

HM SENDS GREETINGS TO VIETNAM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of him being elected as a new president of his country. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes of success to President Nguyen in leading the friendly people of Vietnam towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries to further develop and grow. - **ONA**



HM RECEIVES THANKS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of Prince Badr Fahd Saud Al Kabeer Al Saud. In the cable, King Salman expressed his thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's good feelings and sincere prayers, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harms. - **ONA**



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CABLE

HM receives thanks from President of Bangladesh

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Mohammad Abdul Hamid of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable to him on the occasion of his country's Independence Anniversary.

In the cable, President Abdul Hamid expressed his utmost thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's greetings and best wishes. He reaffirmed his keenness to promote the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. He wished His Majesty a continuous health and wellbeing, and the Omani people further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



SAYYID FAHD MEETS IGNAZIO CASSIS

His Highness Sayyid Fahd Mahmood Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, received Ignazio Cassis, Vice President of the Federal Council, Head of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, yesterday. **See also >A5**

SUPREME COMMITTEE

Omanis exempt from institutional quarantine



Times News Service

MUSCAT: All Omani citizens coming to the Sultanate through various land, sea and airports have been exempted from the mandatory institutional quarantine, the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, said on Tuesday.

With a number of meetings held to evaluate the recent development of COVID-19 in Oman,

the Supreme Committee decided that all citizens arriving in the country should undergo a home-based isolation, together with all other procedures imposed on all the arrivals.

Consequently, they will not require to give proof of a hotel booking for 7 nights, or a guarantee letter which specifies details of arrangement being made in accordance with the institutional quarantine requirements, provided that this decision comes into effect from April 6, 2021.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Fine, jail for driving the wrong way

1 Motorists found intentionally driving in the wrong direction on roads can face fines of up to OMR500, as well as three months in jail. According to Oman's Public Prosecution, people found guilty of this traffic offence can face either one or both of these punishments. **>A3**

WORLD

Night curfew in New Delhi due to COVID-19

2 In view of rising COVID-19 cases, the Delhi government on Tuesday imposed a night curfew in the national capital from 10 pm to 5 am. The order will be imposed with immediate effect till April 30. However, the government said, "there will be no restrictions on traffic movement during the night curfew". **>A6**

SPORTS

Treasury bills worth OMR65.6mn issued

3 A tender of Government Treasury Bills, issue number 115, worth OMR65.6 million was issued this week. Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. **>B1**

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP NATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



1,200 people have already answered the call for volunteers by the Ministry of Social Development, which has encouraged anyone who wishes to help to come forward

Volunteers will be trained to improve the quality of their work, and given the skills required to assist properly

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People across the Sultanate have been asked to volunteer their services to help the authorities in the country deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 1,200 people have already answered the call for volunteers by the Ministry of Social Development,

which has encouraged anyone who wishes to offer help to come forward. "Everyone can volunteer with us, whether they are a citizen or resident of Oman," said Mishaal bin Abdullah Al Farsi, the director of the Office of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development. "They will be trained

to improve the quality of their work, and give them the skills required to assist us properly."

"Volunteering has been a feature of Omani society through the ages, and the government is working to improve this aspect, in the form of an organised, institutional framework," added Al Farsi.

"Efforts from volunteers to contribute during times of crises that countries go through has always been appreciated. Oman is no exception in this matter."

"Everyone is aware of the assistance volunteers have provided to those who need help, since the start of the pandemic," he said.

"What is needed now is mutual coordination among all sectors involved in dealing with the vi-

rus, so we came up with a plan to recruit volunteers to meet organisational needs."

Volunteers will be tasked across a number of areas of work, including the health sector, community counselling, and will be involved in handling tasks for awareness campaigns, such as photography, graphic design, media coverage, and public relations.

Those who do sign up to work must follow the related rules issued by the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19, and the office of the local Wali.

They are required to behave decently in public, and maintain confidentiality where required by the nature of their work. Work done by volunteers cannot be ex-

ploited for personal or financial gain, or for any other unethical/illegal purposes.

Volunteers are required to be between the ages of 25 and 60, need to be physically fit, must consent to working where tasked, according to the needs of the pandemic, and according to schedules prepared by the office of the governor of each region in the country.

Mishaal Al Farsi added that some volunteers might be required to work directly with COVID patients, as well as provide other related services.

"Work will be assigned according to the volunteer's specialisation, and by using modern methods of communication," he explained. **>A3**

ANNUAL STATISTICAL INDICATORS

18% decline in number of cases last year: Public Prosecution

MUSCAT: The Public Prosecution Department (PPD) reaffirmed that the number of cases filed to its divisions dropped to 23,831 in 2020, compared to 28,020 cases, a decline of 18 percent.

The statement was made on Tuesday by the PPD during a press conference during which it released annual statistical indicators about claims, judicial action and numbers of suspects and verdicts.

In reply to a question by Oman News Agency (ONA) about the status of employees expelled from their jobs and those unable to pay outstanding dues, the Attorney General, Nasr Khamis Al Sowa'ee, said that the PPD will never take action against any employees who lost their jobs because of the current adverse conditions. Such layoffs, if discharged due to the said conditions, will be given an opportunity to adjust their status and there is great understanding of



their circumstances, he added.

The Attorney General pointed out that there is an ongoing coordination between the Royal Oman Police (ROP) and the PPD in view of online filing of claims, which

has been approved by judges as a legally standard measure.

The cases filed in this manner have concluded in fair verdicts, said Al Sowa'ee, adding that the PPD provides 117 services to the

public and that integration with government institutions has attained an advanced stage, with lawsuits filed electronically standing at 87 percent (20,727 out of 23,000 lawsuits), thanks to the

PPD's electronic platform which proved quite efficient.

The PPD, which accords a great attention to self-development, seeks to upgrade the quality of its services to the levels envisaged for Oman Vision 2040, said the Attorney General. Accordingly, he explained, the PPD formed a monitoring team (named "Rasd"), whose duty is to follow up the opinions of the media and social communication channels at regional and international levels when a crime occurs, mainly to learn lessons and enable the legislative system to better perform its role in the Sultanate.

Towards this end, Al Sowa'ee said, the PPD organised specialised workshop and seminars for government establishments to raise their awareness, particularly when there is scope for misunderstanding of the law or upon the issuance of a new law that needs to be clarified.

Following public awareness ac-

tion, crimes related to consumer protection dropped by 18%, said Al Sowa'ee, adding only nine murder crimes were registered within the 23,000 cases filed in 2020 in the Sultanate. This is because crime rates are very low in Oman, compared to global standards because one murder crime in Sultanate is considered a big case, he observed.

The Attorney General said that, thanks to the government's permitting Labour Law and Residency Law violators to adjust their conditions to avoid legal action, the crime in the Sultanate looked even less gloomy.

Speaking in detail, Al Sowa'ee said that, last year, the PPD dealt with 132 cases pertaining to misuse of public funds and money-laundering. Out of the total, 13 were cases of misappropriation of public funds, 16 were related to misuse of professions, 3 were in the sphere of negligence in using public funds, 3 were counterfeit cases and 3 other fraud cases. **>A5**



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OMR500 fine, jail for driving the wrong way

Drivers found guilty of this offence can face either one or both of these punishments, according to Oman's Public Prosecution

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Motorists found intentionally driving in the wrong direction on roads can face fines of up to OMR500, as well as three months in jail.

According to Oman's Public Prosecution, people found guilty of this traffic offence can face either one or both of these punishments.

The same sentence can also be handed down for "disclosing to the concerned authorities false information, submitting incorrect documents, or deliberately establishing incorrect details in forms or applications stipulated in the Traffic Law, its regulations

Driving someone else's vehicle without a valid insurance policy can also land people in jail for 10 days, and a fine of OMR300

and related decisions," according to the government body.

Furthermore, driving someone else's vehicle without a valid insurance policy can also land people in jail for 10 days, and a fine of OMR300, as can the of-

fence of people throwing litter from a vehicle with the purpose of littering.

"Committing any act against public decency inside a vehicle is an offence punishable by imprisonment for a period up to three

months and a fine that extends to OMR500, or either one of these two sentences," added Public Prosecution. Overtaking on a hard shoulder - the area of the right of the road separated from the rest of it by a yellow line - and designated for emergency stops, is also an act that can lead to fines and imprisonment.

"Overtaking at road shoulders without an acceptable justification is an offence punishable by imprisonment for a period up to two months and a fine that extends to OMR500, or either one of these two sentences," added the Public Prosecution.

PANDEMIC

Over 90 people hospitalised with COVID in 24 hours

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 90 patients have been hospitalised within 24 hours in the Sultanate, according to data from the Ministry of Health, pointing to a significant increase in new cases of coronavirus infections.

On Tuesday, statistics made available on Tarassud, the coronavirus monitoring app of the ministry, showed that the number of those hospitalised during the past 24 hours reached 94, and 169 patients were admitted to ICU during the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of patients admitted to health institutions to 623 cases.

Six deaths

The Sultanate also recorded six deaths during the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 1,728 and 1,208 new cases of coronavirus, according to the daily report of the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry stated that the total number of registered cases in the Sultanate is 165,482 cases, the recovered 148,303, at 90.81 per cent, and 1,728 deaths, at 1.05 per cent.

Speaking to the *Times of Oman*,

Ibrahim Al Maimani, a data analyst, said, "In terms of hospitalised patients cases in hospitals of the Sultanate, it was noticed that the number of inpatients until the end of March reached 515 cases, and the cases rose to 623 on Tuesday, and for the first time we reached this number since the beginning of the pandemic, with an increase of 108 cases, which forms an increase of 21 per cent."

He continued, "As for intensive care cases, their number reached 156 cases by the end of March, and on April 6, their number reached 196 cases in intensive care, an increase of 40 cases, by 26 per cent."

About the deaths due to COVID-19, he said, "The total number of deaths in the first five days of April reached 47, with a daily average of 9.4 deaths per day, and this indicator changes high compared to the previous months."

INAUGURATION

Al Khuwair commercial complex opens

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality and Bayan Investment House inaugurated the Al Khuwair Square commercial complex on Monday.

Isam Al Zidjali, chairman of Muscat Municipality, patronised the inauguration ceremony, in the presence of Sheikh Yahya bin Nasir Al Harrasi, Wali of Bausher, and Sheikh Fahad bin Mohammed Al Khalili, CEO of Bayt Bayan Investment Company, and a number of officials from the municipality and the wilayat of Bausher.

The project is an investment agreement between Muscat Municipality and Bayan Investment House LLC so the company benefits from the municipality's 5,150 square metre plot located in Al Khuwair in the wilayat of Bausher to build a diversified commercial complex and a community mall.

ADEQUATE FACILITIES: The two-floor building has an area of 6,000 square metres, contains 36 commercial units and public facilities, and 200 parking lots for vehicles.

Market need

The idea of the project came to serve the population and urban expansion, and meet the market need for a commercial complex in Al Khuwair area with an innovative urban conception.

The project is an integrated commercial complex consisting of two floors built on an area of 6,000 square metres, with green space and open air dining in the middle of the complex, to serve the visitors of the mall.

Bayan Investment House implemented the project in a 14-month period, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

It contains 36 commercial units spread over two floors, with 200 parking lots, and a number of public facilities such as prayer rooms and public toilets. The project occupancy rate has reached 80 per cent of the rentable spaces.

Agreement

The agreement between Muscat Municipality and Bayan Investment House also includes development and maintenance of Al Khuwair Public Park, adding new games for children, establishing a dedicated fast food outlet under the management of a global operator within the surroundings of the

park, in addition to building public toilets in Al Ghubrah Beach Park.

The operating company shall undertake periodic maintenance of the project's facilities throughout the period of use, pay the bills and other fees related to the delivery of services, and any services related to the project during the validity period of the contract.

With its commitment to register all lease contracts with lessees in the municipality, pay the prescribed fees for that, and provide all health requirements and safety precautions in accordance with the regulations approved by the competent authorities.

SERVICE

Preventive measures for volunteers ready

"For example, psychology and counselling services will be provided through virtual communication platforms. We are keen to ensure the safety of everyone, and have drawn up preventive measures for volunteers, which will be shared with them during their training period."

"At present, we do not see a need for volunteers to move between governorates to offer services, because there are many available within the wilayats themselves," added Al Farsi.

"In future, if there is a need to support some governorates with additional volunteers, this will be

done in accordance with a plan developed for this purpose."

Signing up

People who wish to offer their services can sign up at www.mosd.gov.om, where they will be required to fill in a form, providing their personal details, the gov-

ernorate they live in, educational qualifications, and current state of employment.

They must also mention the area of work they wish to volunteer in, provide information regarding previous volunteer opportunities, and how long they can spare in a day towards volunteering.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**MOST READ ON FACEBOOK**

65,006 REACH

19h · Oman

People are not allowed to venture outside their homes between 9pm and 4am during the Holy Month of Ramadan



TIMESOFOMAN.COM

Supreme Committee issues Ramadan regulations for people, businesses | Times of Oman



Supreme Committee issues Ramadan regulations for people, businesses

A story on Ramadan regulations issued by the Supreme Committee reached 65,006 people and had 15,605 engagements on Facebook

**MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK**

6,573 VIEWS





Things to do during lockdown

The Things to Do During Lockdown: Learn a new Language video got 6,573 views and reached 23,900 people on Facebook.

**MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM**

1,938 VIEWS





The Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on Ramadan regulations had 1,938 views and 159 likes on Instagram.

SKILLS THAT YOU CAN LEARN ONLINE

WHAT TO DO DURING NIGHT LOCKDOWN

From fixing a light to weeding the garden there are many activities at home that you can do yourself. And if you are not sure about your fix-it know-how knowledge, you can watch videos online that teach basic DIY techniques at home but ensure that you abide by all the safety measures.

As you are home in the evenings owing to the lockdown why not carry out the basic maintenance and repair tasks at home by yourself rather than depending on the plumbers and carpenters? Many people have admitted that since last year after they have been at home owing to the pandemic, they have tackled several home repair and renovation tasks by themselves.

From fixing a light to weeding the garden there are many activities at home that you can do yourself. And if you are not sure about your fix-it know-how knowledge, you can watch videos online that teach basic DIY techniques at home but ensure that you abide by all the safety measures.

For example if you have to change your air conditioner's filter or clean the condenser coil of your refrigerator, make sure you take the necessary precautions. While working with the refrigerator vacuum off the dust and check if the gasket seal is making contact with the cabinet. Other DIY tasks that you can easily manage are minor repair work on the wall, do minor drywall repairs, fix a clogged drain, patch the peeling paint and more.

You can also learn the basics of sewing. There are several online classes that have pre recorded videos that you can access at any time to practice your skills. There are many tutorials that teach woodwork, things to do with PVC, how to fix a leaking roof, and how to remove a wallpaper.





Apr 07 - Apr 20, 2021

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sayyid Fahd meets key Swiss official

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd Mahmood Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, on Tuesday received Ignazio Cassis, Vice President of the Federal Council, Head of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Enhancing cooperation
HH Sayyid Fahd and the guest reviewed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing cooperation between the Sultanate and the Swiss Confederation. They exchanged views about matters of common concern, as well as regional and international developments.



The Swiss official expressed the Swiss Confederation's willingness to cement ties with Oman in various spheres. He voiced his country's appreciation for the Sultanate's balanced policies in view of international relations,

noting that this earned the Sultanate the respect of all. The Swiss official commended the outcome of his meetings with Omani officials. He expressed his contentment with the steady growth of relations between the

two countries which, he said, shared a common keenness to upgrade cooperation. The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, and the Swiss Ambassador to the Sultanate. - ONA

PUBLIC PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT

Crimes of bad cheques

The Attorney General thanked for helping recover a sum of US\$2.9 million that related to the case bonds purchased in Bahrain through a European country.

Electronic crimes
The Assistant Attorney General, Dr Ahmed Said Al Shukaili, who acts as official spokesman of the PPD, said that electronic crimes are dealt with in accordance with the law. He pointed out that most fraudulent accounts are accessed sooner or later. Al Shukaili said that the PPD found out that "some tweeters who insult the State are fake tweeters who transmit from outside the Sultanate."

Speaking about types of crimes in 2020, he said that most of them are crimes of bad cheques (4,947), followed by Labour Law violation crimes (2,753), expat Residency crimes (2584), IT crimes (2,292), rape (104), use of narcotics and psychotropic substances (1,962) and begging (324).
Al Shukaili said that the PPD recovered a total of OMR24 million, most of them involved fines and confiscations. Al Khoudh division recorded the highest number of cases (2,206) and Bausher (1,841).
The number of suspects stood at 30,069 of them two per cent juveniles, 89.8 per cent males and 37.6 per cent expats. - ONA

FRIENDLY COUNTRIES

Oman and Swiss Confederation discuss bilateral cooperation

MUSCAT: A session of political talks between the Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Confederation was held at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.
The Omani side was headed by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister while the Swiss side was chaired by Ignazio Cassis, Vice President of the Federal Council and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).
The session discussed aspects of the bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries and means of promoting them in economic, scientific and cultural field. The two sides exchanged views on several regional and



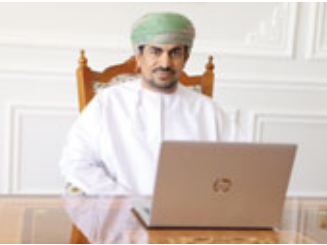
international issues of common concern. They also emphasised supporting all peaceful initiatives to consolidate international peace and stability. The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) on political consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries. The session was attended by Balz Abplanalp, Swiss Ambassador to Oman and officials from both sides. - ONA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Workshop held on cross-checking news and digital media

Muscat: The Ministry of Information, represented by the Government Communication Centre and the Media Training Centre, organised a training workshop about cross-checking news and verifying sources and digital media.
The workshop, held via videoconferencing, saw the participation of Dr. Abdullah Nassir al-Harrasi, Minister of Information. In a speech during the opening ceremony, Dr Abdullah said that rumours and wrong information pose an additional challenge to society, now focusing its powers to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He added that such negative reports, based on unfounded and unscientific concepts, undermine the government's efforts to spread awareness about the risks of the virus.
The minister pointed out that, over the past period, misinformation fed by such rumours on alleged harms of COVID-19 control vaccines became so intriguing to the extent that some individuals, particularly the old-aged, hesitated in taking the highly-needed vaccines.
"This compromises their lives and the lives of their families and society and exposes all to immense threats that might lead to



death," Dr Abdullah added. Besides spreading public awareness, the two-day workshop illustrates the nature of false news, the way they spread and means to avoid falling prey to them amid the abundance and easy access to use advanced digital tools.
The workshop studies the history of false news, methods of their dissemination and means of scrutinising them, irrespective of their format—be it in images, video clips or otherwise.
The workshop looks into verification strategies and instruments of probing fake sites, accounts, platforms, applications and social networks.
Over the past one year (March 2020 to March 2021), the Government Communication Centre, through its account "Oman Confronts Coronavirus", nullified more than 70 rumours in the same context. - ONA

Gulf Overseas Exchange Co. L.L.C.

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SUMMARY OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

ASSETS	LIABILITIES						
Sr. No.	Description	2020	2019	Sr. No.	Description	2020	2019
1	Cash on hand	216,218	224,921	1	Capital and reserve	1,412,778	1,408,423
2	Deposit with Central Bank of Oman	100,000	100,000	2	Borrowings from banks	-	-
3	Precious metals	-	-	3	Balance due to branches	-	-
4	Balance due from banks	1,052,279	1,011,471	4	Balance due to money changers	-	-
5	Balance due from branches	-	-	5	Loans and advances payable	-	-
6	Balance due from money changers	-	-	6	Cheques and drafts issued outstanding	32,726	51,968
7	Cheques and drafts purchased	-	-	7	Other liabilities	131,386	115,137
8	Fixed assets	136,980	130,426				
9	Investments	-	-				
10	Other assets	71,414	108,710				
		1,576,890	1,575,528			1,576,890	1,575,528

We certify that the above balances are in agreement with the books and records of the company as at 31 December 2020 .

Directors
Gulf Overseas Exchange Co. LLC
18 March 2021

Baker Tilly MKM (Oman) LLC
Chartered Accountants
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OLYMPICS 2021

North Korea to skip 2021 Tokyo Olympics over COVID concerns

PYONGYANG: A North Korean website reported on Tuesday that the country will not join in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

According to a website run by the Sports Ministry, officials "decided not to participate in the 32nd Olympic Games in order to protect players from the world public health crisis caused by COVID-19."

The decision was made during a meeting on March 25 between Sports Minister Kim Il Guk and the national Olympic Committee.

North Korean state media had previously mentioned the committee meeting, but had not reported on its outcome.

It will be the first time North Korea has missed a Summer Olympics since it boycotted Seoul in 1988 during the Cold War.

What does this mean for Korean relations?

The decision not to participate is a setback for South Korean officials who hoped that the Olympic Games could serve as a catalyst to revive stalled peace talks between the two nations.

With Pyongyang out, the two nations will not be able to jointly field teams — something that many in South Korea had hoped

would transpire once again. South Korea's Unification Ministry in charge of inter-Korean affairs said Seoul had hoped the Tokyo Olympics would be a chance to "foster peace and reconciliation between the two Koreas".

"We regret it could not happen," it added in a statement. In the 2018 Winter Olympics held in South Korea, North Korea sent 22 athletes. **DW**

Death toll in Indonesia's flood expected to climb

Indonesia's disaster agency revised down its death toll to 86 from a previous 130

JAKARTA: Scores of people have been killed in Indonesia and neighbouring East Timor after Cyclone Seroja battered the region over the weekend, officials said on Tuesday.

At least 120 people are confirmed dead so far, Indonesia's disaster agency revised down its death toll to 86 from a previous 130, citing miscommunication with local agencies. In East Timor, another 34 have been officially listed dead.

Dozens still missing

Torrential rains triggered massive floods and landslides on Sunday that devastated communities in a remote cluster of islands in eastern Indonesia as well as the half-island nation of East Timor.

The death toll could rise further, with the Indonesian disaster management agency reporting that more than 70 people are still



missing. Rescuers are having a hard time searching for survivors in hard-hit areas due to electricity outages and roads being blocked by debris. More than 8,000 people in Indonesia have been displaced by the extreme weather, with many fleeing to emergency shelters.

While meteorologists expect the cyclone to move southwest away from Indonesia later on

Tuesday, officials fear more damage could come.

"We could still see extreme weather [from the cyclone] for the next few days," said Indonesia's national disaster agency spokesman Raditya Jati.

COVID-19 complicating relief efforts

Already struggling to accommodate

thousands of evacuees, local authorities are also concerned about curbing spread of the coronavirus.

"These evacuees fled here with just wet clothes on their backs and nothing else," said the deputy mayor of Lembata Island, Thomas Ola Longaday. The European Union said it was ready to aid poverty-stricken East Timor, officially known as Timor-Leste.

"The catastrophic floods come at a time when Timor-Leste is working hard to contain the spread of COVID-19 among its population, putting a considerable additional strain both on resources and on the Timorese people," the EU said.

Disaster-prone area

Indonesia and East Timor frequently experience natural disasters. Indonesia is the largest island nation in the world; its rugged terrain complicates reaching people in need after storms and heavy swells.

Large parts of the region have also been subject to deforestation, eliminating a major natural barrier against floods.

With its approximately 130 active volcanoes, Indonesia is also located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, the most geologically active zone on earth. **DW**

INDIA

Delhi government announces night curfew in national capital

NEW DELHI: In view of rising Covid-19 cases, the Delhi government of Tuesday imposed a night curfew in the national capital from 10 pm to 5 am.

The order will be imposed with immediate effect till April 30. However, the government said, "there will be no restrictions on traffic movement during the night curfew".

"People who want to get Covid-19 vaccination will be exempted but will have to get an e-pass. Shopkeepers selling essential goods like groceries, fruits, vegetables, milk, and medicine will be allowed to move after getting an e-pass. Print and electronic media will also be allowed to move only through e-pass," the Delhi government's order stated.

It further said that private doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff will also be allowed during curfew hours by showing a valid ID card.

Passengers traveling to and from the airport, railway stations, and bus stands will also be allowed to travel after showing valid tickets. Pregnant women



and patients going for treatment will also be allowed to travel during curfew hours.

"Public transport such as buses, Delhi Metro, autos, and taxis will be allowed to ferry only those people who are exempt from night curfew," the government said. Delhi government has allowed free movement to people of all departments engaged in essential services during curfew hours.

The Delhi government's order said that the night curfew is applicable to the movement of the people and not to necessary goods and essential services.

Delhi reported 3,548 new Covid-19 cases, 2,936 recoveries, and 15 deaths on Monday. **ANI**

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US to have enough vaccine for all Americans by end of next month

Despite loss of 15 million doses, US will still have enough vaccines for all Americans by the end of next month, the White House said

WASHINGTON: The United States will still have enough vaccines for all Americans by the end of next month, despite problems with a single batch of “drug product” resulting in the loss of 15 million doses of Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine, the White House said on Monday.

“We are still on track to have the number of doses we need to vaccinate all adult Americans by the end of May,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday. “This was not even a facility that was approved by the FDA.” She continued, saying the US was “not betting on these doses,” and that Johnson



CORONAVIRUS VACCINE: US is still on track to have the number of doses they need to vaccinate all adult Americans by the end of May.

& Johnson “has assured us that we will be getting the 24 million doses that they have promised in April, said at the press briefing on Monday. Responding to a question on vaccine hesitancy in US, Psaki said, “this is why the FDA approval process is in place.”

She also said, “In many ways, it was the process working, because the FDA had not approved the site. There were steps taken to address what some of the issues were, and we also have a range of contingency plans.”

“When we all talk in here about, ‘why did we order so many doses, why are we at the point where we are sharing doses with every country around the world?’ Part of it is because we need to plan for things coming up. Things like this come up,” the US Press Secretary said in the briefing today.

“We have to plan for a range of contingencies,” Psaki added. “That’s one of the many reasons that we’re going to still be in a place where we have enough vaccines for adult Americans by the end of May.” Johnson & Johnson has said a single batch of “drug product” failed quality control inspection and had been discarded. The company’s vaccine currently being distributed in the US is made at a plant in the

Netherlands, but Emergent Bio-Solutions, a contract manufacturer, was producing doses at a facility in Baltimore. The factory was awaiting authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration when the contamination problem was reported.

Emergent was also making vaccine for AstraZeneca, whose vaccine is yet to be authorized in the US. As Johnson & Johnson’s, AstraZeneca’s vaccine uses a virus to carry genetic material - a so-called viral vector. Emergent and Johnson & Johnson have said quality control measures caught the problem. None of the vaccines being made at the plant had been shipped out to be put into vials or distributed and officials have stressed that no one had been put at risk because of the contamination. CNN reported the company has been assisting in the production of Covid-19 vaccines for Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca for months, according to a source familiar with the situation.

In addition to the batch of 15 million doses that had to be discarded, Emergent has successfully produced 115 million doses of Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine, which are in various stages of the supply chain, CNN reported citing sources. **ANI**

CONTAMINATED WATER

Possible 2nd breach of Florida phosphate reservoir

FLORIDA: More pumps are being deployed to prevent the collapse of a leaking containment wall at the site of a shuttered phosphate plant in central Florida.

Contaminated water was being pumped into Tampa Bay from the 77-acre (33-hectare) reservoir to avoid a breach that could “catastrophically” flood the surrounding area with a 20-foot wall of water.

“An infrared drone identified a signature that could indicate a second breach” at the Piney Point reservoir on Tampa Bay, said Jake Saur, public safety director in Manatee County. Engineers were studying the new data, he said.

Scott Hopes, the Manatee County administrator, said the additional pumps should help increase the capacity for a controlled release of the water from about 35 million gallons (about a 132 million liters) a day to between 75 million and 100 million gallons.

“By the end of the day today when the additional pumps come



online, we will more than double the volume of water that we’re pulling out of that retention pool,” Hopes said, adding that there were still just under 300 million gallons of water in the reservoir.

What is the current situation?

The site is located across from the twin cities of Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg, and is sandwiched between a protected estuary and a state park.

After Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a local state of emergency on Saturday, emergency workers, along with the US Army Corps of Engineers and assisted by the Florida National Guard, began pumping water out of the reservoir.

Fears of a complete breach led authorities to evacuate more than 300 homes, close portions of a major highway and move several hundred jail inmates nearby to a second floor of the facility.

Congressman Vern Buchanan, who represents the region, flew over the area Monday and said federal resources were committed to assisting the effort.

“I think we are making some progress,” Buchanan said. “This is something that has been going on too long. Now, I think everybody is focused on this.”

What is the environmental threat?

The ponds sit in stacks of phosphogypsum, a solid radioactive byproduct from manufacturing fertilizer.

It is considered radioactive as it contains isotopes such as radon, as well as toxic heavy metals like arsenic, lead and mercury.

But state authorities say the water in the breached pond is not radioactive.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection says the water has elevated levels of phosphorous and nitrogen and is acidic, but is not expected to be toxic.

Marine algae thrive on such elements, and environmental groups fear the release of millions of gallons of nutrient-rich water into the ocean could trigger a deadly “red tide,” or algal bloom, that can suffocate fish and other aquatic life and deter tourist activity.

Are other spills possible?

According to local reporting from the Tampa Bay Times newspaper, the problems at Piney Point are long-running and spills have happened before.

Since its one-time owner, Mulberry Corp., closed for business a couple of decades ago, the gypsum stacks and wastewater have loomed near the bay.

“This environmental disaster is made worse by the fact it was entirely foreseeable and preventable,” said Jaclyn Lopez, Florida director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

“With 24 more phosphogypsum stacks storing more than 1 billion tons of this dangerous, radioactive waste in Florida, the EPA needs to step in right now,” said Lopez. **DW**

UK to move to ‘phase two’ of roadmap to exit COVID-19 lockdown

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday announced a relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in the United Kingdom from next week after government data showed that the country has met all four tests for easing the lockdown.

In what Johnson calls “phase two of our roadmap”, shops, gyms, zoos, holiday campsites and personal care services will be reopened. “In the net result of your efforts and of course the vaccine rollout is that I can today that from Monday, April 12, we will move to step two of our roadmap, reopening shops, gyms, zoos, holiday campsites, personal care services like hairdressers and beer gardens and outdoor hospitality of all kinds,” he said during a press conference. **ANI**

ESCALATING TENSIONS

US asks Russia to explain Ukrainian border ‘provocations’

WASHINGTON: The US State Department called on Russia to refrain from escalating tensions with Ukraine, in comments to reporters on Monday.

Russia has reportedly amassed troops and moved tanks near the Ukrainian border in recent days, as a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine looks increasingly shaky. The movements are the latest point of tension between Russia and the US less than three months after US President Joe Biden took office.

“We call on Russia to refrain from escalatory actions,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

Price said the United States would be concerned by any effort by Moscow to intimidate Ukraine, whether it occurred on Russian territory or within Ukraine. He declined to say whether the US believes Russia is preparing to invade the former Soviet republic.

“We’ve asked Russia for an explanation of these provocations,” Price said. “But more importantly, what we have signaled with our Ukrainian partners is a message of reassurance.”

The State Department briefing follows President Biden’s first call with Ukrainian President Ze-

lensky on Friday.

In their conversation, Biden affirmed Washington’s support for “Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia’s ongoing aggression”.

Throughout Europe, US forces raised their alert status in response to the “recent escalations of Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine.”

Last July, all sides to the conflict agreed on a ceasefire in the eastern Donbass area. But starting in mid-February, increased fighting has further undermined an already fragile peace in the region. Since 2014, at least 13,000 people have been killed in the ongoing conflict.

What is NATO’s position?

The call between the two leaders came after the NATO alliance expressed concern over what is said was a large Russian military buildup on Ukraine’s eastern border, warning Moscow against any further escalations of the situation.

“NATO will continue to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We remain vigilant and continue to monitor the situation very closely,” a NATO spokesman told German newspaper, Die Welt. **DW**



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Olympic qualifiers still undecided at Mussanah Open Championship

Conditions were perfect once again, with winds up to 15 knots, ensuring racing went down to the wire with no interruptions

MUSCAT: Competition is heating up at the Mussanah Open Championship where, at the midway point of the event, all classes remain incredibly close.

Conditions were perfect once again, with winds up to 15 knots and clear blue skies ensuring racing went down to the wire with no interruptions.

The 49er class is wide open, with yet another new leader on top of the rankings at the close of Day Three. Indian duo KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar ended the day in first place from Benjamin Talbot and Alex Burger of South Africa and the Chinese pairing of Hong Wei and Chao Xiang.



KC Ganapathy, leader of the 49er class representing India, said, "We started off the event a bit shaky, we hadn't raced for a year and a half coming into this, but my coach and I have been working each day to correct the previous day's mistakes. So, overall, we are happy with how the event is progressing and we want to stay focused and keep improving each day."

The top two in the 49er FX class switched places with the team of Molly Highfield and Sandy Wing Chi Choi from Hong Kong taking over at the top from China's Ye Jin and Chen Shasha. Thai pair of Kamonchanok Klahan and Nichapa Waiwai stay in third place.

After a full day of racing, the Laser class and Laser Radial class rankings remain unchanged. In

the Laser, Singapore's Ryan Lo Jun Han leads Keerati Bualong of Thailand and India's Vishnu Saravanan and in the Laser Radial, Indian sailor Nethra Kumaran leads Dutch sailor Emma Savelon with Indian teammate Ramya Saravanan in third.

In the RS:X class, Thai windsurfer Natthapong Phonopparat continues out in front in the men's race with Filipino duo Yancy Kaibigan and Geylord Coveta following closely behind in second and third respectively.

In the female class, Charizanne Napa from the Philippines still holds a narrow from Singapore's Amanda Ng Ling Kai and India's Ishwariya Ganesh.

Yancy Kaibigan, RS:X windsurfer representing the Philip-

pinos, said, "The weather was good today, with a strong wind for the first two races but it suddenly dropped in the third race which made the conditions challenging, but I managed three second placed finishes today. We had to prepare at home for this event because of the cancellation of scheduled events, so I am pleased with my performance. I hope for good wind tomorrow and to continue performing well."

With Olympic qualification up for grabs, the Mussanah Open Championship is being held under strict regulations to ensure all equipment adheres to World Sailing specifications and the rules of each class. Prior to the event, all the boats and equipment were inspected and recorded by an International Measurer appointed by World Sailing to make sure sailors do not change the equipment and continue to use the approved equipment.

Ajit Diaz, Chief of the Technical Committee, said, "It is important to ensure that all the classes of boats are complying with the class rules. We must also check for the mandatory safety equipment and be sure that all competitors use legal equipment for every day of the championship. The integrity of the competition is of utmost importance."



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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

We want to do well against 'very strong team' Liverpool: Zidane

MADRID: Ahead of the Champions League clash against Liverpool, Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane said his team wants to do well in the match and that's the only thing on their mind.

Real Madrid is scheduled to play the first leg of the Champions League quarter-final against Liverpool on Wednesday, with the second leg slated to be played on April 15. "It's a knockout tie. It's to be played over two legs. We know there are 180 minutes or more, but for us, as always, the most important thing is tomorrow's game. We're not looking any further ahead than that. We want to do well in this game and that's all we're thinking about," the club's official website quoted Zidane as saying.

"Liverpool are a complete team. People will tell you that the three forwards are very good and that's true, but they're a very strong and solid team, and they're play very much as a team. I'd focus more on the team as a whole, not on one

particular aspect. We know that the three forwards are very dangerous players and we're going to have to watch out for everything," he added.

Zidane also praised Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp saying that he is a "top coach".

"He's a top coach. He's been coaching for a long time, he's experienced. The work he's done throughout his career and now with Liverpool. Everyone has their own characteristics. He doesn't have to do it the way I do it or he has to do it the way I'm doing it. Everyone has to work the way they are, but I look at all coaches," he said.

"I like to learn and I learnt a lot, especially when I was doing the course. He's achieved great things even before that final, and after he won the final. When I did my coach training course I learnt a lot of things from a lot of coaches, the best ones, and also from Klopp, but every coach has his own style and doesn't have to copy the others," Zidane added. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Liverpool not looking to take revenge against Real Madrid: Klopp

MADRID: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has said that his side is not looking to take any kind of revenge against Real Madrid in the upcoming Champions League quarterfinal leg one fixture.

The talk about the match between Liverpool and Real Madrid has surrounded around their meeting in 2018 final in Kyiv, which Real Madrid managed to win 3-1.

"We are not on a revenge tour here. I don't believe too much in



revenge, but it would be nice to get through, because it would mean we are in the next round. My motivation is on the highest level because it's the Champions League, we play Real Madrid and we want to go to the next round. It has nothing to do with 2018. When we got the draw, of course, I remembered the game because it was the first time we have played each other since," Goal.com quoted Klopp as saying. In the 2018 final against Liverpool, Sergio Ramos had a night to

remember for Real Madrid and he was the destructor-in-chief. However, Ramos will miss the fixture against Liverpool this time around due to an injury.

"I said after that 2018 game that if somebody asked me in a press conference a week later or a month later if I would invite Sergio Ramos to my 60th birthday, then I would say no! Meanwhile, I would think about it again. It's not that he's not a great footballer but I didn't like what happened that night. It was

a strange night for us, but it's long ago and I cannot get that feeling, that anger, back," said Klopp.

"I can only try to prepare my team to show tomorrow how good we are as a football team. It's a strange season and a difficult season for us, but we want to show how good we are, and if we are better than Real Madrid and can score more goals, then we go to the next round. And if not then Real Madrid will," he added.

Talking about Liverpool's

chances in the match against Madrid, Klopp said: "Our team is built for these kinds of games, when we face a football-playing side. That's why we have a chance, absolutely."

"I heard outside that everybody says Real Madrid is a favourite. Great! No problem at all with that. They are used to the role, and we have no problem with the role of challenger," he added.

Liverpool and Real Madrid will take on each other later today in the Champions League. **ANI**



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OLYMPICS

Robot helps carry the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch

TOKYO: Day 13 of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 Torch Relay featured a robot helping to carry the Flame in Toyota, Japan on Tuesday.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay kicked off in Fukushima on March 25. It will travel through all of the country's 47 prefectures over the next 121 days before arriving in Tokyo for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony on July 23. "A robot helping to carry the torch. When GOTO Akihito came to Toyota in 2007, his goal was to solve the problems people with physical impairments faced. The solution? Robotics, which today helped him carry the @OlympicFlame," the #Tokyo2020 tweeted the video.

Torchbearers are running an average of 200m before passing the torch onto the next runner using a torch kiss pose.

Tokyo Olympics will go ahead from July 23-August 8 this year. The Games were slated to be held last year, but it was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Following the postponement of the megaevent, the Olympic Flame was first transferred to the facilities of the Tokyo Fire Department for safekeeping, then, later on, kept alert at the Olympic Museum in Tokyo.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), in a statement on March 24, had said that the route, which is unchanged from a year ago when the Games were postponed, will see the Olympic flame travel through 859 municipalities, passing within a short distance of the majority of the Japanese population. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has declined, with prices for delivery by June 2021 reaching \$61.41, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil declined by 66 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$62.07. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,717.20 points, up 0.47 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.89 per cent at 530.79 points. Al Anwar Ceramics, up 5.77 per cent, was the top gainer while A'Saffa Foods, down 9.82 per cent, was the top loser.

OIA-backed firm looks at sustainable investments in Oman's water sector

Times News Service

Utico is keen to bring benefit to the Omani water sector by providing the most efficient technology with economical scale. One of these achievements is Utico being selected as a winning bidder to supply Diam with desalinated potable water of 20,000 cubic metre per day

MUSCAT: Utico, which won the largest Independent Water Project (IWP) in Dubai and signed water purchase and shareholder agreements with the Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) last week, said it is looking at sustainable investments in Oman offering consumers world's lowest tariffs. The Oman Investment Authority (OIA)-backed company through its wholly owned subsidiary, Majis Industrial Services, said in a statement that it is positioning itself to bring value to Oman's water sector in a sustainable manner and hopes to invest this year, leading to channeling capital and know how back to the country, as well as contributing to socio-economic progress. Utico said it scored a major milestone by winning the Dubai IWP contract with the world's lowest water tariff in a tough and challenging procurement model of DEWA, demonstrating its capacity and quality to negotiate at an arm's



length basis to deliver sustainable development. The project capacity is 120 million gallons per day with facilities to expand to 240 mld

“
In line with the government's 2040 vision, we will invest into sustainable projects in Oman

Hussain Al Lawati
CEO of the MENA region
and Head of Global Investments

production per day, which would make it the largest desalination plant in the world. Hussain Al Lawati, CEO of the

MENA region and Head of Global Investments, said, “The Dubai win shows the company's ability to deliver sustainable returns to its shareholders in addition to bringing inefficiencies to government long term concessions. This has been made possible with Utico's innovative approach and the vertically integrated model encapsulating all elements of the value chain.” Governments in the region are continuing to expand the desalination capacity and they are looking to enhance the contribution of key sectors such as agriculture for which efficient and cost-effective supply of water is a key enabler, he said. “We are well-positioned to capture the opportunities in the sector and is currently evaluating public markets for both debt and equity to expand our capital base. Our competitive position in a growing sector will deliver superior risk-adjusted returns to our investors and capital providers,” Al Lawati said. Adapting the same successful model, Utico is keen to bring benefit to the Omani water sector by

providing the most efficient technology with affordable economical scale. One of these achievements so far is Utico being selected as a winning bidder to supply Diam with desalinated potable water of 20,000 m3/d capacity. The water tariff of the project is the lowest in Oman. It is key to also bring down the water tariff in the commercial space, which will position Oman competitively with respect to other industrial areas to attract FDI. “In line with the government's 2040 vision, we will invest into sustainable projects in Oman; Oman will be in the top three countries in terms of our investment target in the next five years. This will also bring the subsidies lower and protect consumer tariffs from the increase,” Al Lawati said. Utico said it has continuously demonstrated its ability to innovate and sustain its unique business model, which despite the COVID pandemic has supported and enabled all its customers and consumers to adapt and adopt sustainability as well.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR65.6mn



AVERAGE ACCEPTED PRICE: The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR65.6 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from April 7 until May 5, 2021. The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.65179 per cent and 0.65211 per cent, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman

(CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5% while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent. Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE

ahlibank's OMR30 million rights issue oversubscribed 1.29 times

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ahlibank has announced an oversubscription of its rights issue by 1.29 times. This marks the successful closure of the bank's rights issue of ordinary shares of OMR30 million. ahlibank had proposed an additional 300 million shares at 101 baisas per offer share, including issue expenses of 1 baisa per share. Said Abdullah Al Hatmi, CEO, ahlibank, said, “The purpose of the rights issue was to strengthen the Tier I capital of the bank and to meet the capital requirement for business growth. I am proud to share that despite a challenging local and global economic environment, there has been an overwhelming response from shareholders, and I would like to thank them for their continued trust and confidence in ahlibank. The issuance reaffirms the bank's positive market position and strong investor confidence.” Post issue, the bank's issued and paid-up share will increase to OMR194.9 million from the current OMR164.9 million. The rights issue subscription, managed by Ubhar Capital, opened from March 1 until March 15, 2021.

ahlibank is a full-fledged commercial bank, focusing its operations and providing services in retail banking, corporate banking, investment banking and Islamic banking in Oman. Since its conversion into a full-fledged commercial bank in 2008, it has continued to deepen its commitment to provide beneficial financial services that go beyond the conventional mode and espouse sustainable business practices going forward. ahlibank's total assets grew by 7.3 per cent in 2020, reach-



ISSUE EXPENSES: ahlibank had proposed an additional 300 million shares at 101 baisas per offer share, including issue expenses of 1 baisa per share. - **Supplied picture**

ing OMR2.70 billion, compared to OMR2.52 billion in 2019. Customer deposits went up by 12.4 per cent to reach OMR1.92 billion compared to OMR1.71 billion. Loans and advances and financing grew by 8 per cent, reaching OMR2.22 billion. The bank's operating income increased by 2.6 per cent, reaching OMR71.50 million in 2020. Operating expenses in-

creased by 9.1 per cent, while the profit for the period was lower by 22.6 per cent, largely due to the pandemic-related slowdown resulting in higher credit provisions. ahlibank has been on a steady growth trajectory and the year-end financial performance is an indicator that it has been able to turn the crisis into an opportunity in terms of asset growth, customer

deposits and other key financial indicators. Over the years, the bank has proven its strong commitment to the enrichment of youth, paying significant attention to nurturing young Omani talent. It envisions digital excellence as the way forward, setting new benchmarks in the industry and delivering outstanding shareholder value.

BLOCKS 3&4



MONTHLY FLUCTUATION: Oil production in Oman is currently subject to production limitations under the OPEC+ agreement. As a consequence, production from Blocks 3&4 is subject to limitations but is likely to fluctuate monthly. - **File picture**

Tethys Oil's March production in Oman reaches 356,736 barrels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of the production, before government take, from Blocks 3&4 onshore the Sultanate of Oman amounted in March 2021 to 356,736 barrels of oil, corresponding to 11,508 barrels of oil per day. Oil production in Oman is currently subject to production limitations under the OPEC+ agreement. As a consequence, production from Blocks 3&4 is subject to limitations but is likely to fluctuate monthly. The Official Selling Price (OSP) for Oman Export Blend Crude Oil for March 2021 amounts to US\$54.79 per barrel. The OSP, as published by Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals, is the benchmark price for Tethys Oil's monthly oil sales excluding trad-

ing and quality adjustments. Tethys Oil AB, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Tethys Oil Block 3 & 4 Ltd, has a 30 per cent interest in Blocks 3&4. Partners are Mitsui E&P Middle East B.V. with 20 per cent and the operator CC Energy Development (Oman branch) holding the remaining 50 per cent. Tethys Oil is a Swedish oil company with a focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58. Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P reserves of 26.9 million barrels oil (mmbo) and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 13.9 mmbo and had an average oil production of 11,336 barrels per day from Blocks 3&4 during 2020.

MADAYN INDUSTRIAL ACADEMY

Workshop on 'Digital Transformation' held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, represented by Madayn Industrial Academy, organised a virtual workshop on the 'Importance of Change Management in Digital Transformation' as part of a series of programmes held to develop the skills of the human cadres in Madayn's various industrial cities. Moderated by Laila Al Hadhrami, Senior Executive - Digital Transformation at the Ministry

of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the workshop featured several topics including the concept of change management and its importance to organisations and individuals, causes of resistance to change within organisations and among individuals, and popular change management models and methodologies. Al Hadhrami pointed out during the workshop that one of the key objectives of change management is to develop the organisations' practices through introducing advanced strategies at work.

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Al Anwar Ceramics, up 5.77 per cent, was the top gainer while Asaffa Foods, down 9.82 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,717.20 points, up 0.47 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.89 per cent at 530.79 points. Al Anwar Ceramics, up 5.77 per cent, was the top gainer while Asaffa Foods, down 9.82 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 720 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.76 million, with more than 14.7 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded stocks, 13 advanced, 10 declined and 27 remained unchanged. At the session close, local investors were net buyers for OMR106,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR91,000 followed by foreign investors for

OMR15,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 5,748.94 points, up by 0.72 per cent. Vision Insurance, HSBC Bank Oman, Al Omaniya Financial Service, Al Anwar Investment and Muscat Finance were up 3.90 per cent, 3.06 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 2.25 per cent and 2.22 per cent respectively. Oman & Emirates Holding and Al Sharqia Investment were down 4.00 per cent and 1.35 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,708.79 points, up 0.76 per cent. Al Anwar Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Product and Oman Cement were up 5.77 per cent, 1.90 per cent and 0.83 per cent respectively. A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering and National Aluminum Product were down 9.82 per cent, 2.00 per cent and 0.86 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.76 per cent before closing at 1,525.07 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6																	
ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADER	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (INR)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	MARK VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000002077	AL-OMANIYA FIN.S	5,869	423	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.072	0.070	0.072	0.100	-21,019.332	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,649,962	332,965	130	0.090	0.093	0.090	0.091	0.089	0.002	2.247	0.091	0.091	0.092	0.100	-18,200.000	
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,636,906	76,480	65	0.046	0.047	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.001	2.222	0.046	0.046	0.048	0.100	-14,128.731	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	536,420	115,437	50	0.216	0.218	0.213	0.215	0.211	0.004	1.896	0.218	0.216	0.218	0.100	-26,853.061	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	22,300	5,355	7	0.234	0.244	0.234	0.242	0.240	0.002	0.833	0.239	0.239	0.240	0.100	-80,071.196	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	1,000	394	1	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.386	0.386	0.000	0.000	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.100	-38,600.000	
OM0000001160	NAT.OIL GAS	15,000	2,070	3	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.137	0.001	0.728	0.138	0.137	0.142	0.100	-11,730.000	
OM0000001525	OMAN INVEST & FIN.	78,480	4,278	8	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	-18,960.000	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	110,650	33,367	18	0.304	0.304	0.300	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.298	0.304	0.100	-243,947.243	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	540,230	212,166	37	0.390	0.394	0.390	0.392	0.392	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.394	0.100	-1,401,194.116	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	100,190	35,097	12	0.350	0.352	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.352	0.352	0.354	0.100	-82,743.500	
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	5,000	450	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	-213,105.606	
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	102,240	27,182	24	0.266	0.266	0.265	0.266	0.266	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.265	0.266	0.100	-14,630.000	
OM0000003969	COINTECO	50,000	20,000	2	0.404	0.404	0.400	0.400	0.402	-0.002	-0.498	0.400	0.396	0.400	0.100	-290,377.692	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	158,399	115,928	19	0.732	0.732	0.728	0.732	0.736	-0.004	-0.543	0.728	0.728	0.732	0.100	-549,000.000	
OM0000002440	AL-SHARQIA INV.	382,270	27,941	25	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	-6,570.000	
Total	16	7,384,946	1,010,563	404													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000002188	AL-ANWAR CERAMIC	176,732	58,266	47	0.316	0.330	0.316	0.330	0.312	0.018	5.769	0.330	0.324	0.330	0.100	-97,750.515	
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	23,000	1,780	5	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.077	0.003	3.896	0.080	0.077	0.081	0.100	-6,000.000	
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	116,000	11,700	8	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.099	0.002	3.061	0.101	0.099	0.101	0.100	-202,031.592	
OM0000007407	DHOAF GENERATING	1,477,727	234,960	7	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.159	0.155	0.004	2.581	0.159	0.159	0.160	0.100	-35,336.160	
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	9,250	763	3	0.091	0.096	0.091	0.092	0.090	0.002	2.222	0.092	0.086	0.092	0.100	-11,960.000	
OM0000002226	AL-JAZEERA SERVICES	255,911	79,436	25	0.304	0.314	0.304	0.310	0.304	0.006	1.974	0.310	0.310	0.320	0.100	-18,972.325	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	124,903	19,475	9	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.154	0.002	1.299	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.100	-253,647.632	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	505,000	54,005	12	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.111	0.100	-208,615.348
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	12,000	1,032	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.100	-10,750.000	
OM0000001962	AL-MADINA INV.	100,000	2,300	2	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.023	0.024	0.100	-4,764.482	
OM0000002028	GULF INT'CHEMI.	4,400	440	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.106	0.100	-2,184.000	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,083,208	93,740	31	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.100	-15,711.498	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOAF	50,200	5,320	3	0.100	0.106	0.100	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.104	0.106	0.100	-317,613.252	
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,000	700	3	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.716	0.716	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.648	0.700	0.100	-43,872.900	
OM0000003000	AL-MAHA MARKETING	8,190	4,256	1	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.000	0.000	0.550	0.540	0.550	0.100	-37,950.000	
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	20,000	1,600	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.078	0.088	0.100	-20,287.200	
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,482	154	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.105	0.118	0.100	-8,791.497	
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	33,010	1,495	2	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.045	0.048	0.100	-5,945.450	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	129,980	12,478	7	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	-144,000.000	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	299,671	26,162	27	0.088	0.088	0.085	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.090	0.100	-15,225.000	
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	12,110	1,332	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.121	0.100	-11,000.000	
OM0000004925	ALBATRAH POWER	278,866	15,039	13	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.025	0.024	0.025	0.100	-38,443.921	
OM0000004939	AL-SUWADI POWER	200,941	11,053	9	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.100	-39,992.349	
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	100,320	4,715	4	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.045	0.047	0.100	-68,742.289	
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	12,000	1,128	3	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.090	0.094	0.100	-9,400.000	
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	335,094	38,396	35	0.115	0.116	0.114	0.115	0.116	-0.001	-0.862	0.115	0.113	0.117	0.100	-8,701.717	
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	333,100	26,648	9	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	-76,365.756	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	460,422	22,341	35	0.049	0.050	0.048	0.049	0.049	-0.001	-2.000	0.048	0.048	0.050	0.100	-14,209.051	
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	40,000	1,920	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.050	-0.002	-0.400	0.048	0.047	0.050	0.100	-3,850.000	
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	5,100	750	2	0.147	0.155	0.147	0.149	0.159	-0.010	-6.289	0.155	0.148	0.159	0.100	-13,410.000	
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	6,000	4,800	2	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.860	0.860	-0.060	-6.977	0.800	0.800	0.860	0.100	-76,000.000	
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	9,098	4,498	1	0.496	0.496	0.496	0.496	0.550	-0.054	-9.818	0.496	0.496	0.000	0.100	-59,520.000	
Total	32	7,222,795	742,988	314													

NON-PERFORMING ASSETS

Indian banks' asset quality remains monitorable despite lower increase in NPAs

NEW DELHI: Despite a decline in reported gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) by banks, their assets quality continues to remain monitorable, ICRA Ratings has said.

Even including pro-forma GNPA's of Rs 1.3 lakh crore (1.1

per cent of gross advances) and NNPA's of Rs 1 lakh crore (1 per cent of net advances), the GNPA and NNPA of banks stood at 8.3 per cent and 2.7 per cent as of December 31, 2020, as compared to 8.6 per cent and 3 per cent respectively as on March 31, 2020.

However, this decline was driven by loan write-offs of Rs 1.1 lakh crore during 9M FY21. Further, based on the restructuring guidance given by various banks, the overall volume of restructured advances is estimated at 1.3 to 1.5 per cent of the advances. — **ANI**

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Accountant with 3 years Oman experience (6 years total Experience), MBA Finance, well versed in VAT, NOC Available. Contact [92862265](tel:92862265)

Indian male, 2 yrs accountant experience in Oman with NOC and 2 yrs admin assistant 2yrs accountant experience in India. Looking for appropriate placement in accountant, admin, clerical jobs. Master in commerce and PGDCA. Contact: [+96891746925](tel:+96891746925), [+919744304725](tel:+919744304725) Email: lenglev@gmail.com

AutoCAD / Revit (2d/3d), MEP freelancer, shop drawing works. Contact: [99857800](tel:99857800) / [79037728](tel:79037728) (WA)

CAD Draughtsman looking for a job. Release available Contact [95157045](tel:95157045)

20+ yrs Exp. Architectural, Structural & ELV Draftsman Looking freelance job. Contact [99718163](tel:99718163), Email: riyasoka@gmail.com

Srilankan, looking for MEP draftman / Const supervisor. Dip in MEP draftman with 3-4 yrs experience. Contact [93988825](tel:93988825). Email amenulas@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. [97947214](tel:97947214)

Indian Male, 12 years experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post. Holding Oman D/L & NOC. Contact vinrai99@gmail.com, M: [79734085](tel:79734085)

Commercial/Secretarial with Stenography/Documentation/Administration cum Basic Accounts 20+ years experience working in oman with NOC & D/L looking for a suitable job. Contact [92925926](tel:92925926), [97704828](tel:97704828). Email ffrancis7@gmail.com

Indian female MBA (HR), PGDBA, BE, 7 yrs of experience in HR & administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L. Looking for suitable placement. Contact [92474376](tel:92474376)

Indian Female, MSc graduate currently in Muscat looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: [94687398](tel:94687398). Email: gayathrisprem21@gmail.com

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Masters, Male, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience - Airport Projects, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate. NOC. # [99283938](tel:99283938)

Male having 10 years Experience (Oman), working as a Transport Manager looking for a suitable position. Contact [93363316](tel:93363316)

Indian/male (24)/BBA..LLB.(hons) / experience in law firms, administration and operations in Den network Trivandrum. Contact [79896282](tel:79896282), [78265859](tel:78265859) Email: harisuneethan96@gmail.com

Business administration graduate MBA holder, with 3 years experience looking for suitable vacancy. Contact [968-79387444](tel:968-79387444) Email m.mukhtar214@gmail.com

COOK

Looking job as Cook, Bangladeshi, 48 yrs - Indian, Chinese, Arabic, Continental food. Worked 8 yrs in Le Meriden (5 star Dubai) 8 yrs in Hyatt Regency Jeddah - KSA, 10 yrs in Omani house cook. # [92943422](tel:92943422)

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. Contact [93539260](tel:93539260)

Looking for driving job. Contact [96224920](tel:96224920)

Looking for driving job. # [99141165](tel:99141165)

Heavy driver 20 years GCC experience looking for a job call [93770264](tel:93770264)

10 yrs experience in driving (Oman) looking job. # [93770264](tel:93770264)

Experienced Pakistani Light Duty Driver. Excellent English/Arabic Speaker, Great knowledge of Muscat Roads/Areas. Looking Suitable placement. Contact [79250786](tel:79250786)

Looking for driving job with car, 4 yrs experience. Contact [97379365](tel:97379365)

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Part time professional accounting daily/weekly/monthly, VAT regn & impn, and Auditing also available. Contact [92661357](tel:92661357)

Disinfection & Sterilization Treatments. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact [99329289](tel:99329289) Email sales@oceancentre.co

Pest Control Treatments - Cockroaches, Ants, etc. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact [99329289](tel:99329289) Email sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning - Offices, Villas & Flats. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact [99329289](tel:99329289) Email sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Contact Mundhir l-Rizaigi trading L.LC # [24810137](tel:24810137), [99450130](tel:99450130)

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CHANGE OF NAME

RAMULU ARROLA has lost his Indian passport No.U0629246. Finder please handover to ROP.

SEADA SENDEW SEBSE has lost Ethiopian passport EP 4049290. finder please handover to ROP.

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JOB VACANCIES

ENGINEER

An Excellent grade construction company is looking for the following candidates - **Site Engineer**, minimum 8 years of GCC Experience in sites. Interested candidates send your CV to iblitauunited@gmail.com

MANAGER

An Excellent grade construction company is looking for the following candidates - **Construction Manager**, minimum 15 years of GCC experience. Interested candidates send your CV to iblitauunited@gmail.com

General Manager for a reputed GCC logistics operator. Minimum 5yrs experience in logistics, at least 2yrs in similar capacity. Proficient in strategic thinking, team building, financials and operations. Email logsjobsom@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Consultancy firm urgently requires following candidates having min 5 yrs experience in Oman well versed with arabic language (speaking) & holder of Oman driving license. -- **Architect & Civil engineer** for site supervision. Send CV to: info@abdullamukadam.com

Required Consultants having Degree in Marketing/Finance or Engineering with 2 - 5 years' experience working for Consultancy/ Advisory Firms. Email advance@omantel.net.om

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MEDICAL

Urgently required pathologist/microbiologist with PHD, GP doctors, nurses, x-ray technicians, Arab speaking gynecologist, pediatrician, dentist & orthodontist for Salalah Oman. MOH license holders are preferred. Whatsapp [+96898899345](tel:+96898899345) Email hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com

Wanted lady dentist in Ruwi. Contact [99357612](tel:99357612)

Wanted a Indian GP doctor, urgently with/without MOH licence for a running clinic in the capital area. Contact [93807107](tel:93807107) Email syedyakub71@gmail.com

Needed urgently female Lab technician for a private clinic in Salalah. Contact [99082092](tel:99082092)

Urgently required Gynecologist with DGO/MD, Pediatrician, Specialist Orthopedic, Physiotherapist, Nurse for reputed clinic in Wadikabir Area. Email info@wmc.om

Wanted Female GP preferably with MOH license for a well established Medical Centre. Contact [98115439](tel:98115439)

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Technicians duct pi A/c. Contact [99723585](tel:99723585), [97159292](tel:97159292)

SALES / MARKETING

Readymade Garments Salesman Minimum Experience 3 Years in Oman. Contact [24704415](tel:24704415)

Required indoor Sales person (M/F) for sports showroom. Contact/Whatsapp [99321960](tel:99321960) (10am-12.00noon & 5pm-6pm only)

Required young diploma Civil Engineer/graduate with Oman driving license for Sales in construction material. Having good contacts with consultants & contractors. Contact [92888337](tel:92888337)

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Sales & Marketing

Indian male, professional in media ad sales and marketing, experienced in business development and planning and rolling out offline & online product promotion campaigns, organising product launch events & other BTL programs, looking for a suitable opportunity.

Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER

Indian Male, Degree in Civil Engineer, 24 yrs Exp, with 15 yrs Gulf experience in handling Grid stations, OHL, Hospital Buildings, Road, MEP. Worked with (Ray International, L & T, ONEIC), under , OETC, Mazan, Mazon, DPC. Having Oman D/L. Looking for suitable position. Immediate available for join, NOC available.

Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774 Wts - 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Logistics and Operations

Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.

Contact: 79639093
Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

Sr. Sales HVAC/MEP/Industrial Products

With 10 + years of experience in Sales and Business development of HVAC / Mechanical / Industrial products in Oman market. Hold DL and available immediately.

Contact: 93843068; mabcoman@yahoo.com

ENGINEER / DEPUTE PM

BE 15 yrs Exp Seeking job roles of Engineer - Sr.planning/Sr.cost control/Dep.PM in Building Construction/Infrastructure Utilities Projects/Consulting Firms of a growth oriented organization.

Contact 97464768

Administration

Pakistani Female with 13 years of experience in Academic Administration with excellent communication skills, on family visa. Part time also willing.

Contact 79285929

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.

aminol2424@gmail.com
79417515

HR / Admin

Indian Female looking for job opportunities in HR/Admin or similar field. MBA with 7 yrs of experience in Oman, UAE and India in HR, Admin, Payroll n others. Experience in all HR functions. Available to start immediately.

Contact 99653715

Omani Information Technology Field

Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.

Contact: 71771213
Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

ENGINEER

Omani female looking for a job, BSc in Process engineering (Done four different internships in process engineering), marketing experience as well.

Contact: 95119284
alya_alsiyabi93@outlook.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: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator

Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Please contact -- 78022980

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

WANTED PART TIME OR CONTRACT BASIS ACCOUNTING JOB UPTO FINALISATION.

CONTACT: 91720776

Mechanical Engineer

Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 5+years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.

Call 97015841
Email: khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

ASST. FINANCE MANAGER

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

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

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer

Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.

Contact/ Whatsapp No.: 95051103,
Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

INDIAN MALE, FINANCE MANAGER WITH OVER 20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH NBFC, IT, MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES. GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS. SEEKING SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES. LOCAL RELEASE CAN BE ARRANGED.

CONTACT +968 95808315 / 94411825

FINANCE

Indian Female (MBA Finance) having 15 years (Oman) of work experience in Banking / Finalization / Audit; seeks suitable placement.

Contact 94953826 / 92824146

ACCOUNTANT

A certified VAT professional having Masters degree & 10 years of GCC experience in senior positions, is available to handle accounts & VAT compliance.

Contact 71990782

CIVIL ENGINEER

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL.

Contact No. 92180869
E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

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

GSM: 78259755

IT PROFESSIONAL

With 15+years of experience. Currently working as Head Of IT Support for a reputed company in Muscat for last 7 years. MCSA, CCNA, ITIL certified. Experience in IT infrastructure, IT project management, Resource Management & Service Desk seeks suitable placement as IT Manager/System Admin.

Contact 92514687 Email: hi. binu@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer, having 8 yrs of Oman experience in all types of building constructions & having Oman D/L & NOC available. Ready to join immediately. Contact 71267309, 96742402 (whatsapp), Email vmanand92@gmail.com

BE Civil Engineer with PMP having experience more than 21 years looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 95899628, prakashrathi7707 @gmail.com

MEP Mechanical engineer with 2 year exp. Contact 79027224

Indian Male, Diploma in Computer Engineering, 3 years' experience Worked as a System administrator & Support Engineer looking for a suitable job. Presently on visit. Contact 94243856/93894634 rashadmuhammed20@gmail.com

Indian BE civil Engineer, 26, male, 2yrs exp in building construction with Oman D/L looking for a suitable opportunity. Contact 96512025

Electrical engineer, 7 years experience, HV/LV Projects, safety courses, approved by MEDC Tanweer, O&G experience,D/L, GSM: 79474387

Site Engineer (DCE), 9 yrs experience in building construction (execution of site works, BBS, BOQ preparation) Oman D/L. Local transfer/NOC available. Contact 94334402. Email nishath.ind91@gmail.com

Indian male 23 yrs, B.Tech (EEE) is looking for suitable job,presently on visit. Contact 95055966

24, Mechanical Engineer, currently in Oman Looking to work as back-office Sales/Purchase coordinator in any field. Contact 79121923 / 78043052

B.E Civil engineer Male, with 2 years of professional experience in municipal house construction project. Equipped with a valid D/L. Fluent in English & Arabic. Contact 96749821 Email mhassan9610@gmail.com

Civil engineer with 9 years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

Indian female M.Tech in Electrical power system having 4+ yrs of experience in Oman seeking suitable placement. Contact 79733520, 94306164

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman experience in all kinds operation of civil & MEP and interior fit- out field with valued Visa and D/L, 95206259, looking placement

Electrical engineer 9 years experience in primary substations, OHL, and underground cables. With a valid D/L. Contact 98223842

Sr. quantity surveyor - Civil / contracts with 14+ years of experience in commercial and residential projects in Oman, holder of D/L & NOC available. Seeking for suitable position. Contact no. 93249891

Construction engineer with 10 yrs experience in Oman consulting offices 7 experience in government project. Contact 96965100

Planning engineer, Indian more than 20 yrs experience in Oil & gas, pipeline building & MEP projects scheduling using primavera P6 seeks suitable job. NOC available. Contact 92651105 Email reji-mathai@hotmail.com

Indian Male B.E Civil 6Y experience currently available in Oman. Ready for Immediate join Looking for Any job. Contact 91406778

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

B.E Mechanical engineer, 25 yrs with 2.5 yrs of experience in MEP execution & estimation is seeking suitable placement. Contact 94846765. Email akshaygopinath@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer (RE) with over 10 years of experience on major projects (Residential, Commercial & Industrial). # 78270396

B.E in Mechanical Engineering with 2 yrs of experience in fire fighting & MEP. Currently working as estimation & design engineer is looking for a suitable placement. Contact 94417169

Indian B.Tech Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/ MEP engineer. NOC available. Contact 99873092 Email ranjithbr17@gmail.com

Indian B.tech Electrical male engineer having 14 yrs experience in construction,looking for suitable placement as Estimation Engineer/ MEP engineer/MEP Qs. NOC available. Contact 92121940 Email abyeee@gmail.com

Planning Engineer, Indian BE (Mechanical), 20 yrs experience in using primavera (P6) with NOC, D/L. Contact 79822993

Civil engineer diploma with BBA, NEBOSH IGC, valid Oman D/L, 9 yrs experience building construction, network tower erection, gas pipe line project. Contact 00971501140652, 95305786

Sudanese civil engineer, 10 yrs experience (Supervision & execution, projects, management, dams, roads) with Masters degree in Business Management. Contact 93214768

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

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

Indian male, experience of 12 Years in Oman as a Purchasing officer and store manager,D/L NOC available looking for suitable job. # 97099785, manugccc@gmail.com

Procurement, purchase officer having master degree searching for job. 07 yrs exp in oman in a well known construction & maintenance group of companies. NOC available. Contact 92587919, 99423614. Email jahanzeb_athar@yahoo.com

Indian, purchase assistant, store keeper 9 years working experience in oman. Valid Oman D/L(light) Looking for suitable job. Contact 98615731 Email: sanalk73@gmail.com

Indian male, 16 yrs experience in a multinational freight forwarding & logistic co,worked under the capacity of Senior operation executive/senior accountant (Ocen freight,air freight, land transport, warehouse operations & finance & accounting). NOC available. Contact 93587605

SALES / MARKETING

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

14 yrs of Sales experience in FMCG, valid D/L. Looking for Supervisory / Management position. Contact 71554818. Email: mohammedsultan1977@gmail.com

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

Indian male (30) MBA with oman Experience (FMCG and other) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on Visit. Contact +968 7975 5795

MBA with Engineering (Indian female) working in a reputable company in Oman, with 8 years of experience in Content writing, Digital marketing, Vendor & Budgeting. management, Contact 98945207

Indian male with 10 years GCC experience in Luxury Watches & Jewellery currently in Oman with valid driving license looking for a job in Sales/Marketing. Contact: 91901852

34yrs Indian, MBA marketing, B.Com, 9 yrs experience (2 yrs GCC-Dubai) seeking Sales, admin, accounting job. Contact 78167383

Indian male (24) BBA, 2year experience in sales and administration. Contact 94890534 Email: jebinahmed@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer, 4 yrs experience in Oman & 1 yr in India, have Oman valid D/L.Looking for suitable placement. Contact 91521567

***Classified Advertisement space booking with text, should be done till 12.00 noon for next day's publication. * Subject to space availability**

TOUR / TRAVEL

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

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168. e-mail: anwarijahil51@gmail.com

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Whatsnews

123,151
Whatsloom



Data Sources Readership: IPSOS NRS 2017, Web reach: Effective Measure/Narrative, Google Analytics January 2020; Social media numbers verified online as of January 2020; *Whatsapp subscribers x 4 pass-on rate



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ROUND-UP



Qatar Airways to operate world’s first fully COVID-19 vaccinated flight

QR6421 will be operated by the airline’s sustainable A350-1000 and will carry only vaccinated crew and passengers on board, with passengers also serviced by fully vaccinated staff at check-in

DOHA: Qatar Airways continues to lead the recovery of international travel, operating the world’s first fully COVID-19 vaccinated flight. QR6421 will depart Hamad International Airport at 11am carrying only vaccinated crew and passengers on board, with passengers also to be served by the fully vaccinated staff at check-in. The special flight, which will return to Doha at 14:00, will show-



case all the measures the airline has put in place to ensure the highest standards of safety and hygiene on board, including its latest innovation, the world’s first ‘Zero-Touch’ in-flight entertainment technology. The special service will be operated by the airline’s most technologically advanced and sustainable aircraft, the Airbus A350-1000, with the flight also fully carbon offset in line with the carrier’s environmental responsibilities. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker said: “Today’s special flight demonstrates the next stage in the recovery of international travel is not far away. We are proud to continue leading the industry by operating the first flight with a fully vaccinated crew and passengers and provid-

ing a beacon of hope for the future of international aviation. With aviation being a critical economic driver both globally and here in the State of Qatar, we are thankful for the support we have received from our government and local health authorities to vaccinate our staff, with over 1,000 vaccinations being administered per day. “It is in Qatar Airways DNA to be at the forefront, setting the highest standards of safety and customer service. Before the pandemic, Qatar Airways became the first and only airline to be awarded the Skytrax Airline of the Year five times. When the pandemic hit its peak in early April, our airline continued flying to help repatriate millions of stranded passengers and transport essential medical

supplies, while also implementing the latest innovations in biosafety and hygiene. As the vaccine rollout begins to gather pace worldwide, Qatar Airways remains committed to being the airline passengers and travel partners can rely on, operating one of the largest global networks to provide the connectivity needed to reunite families and friends and support global trade. “Qatar Airways Cargo has also played a vital role in maintaining a reliable schedule across our network of destinations. Since the onset of the pandemic, Qatar Airways has helped transport more than 500,000 tonnes of medical supplies and delivered close to 20,000,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 20 countries.” Passengers will be able to live

stream the historic experience thanks to Qatar Airways’ industry-leading Super WiFi onboard that combines the latest technology from Inmarsat, SITA for Aircraft and Thales. To show its gratitude to those who have played key roles throughout the pandemic, Qatar Airways gave away 100,000 complimentary return tickets to healthcare workers and 21,000 to teachers around the world in 2020. Qatar Airways has become the first global airline in the world to achieve the prestigious 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating by the international air transport rating organisation, Skytrax. This follows HIA’s recent success as the first and only airport in the Middle East and Asia to be awarded a Skytrax 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating. These recognitions provide assurance to passengers across the world that airline health and safety standards are subject to the highest possible standards of professional, independent scrutiny and assessment. For full details of all the measures that have been implemented on board and in HIA, please visit qatarairways.com/safety. Qatar Airways is the first airline in the Middle East to begin trials of the innovative new IATA Travel Pass ‘Digital Passport’

mobile app. IATA Travel Pass ensures passengers receive up-to-date information on COVID-19 health regulations at their destination country, as well as complying with strict global data privacy regulations to enable the sharing of COVID-19 test results with airlines to verify they are eligible to undertake their journey. A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named ‘World’s Best Airline’ by the 2019 World Airline Awards, managed by the international air transport rating organisation Skytrax. It was also named ‘Best Airline in the Middle East’, ‘World’s Best Business Class’, and ‘Best Business Class Seat’, in recognition of its ground-breaking Business Class experience, Qsuite. Qsuite is available on flights to more than 45 destinations including Johannesburg, Frankfurt, New York and Singapore. Qatar Airways is the only airline to have been awarded the coveted ‘Skytrax Airline of the Year’ title, which is recognised as the pinnacle of excellence in the airline industry, five times. In addition to this, Qatar Airways home and hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA) was ranked the ‘Best Airport in the Middle East’ for the sixth consecutive year and ‘Third Best Airport in the World’ by the SKYT-RAX World Airport Awards 2020.

AWARDS

Mercedes-Benz Oman recognised at Distributors Regional Conference

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman was presented with two awards at the General Distributors Regional Conference 2021, winning Best Retention Performance and Best People Development categories. Recognising its outstanding performance within the Passenger Car Division in 2020, Mercedes-Benz Oman remained steadfast in its commitment to exceptional customer service and, investing in upskilling its staff across all disciplines. “These awards show the significant strides we have made in our customer service, which forms the backbone of our business,” said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman. “For us, success is more than just quality cars, it’s about building life-long partnerships with our loyal customers, our partners and above all our team of dedicated Mercedes-Benz stars.” The year 2020 saw Mercedes-Benz Oman continue to take its customer service to new heights,



building on a precedent that span over four decades. Reconceptualising its customer experience journey, Mercedes-Benz Oman transformed its operations to better adapt to modern lifestyles further strengthening its interaction and relationship with customers;

while ensuring that their loyalty to the brand remains unwavering. Meanwhile, the company invested heavily in staff training, empowering its employees to improve their skills, pursue their development goals, and contribute to the company’s growth trajectory.

PARTNERSHIP



Playrix launches heartwarming puzzle game homescapes on Huawei AppGallery

MUSCAT: Described as the most heart-warming game from the Playrix series, Homescapes is now available to Huawei AppGallery users around the world. Homescapes, famous for its walk-through gameplay that invites players to renovate an old family home by completing increasingly interesting puzzles, is offering great gifts to celebrate its launch on AppGallery. Playrix fans across the globe can expect the familiar match-3 puzzle restoration challenge they know and love - as well as countless new features to explore, including unique boosters and explosive combinations. Set in a historic mansion on a verdant street, players will need to restore, renovate, and decorate each room selecting their favourite items and furniture, to unlock new chapters and unveil an exciting family story

along the way. Players will have access to thousands of design options, from more conservative to more funky styles, to create their very own dream house, allowing them maximum freedom to explore their creativity through hours of interactive gameplay. Recently launched Gardenscapes was the first of the Playrix Scapes series to debut on AppGallery, met with success with over 213 million downloads worldwide and praises from gamers for its interactive puzzle gameplay. Following its popularity on the platform and positive feedback, Homescapes is expected to continue to drive that momentum. As one of the fastest-growing global app marketplaces, Huawei’s partnership with Playrix has provided the strong operational support it needed for each launch - releasing both Gardenscapes and Homescapes within just a few months.

AL MOUJ MUSCAT

More homes for sale within gated neighbourhood of Golf Beach Residences villas at Al Mouj Muscat

MUSCAT: Following the exceptionally high demand for Golf Beach Residences villas at Al Mouj Muscat, where 90 per cent of the collection sold within just weeks of their release last month, the premier lifestyle and leisure destination has launched more homes for sale within this exclusive gated neighbourhood. The second and final phase is within the southern sector and includes a choice of two outstanding designs; Golf Boulevard Villas which are luxurious 6-bedroom villas, and Golf Park Villas, the collection’s impressive 5-bedroom homes. Connected by beautiful boulevards and walkways, all homes have direct access to Al Mouj Golf, are a short stroll from pristine sandy beaches and the 5-star St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort. Each home comes with exclusive resident privileges including complimentary golf carts and parking, electric charging and preferential rates at Al Mouj Golf. As well, each property boasts a Garden Suite giving owners the flexibility to configure the space to suit their personal lifestyle preferences, and as their family’s needs change, by using it as a playroom, a gym, music room or home cinema, for example. Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat says,



“We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive response to Golf Beach Residences made all the more rewarding given we have launched during such challenging times. Al Mouj Muscat is an exceptional destination where we put in place everything needed for how people want to live, work and relax. Since our launch in 2006 where our focus was largely to provide an urban living lifestyle with an impressive portfolio of oceanfront residential properties, we now have a reputation for creating rich personal communities within the most

sought-after of lifestyle settings. “The near sell-out of this first phase of Golf Beach Residences demonstrates that providing exceptional homes in an equally exceptional setting is hugely appealing to modern families in search of a luxurious lifestyle. “Golf Beach Residences offers safety, serenity and plenty for families to do and all so close to their homes. We are anticipating a strong response to this second phase particularly as it will be the final opportunity to own brand new homes within such an exclu-

sive neighbourhood and where we are giving buyers the option to tailor spaces to suit their own needs. “The success is testament to the fact Al Mouj Muscat understands the aspirations of buyers. We provide the right high-quality properties in an incomparable location which not only meets market demand but offers a lifestyle beyond compare.” Construction of Golf Beach Residences is due to start in Q4 of 2021 and will be completed ready for handover to their new owners within 24 months.



Genesis prepares to launch new Genesis G70 in Middle East & Africa region

DUBAI: Genesis Middle East & Africa HQs revealed that the new Genesis G70 will be launching for customers in the region soon. Launched originally in 2017, the luxury sports sedan has an athletic design, dynamic driving performance and leading safety features. It attracted such achievements as the 2018 Good Design Award (Transportation Design Division), 2019 North American Car of the Year and Top Safety Pick+ recognition from the US Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). The new Genesis G70 features enhancements that focus on an athletic exterior design evolution, a driver-centred interior and state-of-the-art technology update leveraging features found within the Genesis lineup. The signature crest grille set even lower than the Quad Lamps which spread outward evokes a sprinter’s pre-race posture and highlights the new Genesis G70’s

position, as the most athletic sports sedan by Genesis. In profile, side air extractors optimised for efficiency, show a form-follow-function mentality while the sensuous surface around the front wheels expresses the powerful muscles of a sports sedan. Rearward, Quad Lamp taillights inspired by the soaring wings of the Genesis logo identifies with a distinctive Genesis aesthetic. The full-width G-Matrix mesh and body-coloured diffusers surround the oval exhaust tips add finishing touches to the

exterior design. The interior leverages a driver-centred architecture resembling a fighter jet cockpit and adds the latest connectivity specifications. A launch date for The new Genesis G70 in the Middle East & Africa will be announced soon, customers can find out more by visiting www.genesis.com/middleeast OTE Group is the exclusive dealer for Genesis in Oman offering excellent sales and after-sales service support, underpinned by a nationwide service network, that’s on par with global standards.

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Omantel announces launch of 5G international roaming in Oman

With the 5G mobile service, Omantel's customers will be able to enjoy high speed and seamless connectivity while abroad

MUSCAT: Omantel once again has pushed the boundaries of telecommunications technology access after the recent successful launch of the mobile 5G services.

The leading and most innovative integrated telecom services provider in Oman announced the introduction of 5G international roaming, offering its customers a convenient and seamless experience to enjoy high-speed data services while travelling abroad. As part of the initial phase in its push towards secure, consistent, and fast global 5G connectivity, Omantel has made this international roaming facility available in the GCC through regional partners, becoming the only mobile network operator in Oman to offer 5G international roaming. Om-



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When we talk about 5G, Omantel is on the fast track. After being the first mobile network provider to launch 5G for mobile devices, Omantel is now taking its reach beyond the borders

Awatif Al Mandhari
Manager of Roaming Services at the Wholesale Business Unit of Omantel

antel is working with its vast list of regional and global partners to announce more 5G international roaming destinations in the com-

ing few weeks.

The launch underscores Omantel's drive towards customer satisfaction and its leadership of the

telecom sector in the Sultanate, providing cutting edge ICT solutions besides further affirming its national, regional and international

leading role in telecom infrastructure and service capabilities, which are a major differentiator in Oman's current competitive market.

As 5G gains a more important role in how individuals, businesses and economies function, comprehensive solutions suite from Omantel will continue to meet subscribers' current and future needs as it has already proved by making the technology an integral part of its offerings.

Awatif Al Mandhari, Manager of Roaming Services at the Wholesale Business Unit of Omantel, said “When we talk about 5G, Omantel is on the fast track. The company has proved its agility in bringing the best global telecom solutions to the people of Oman. After being the first mobile network provider to launch 5G for mobile devices, Omantel is now taking its reach beyond the borders. The service will be beneficial for individuals and business travellers who need fast access to information and data on the go. At Omantel, we always keep our customers' convenience as our end goal to ensure the highest level of satisfaction and best possible experience when enjoying our services.”

Key player

The 5G international roaming service introduction enforces Omantel's position as a key player in Oman's telecom sector, staying ahead of the game through fore-

sight and investments in state-of-the-art infrastructure. The launch is the latest in a series of achievements by Omantel in adapting future technologies and further solidifying Oman's image as the region's ICT gateway. Besides 5G, Omantel is already offering an impressively wide international roaming coverage, reaching more than 700 roaming partners in more than 200 countries. Being capable of offering such advanced services to its customers has always contributed to positioning Omantel as a telecom pioneer in the region and beyond.

It is worth noting that Omantel's mobile network has been recently rated as the fastest in Oman by Ookla, a neutral online platform dedicated to measuring the performance of broadband networks around the world. This achievement yet another acknowledgement of the excellence Omantel has shown through innovative technologies and smart solutions.

Omantel is the Sultanate's first and leading integrated telecommunications services provider, enabling the digital society to flourish, allowing new ways of doing business and delivering a world of information, news and entertainment. While striving to ensure optimum customer satisfaction, Omantel plays a key social role to provide the required support and subsidy to all sectors of the Omani society.

PROMOTION

Own a Kia, save before campaign ends



MUSCAT: Own a Kia now before the campaign ends on April 11 and get an opportunity to save with Kia.

Kia enthusiasts can choose from two options. 1) Flexible Option: With Service 3 Years/30,000km and cash gift OMR1,050 up to OMR3,000. 2) Bundle Option: With Service 8 Years/80,000km, insurance, registration and cash gift OMR1,250 up to OMR3,800. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details).

Kia's range in Oman has remained popular owing to its stylish designs, advanced technology, impressive safety features and more.

The Kia Rio is a popular city sedan that is packed with dynamism and power. Perfect to move around the city, the Kia Rio is a great value-for-money option especially for first time car-buyers or owners. Accelerating your demand for exciting drives is a 1.4-litre MPI (multi-point injection), 99 hp gasoline engine. The Kia Rio is equipped with some exciting features, making the joy of owning your first car, fantastic. They in-

clude Rear Parking Assist System, Auto Cruise Control, 15" Alloy Wheels and more.

The Rio 5-Door is available from RO 5350 onwards after Cash Gift.

The Kia Cerato which enters its third generation with a more sophisticated design and desirable features transforms one of Kia's best-selling vehicles into something more than a compact car meant for getting people from one point to another. While the Cerato retains its sporty and youthful image, it has graduated to a more sophisticated appearance thanks to several sleek and dynamic styling cues inspired by the Stinger fastback sport sedan. The Cerato is equipped with a 2.0 MPI engine developing 150 Hp and 19.6 Kg-m of torque. The Cerato has a 6-Speed automatic transmission to create an ideal driving condition. The Cerato is also available in 1.6L with a 126 Hp engine. Staying connected with advanced technology and infotainment features allows the driver to dedicate their important attention to the road ahead. In that regard, the Cerato is

equipped with the standard 8-inch colour touchscreen with Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay® that's integrated neatly on the dash and within the driver's line of sight. With select smartphone devices, the system also has the capability to read SMS texts aloud through Bluetooth®. The Cerato is available from RO 5850 onwards after Cash Gift.

The Sorento has a solid legacy of hard-working, all-weather practicality forged in the great outdoors. Now with even more refined styling, its resourcefulness proves just as appealing on the most sophisticated city streets. With a more commanding presence and advanced technologies for drivers and passengers alike, the Kia Sorento stands out among today's SUVs. The Sorento is powered by a 3.5L 276hp engine that is paired to an 8-speed automatic transmission. To power your journeys, the Sorento is equipped with the Drive Mode select to make every drive fun and thoroughly engaging. Depending on the grade, the Sorento is loaded with a list of driver and

passenger-friendly features that include Keyless Entry System, Smart Key with Button Start, Audio Remote control, Bluetooth, 3rd Row AC Vents, 8" Navigation System, Panoramic Sunroof, Premium Harmon Kardon Music System, Smartphone Wireless Charger, Smart Tailgate and more. The Sorento is designed to offer true practicality when you need to load, stow and carry cargo. The interior space quickly accommodates even large or bulky items. The available 2nd Row 4:2:4 Split Folding and Sliding Seats and 3rd Row 5:5 Split Folding Down Seatback Folding makes for ample space to carry all that you need for the journey or back home. For everything that won't fit inside, a roof rack comes as standard. Surprise your family by owning the 7-seater SUV – Kia Sorento from RO 9600 onwards after Cash Gift.

Kia models are equipped with some local accessories to enhance their looks, feel and functionality. Customers are welcome to get full details of these local fitments by visiting any Kia showroom.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Oman-Switzerland Friendship Association holds AGM, elects new board members

MUSCAT: On Sunday, April 4, the Oman Switzerland Friendship Association held its Annual General Meeting online. Sheikh Saif bin Hashil Al Maskery chaired the meeting. He thanked the membership for their continued support, and also thanked His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their guidance and support since the association's inception over 4 years ago.

The meeting discussed the activities of the Association during the past two years and approved the audited financial for the years 2019 and 2020.

The meeting also appointed a new board of directors for the next three-year term. Hani Al Zubair and Luca Decarli were re-elected and were joined by Mohammed Abdullah Al Kharusi, Dr Anka Kaestner (the first woman

to join the OSFA Board), Said bin Saif Al Maskery, Lateef Shahdad and Khalid Said Al Wahabi.

After announcing the new Board, Shk. Saif wished them good luck and said, “I look forward to seeing the new, younger and more dynamic board in action”, a sentiment echoed by Sayyid Abdulla bin Hamed Al Busaidi, the Patron of the Association, who was also in attendance. Sayyid Abdulla also took a moment to thank those Board Members who are now stepping down, especially Shk. Saif for his hard work and leadership in founding the association.

After the meeting, the new board held its first board meeting and appointed Hani Al Zubair as Chairman of the Association. Luca Decarli was appointed as Vice Chairman and Mohammed Al Kharusi as Treasurer.

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