in the Sultanate.

The mission, which coincides with Omani Women's day, reflects the Foundation's concern for society.

Her Highness the Honourable Lady, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, has been keen and influential in activating the role of Omani Women's Associations (OWA) in rallying the mission, codenamed "Ahad Al Khair" or "Reign of Bounty".

The aim is to unify efforts of OWA members in distributing supplies and delivering aid to those who need it most.

The convoy of Ahad Foundation underscores the significance of charitable, humanitarian and



social responsibility expected to be shouldered by all institutions of the State, as well as individuals, particularly in such conditions.

The convoy will pursue a specific route and its teams operate from a number of assembly points.

The mission is undertaken by Ahad Foundation personnel, along with OWA members and representatives from different governorates of the Sultanate, in addition to women volunteers

from the Royal Court Affairs.

The convoy will kick off from Muscat Governorate and head towards South and North Al Batinah. It will stop over in five main posts in the wilayats of Al Musanah, A'Suwaiq, Al Khabourah and Saham.

The fifth stop will be in the Wilayat of Ibri in the Governorate of A'Dhahirah.

Last week, Ahad Foundation operated similar convoys to the stricken areas. —ONA

MEETING

Omani woman personalities to take part in Expo 2020 Dubai discussion

MUSCAT: The Sultanate will organise a discussion forum with the participation of a number of prominent Omani woman personalities from the various sectors and female entrepreneurs and activists in the social media at Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai on Sunday.

The Sultanate's delegation to the discussion forum will be chaired by Jujain Mohsin Haider Darwaish in the presence of female personalities from the GCC States. Oman Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (OCCI) is participating in Expo 2020 Dubai with a delegation comprising a number of women in business at OCCI.

A discussion is expected on the mechanisms of partnerships and cooperation between the female entrepreneurs of Oman and Ajman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A number of female personalities from the pavilions of other countries taking part in Expo 2020 Dubai will attend the forum. —ONA



CYCLONE

RAO continues cleanup work

MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman continues its efforts of the reopening and paving of roads with the help from the Sultan's Armed Forces within the framework of the efforts of the Military Committee

for Emergency Management.

This is in addition to expediting the implementation of other efforts related to removing waste from public places, government facilities and institutions in the North

Al Batinah Governorate affected by the tropical situation (Shaheen), in coordination with the two military sub-committees for emergency management in the governorates of North and South Al Batinah. —ONA



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Auction Announcement

Ministry of Energy and Minerals jointly with CC Energy Development S.A.L (Oman) would like to announce an open invitation for the general public to participate in a Sealed Auction as described in the table below.

Auction No.	Material Type (description)	Location	Visit Date	Bid Closing Date	Bank Draft / Certified Cheque Amount	Auction Coordinators Contacts Details
CCED-21-SCRAP-001	Pipe & Fittings, Tubing, Casing, Misc. Metal and Non Metal Items	Farha Site	25th of October 2021	1st of November 2021 at 12:00 PM	OMR 50,000	zalbahry@cced.com.om GSM: +968 95093136 falmughairi@cced.com.om GSM: +968 94118513 nserret@cced.com.om GSM: +968 94114459
	Accommodation Units, Cabins, Tanks, Foundation Blocks, Fencing, Cables Etc.	Salwan Site				

In accordance with the following terms & conditions

- The scrap materials offered for sale can be viewed at its dedicated area mentioned above "As it is-where it is".
- A bus will be arranged to take bidders to the location and back to Muscat on the visit date specified above. The bus will leave at the CC Energy Development S.A.L (Oman) Office, CCED Building, Al Sarooj Street, Way no: 3036, Shatti Al Qurum at 6.00am and arrive in Farha Site at approx. 11.00pm then leave from Farha Site 2.00pm to arrive back in Muscat by 7.00pm.
- All bidders who will be visiting the location must send by email a copy of their residency cards (Front and Back), their Vaccination Certificate (2 dose), their full name, contact telephone number and company name by C.O.B. on the 10/10/2021, this is required for preparation of security passes for the visit. All bidders are also required to do a PCR Test 48Hrs before the Visit Date and without the security pass and PCR Test Results the bidders will not be allowed on the bus.
- Bidders are requested to collect "Bid Form" from the CC Energy Development S.A.L (Oman) Office, CCED Building, Al Sarooj Street, Way no: 3036, Shatti Al Qurum
- Interested bidders or individuals must submit their bids in a closed sealed envelope addressed to the Materials Manager at CC Energy Development S.A.L (Oman) office reception during working hours and the envelopes are to be clearly marked with the auction reference number(s).
- Bids are only accepted on "ORIGINAL" bid form. Photocopies or Fax will be rejected.
- Bids shall be submitted in Omani Rials only
- Bidders shall be required to submit with the bid a bank draft or a certified cheque with a sum of fifty thousand Omani Rial (OMR 50,000). Cheques must be addressed to CC Energy Development S.A.L and must be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission. This amount is refundable and shall be returned to the non-successful bidders after completion of bid evaluation. Bidders who do not submit a bank draft or a certified cheque will be disqualified.
- Bidding applicants shall enclose scrap dealing permits and certification.
- The successful bidder is obliged to pay the value of the tender within ten (10) working days from the date of notification of award. If awarded bidder fails to pay the outstanding amount within the specified period, the bidder shall be disqualified and the guarantee provided as part of the bid will be forfeited.
- As per ROP and CCED Auction Security Requirements, the successful bidder will NOT be allowed to pick up any of the materials without providing CCED with the Buyers Custom Payment Papers and the list of material to be picked up from the Scrap Yard.
- The successful bidder is responsible to follow Company's instruction & HSE procedure and to provide all the necessary arrangement and equipment for loading, transporting of Scrap Material from its location and for cleaning the location to the companies requirements.
- The successful bidder shall clear the yard within a period of two (2) months from the commencement date of clearing. If the successful bidder is unable to clear the yard within a period of two (2) months, the successful bidder shall pay rental fees for each additional day of extension and this will be stated at notification of award.
- The bids will be opened by the representatives of Ministry of Energy and Mining, and the Company without the need of bidders' attendance.
- The Ministry and Company reserve the right to take any action it seems appropriate without giving any reason.
- For more details, please contact auction coordinators (Sunday-Thursday) on (details provide in table above).





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NOBLE SERVICE

Deaf community joins cyclone cleanup operation

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: Oman's deaf community overcome language barrier to join forces with the huge clean up operations a week after Cyclone Shaheen ripped through the country.

Using sign languages among themselves and at the same time overcoming difficulties communicating with other relief workers and victims, a group of young deaf people dip into the mud to do their part.

"Sometimes, people think that the deaf people cannot grasp what is going on around them. So, we are here to prove that we are aware of the suffering of thousands of people and we can help, too," Azza Al-Mabsali, an official sign language interpreter for Al Amal Club for the Deaf, told *Times of Oman*.

Cyclone Shaheen has killed 12 people across the country. Widespread damage from the storm forced more than 5,000 people into temporary furnished accommodation set up by the government.

Most of the damage is in Oman's Al Batinah region, in the towns of Al Musannah, Suwaig, Saham, Khaburah and Sohar, which were



HELPING HAND: Al Amal Club for the Deaf in a group photo.

hit by winds of 110 kph and 12-metre-high waves.

Azza urged employers to give deaf people a chance because not many of them are employed.

"We are often overlooked when it comes to employment just because we are deaf. We are here to promote deafness and demand equal opportunities. We are participating with everybody in this cleanup but why we cannot work together with everybody in work-

places?" she added.

Qassim Al-Asfoor, one of the victims in Khabura, one of the towns effected most by the flood, paid a special tribute to the deaf community who turned up in his area.

"What I don't understand is that why the deaf people in Oman don't get equal employment opportunities? If they are here helping us then they can work competently in offices if given the chance," Shidhani, told the *Times of Oman*.

Oman's labour laws say that, as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), both public and private organisations must employ minimum two per cent of their workforce people with disabilities.

There are no statistics available in Oman to show how many disabled people are in the workforce but some schools and higher education institutions provide sign language classes for deaf students. But some deaf people find it a challenge to find jobs.

"I am still looking for a job four years after I completed my secondary school education. My colleagues with no hearing disabilities all work but I am still looking for a company who can offer me a job," hard of hearing job seeker Shamsa Al-Shehi, 22, said.

Al Amal Club for the Deaf is registered under the Deaf Oman Sports Committee registered in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

It has a social club that provides sign language services such as translations. It is fully equipped with sport facilities and arranged trips abroad for cultural exchanges with international deaf communities.



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UK'S LATE MP DAVID AMESS

Leaders pay tribute

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer and Home Secretary Priti Patel were among the politicians who paid tribute to the late Member of Parliament David Amess, 69, on Saturday after he was stabbed to death in his constituency east of London.

Earlier, the Metropolitan Police said the preliminary investigation has revealed a potential motivation linked to extremism. Two locations in London were

being searched, though the investigation remains ongoing.

Amess, a long-serving MP in the British Parliament since 1983, was repeatedly stabbed at the Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea about 40 miles (62 kilometres) east of London on Friday. Johnson and Starmer stood side by side at one point in a moment of silence after laying flowers at the scene before, returning to their vehicles escorted by police. — **DW**

Omanis claim top prizes in Asian Windsurfing Championships

Abdullah Al Sarhi won twelve of his 13 races in the Techno293 Plus class to take gold, with Omar Al Qartoubi claiming silver and Ali Al Sarhi the bronze



talent thrived.

Abdullah Al Sarhi won twelve of his 13 races in the Techno293 Plus class to take gold, with Omar Al Qartoubi claiming silver and Ali Al Sarhi in the bronze medal. In the Techno293 class, Mohammed Al Sarhi ended the event as the highest ranked competitor, taking first position narrowly from Abdul-Rahman Al Mujaini in second and Sachin Ganesh of India in third.

In the Formula Foil class, making its debut at this year's Asian Windsurfing Championships, Abdul

dul Majeed Al Hadhrami won nine out of 10 races to take gold. Brothers Makhtar Al Mujaini ended the event in second place to take silver by four points ahead of Hammad Al Mujaini.

The windsurfers received their medals at a closing ceremony held under the auspices of the Governor of Al Batinah South, Issa bin Hammad bin Mohammed Al Azri and in the presence of Eng. Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi, Chairman of OMRAN, and Dr. Khamis bin Salim Al Jabri Oman Sail CEO.

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, Oman Sail CEO, said, "At a time when international travel is restricted for so many in the Asian region, we are delighted that such a young fleet was able to perform at a high level. The quality on show this week bodes well for the future of Asian windsurfing. The addition of the Formula Foil to the Asian Windsurfing Championships added an exciting new dimension to the event and we hope that the class will continue to grow. We are grateful to the surfers who were

able to travel and look forward to welcoming them back to Oman in the future."

Sultan Al Balushi, Windsurfing Coach at Oman Sail, said, "The windsurfing programme at Oman Sail has the potential to make the nation a force on the global stage in the coming years. Our young surfers showed a high level of technical ability and great composure throughout the competition and the set of core skills they possess will serve them well throughout their careers on the water."

The Asian Windsurfing Championships is supported by a line-up of supporters including Oman Air and the Barcelo Musannah Resort as official partners, and Be'ah as environmental supporter and Salsabeel Water from the National Mineral Water Company.

The closing ceremony was also an opportunity to honour the achievements of Oman Sail's returning Nastro Rosa Tour and Star Sailors League teams after a successful performance in Europe. Team Captain Nasser Al Mashari, Hussain Al Jabri, Ali Al Balushi, Haitham Al Wahaibi and Akram Al Wahaibi competed in offshore and inshore racing on identical

DIAM24 crafts around the Italian coastline, ending the Tour in second place.

The team then joined Team Manager Hashim Al Rashdi, Yassir Al Rahbi, Waleed Al Kindi, Musab Al Hadi, Ahmed Al Hasani, Abdul-Rahman Al Mashari and Raad Al Hadi for training in Switzerland ahead of the Star Sailors League finals where they finished fourth in the Petit Final to end a demanding time after a long break from competitive sailing.

Al Musannah Sports City will host Musannah Race Week from 1-5 November 2021, the 2021 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 Asian Championships from 5-9 November 2021, the 2021 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 World Championships from 16-21 November.

The 11th edition of Sailing Arabia - The Tour will also begin in Musannah, on 24 November, before the venue hosts another major event with the 2021 ICLA Radial World Championships taking place from 28 November-6 December. A very busy winter season ends with the prestigious Youth Sailing World Championships, held in Asia for the first time, from 11-18 December 2021.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Asian Windsurfing Championships came to a close with local windsurfers claiming the top prizes in the perfect conditions of Al Musannah Sports City. Light winds between 5-8 knots every day produced an exciting competition where windsurfing

SUPPORT TO RELATIVES

US to pay relatives of Afghans killed in Kabul drone strike



KABUL: The Pentagon on Friday offered condolence payments for the family members of civilians killed during a botched US drone strike in August.

The US had admitted that the attack killed as many as 10 civilians, including seven children.

The strike was meant to target operatives of the so-called IS terror outfit believed to have been preparing attacks on the Kabul airport.

The exact amount offered has not been disclosed to the public. The US Defence Department said it was working with the US State Department to see if it could also support the relatives who were interested in moving to the United States.

The Defence Department said it made a commitment to the families after it made a mistake, which included offering "ex gra-

tia condolence payments."

Drone strike is 'a tragic mistake'

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said the matter came up in a virtual meeting between Colin Kahl, the US undersecretary of defense for policy, and Steven Kwon, the founder and president of the nonprofit group Nutrition & Education International (NEI).

Kwon had employed Zemari Ahmadi, who was killed after he was wrongly identified as an IS militant by US intelligence.

Kwon told Kahl that Ahmadi had provided "care and lifesaving assistance for people facing high mortality rates in Afghanistan," according to Kirby.

Ahmadi's 22-year-old nephew said last month that a distant apology was not enough. — **DW**

ARAB PARLIAMENT

Council of Oman takes part in Cairo meeting

MUSCAT: The Council of Oman participated yesterday in the first session of the second annual convening of the third legislative term of the Arab Parliament held at the Headquarters of the Arab League, Cairo.

The delegation of the Council of Oman comprised Dr. Hasan Ali Al Mad'hani, member of the State Council; Sheikh Ali Nasser Al Mahrouqi, member of the State Council and Humaid Ali Al Naseri member of Majlis Al Shura.

The session discussed the conditions in the Arab region, the latest developments at the regional arena and the reports of the Parliament's committees.

The Council of Oman participated in the preparatory meetings of the committees of the Arab Parliament committees.

The participation of the Council of Oman aimed at cementing the parliamentary relations among the Arab countries taking part in the event and communicating with the members of the legislative councils and parliaments of the Arab countries and other countries.

Adel Abdulrahman Al Asoumi, President of Arab Parliament, and chairman of the session announced the launch of the Arab Centre for Anti-terrorism and Extremism. — **ONA**

Invitation to Tender

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

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/095
Subject	UNE - LOT 08H - 2021
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid "DCRP Registration Certificate" and valid "CEP Authorized card copy issued by DISC" Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 31 st October 2021
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	N/A
Last date for Response for pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 7 th November 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

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



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ICC T20 World Cup tickets sale picks up online as history beckons Oman

Oman Cricket has built the infrastructure to welcome about 4,000 fans for the Group B double-headers of the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Everyone wants to be a part of history being made. As Oman stands on the threshold of a historic page of its cricketing history with the Sultanate playing venue-host to the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup starting from October 17. Cricket fever has gripped the country and online tickets sale for the Group B matches in Oman



INAUGURAL FUNCTION: Oman Cricket has also requested the fans in the country to adhere to the stipulated COVID-19 protocols, health advisories and regulations on all match days at the stadium.

have picked up.

Oman Cricket has built the infrastructure to welcome about 4,000 fans for the Group B double-headers of the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup to be held at Al Am-

erat Cricket Stadium on October 17, 19 and 21.

The inaugural match will be played on October 17 between hosts Oman and Papua New Guinea at 2pm, followed by Bang-

ladesh and Scotland on the same day at 6pm.

Tickets can only be booked online on <https://www.t20worldcup.com/tickets> and priced at OMR10 for a day, covering both the match-

es. Additionally, special VIP tickets including food, beverages & other refreshment available at OMR30 have also been rolled out for booking.

There will be no ticket sales at the venue. Children under three years of age can enter free. Fans can have their tickets printed or show the tickets on the phone or mobile device at the entry gates.

Meanwhile, Oman Cricket has also requested the fans in the country to adhere to the stipulated COVID-19 protocols, health advisories and regulations on all match days at the stadium to ensure everyone's safety.

Safety guidelines are updated in real time on www.t20worldcup.com/tickets as per the latest government mandates.

Fans will have to display the green status on Al Tarassud+ or Al Hosn Apps, as applicable, or furnish the approved vaccination certification to gain entry.

Stipulated social distancing guidelines have been put in place within the stadium and fans are requested to wear the face masks at all times and also refrain from using blocked seats.

In his comments, Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of Oman Cricket,

said: "We are on the verge of creating history, and what better than watching Oman battling it out with top teams in the Group B stage of the T20 World Cup, right here in home conditions. While we understand the excitement and encourage our fans in Oman to come and support the teams in large numbers, we request them to adhere to the stipulated COVID protocols and guidelines to avoid last-minute disappointments. We want the fans in Oman to come, enjoy and savour this historic moment for years to come."

Re-entry

Oman Cricket also reinforced that each ticket can only be utilised once. Once scanned, the same ticket cannot be used for entry or re-entry. If a spectator leaves the venue, they will not be allowed back in using the same ticket.

Fans will not be allowed to carry any outside food or refreshments into the stadium and ample food and beverage kiosks have been set up for the fans.

Items which have the potential to cause injury, nuisance, or inconvenience to any other person will also not be permitted into the stadium.

TABLE TENNIS

Indian paddlers shine at WTT Youth Contender Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian paddler Deepak Yashaswini Ghorpade stole the limelight as she bagged U-17 and U-9 girls singles titles at the 2021 WTT Youth Contender Muscat on Friday. The young Indian paddler managed to win both the finals against the Uzbekistan's Markhabo Magdieva. In U-17 girls singles on Thursday, Deepak won the final by 3-0. She repeated the victory once again with the same result during the concluding ceremony of the WTT event in Muscat on Friday at the indoor hall of the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

Champion Deepak expressed her joy on clinching both the titles. "It is really great to win two titles at WTT Youth Contender in Muscat. This is my first victory of two titles in this season. Both the final matches were very tough and I did not expect to win in both the matches as the opponent was very tough. I managed to play with full focus and balance in all rounds. This assisted me in snatching both U17 & U19 trophies," she said.

Deepak concluded that she is looking forward for her forthcoming challenges. "I am gearing up to take part in the Slovakia and Hungary Open in the coming days. My goal is to continue snatching more titles and to compete at the world championship," she added.

In the semifinal clash of U-19 girls singles, Deepak defeated her teammate Anargya Manjunath 3-0, while Markhabo Magdieva beat Indian's Lakshita Narang 3-1 in a tough encounter.



Indian paddlers' domination continued as Suhana snatched the U-15 girls singles title. The Indian champion beat her teammate Hansini Rajan 3-1 in the final. However, Hansini Rajan bounced back strongly in U-13 girls singles as she won the title after beating Iranian's Alokani 3-1 in the concluding fixture.

His Highness Sayyid Fahar bin Fatik Al Said, was the chief guest for the concluding ceremony in the presence of under-secretary of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth and Abdullah bin Mohammed Bamakhalef Oman Table Tennis Association (OTTA) Chairman. Top dignitaries from the Ministry, Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) and WTT representatives attended the final ceremony of the event.

The chief guest congratulated the winners and gave trophies to the winners in all the categories.

Oman's girls paddlers including Al Hoor Al Jassasi, Noor Al Farsi

and Retaj Al Abri made their debut in the WTT event. Despite the loss and existing from the groups round in U-11, U-13 and U-15, they gained the required technical experience and exposure.

The high profile event saw the participation of more than 100 players from 16 countries. The participants competed in U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17 and U-19 categories.

The OTTA chief said the Association is hosting the international events and championship with an aim to boost the game in the Sultanate. "Spreading the table tennis and supporting in the national economy for organising these events are the top objectives from these high class events. Participating of more than 100 paddlers from both genders representing more than 15 countries is a great chance for our young paddlers. This is the suitable environment for our domestic players to improve their standards by competing with top ranking paddlers and adopting them in these top events.

CRICKET

Rahul Dravid set to take over as Team India coach after T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI: In what comes as the biggest positive for Indian cricket in recent times, former India skipper Rahul Dravid has agreed to take over as the head coach of the national team. The development took place on the sidelines of the final of the 14th edition of the Indian Premier League on Friday night.

Speaking to ANI, sources in the know of developments confirmed that the NCA head is ready to take over as the national team coach. "Dravid has agreed and it cannot get better. The other positions will now be looked into while Vikram stays as the batting coach. The Indian team is in a state of transition with youngsters coming in and they have all worked with Dravid and it will be all the more easier for Indian cricket to continue on its path to become world beaters on the pitch," the source said.

Dravid was always the preferred choice for the BCCI but it looks like it took Secretary Jay Shah and President Sourav Ganguly to sit down and talk with the former captain before he agreed to wear the cap full-time after travelling to Sri Lanka with the team for the limited-overs series recently during the main team's tour of England.

"Jay and Sourav spoke to him and it was about Dravid being convinced because it does need a lot of time as you need to be on the go constantly. But things went



well and Dravid has always kept the interest of the Indian cricket on the top so it made things easier as the team would do well to have someone like him guiding the boys," the source said.

Current coach Ravi Shastri's contract ends with the T20 World Cup that gets underway on Sun-

day. The BCCI is hosting the tournament in Oman and UAE. India will open its T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan on October 24 in Dubai. After the upcoming T20 World Cup, Virat Kohli will also be stepping down as the side's captain in the shortest format. **ANI**

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INDIA'S INFLATION RATE

India's annual rate of inflation based on the monthly wholesale price index (WPI) has declined to 10.66 per cent in September from the previous month's 11.39 per cent, government data showed.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



WALL STREET SCORES

Wall Street scored its biggest week since June as strong retail sales boosted the risk appetite of equity market investors, despite surging inflationary pressures on the US economy.

Sultanate's GDP rises by 10% to reach OMR15.3bn

NCSI data attributed this rise as a result of the increase in the average oil price by about 9.9 per cent

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices in the Sultanate rose by 10.1 per cent to reach OMR15.3 billion at the end of the second quarter of this year, compared to OMR13.9 billion in the same quarter of the previous year.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information in a report analysing the economic situation in the Sultanate for the second quarter of 2021, attributed this rise as a result of the increase in the average oil price by about 9.9 per cent, as the price of a barrel rose from \$51.1 to \$56.2 in the second quarter of this year.

The added value of oil activities increased by OMR 354 million, to



NCSI DATA: The report indicates an increase in the trade balance in the second quarter of this year by about OMR604.7 million to reach OMR2.8 billion. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

reach about OMR 4.4 billion, and the added value of non-oil activities increased by 11.1 per cent to OMR11.5 billion.

The report indicates an in-

crease in the trade balance in the second quarter of this year by about OMR604.7 million to reach OMR2.8 billion as a result of an increase in the value of merchandise

exports by 25 per cent, an increase in the value of merchandise imports by 23.8 per cent, and an increase in the value of re-exports by 2.4 per cent.

OMANTEL

Pact inked for integrated cloud contact centre

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development and Omantel have signed an agreement under which Omantel will set up a centre for cloud services for the ministry. Dr Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development and Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO, Omantel signed the agreement.

As per the agreement, Omantel will set up an integrated contact centre for cloud communications to provide IT solutions and services within a secure, high-quality, and flexible cloud environment. Services covered by this agreement include cyber protection, digital data storage, and the issuance of periodic reports. The call centre will also be linked to the ministry's CRM system and will speed up transactions and add more accuracy in dealing with existing files.

These integrated solutions will



help ministry's officials' access regular reports on the performance of the units and call centre employees. Such reports will enable them to follow up the performance indicators in line with administrative policies related to the public sector.

Commenting on the signing of this agreement, Laila Al Najjar said, "Through this agreement, we intend to upgrade the services and operational processes of the

ministry. We seek to benefit from the solutions and cloud services provided by Omantel, which are known for being flexible and of high quality and most importantly meet the ministry's requirements."

She added, "These solutions and technologies will make the process of receiving inquiries, reports, complaints, family counselling and beneficiary services in a flexible, fast, accurate and secure manner. They will also facilitate

following up on files from different departments and digital storage for long periods. The move will contribute towards updating the ministry's systems and services to support e-government."

Talal bin Said Al Mamari said, "Signing this agreement reflects the confidence of our customers in the advanced services provided by Omantel. Today, we are pleased to have the Ministry of Social Development join the list of government agencies benefiting from our state-of-the-art ICT solutions. Omantel is keen to provide the latest technologies and communications solutions and leverage its vast experience and capabilities to ensure that the Ministry achieves the maximum benefit from this project. I am confident that this cooperation will enhance government's efforts towards digitising governance and will link various public organisations."

UNAUDITED RESULTS

Bank Muscat posts net profit of OMR140.16mn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial institution in the Sultanate, announced its preliminary unaudited results for the nine months ended 30 September 2021. The bank posted a net profit of OMR140.16 million for the period compared to OMR 113.21 million reported during the same period in 2020, an increase of 23.8 per cent, mainly due to lower impairment charges.

The key highlights of the results for the period are as follows:

Net Interest Income from Conventional Banking and Net Income from Islamic Financing stood at OMR 252.48 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2021 compared to OMR 240.07 million for the same period in 2020, an increase of 5.2 per cent.

Non-interest income was OMR 105.85 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2021 as compared to OMR 96.72 million for the same period in 2020, an increase of 9.4 per cent.

Operating expenses for the nine months ended 30 September 2021 was OMR 144.33 million as compared to OMR 137.19 million for the same period in 2020, an increase of 5.2 per cent.

Net Impairment for credit and other losses for the nine months in 2021 was OMR 46.77 million as against OMR 64.82 million for the same period in 2020. The



decrease is mainly attributed to the precautionary and collective provisions created by the bank during the first half of 2020, due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the historic decline seen in global crude oil prices. The bank remains vigilant of the continuing stress in the macro-economic and business conditions and its potential impacts.

Net loans and advances including Islamic financing receivables increased by 2.9 per cent to OMR9,156 million as against OMR8,895 million as of 30 September 2020.

Customer deposits including Islamic Customer deposits decreased by 1.1 per cent to OMR8,698 million as against OMR8,795 million as of 30 September 2020.

The full results for the nine months ended 30 September along with the complete set of unaudited financial statements will be released following the approval of the Board of Directors of the bank at its meeting scheduled later during October.

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 MARKET

Wall Street scores its biggest week on strong US retail sales

The S&P 500, which groups the top 500 US stocks, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite both rose about 2 per cent each for the week while the broad-based Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1 per cent

NEW YORK: Wall Street scored its biggest week since June as strong retail sales boosted the risk appetite of equity market investors, despite surging inflationary pressures on the US economy.

The S&P 500, which groups the top 500 US stocks, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite both rose about 2 per cent each for the week while the broad-based Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1 per cent. It was a second straight week of gains for the three indexes, putting a floor under a market that had a wobbly start for the fourth quarter as the inflation from rallying commodity prices led to sharp swings in stocks since the start of October.

Friday's run-up came after US retail sales numbers for September released by the Commerce Department showed a growth of nearly 14 per cent on the year and a steady monthly expansion of 0.7 per cent since August.

Economists polled by US media had expected a monthly decline of 0.2 per cent for September retail sales due to challenges from the coronavirus pandemic, especially inflation. But almost every key sector of the economy saw positive sales instead, showing promise ahead of the holiday shopping season between October and December.

"Wall Street was expecting a slowdown in spending, but it



POLL: Economists polled by US media had expected a monthly decline of 0.2 per cent for September retail sales due to challenges from the coronavirus pandemic, especially inflation. - Photo use for illustrative purpose only

turns out the US consumer is not to be messed with," Ed Moya, an analyst at online trading platform OANDA, said. "Retail sales might moderate next month, but an early holiday is happening and Americans seem poised to spend big this holiday season."

Stocks had been on a roll since

Thursday when minutes from the Federal Reserve's policy meeting in September made clear that the US central bank intended to begin by November or December its stimulus taper and conclude the exercise by the middle of 2022. Uncertainty on when the Federal Reserve would begin the

taper had weighed on markets for months, given the beneficial impact to risk-taking from the central bank's monthly buying of bonds and other assets to the tune of \$120 billion a month.

A new pandemic era in weekly US jobless claims and better-than-expected US corporate earnings for the third quarter also boosted stocks on Thursday.

In Friday's trade, the S&P 500 settled at 4,471, up 33 points, or 0.8 per cent. The blue-chop indicator already rose 1.7 per cent on Thursday, which was already the index's biggest one-day gain since March 5.

For the week, the S&P 500 rose 1.8 per cent, its most since the week that ended on June 18.

The Nasdaq Composite, comprising Big Tech names such as Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, closed at 14,897, up 74 points, or 0.5 per cent. For the week, Nasdaq rose 2.2 per cent, its biggest such advance since the week to July 16. The Dow, comprising mostly industrial-based value stocks, finished Friday's session at 35,295, up 382 points, or 1.1 per cent. For the week, the Dow rose 1.6 per cent, its most since the week ended June 18. -ANI

GOVERNMENT DATA

India's wholesale inflation drops to 10.66% in September

NEW DELHI: The annual rate of inflation based on the monthly wholesale price index (WPI) has declined to 10.66 per cent in September from the previous month's 11.39 per cent, government data showed.

However, WPI in September on a year-on-year basis has escalated due to the rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, non-food articles, food products, crude petroleum and natural gas and chemicals and chemical products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year. In September last year, the WPI inflation was 1.32 per cent.

Fuel and power prices declined to 24.81 per cent in September 2021 compared with 26.09 per cent in August. Meanwhile, manufactured product prices rose to 11.41 per cent compared with 11.39 per cent in the previous month.

"The Food Index consisting of food articles from primary articles group and 'Food Product' from manufactured products group have increased from 159.6 in August 2021 to 159.8 in September 2021. The rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index decreased from 3.43 per cent in August 2021 to 1.14 per cent in September 2021," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement. -WAM

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FINANCIAL RESULTS

AD Ports posts strong revenue growth

ABU DHABI: AD Ports Group announced its financial results for the first half of the year ended 30 June 2021, reporting revenue increase of 21 per cent year-on-year to AED 1,832 million (\$499 million) compared with AED 1,517 million (\$413 million) in the first half of 2020, driven by organic growth, diversification into new businesses, new leases and partnerships.

EBITDA rose 8 per cent year-on-year to AED 770 million (\$210 million), up from AED 714 million (\$195 million) in the first half of 2020, with growth across most of the business clusters.

Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamsi, Group CEO, AD Ports Group, said, "Our results demonstrate our resilience and the robust growth we have achieved across our business in line with our strategy. We are committed to driving development and diversification to Abu Dhabi and the UAE's economy. Our financial performance is underpinned by continued expansions and increased activity, with key partnerships and joint ventures being established that are expected to deliver reliable returns in the future. We are focused on growing our customer base across all of our business clusters."

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SOCIAL MEDIA GIANT

Facebook rolls out end-to-end encrypted chat backups to WhatsApp

WASHINGTON: WhatsApp's end-to-end encrypted chat backups for iOS and Android are here.

As per The Verge, social media giant Facebook announced that the company has started rolling out end-to-end encrypted backups to WhatsApp, on Thursday. Facebook has offered end-to-end encryption for chats for years, but with this new change, users will be able to get the same level of encryption with their backups too.

Reportedly, the feature will be rolling out "slowly" for people on the latest version of the app. The backed-up WhatsApp chats get stored in iCloud or Google Drive, but that could be handed over by Apple or Google to law enforcement if compelled.

However, with the new change, the users will be able to secure their WhatsApp cloud backups with a password or a 6-4digit encryption key, which means that no third person but you will be able to access the backup.

Last month, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg had taken to social media to announce that WhatsApp will be adding another layer of privacy and security which would be rolling out soon. -ANI



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JOB VACANCIES

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Responsibilities:

- To manage operations and production of the restaurant.
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- To lead the operations and production team to deliver within specific standards and schedules required.
- To manage overall costs including material, equipment, manpower, etc.
- To manage production planning, forecasting, purchasing and stock control.
- To maintain and improve the overall performance of the restaurant on a regular basis including cost analysis and monitoring of processes.
- Provide on-job coaching and guidance to team members, managing their performance to ensure a smooth operation.
- To work along with the Marketing team to develop Marketing Strategies and Promotion plans to successfully market the restaurant in the relevant media platform.
- Manage and supervise the food & beverage staff to ensure maximum utilization of the manpower allocated.
- Ensure strict compliance with all relevant Hygiene and Safety legislation and requirements.
- To maintain close, professional and effective links with all external contractors/suppliers to ensure that they deliver to mutually accepted agreements and highest quality levels.

Educational Qualifications & Experience:

- Post Graduate/Graduate or equivalent qualification.
- Minimum 05 years of experience in a supervisory level at F&B, Catering, Hotels and Hospitality establishments.
- Knowledge of food hygiene and Health and Safety requirements.
- A good understanding of quality assurance, procedures and protocols.
- Excellent communication skills both verbally and written English/ Arabic.

Key Skills Required:

- Excellent co-ordination skills
- Strong presentation and communication skills, verbal and written.
- Effective planning, management and organizing skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with internal teams and external suppliers and customers.
- Must possess neat and pleasant grooming habits.
- Proactive approach to problem solving.
- Change orientated to make business improvements.

If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at oman2020marketing@gmail.com

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- Explain pricing costs to potential clients and negotiate a fee, if necessary.
- Contact manage an existing client

to ensure their needs are satisfied and they are happy with the service.

- Work with production teams to ensure that agreed advertisements are carried in the right place and at the right time.
- Track purchases and keep record of sales, contacts and deals.
- Work to maximize sales and meet targets.
- Deliver sales reports to management.

Key Skills: Excellent telephone manner, ability to persuade clients, outgoing, and sociable

Education: Any degree, candidates with marketing background will be preferred.

If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at oman2020marketing@gmail.com

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One of the most reputed ISO Certified Manufacturing Company in the Sultanate of Oman has vacancy for the post of Sales Coordinator. The candidate should be a graduate with excellent skills in Microsoft Office.

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Contact: 96219904
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Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.

GSM: 92334161

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For Private Family, with experience in Arabic and Indian cuisine.

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant, B.Com, MBA, with 15 years of accounting experience in Oman seeks Senior/Managerial Level Post. NOC available. Please contact 78581435

Senior Accountant, B.Com with MBA Finance, with 15 years of accounting experience in Oman seeks Managerial Level Post. Ready to join immediately.NOC available. Please contact 78581435

Female, Senior Accountant. Available for part time accounting and audits. Contact 97019955

Indian Accountant B.com (PDIFA) professional Diploma in Accounting with 2 yrs Exp.Looking for suitable placement. Contact 91463040/ 71920551

15 yrs experience in construction looking for a freelance job in accounts/finance. Contact 93384382

Chief Accountant/Senior Accountant, Indian Male, MBA finance, having more than 12 year's GCC including Oman & Indian experience in AP, AR, Cash flow, VAT, BRS, Trade-Finance, P&L, BS etc. With Valid D/L. Contact 9359 6524, Email: shahoo.mhs@gmail.com.

MANAGER

Indian Male having 17 years of experience in FMCG Retail looking for Managerial Position. Contact 78020693. Email: sansamurai1827@gmail.com

Indian male 38 years having 12+ years experience in production manager, looking for suitable placement, presently working in Oman, having Oman D/L. Contact 90698936

HSE Manager With 14 yrs exp. 8 yrs in Oman with D/L. Expertise in malls, hospitals, mosques & large scales of residential projects. Currently in Oman in a reputed company. Readily available. Contact 97477573

Construction Manager, QC Manager, Materials Engineer in construction and laboratory field. 15 years gulf experience. Lankan Male. Contact 99888143, 98070195

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian Female MBA (HR), PGDBM, B.E. 7 Yrs. of experience in HR & Administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L Looking for suitable placement. Contact 92474376

Indian national, male, 42 years, MBA in HR & Administration, 18 years of work experience in office administration, secretarial, commercial activities in Muscat, Omani D/L. Currently in India, seeks suitable placement. Contact +968 91360212 (WhatsApp) Email: sajithnarayanan@yahoo.com

Energetic Degree holder male from Kerala aged 23, speaks Arabic, English, Hindi and Malayalam, seeking job. Contact 9277 9806, Email: muhsinmuhsin333@gmail.com

Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years rich Oman experience in EPC, Media, Healthcare, Aviation. NOC. Contact 99283938

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 95388417 Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

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SALES/MARKETING

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Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs. Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately,. Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact 79975436 nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com

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Mechanical Qc Engineer, looking for a job, NOC Available, immediate joining, Indian Male, 34yrs, have over 12+ years India, UAE, Bahrain & Qatar experience in O&G, chemicals and thermal power project construction. muthuvarasanmechqc87@gmail.com Whatsapp +96879645674, GSM +96879645674

Electrical Scada engineer, 6 years experience,holding NOC with valid visa D/L available. # 94924976 Email azeez45ec@gmail.com

Experience Electrical engineer looking for a job. Contact 78358595, 71884379 Email: hussain.khan012@gmail.com

Fresh Indian Chemical Engineering Graduate from NIT on resident visa seeks entry level management position in reputed companies. Contact 96087321

B.E civil engineer having 13yrs of Oman Experience in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact 72132426

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6+ years of experience looking for job as Civil Engineer, ready to join. D/L available. Contact 92146076. Email: taoufir.akbar@yahoo.com

LOGISTIC

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PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

16 years Oman experience in , procurement, logistics and customs with valid Oman D/L & NOC seeking suitable position. Contact 95174968

Indian male (37), B.com 11+years of purchase & procurement experience in Oman with valid D/L & NOC looking for a suitable position. Contact 94038075

Indian male 44yrs with 20 yrs experience in Warehouse, stores & purchase seeks suitable post. NOC & D/L available. Contact 98676159. Email: naivruju77@gmail.com

FINANCE

M Com - Financial Professional, 17 years of Experience in Oman, Currently working as a finance Manager is looking for suitable placement, available from 10th November 2021.

Mob # 92301318
abdulrasheedlulu@gmail.com

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CONTACT 79285929

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ACCOUNTANT

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ACCOUNTANT

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Email: sherin.am01@gmail.com

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Indian Male, having 12 years of Experience in Oman, presently working as Projects Manager, NOC available.

Contact 92636569
Email: nisarg_shah35@yahoo.com

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Also having Experience in Education Industry (India) in a senior Management Position. Presently in Muscat (family visa).

Contact 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

ENGINEER

B.Tech Mechanical Engineer with 2yrs Exp, Seeking Suitable placement. Presently in Muscat (Visit Visa)

Contact 78375996
Email: vishnutp999@gmail.com

MEP Supervisor

Indian male, 36years old, diploma graduate having 15+years of Oman experience in MEP supervisor role in an excellent grade construction and trading company with good practical knowledge, have MEDC, CEP, MEDC Electrician license. NOC available, is looking for suitable opening. Oman D/L

Contact +968 96135973
Email kddhaya2@gmail.com

HSE OFFICER

Indian HSE Officer, diploma in Mechanical Engineering & Diploma in fire and safety engineering. NEBOSH, OSHA AND QA/QC Holder. 5 years Experience in HSE seeks suitable placement.

Contact 7974 3601

ADMIN / FINANCE

Indian male, MBA (Finance), having D/L, 22 years exp in finalization in Accounts, Internal auditing, MIS and Admin in various sectors. 15 years exp in Gulf & 13 years in Oman looking for a suitable SR position.

GSM: 96974637
Email: goutam14b@gmail.com

INDIAN HSE ASSISTANT

Indian Male, 24 Yrs. Diploma in fire and safety. Having 2 years' experience in India. looking for HSE assistant jobs. Currently available in Oman. NOC available.

GSM 92166848 / 94110108

Chemical Engineering

Knowledge of quality control, process control, simulation, refinery operations with GCC resident visa and a valid GCC D/L. Currently doing Nebosh IGC course seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 72201210/93379169
Email: waasifkaruthedath@gmail.com

GROUP FINANCE MANAGER

with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement

Contact 92578435
Email: 1974KSD@gmail.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP Manager

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

Contact: +96899075683
allirod1975@gmail.com

PROJECT ENGINEER

Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.

Contact 79170769

OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

HR & Administration

HR & Administration professional, with Executive Assistant exposure, well experienced with Oman labour law, well versed in office management, new office induction & administration, Indian male, with Valid Oman D/L, NOC available, seeks suitable placements.

Contact 94948676

Finance Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

ADMINISTRATION

39-year Indian HR professional (MBA-HR) 14 yrs Exp (HR/SAP/Admin) with Oman DL & NOC. Seeking suitable openings in Human Resource & Admin jobs.

Contact: +968-78539053
Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

HSE Advisor

Omani HSE Advisor, 5 yrs experience seeks placement.

Contact +96879990740
Email: mundhirsaidalrashdi@gmail.com

Chemist (Quality Controller) (BSC. Chemistry)

25 Years Exp in Testing and analysis of raw, intermediate & finished products, Calibrating lab instruments, compiling reports. Looking suitable placement. Having Oman driving licence.

Contact No. Oman -96359802, India -+91 9400032844, Email: mollythomas53@rediffmail.com

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SIMPLIFY MORNINGS WITH EASY, NUTRIENT-PACKED FOODS AND BEVERAGES

It's a classic dilemma: Kids want breakfast foods that taste good to them, but their choices are often low in nutritional value. Parents want to give kids breakfast options that offer the nutrients they need to take on the day and that their kids will actually enjoy. According to registered dietitian nutritionist Lauren Manaker based in the US, having options on hand that are the best of both worlds is the ticket to a low-stress morning.

"Breakfast is the most important meal of the day for everyone, but especially for kids and teens because nutrients that are missed at breakfast are unlikely to be made up later in the day.

A morning meal helps kids to get a head start on the nutrition that's needed to support normal physical growth and development. The easiest way to make sure kids get a nutrient-packed breakfast, even on the busiest mornings, is to offer them options that not only taste great and include key nutrients, but that are equally as convenient to those less desirable 'empty calorie' breakfast op-

tions we're all familiar with," said Manaker.

To help your family have a smooth morning that includes nutrient-packed breakfast options that won't cause a breakfast battle, Manaker shares her top tips for easy eats:

Stock up on grab-and-go options
If kids are old enough to grab their own breakfast, keep the nutrient-dense foods you want them to eat at eye level, and keep the less-than-ideal foods higher in your fridge and pantry. Pre-cut fruits and veggies, pre-peeled hard-boiled eggs, and ready-to-drink nutritional beverages are all smart and convenient options for kids to grab and go.

Follow a routine
Maintain an eating routine throughout the school year that incorporates delicious and nutrient-dense breakfast options. Whether you're in a time crunch or simply looking for a delicious away to help fill nutrient gaps, Manaker suggests stocking up

on breakfast essentials and nutritional drinks in kid-friendly flavours. Each drink should contain 10 grams protein to support growth and help build muscle, calcium to help build strong bones, plus vitamins C and D, key nutrients for immune support - and they taste delicious.

Try new fruits and veggies
Encourage kids to expand their palate of fruits and veggies by setting up a breakfast board they can graze on during their morning routine. Include familiar foods with some items that may not be in your child's rotation, like avocado, cherry tomatoes or sliced peaches. Consider adding colourful food picks in the less-familiar foods to make them look more approachable.

Add ample protein
Protein helps support growing muscles and bones. While obvious sources of breakfast protein include foods like sausage and eggs, making them can be time-consuming. Look for convenient ready-to-drink bottles with 10

grams of high-quality protein, equivalent to the amount of protein in one and a half large eggs.

Talk about why
Have an age-appropriate conversation with your children about why breakfast is important for their bodies and minds. Explain how protein helps them grow and stay strong, vitamin C helps support the immune system and calcium helps build strong bones. When kids better understand why they should eat breakfast, they may be more eager to eat it and to try new foods.

Ultimately, Manaker says that when it comes to breakfast the most important thing is to establish doable, no-pressure routines that include essential nutrients but don't add complexity.

"Parents shouldn't feel guilty about not having the time to cook extensive recipes or serve photoworthy meals, especially in the morning," said Manaker. "Simply focus on quick, nutrient-dense options that help you get your kids ready to smile and take on the day." - BPT



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OMAN FOR GREATER TRADE WITH SOUTH KOREA

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

Oman and South Korea have agreed to a considerable increase in the present volume of trade as well as exchange of economic missions between the two countries.



This was stated in a joint communique issued in Seoul at the end of a three-day visit to South Korea by the Oman's Minister of Commerce and Industry H.E. Mohammad Zubair.

According to the communique Oman has expressed its willingness to encourage greater imports of cement, ply-wood, electrical goods and steel items from South Korea.

Oman will also consider a proposal for the import of ships and cars manufactured in South Korea.

During the course of their discussions the two sides expressed satisfaction over the gradual increase of trade between the two countries.

It will be recalled that Oman imported goods of South Korean origin worth \$2.8 million last year.

Legal tender of Saidi Rial expires next month

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The old Saidi Rial shall cease to remain a legal tender in the Sultanate beyond November 25, 1976. Members of the general public should, therefore, hasten to exchange all Saidi Rial notes through any of the Banks operating in the country before the date of expiry.

It may be recalled that the Central Bank of Oman gave a notice of 360 days last year for the withdrawal of all Saidi notes in circulation.

Minister opens Teachers Training Institute

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Minister of Education Mr. Ahmad Abdulla Ghazali inaugurated on Saturday the Teachers Training Institute.

The inauguration ceremony took place at the Jabir bin Zaid school and was attended among others by intellectuals of the capital.

Addressing the teachers Mr. Ahmad Ghazali called for the Omanization of the academic system and introduction of employment oriented education.

ARAB SUMMIT

Sayyid Thuwaini to represent Oman

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

The Personal Advisor of His Majesty and Governor of the capital H.E. Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab will lead the Omani delegation to the Arab Summit Conference at Cairo.

The Omani delegation will also be joined there by Sultanate's Ambassadors in Beirut and Cairo.

Meanwhile the Arab Foreign Ministers Conference opened in Cairo on Friday to pave the way for the Summit. The Sultanate delegation to the conference was led by the Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yusuf al Alawi.

GOVERNMENT ENSURES BETTER PILGRIMAGE FACILITIES THIS YEAR

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

With the holy pilgrimage at hand the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has turned out to be the busiest Ministry at the moment. A large number of pilgrims have started frequenting the Ministry's headquarters at the Central Secretariat, to complete the necessary formalities.

Briefing Times of Oman an informed source at the Ministry disclosed that about 600 applications have already been filed by those intending to undertake the pilgrimage this year. Of these most are from the Omani nationals and quite a few from Pakistanis, Indians and Egyptians. Asked about the problems faced by the Omani pilgrims last year, the source said that some of the agents from the neighbouring Gulf States did not provide them with proper food and medical facilities. In view of this the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs summoned all the agents and warned them against the repetition of previous mistakes. The various embarkation points in the Sultanate have been duly instructed not to allow agents to carry pilgrims unless they possess authorization letters issued by the Ministry.

The Oman Haj missions in Mecca, Medina and Arafat are expected to give a better performance this year. The Omani National Haj Mission, the source stated, includes about 15 doctors, a group of scouts from the Education Ministry to guide the pilgrims and an Information team to relay the Haj commentary through Radio Oman.

His Majesty warmly greeted in the capital

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was accorded a tumultuous welcome in the capital area on arrival from the Southern region on Tuesday. A large number of people lining the route from the police stadium in Wattaya upto the Muscat palace enthusiastically greeted His Majesty.

Oman supports Waldheim's candidature

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Sultanate of Oman has supported the candidature of Dr. Kurt Waldheim for another term.

At a dinner hosted by Oman's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Mr. Kamal Hijras in honour of the visiting Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Qais Zawawi, Dr. Waldheim thanked Oman for backing his candidature.

Developing countries will be happier if left alone

—Qais Zawawi

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. Qais Zawawi addressed the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday. The Minister spoke about Oman's stand on current international affairs and said that regrettably some of the super powers interfere in other people's internal affairs. They encourage destructive elements as well as backing of citizens by brother citizens to the aims of the super power concerned, who pay generously in backing these citizens. He went on to say that the developing countries will be far better off if they are left alone to face their problems of development and not interfered with or stopped from doing so.

Mr. Zawawi also regretted the interference of the foreign minister of the South Yemen government in Oman's internal affairs, and concluded that Oman will not come down to that level because the world at large knows what the South Yemeni government represents and what the Sultanate of Oman stands for. He assured the General Assembly that Oman can defend its sovereignty and people against any external interference and is determined to continue its contribution to the prosperity of the region, but in the framework of international peace and development.

First heart operation in Oman

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The first heart operation has been successfully conducted in Oman.

The operation was jointly conducted in Al-Khola hospital by the Omani surgeon Dr. Waheed Khuroosi and the famous Arab surgeon Mr. Shafiq Abdeen.

Heavy rains in Interior

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

There were reports of heavy rains during the week in Jabal Akhdhar, Sumail, Nizwa, Bahla, Ibra, Azka, Manh, Wadi Bani Khalid, Mahdha, Rustaq, Awabi, Shinas, Luwi, Dima, Hamra and Qabail Sharqiya.



H.M. Sultan Qaboos studying blue prints prepared for Harasis roads on return from the Southern region.

(Photo : Mohammad Mustafa)



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ROUND-UP

A'Safwah gains popularity for its fresh milk among people in Oman

With a legacy of almost four decades and sold under the brand name A'Safwah Milk and Dairy, this fresh milk, which is produced in the pleasant weather of Dhofar, has been a household name ever since it first launched in the Sultanate



MUSCAT: The oldest and largest vertically integrated dairy company in the Sultanate of Oman, A'Safwah has become the popular choice for fresh milk among children and adults in the Sultanate.

With a legacy of almost four decades and sold under the brand name A'Safwah Milk and Dairy,

this fresh milk, which is produced in the pleasant weather of Dhofar, has been a household name ever since it first launched in the Sultanate. As a 100% Omani company that understands the dynamics of the local market, A'Safwah also recognises the importance of having a strong logistical backing to enable

its products to be transported in the right conditions to ensure farm-to-table freshness to end consumers.

"When we say 'nature's best for your family', we truly live up to the conditions required to produce the highest quality fresh milk. The practice of dairy farming has existed for years and is an important part of agriculture. We attribute our premium quality products to

the keen attention paid in following ethical practices of cattle rearing, maintaining state-of-the-art production facilities and ensuring that our distribution and delivery network is efficient, timely and quick," said A'Safwah spokesperson. "As Oman's first fresh milk company, A'Safwah has grown to become a household name in the country. Fresh milk provides several nutritional benefits, which is why it forms such an essential part of an individual's diet. While being high on nutrition, our fresh milk has a distinct taste that our customers are increasingly familiar with and have grown to love."

Maintaining the right temperature throughout, constant monitoring and testing, and quick transportation are important factors that ensure freshness when it comes to dairy products, especially fresh milk. With its dairy farms located in the Dhofar region,

A'Safwah's well-knit distribution channel ensures that the time required for delivery from the farm to retailers is minimal. Proving to be a huge advantage for the brand, A'Safwah has been instrumental in encouraging consumers to opt for locally produced fresh milk as opposed to imported milk.

Ensuring the perfect balance between technological advancements and ethical practices, A'Safwah also pays special attention to the well-being of its cows. Identifying physical, mental and natural living as the three conditions essentially for cows to produce high-quality milk, A'Safwah works closely with environmental advisers and local and regional environmental regulators to implement all the necessary steps to ensure that the cattle is well-nurtured and raised in the most hygienic conditions.

The cattle are given an organic,

balanced nutritious feed prepared by an experienced nutritionist, which meets the cow's requirement to produce the milk of the highest quality and to maintain the highest health standards of the cows. The unique climate in the Dhofar Region, where A'Safwah's farms are located, also provides the ideal conditions for cattle rearing and dairy herd management in the whole of GCC.

Backed by modern processing plants, an efficient distribution network with 8 depots and more than 100 plus delivery trucks to cover the Sultanate, and strong customer-first marketing practices, A'Safwah has grown to be a preferred favourite in the segment. With an ever-growing customer base, A'Safwah has remained steadfast in its commitment to provide its consumers with the highest quality fresh milk that is tasty, nutritious and local.

SCRATCH & WIN

Kia picks another campaign winner



MUSCAT: In this year's most exciting campaign, Kia has announced another winner of the Scratch and Win campaign. Hajir Al Wahaibi, instantly won back her brand new K5 GTL model.

Sharing her thoughts on this win, an elated Hajir Al Wahaibi said, "I am still pleasantly surprised with such a big win. I am still coming to terms with this, as it is my first big win ever."

As part of the campaign, customers owning their dream Kia can look forward to a Chance to Win their Kia Car Back through Scratch & Win Offer, Or Chance to Win 50% Value of Your Car Back through Scratch & Win Offer, Or Chance to Double Your Cash

Gift, Or Win Periodic Services up to 100,000 km and yes VAT is on Us which can be used as part of Down Payment. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details.) The campaign is valid until December 28.

Sharing her views on this unique concept, she said, "This is Kia's most exciting offer yet, and I am really proud I made the decision to own a Kia. My suggestion to new car buyers out there in the market is to please visit any Kia showroom before you ultimately buy the vehicle you want. You could even become an instant winner and win your car back. So head to your nearest Kia showroom and make the most of this exciting offer now!"

ASSOCIATION

Malabar Gold signs up Tamil actor Karthi as brand ambassador



MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains globally, has signed up Tamil superstar Karthi as its brand ambassador. The association with Karthi will help Malabar Gold & Diamonds further strengthen its bond with the Tamil population.

Karthi has been roped in after an internal survey conducted by the brand. The superstar with his unassuming yet authentic and heart-warming personality perfectly embodies the core values of the brand Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

As part of the association, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will roll out a series of films to celebrate the unique cultural ethos of Tamil Nadu and the cultural sensibilities of the people of the state. The larger Tamil diasporas living outside Tamil Nadu in India and abroad will find a resonance with the storytelling of the films.

While commenting on the association, Malabar Group Chairman MP Ahammed said, "India is a diverse nation and each state has its set of icons. We value and respect diversity. Our association with supremely talented actor and superstar Karthi is driven by our desire to convey the ethos of our brand through a trusted voice. His qualities resonate with our values. Karthi is widely respected for his philanthropic works and his commitment towards social causes matches Malabar Gold & Diamonds' zest for undertaking charitable initiatives that benefit the society at large. We feel that there is no better choice

than Karthi to develop a stronger connection with people of Tamil Nadu, helping them rediscover their love for gold jewellery at Malabar Gold & Diamonds."

Actor Karthi said, "I am delighted to be associated with one of India's leading jewellery brands with a robust presence across 10 countries. What has impressed me are the differentiating elements and inherent strengths of Malabar Gold & Diamonds as a trusted brand. I am given to understand their remarkable track record of offering BIS Hallmarked ornaments for the last 21 years and have been apprised of the brand's adherence to responsible sourcing practices and offering assurances such as lifetime maintenance and fair price promises. These exceptional qualities have assured me about the value for money proposition of the brand and their promise."

INAUGURATION

Al Hashar Pharmacy inaugurates new office for Tabuk Pharmaceuticals

MUSCAT: Continuing more than two decades of partnership, Al Hashar Pharmacy inaugurated a new world-class office for Tabuk Pharmaceuticals in the heart of the capital city, Al Khuwair, Muscat. The new office hosts dedicated cabins for an entire sales force of Msabuk Pharmaceuticals under a single roof with a large conference room equipped with technically advanced facilities.

The ceremony took place in the afternoon when the leadership team from Al Hashar Pharmacy arrived at the new office in Al Khuwair, Muscat. The inauguration was done by Yacoub Ghandi, Senior Vice President – the Middle East in a virtual ceremony from Dubai. Mohammed Shakeel Kazmi, Country Manager of Tabuk Pharmaceuticals in Oman co-hosted the inauguration.

In attendance from Al Hashar Pharmacy were Suresh Gandhi, CEO, Sachin Agrawal, COO, Heads of departments of Al Hashar Pharmacy and participants from the Tabuk Pharmaceuticals sales-force. The team was then accompanied on a short tour of the office advancements.

"Nothing reinforces a professional relationship more than enjoying success with Tabuk Phar-

maceuticals who has a strong focus in the Middle East market. In Oman, Tabuk has had exemplary performance over the last 24 years of partnership with us. Only with commitment one can have depth in the business relationship and the new office is a step forward for nurturing this partnership for many decades to come," comments Suresh Gandhi, CEO of the company. He also shared details

of upcoming warehouses with state-of-art facilities at Rusyal and multiple new retail pharmacy outlets which will make Al Hashar Pharmacy a formidable player in the Oman market.

Mohammed Shakeel Kazmi from Tabuk Pharmaceuticals thanked Al Hashar Pharmacy management for providing a dedicated office in heart of the city. "With dedicated office, there will

be enhanced focus on strategy & monitoring the implementation which will definitely enhance healthcare-oriented medicines reaching to the community of Oman. And this will be win-win for both Al Hashar Pharmacy & Tabuk Pharmaceuticals," he said.

The inauguration was followed by a brief discussion on the avenues for further enhancing the collaboration.



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