



SAIN T LUCIA

HM sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of congratulations to Emmanuel Neville Cenac, Governor-General of Saint Lucia on the occasion of his country's Independence Anniversary. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan has expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes to him and his country's people. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman Air to launch three new flights

1 Oman Air is launching three new routes this year, to Istanbul, Casablanca and Moscow. **>A3**

WORLD

Court seals Nawaz fate as party chief

2 Pakistan's top court ordered that Nawaz Sharif be removed as head of the party he founded six months after the court verdict. **>A8**

MARKET

Non-oil exports soar by 28% to OMR2.6b

3 The value of Oman's non-oil exports touched OMR2,600.8 million in the first 10 months of 2017. **>B1**



FRANKINCENSE OUTPUT DIPS Decline in tree density over the last 20 years, and a dip in production of frankincense from 10kg to 3.3kg per tree have sent alarm bells ringing. Changes in the ecosystem of Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve are the reasons for the drop in frankincense output, says the study. **>A3**

BOOK FAIR OPENS

Book lovers gather to quench their thirst for reading

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Once again, it's that time of the year when hundreds of publishing houses gather to quench the thirst of book lovers at the Oman Convention and Exhibitions Centre (OCEC). The 23rd Muscat International Book Fair opened on Wednesday and will conclude on March 3, 2018.

Hundreds of book sellers and publishers from the GCC and beyond are participating in the fair, with over 500,000 titles represented by 878 publishers from 28 countries.

One of the stated objectives of the annual Muscat International Book Fair is to give Arab and foreign publishing houses an opportunity to introduce their institutions and to market their various



publications. "I have been participating in the Muscat International Book Fair for the last 22 years. My stall offers a wide range of books, including novels, collections of short stories, children books, as well as dictionaries, which cater to all age groups," said Hussein Charafeddine, owner of a publishing house in Lebanon. **>A5**

NEW MUSCAT AIRPORT

Cargo operations to start on March 19

MUSCAT: Operations at the new air cargo building of Muscat International Airport will commence on March 19, announced the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Goods to be transported will only be received at the new building from that date. The delivery of goods to the customers from the current cargo terminal will continue until March 29. The Ministry of

Transport and Communications said that the operations of the new cargo building is part of the preparations for the commencement of commercial flights from Muscat International Airport scheduled for March 20.

Dr. Mohammed bin Nasser Al Za'abi, CEO of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation said that the construction of the new cargo building has been completed. **>A2**

OMR870

million worth of shares were bought by Omanis in 2017 but investments by non-Arab expatriates dropped by 5 per cent to just over OMR60 million last year

COURT EXPAT MONEY TO KEEP IT IN OMAN

Better investment plans for expats will help flight of billions from Oman to be used locally

Times News Service

while expat investments are dropping, government data reveals.

MUSCAT: Omanis are giving their country a financial thumbs-up by investing in the Sultanate

pared to 2016, but non-Arab expat investments dropped by 5 per cent to just over OMR60 million.

The statistics have prompted experts in Oman to call for better investment models for expat investors. In 2017, expats sent billions of rials from Oman to their own countries.

Those funds could help drive Oman's diversification programme, experts agree.

While expats make up nearly half of the Sultanate's population,

their investment portfolio in the country is poor, and experts believe the time may be ripe for Omani firms to woo expat money.

Promoting stocks

Chief Economist of the Oman Investment Fund, Fabio Scacciavillani said: "Apart from no job guarantee for resident expats, there is an issue of marketing too. I have not seen (Omani) companies actively promoting their stocks in expat communities."

Annual data from Muscat Securities Market (MSM) for 2017 shows the contrast between expat and domestic investment in Oman.

Only a little over 10 per cent of investors in the Sultanate's stock exchange are expats, including investors from outside the country.

"There are several factors that affect foreign ownership in MSM, including limited foreign ownership in company shares, daily volume being too low to attract international brokerage firms and the

exchange being a frontier market that is not listed in the main indices," Fabio Scacciavillani added.

"Government bonds should be available to the expat community here and marketed to them in a lucrative manner. We are not doing enough to get expats to invest here even though the economy has high remittances. We must try and keep this money in Oman and the best way is marketing it," Loai Bateinah, CEO of Ubhar Capital, said. **>A2**

WITH RIDERS

Exemptions for disabled under new road safety rules



Times News Service

MUSCAT: People with disabilities have been exempted from certain road safety regulations. According to Article 19 of the Road safety regulations, "People with disabilities are exempt from the registration fees, examination, renewal, and transferring of car licence, once a year."

The conditions under which disabled individuals are exempt include that their monthly salary should not be above OMR350, as proved by an

official document issued by the competent authorities.

Marhoon Al Ghaffri, a member of the administration council at the Omani Association for the Disabled, said, "We welcome this exemption for people with special needs. Disabled people have many expenses to worry about, as much of their equipment is expensive."

In addition, the vehicle used by disabled persons shall be subject to a technical inspection at the first registration to see whether it is equipped with special equipment. This is not the ROP's first

move towards helping the disabled community. It has also increased the fine for parking in a spot for the disabled from OMR10 to OMR50.

"It is great to see that this rule has already been implemented," Al Ghaffri said.

Some residents, however, said the increase was slightly extreme. An expat said: "Sometimes, the disabled signs are not very clear. I have at times parked in a parking spot only to realise it was a parking place for the disabled." Others raised the issue of a lack of available parking spaces. **See also >A3**



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THE BRIEFING



OMAN

Omani collects over 10,000 bottle tops for charity

Pure dedication, love for charity, and a drive to do good are what have made Najah Al Balushi the woman she is today. Al Balushi has managed to collect more than 10,000 bottle tops for a charity that collects plastic material. The Omani woman, whose journey took four years, will send these bottle tops to the charity group to be sold in exchange for money, which will then be used to purchase wheelchairs and other equipment for the disabled, as well as help those in need. Al Balushi has always been one to help the needy. She has done a lot to give back to the community in various ways. But a WhatsApp text urging people to offer a helping hand in collecting such items for charitable purposes gave a new direction to her passion. >A4

OMAN

SalamAir hires Omani women as cabin crew

As part of its ongoing commitment to empower local talent with promising careers in the aviation industry, SalamAir, Oman's first budget airline, has recruited a batch of Omani women to join its ranks as cabin crew. This has followed a nationwide recruitment campaign, which was advertised on various platforms and had attracted 240 applicants to a two-day orientation session. >A5



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It's time



Muscat & Batinah

95.4

TFM

Dhofar

91.0

WORLD

Macron plans tighter asylum rules

President Emmanuel Macron's government on Wednesday proposed toughening France's immigration and asylum laws despite strident criticism from human rights groups, in a move that will test the unity of his left-and-right majority. The bill will double to 90 days the time in which illegal migrants can be detained, shorten deadlines to apply for asylum, and make the illegal crossing of borders an offence punishable by one year in jail and fines. >A7

WORLD

Over 60 Conservative MPs demand clean break from EU



More than 60 Conservative lawmakers have written to Theresa May demanding a quick, clean break from the European Union, adding pressure on the prime minister before her ministers meet to decide Britain's negotiating position. >A9

SPORTS

Australia win T20 tri-series crown



Australia claimed the trans-Tasman Twenty20 tri-series after Glenn Maxwell and Aaron Finch helped secure a victory against New Zealand under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method in the rain-hit final on Wednesday. >A12

BUSINESS

Sohar Port inks deal with Dutch company

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sohar Port and Freezone and Netherlands-based Strukton International for the development of a revolutionary waste water treatment plant at the port. The proposed treatment plant uses the new Verdygo modular technology for efficient and environmentally responsible waste water treatment. >B3

LIFESTYLE

Add fire safety to your family's routine

Think of all the items you replace regularly — your cellphone, light-bulbs, and even your toothbrush. But when was the last time you replaced your smoke alarm batteries, or even the alarms themselves? It's easy to overlook, but the time to think about fire safety is now — before an emergency strikes. Many assume that because they have smoke alarms in their homes, they're protected in the event of a fire. In reality, smoke alarms need to be installed, and tested. >A10



ROOT CAUSE: Poor posture and inactivity are major contributors to the development of back pain and other spinal disorders. -DHA

Spotlight on treatment of back pain

Spinal pain and disability can have a profound effect on a person's overall health, sometimes preventing them from even doing simple activities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The region's osteopathic future will be outlined on Thursday night, when the fourth Arab Spinal Conference kicks off in Muscat.

The landmark event will welcome several spinal doctors and surgeons to exchange best practices and highlight the latest advancements in treating spinal conditions.

The three-day event will be held at the Oman Convention and Exhibitions Centre (OCEC) and will open under the patronage of Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health.

Dr. Ali Mahad Al Mashani, President and Chairman of the Arab Spine Society, said in a statement to delegates: "Come along with the family. Apart from the scientific programme, there is much more in the social and sightseeing aspect of the conference. Accompanying delegates, women, and children will have more than enough to enjoy their stay in Muscat, while we discuss scientific and academic issues."

"Once again, extending a very warm welcome and looking forward to seeing you all," he added.

Millions of people in all continents across the world suffer from spinal disorders, including lower back pain, neck pain, sciatica, and disc disease, to name a few. Spinal pain and disability can have a profound effect on a person's overall health, sometimes preventing him/her from working or even doing simple daily activities.

Research has demonstrated that poor posture and inactivity are major contributors to the development of back pain and other spinal disorders. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), one in four adults is not active enough and over 80 per cent of the adolescent population is not active enough.

TOW TIME

Muscat Municipality rids Mabella of abandoned cars

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Authorities are continuing to rid the capital's streets of abandoned cars, with Muscat Municipality now also towing vehicles in Muttrah.

"Muscat Municipality in Muttrah has begun its campaign to remove abandoned and neglected vehicles parked in public areas, that distort the public landscape,"



Since last year, Muscat Municipality has removed 689 abandoned vehicles.

INVESTMENT

< FROM A1 Bring expats on board'

Bateinah agreed that there is a lack of education among the expat population and market regulators need to help educate people on this.

Oman recently launched the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), through which investors including expats can invest in the high yielding Omani real estate sector. REITs will be traded on the MSM like mutuals fund and market analysts are expecting this to be a major step to woo expat money into the market.

With Oman's visionary economic diversification plan, growing economy and launch of REITs, investing in Omani companies may soon give yields that rival most international firms. However, for successful implementation of this, Oman's huge expat community must be brought on board.

"You need to give expats the same treatment in terms of financial incentives to lure them away from investing in their own country and instead pump the money into the Omani economy. If they see that they will get similar returns, which they surely can, why wouldn't they invest here?" Bateinah added.

the Municipality said.

Since last year, Muscat Municipality has removed 689 abandoned vehicles from the Industrial area of Mabella.

"Seeb Municipality continues its efforts in the process of moving vehicles that were discarded in the industrial area in Mabella, where the number of discarded vehicles transferred is now at 689," the Municipality stated.

Since last year, Muscat Municipality has removed 689 abandoned vehicles.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Pact to establish Oman Towers Company

MUSCAT: An agreement to establish Oman Towers Company was signed at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Muscat, yesterday.

The move will help build standardised telecommunications infrastructure to be utilised by all licensed operators in the Sultanate.

Oman 70 Holding Company owns 56 per cent stake in the company and ActivCo, which enjoys global experience specialised in the management, operation and maintenance of telecommunication towers, owns 34 per cent. The Government,

represented by Oman Broadband Company owns 10 per cent.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Futaisi, Minister of Transport and Communications. On behalf of OBC and Oman 70 Holding Company it was signed by Said bin Hamood Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications for Ports and Maritime Affairs, Chairman of the OBC Board of Directors while from ActivCo side it was signed by Richard Thomas, Chairman of ActiveCo Board of Directors. -DNA

MUSCAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

< FROM A1 Cargo operations

He also added that the new cargo building is one of the projects affiliated to Muscat International Airport Development Project.

The Ministry is working in coordination with Oman Aviation Services Company and all other departments concerned for the preparation of the new cargo building so that the movement of goods is shifted to the new cargo building.

The new cargo building is built in accordance with the latest international standards over a total area of 32,000 sqm, the stores area is 23,000sqm with a storage capacity of 350,000 tonnes per annum, which can be increased to 500,000 sqm in the future.

The new cargo building is equipped with integrated technologies and new facilities to handle all types of goods. -DNA

It's time

Muscat & Batinah 95.4 Dhofar 91.0 TFM

OMAN

AVIATION



FLYING HIGH: The Omani national carrier's Moscow flight will be launched during the Winter schedule 2018. - Supplied photo

Oman Air to launch Istanbul route on June 1, Casablanca, Moscow to follow

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate, is launching three new routes this year, to Istanbul in Turkey in June, Casablanca in Morocco in July, and Moscow in Russia in October.

While Istanbul and Moscow will be served by Oman Air's Boeing 737-800, Casablanca will be served by 787-8.

The new flight to Istanbul will be launched on June 1. Flight WY163 will depart from Muscat daily at 20.00hrs, arriving in Istanbul at 00.25hrs. The return flight, WY164, will depart from Istanbul every day at 01.25hrs, arriving in Muscat at 07.25hrs. The flight duration is approximately five hours and 25 minutes.

The new Casablanca flight will start on July 1 and will be the only non-stop service to Casablanca from Oman.

Casablanca schedule

Flight WY171 will depart from Muscat four times a week at 01.20hrs, arriving in Casablanca at 07.10hrs. The return flight, WY172, will depart from Casablanca at 08.20hrs, arriving in Muscat at

19.15hrs. The flight duration is approximately eight hours and 50 minutes, though the return flight from Casablanca will be shorter by approximately an hour.

The Moscow flight will be launched during the Winter schedule 2018. The direct flight will be operated daily and will be the only non-stop operation between Oman and Russia.

From trading to sharing information, Oman has had strong bilateral relations with Turkey, Morocco and Russia, and the introduction of these new flights will help strengthen these relations even further. The new routes will also enable Oman Air's guests to explore three of the world's most exciting cities.

Oman Air is currently undergoing an exciting fleet and network expansion programme, which will see the airline operate up to 62 aircraft to nearly 60 destinations by 2022.

The airline is committed to constantly improving its product, while undergoing a dynamic fleet and network expansion, developing its brand and offering its guests an unrivalled experience as part of its mission to "become the best".

Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve is one of the main areas that produces frankincense in the Sultanate, particularly Hujri, one of the best types of Omani frankincense

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A substantial decline in tree density, up to 85 per cent over the last 20 years, and a decrease in production of frankincense from 10 kg to 3.3 kg per tree have rung alarm bells regarding changes in the ecosystem of Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve.

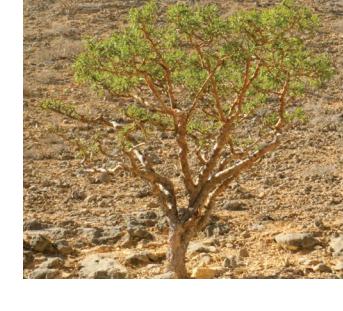
Ali bin Salem Bait Said, as part of his research on frankincense or the *Boswellia sacra* Flueck population at the Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve in Dhofar mountains, investigated the real situation of the trees and analysed protection policies to maintain the sustainable production of frankincense.

Study findings

The study results showed that frankincense trees covered 50 per cent of the protected area with an average density of 2.3 tree/ha. A substantial decline in tree density, by as much as 85 per cent, has been noted over the last 20 years. Average production of frankincense in the southern valleys of the reserve was 3.3 kg/year, com-



SUSTAINABILITY ADVICE: Suggested policies to reduce degradation of frankincense tree habitats include the revision of nature reserves, the law on conservation of biodiversity and livestock management among others. - Supplied photo



pared with 10 kg/year before.

"Grazing is the main source of income for locals, followed by government jobs and marine fisheries. On the other hand, the percentage of locals tapping frankincense is only 17. As many as 34 per cent of locals believe that the trees have deteriorated as a result of drought, while 25 per cent attributed it to faulty tapping methods and frequent over-tapping. Only nine per cent singled out overgrazing as a cause for frankincense degradation," Bait Said said.

Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve is the biggest nature reserve in

the Sultanate. It covers an area of 4,500 square kilometres, i.e. some 1.5 per cent of the size of Oman. Jabal Samhan was announced as a nature reserve in 1997. It has been classified under the second category of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's classification as a national park primarily managed for the protection of its ecosystem. The nature reserve is characterised by its wild and coastal landscape. It includes greatly endangered animals such as the Arabian Leopard, and other species such as the frankincense tree.

Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve is one of the main areas that produces frankincense in the Sultanate, particularly Hujri, one of the best types of Omani frankincense.

Legislation

"The legislation on conservation of biological diversity has not reduced degradation of frankincense trees. Apart from poor implementation, the legislation was mostly supervisory or regulatory

in nature, with limited use as an economic instrument," the researcher said.

He added: "The increasing number of residents adjacent to the reserve, economic development, and government support for industries associated with frankincense, represent major causes of the trees' deterioration. Sustainability scenario is considered to be the best option to maintain frankincense trees and their habitats."

Bait Said suggested a number of policies to reduce the degradation of frankincense trees and their habitats, including the revision of nature reserves, the law on conservation of biodiversity, enforcement of range land law and livestock management, establishment of a database of communities and their flocks, their sources of income, their craft products, and the environmental services provided by the reserve.

The development of a plan of action to conserve frankincense trees and to give them priority is of prime importance.

HEALTH

'Child mortality in the Sultanate cut by almost three quarters'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman has reduced the mortality rate for children under five years of age by 70 per cent, from 1990 level, according to a statement released by Unicef on its official Twitter account.

In its statement, the organisation said: "All children have the right to survive and thrive. But many do not make it past their first year. Luckily, Oman's efforts in providing quality and accessible healthcare services have succeeded in reducing the children under-5 mortality rate by 70 per cent, since 1990 to date."

The figures showcased the Sultanate's strong primary healthcare system, which has enjoyed rapid growth since 1970.

Unicef's statement follows the recent signing of an agreement between the international organisation and the Sultanate. Officially known as the "National Programme Action Plan", the agreement focuses on development during early childhood, protection of children from violence, and integration of children with special needs.



COMMENDABLE PROGRESS: Unicef's statement follows the recent signing of an agreement between the international organisation and the Sultanate. - File

The agreement was signed by Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, and Lana Al Wreikat, Unicef's representative in Oman.

Child health

After the official signing, Al Wreikat said: "This programme aims to support Unicef's efforts to promote broader child services and help achieve sustainable development goals, particularly those related to children's health, nutrition, education and protection."

She explained that the partnership and the focus of the national programme could develop steadily over the years to address the emerging issues and challenges for children in high-income countries. She also noted that Unicef has a long-standing partnership with the Sultanate that began in 1971 through the Gulf-based office in Abu Dhabi, followed by the opening of a Unicef Office in Muscat in 1982.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

UN praise for Sultanate efforts



TEAM OMAN: Sheikh Mohammed bin Said Al Kalbani, Minister of Social Development led the Omani delegation at the meeting. - ONA

Development led the Sultanate's delegation at the meeting in the presence of Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, the Sultanate's permanent representative to the UN.

Other members of the delegation included the members from the Sultanate's mission in Geneva

and representatives of the ministry of social development, the ministry of legal affairs, the ministry of health, the ministry of education, the National Centre for Statistics and Information, and SQU among other departments and associations. -ONA

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On 23rd February
Venue: Oman Automobile Club
Opposite Muscat International Airport
Gate Open at 4.30 pm

GENEVA: The progress made by the Sultanate in empowering persons with disabilities has won praise from the United nations.

Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) praised, yesterday, the progress the Sultanate has made in supporting this segment of the society.

It also praised the responses expressed by the Sultanate's delegation during the discussion of the Sultanate's report on the subject.

A panel formed to discuss the report, comprising 18 countries, expressed delight over the services extended to persons with disabilities. Sheikh Mohammed bin Said Al Kalbani, Minister of Social

Development led the Sultanate's delegation at the meeting in the presence of Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, the Sultanate's permanent representative to the UN. Other members of the delegation included the members from the Sultanate's mission in Geneva

and representatives of the ministry of social development, the ministry of legal affairs, the ministry of health, the ministry of education, the National Centre for Statistics and Information, and SQU among other departments and associations. -ONA



Dhuhr	12.26pm
Asr	3.41pm
Maghrib	6.05pm
Isha	7.17pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5.26am



OMANI WOMAN COLLECTS OVER 10,000 BOTTLE TOPS FOR CHARITY

Times News Service

Pure dedication, love for charity, and a drive to do good are what have made Najah Al Balushi the woman she is today. Al Balushi has managed to collect more than 10,000 bottle tops for a charity that collects plastic material.

The Omani woman, whose journey took four years, will send these bottle tops to the charity group to be sold in exchange for money, which will then be used to

purchase wheelchairs and other equipment for the disabled, as well as help those in need. Al Balushi has always been one to help the needy. She has done a lot to give back to the community in various ways. But a WhatsApp text urging people to offer a helping hand in collecting such items for charitable purposes gave a new direction to her passion. She took the call and began her mission.

The journey that started as a way to help a disabled kid, ended up in being her true calling in life.

For her, charity can best be sustained if there is joy in it and she is filled with joy every time she's able to offer something to a person in need. Al Balushi emptied and gave away a few items from her humble home to make space for her new charity. She dedicated a corner in her house and placed a massive box there, to be filled with bottle tops on a daily basis. She set an example for her four children, who became part of her initiative. "My youngest daughter is my biggest motivation. She caught on the

Najah has always been one to help the needy. She has given back to the community in various ways.

habit of collecting these caps when she was one year old. To her, a cap is a sort of golden collectible," she said, adding, "You can see it in her eyes that she's happy helping her mother. It's her charity."

After hunting for places to give her tonnes of bottle tops, she found a charity group in Bousher, which accepted them.

Gathering caps has made Al Balushi feel tremendously helpful towards her community.

Till this day, she continues to collect caps whenever opportu-

nities arise, at workplaces, weddings, funerals, and everything in between.

"Charity is a beautiful thing. You feel good as a human being when you offer help to others," she said.

Now, her bucket list includes forming a group and kicking off a bigger initiative that will accommodate many people who share the same passion of helping, even by offering something as simple as a cap for sale. In the end, charity is charity, regardless of how it is delivered.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Suwadi Power Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Corporate Governance

The new Code of Corporate Governance (the "Code") promulgated by Capital Market Authority (the "CMA") came into force in July 2016. In December 2016, the CMA notified some minor amendments to the Code along with issuance of clarifications on various queries on the Code received by the CMA. The Company has reviewed and updated its relevant policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the same. The Company continues to remain compliant with its internal regulations and control systems.

Operational Results

The operational performance of the plant during the year was admirable with 99.4% plant reliability. The fuel efficiency of the plant places it in the higher merit order list for dispatch among the power plants in Oman and, as such, the plant witnessed an all-time high plant load of 69.2%. The plant delivered 4,471 GWh to the Omani grid, an increase of 11.2% as compared to year 2016.

The Company achieved a key milestone of successful completion of extended hot gas path inspection of the second gas turbine.

The Company continued to ensure highest standards of Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Management during the plant operations. The Company successfully clocked 2,374 Lost Time Accident free days at the plant since inception. The plant was awarded for a second successive year, the prestigious "RoSPA Gold Award for Health and Safety" by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

The Company has met with most of the new stringent environment permit conditions promulgated by Ministry of Environment and Climate. The Company has duly complied with the new regulations introduced in respect of cyber security for the plant by the Authority for Electricity Regulation. Along with its Operations & Maintenance Contractor (STOMO), the Company has ensured a robust cyber security at the plant.

Financial Results

Excellent plant availability and higher power generation resulted in a consistent growth in revenues earned by the Company. The gross profit margin saw a reduction of 3% as compared to year 2016 primarily due to plant's thermal inefficiency at high plant load (the plant was not able to recover the full gas cost incurred at the high plant load operations) and negative impact arising from indexation mechanism agreed under the Power Purchase Agreement (inflation factor of US Producer Price Index applied on invoices under the Power Purchase Agreement slid down by 3.1% compared to year 2016).

Profit before tax was marginally lower when compared with the previous year. However, the increase in the income tax rate from 12% to 15% during the year 2017 necessitated recording of substantial deferred tax provision (non-cash impact) and as such, the net profit steeply reduced by 37.7% to RO 5.65 million as compared to year 2016.

Audited results	2017	2016	Percentage change
	RO'000	RO'000	
Revenues	73,220	69,357	5.6%
Direct costs	(50,668)	(46,108)	-9.9%
Gross profit	22,552	23,249	-3.0%
Profit before tax	10,480	10,678	-1.9%
Tax expense	(4,828)	(1,610)	199.9%
Net profit	5,652	9,068	-37.7%

Finally, the Company was able to declare and pay dividend of 8.56 Baizas per share, marginally lower than a dividend of 9.20 Baizas per share paid in 2016.

The share price stood at 142 Baizas per share at the close of year 2017.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Company takes its role as a responsible corporate citizen seriously. Most of the Company's social responsibility programmes are focused at the Wilayat of Barka. During the year, the Company funded, with the active support of Municipality of Barka, the re-building and refurbishing of a disused children's play park at Muraisi in Barka Wilayat. The support included civil work at the park and procuring and installing various children's play activities. The total amount spent on this project was RO 14,825.

The proposed CSR activity for the year 2018 will be the provision of solar power facility to a school in Barka, in active participation with the Ministry of Education.

Medium term Outlook

The Royal Decree 9/2017 issued on 19 February 2017 amended certain provisions of the Income Tax Law including increase in corporate income tax rate from 12% to 15% effective 1 January 2017. As the PPA provides protection to the Company for the Change of Law, the Company notified Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (OPWP) about impact of such changes on its business and sought confirmation for a due compensation. OPWP has agreed to compensate the Company for actual cost incurred with respect to 3% increase in corporate income tax rate and impact of withholding tax on interest payments to lenders and service providers, based on fulfillment of certain conditions.

The value added tax is expected to be introduced in the country in year 2019 and consequently the Company shall assess the potential impact it may have on its business and shall seek compensation of any adverse impact under the Change of Law protection available in the PPA.

The Company continuously endeavours to identify and implement areas of improvement in plant operations.

All reasonable measures are being taken by the management to maintain excellent operational performance during 2018. Any change in the power supply and demand landscape in the Sultanate has no substantial impact on the financial performance of the Company since its profitability is mainly derived from plant's operational reliability.

The Company is constantly monitoring the international financial markets to relaunch the proposed refinancing exercise of the Company's long term loans. This project will be taken up once the financial markets improve to an acceptable level that could make the refinancing exercise financially feasible.

The Company and its Operations & Maintenance Contractor are making serious efforts to steadily increase the Omanisation, while ensuring smooth and reliable operations of the plant. Presently, the Company is on track to meet Omanisation commitment made to the Authority for Electricity Regulation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to express gratitude to Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC, the Authority for Electricity Regulation, the Capital Market Authority and other governmental and non-governmental bodies for their guidance and support. I would also like to thank all personnel associated with the operation of Al Suwadi Power plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as also to those others such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and His Government for their continued support and encouragement to the private sector by creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy and to dedicate our achievements to the building of a strong nation.

Charles Paul Dexter
Chairperson

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 (AUDITED)

	2017 RO'000	2016 RO'000
Revenues	73,220	69,357
Direct costs	(50,668)	(46,108)
Gross profit	22,552	23,249
Other income	20	60
	-----	-----
General and administrative expenses	22,572	23,309
(763)	(801)	
Profit before interest and tax	21,809	22,508
Finance costs (net)	(11,329)	(11,830)
Profit before tax	10,480	10,678
Tax expense	(4,828)	(1,610)
Net profit	5,652	9,068
Earnings per share	7.91	12.69
Basic earnings per share (Baizas)	7.91	12.69

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017 (AUDITED)

	2017 RO'000	2016 RO'000
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	280,988	289,349
Capital spares	413	289
Total non-current assets	281,401	289,638
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	3,734	3,800
Inventory	1,745	1,845
Short term deposit	1,770	1,923
Cash and cash equivalents	2,609	3,682
Total current assets	9,858	11,250
Total assets	291,259	300,888
Equity and liabilities		
Equity		
Share capital	71,441	71,441
Legal reserve	4,476	3,911
Retained earnings	11,886	12,914
Shareholders' fund	87,803	88,266
Hedging reserve	(5,331)	(9,939)
Total equity	82,472	78,327
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Term loans	162,566	176,339
Derivative instruments	6,307	11,401
Deferred tax liability	15,933	10,683
Asset retirement obligation	249	637
End of service benefits	6	5
Total non-current liabilities	185,061	199,065
Current liabilities		
Term loans	15,046	14,720
Trade and other payables	6,680	6,696
Short term borrowing	2,000	2,080
Total current liabilities	23,726	23,496
Total liabilities	208,787	222,561
Total equity and liabilities	291,259	300,888
Net assets per share (Baizas)	122.90	123.55

It's time 

Muscat & Batinah

95.4

Dhofar

91.0

Reducing light pollution could save OMR1m

Light pollution refers to the excessive brightening caused by man-made light sources

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Besides negatively affecting wildlife in the Sultanate, light pollution has also been burdening the Omani economy.

In fact, according to president of Oman Astronomical Society (OAS) Dr Salah bin Said Al Sheithani, if light pollution was contained and power consumption was brought down as a result, the Oman government would be able to save some OMR1 million.

Brightening

Light pollution refers to the excessive brightening caused by man-made light sources.

It reduces the visibility of stars in the sky, hindering astronomical observations.



SAVING: Reducing power consumption significantly helps in saving money. - Shabir E

On January 15, OAS had announced the launch of a first made-in-Oman satellite. It is still under construction and the aim is to launch it by next year. Al Sheithani said that besides capacity building, the satellite would help spot where light pollution was especially intense in the Sultanate of Oman.

Satellite

He added that one of the primary

aims of the satellite would be to make observations and suggestions on how to reduce light pollution.

"If we successfully bring down light pollution, it will help us save at least OMR1 million, which is considerable. With this exercise, we'll be able to formulate a mitigation plan that will help us reduce power consumption significantly and save money," the OAS president said.

He insisted that the government had been forthcoming in the matter. "We have seen a positive response from the environment ministry, which has been studying light pollution in the mountains. I hope this endeavour will be fruitful," he said.

Al Sheithani further said that OAS had conducted a symposium on light pollution in 2009. He said they have tried to educate people on the topic through programmes on many other occasions, as well.

Global problem

"Light pollution has been a problem in Oman and the larger Gulf region for quite some time. In fact, it has been a global problem. We believe that the launch of this satellite to address the problem is a step in the right direction," he added.

Meanwhile, a biologist said light pollution negatively affected wildlife. He said the most obvious example was that of turtle hatchlings being confused by man-made lights. "When turtles hatch, they usually crawl towards the biggest source of light, be it the sun in the day or the moon at night. The presence of buildings with bright lights near nesting sites disorients the hatchlings. This is well known," he said.

OMAN CANCER ASSOCIATION



HELPING HAND: The aim is to provide patients, survivors, and families moral and psychological support.

'Hug a Bear' event at Royal Hospital

Times News Service

undergo tough times. "We aim to provide extensive support to both cancer patients and survivors, as well as intend to work to reduce the socio-economic negative impact on families," El Vanna said.

Recently, the Caledonian Society of Oman had donated OMR2,500 to the OCA, to support its efforts in raising awareness on the importance of early detection and regular screening for cancer. "The work they do is incredible and we are proud to work with them," George Craig, Chieftain of Caledonian Society of Oman, told the *Times of Oman*.

"Previous fund-raisers have provided a mobile mammogram unit. They also have an ultrasound machine staffed by volunteer doctors. These two initiatives have reduced the waiting time for cancer screening from weeks to days. This means many types of cancers can now be detected earlier and that ensures a better survival rate for patients," Craig said.

OCA is the brainchild of Yuthar Al Rawahi, a four-time cancer survivor and founder and Honorary Life President of the Association. Since its foundation, the non-governmental, non-profit umbrella organisation has been working to spread cancer awareness in the community and to support cancer patients, survivors, their families, and the community at large.

GROWING DEMAND FOR LITERATURE

FROM A1 Mwasalat to provide free trips to fair

"I always look forward to this event as the locals are extremely welcoming and the response I receive from the attendees is incredible," he added.

"This is our third year at the Muscat International Book Fair and so far, every year, we have received wonderful feedback from the audience," the spokesperson of an Egyptian publishing house

said. For those who are planning to take up Japanese as a second language or are die-hard fans of manga books, the Embassy of Japan has installed a booth offering both.

"A wide range of manga books, as well as books on learning the Japanese language have been exhibited by the Japan Foundation," a spokesperson from the

Embassy of Japan said.

"Despite the influence of the Internet, the reading habit is growing in Oman. There has been a growing demand for literature, essays, language books, and non-fiction, which is reflected in the response to our booth at the fair," he added.

Also, the Oman National Transport Company, Mwasalat, will be

providing free trips to and from the book fair.

According to the company, the free services will begin on February 22, 2018, and will go on until March 3. Mwasalat will provide round trips from Burj Al Sahwa bus station to Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. Buses will be available every 30 minutes, from 9.30am to 10.30pm.

EMPOWERING LOCAL TALENT

SalamAir recruits Omani women as cabin crew

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to empower local talent with promising careers in the aviation industry, SalamAir, Oman's first budget airline, has recruited a batch of Omani women to join its ranks as cabin crew.

This has followed a nationwide recruitment campaign, which was advertised on various platforms and had attracted 240 applicants to a two-day orientation session.

Salam Al Kindi, Director of Corporate Support at SalamAir, said: "The aviation sector in Oman continues to show promising growth, especially with the flow of investments to the country's tourism and transportation sectors, infrastructure, and government-backed projects nearing completion. These factors have created a high demand in the market and opened a window for local Omani talent to enter the aviation sector."

He added: "Currently, the aviation sector in Oman is male dominated. We at SalamAir have taken the initiative to encourage more Omani women to be involved. As a homegrown airline, we understand the cultural reservations that may impact women pursuing careers as cabin crew. We have, therefore, adapted the traditional



RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN: The applicants attended a two-day orientation programme at the Public Authority of Civil Aviation's headquarters as part of the recruitment process.

role to suit these cultural sensitivities and facilitate the contribution of women in this burgeoning sector."

"For instance, our flexible selection criteria welcomed both experienced cabin crew, as well as fresh graduates. In addition, we provided our flight attendants with a choice to wear the hijab as part of their official uniform. The long stay of the crew outside the country is normally seen as another setback. But since SalamAir operates only short-to-medium-haul flights, crew members will not be required to stay outside the country for extended periods of time," he added.

As part of the recruitment process, applicants attended a two-day orientation programme held

at the Public Authority of Civil Aviation's (PACA) headquarters.

The programme included presentations from the SalamAir team, group discussions, assessments, and one-on-one interviews. Successful applicants have now been enrolled into a four-month certified training programme to prepare them to join the cabin crew team after graduation.

Since the start of its operations in January this year, SalamAir has achieved 60 per cent Omaniisation rate and operates a 24x7 contact centre with 100 per cent Omani talent. Building on its success, SalamAir aims to increase the number of nationals working with the airline to serve its growing network of destinations.

MAHADHA POLICE STATION

New police station building opened

MAHADHA: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) celebrated the opening of Mahadha Police Station and the Services Building on Wednesday. It will help in providing the best police services to citizens and residents in the Wilayat of Mahadha in the Governorate of Al Buraimi by using modern technologies.

The opening of the new police station and the Services Building was held under the patronage of

Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State, Governor of Muscat in the presence of Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsen Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, honourable members of the State Council, members of Majlis Al Shura, senior officers at ROP, military and security departments, sheikhs, dignitaries and citizens.

The opening ceremony witnessed a military parade that

began with performing the military salute to the chief guest. The participants chanted the ROP anthem, and said thrice 'Long Live His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said', the Supreme Commander. The ROP Music Band played different musical pieces. The chief guest accompanied by the Inspector General of Police and Customs unveiled the plaque, declaring the official opening of the new station. -ONA

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DELEGATED BY HIS MAJESTY

RUSSIAN ENVOY

HM Cups given to Municipalities Month Winners

JA'ALAN BIN BU ALI: Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior presided in the Wilayat of Ja'alan bin Bu Ali yesterday over the honouring ceremony of the wilayats winning the 28th version of Municipalities and Water Resources Month competitions 2017 themed "Continuous Efforts and

Sustainable Development".

Hamad bin Sulaiman Al Ghareebi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Head of the Evaluation and Jury Committee affirmed that the real meaning of winning is the effective participation of sons of this dear homeland who expressed sincere feelings of love and loyalty to this

country and its Leader.

He pointed out that the Municipalities and Water Resources Month is a call for endless giving for the sake of continuing the march of renaissance and progress on this precious land.

The Minister of Interior honoured the top five wilayats winning the 28th version of Municipalities and Water Resources

Month competitions 2017.

Top five wilayats

The top five wilayats were crowned by His Majesty the Sultan's Cups with cash awards namely the Wilayat of Ja'alan bin Bu Ali as the first winner, the Wilayat of Sumail came second, the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi came third, the Wilayat of Saham

came fourth and the Wilayat of Al Buraimi came fifth.

Winners of the Ministry's cup and cash awards were the Wilayat of Wadi Bani Khalid in the sixth place, the Wilayat of Manah came seventh, the Wilayat of Dhank came eighth, the Wilayat of Ja'alan bin Bu Hassan came ninth and the Wilayat of Shinas came tenth. -ONA

Alawi receives credentials

MUSCAT: Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs received in his office yesterday a copy of the credentials of Dmitry D., Ambassador of the Russian Federation appointed to the Sultanate. Alawi welcomed him, wishing him a nice stay and success in his duty as his country's accredited ambassador Oman. -ONA

New education initiative launch to boost quality

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY Advertisement No. 15/2018

Muscat Municipality invites interested companies to the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Documents Fee	Deadline for inquiries	Deadline for obtaining Tender & Starting date of Receipt the offers	Deadline for the submission
A/50/2017	(Re-Tender) Repair of Fuel Pumps Service	30/- Rials	13/03/2018	29/03/2018	02/04/2018
A/02/2018	Supply Insecticides for Rodent Control	40/- Rials	13/03/2018	29/03/2018	02/04/2018
A/03/2018	Supply of A/C, Water Coolers, Refrigerators and Cookers	50/- Rials	13/03/2018	29/03/2018	02/04/2018
A/04/2018	Insurance of Muscat Municipality Vehicles & Equipment's for the years 2018 & 2019	50/- Rials	04/03/2018	08/03/2018	08/03/2018

Specialized companies with a valid registration certificate from Tender Board may obtain tender documents during official working hours (8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.) from Muscat Municipality Head Office, Darsait (Customer Services Hall) against non-refundable fees as mentioned above .

Submitted offers must be accompanied with a bond issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat Municipality. The bond should not be less than (1%) of the tender value valid for ninety (90) days starting from the date of submission. Tenders which do not meet the required bond will not be accepted.

Documents must be enclosed in a plain envelope sealed with red wax (without any information to the company). Tenders should be addressed to H.E. Head of Muscat Municipality Interior Tenders Committee and deposited in the tender box no. (1) in the First floor Room no. (D 1 050) at Directorate General of Quantity Surveying & Contracts, Muscat Municipality, Head Office, Darsait at 10:00 AM on the above mentioned date.

Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason whatsoever. Bidders can attend the bid opening procedures as per the tender and date specified above.

Preference shall be given to companies that includes the largest possible proportion of national products.

Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

The STEM OMAN programme is based on interactive and practical education and linking science, technology, engineering and mathematics current curricula to raise the quality of education



THREE PHASES: The programme will be implemented in three phases starting from the current academic year. - File photo

ya, Headmistress of Hind bint Oseid School, said: "The school started to implement the STEM OMAN programme with the beginning of the second semester of the academic year 2017/2018. It is a distinguished project that encourages students to study scientific materials through applying scientific experiments that deepen understanding. The project seeks to link the scientific sciences with the world of students and its external environment and to develop the love of exploration, conclusion and organising information in an interesting and exciting way, as well as its role in changing negative attitudes of students towards scientific subjects."

MUSCAT: STEM OMAN began its first phase in six public schools under the supervision of the Omani Authority for Partnership for Development (OAPD) in partnership with the British Rolls-Royce and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education represented by the Innovation and Scientific Olympiad Department.

The first phase of the programme includes the teaching of 420 students from the secondary school (grade 10) in 6 public schools, four of them from Governorate of Muscat, namely Hafs bin Rashid Primary School for Boys, Anas bin al Nadhr Primary School for Boys, Shamsa Al Khalili Primary School for Girls, Fayd Al Maarifah Primary School for Girls and Saifa Primary School for Girls from the Governorate of Al Wusta and Asia bint Asid al-Ansariyah School for Girls from the Governorate of Al Batinah South. Azza bint Ahmed Al Kharousi-

society, and the introduction of a knowledge-based economy in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering and technology. The programme will be implemented in three phases starting from the current academic year 2017/2018 with 6 schools. The expansion plan will include the implementation of the programme during the next academic year, followed by the addition of 24 government schools from different governorates of the Sultanate selected by the Ministry of Education according to school readiness. The implementation of the programme accompanies preparation of the halls and equipping them with the basic equipment and tools needed as incubators in each school to teach the curriculum. It is expected that the number of beneficiaries of the programme will reach more than 7,000 students and 60 teachers during the implementation phase of the project, as well as transferring ownership of the curriculum from the company to the Ministry of Education in preparation for the ministry's expansion in its implementation in the rest of the country. -ONA



Product Recall Campaign

HP Desktops and Laptops



Date of the campaign: 22 Feb. 2018

Campaign type: HP Laptops and Desktop Safety Recall Program.

Product description: HP ProBook Series and HP ZBook.

Year of production	Brand	Product description	Serial numbers for the effected units	No. of potentially affected Units
From: Dec 2015 To: Dec 2017	HP	HP ProBook Series and HP ZBook	5CG62171FH ,5CG62171FC 5CG62171FQ ,5CG62171FL 5CG62171FZ ,5CG62171FT 5CG62171G4 ,5CG62171G2 5CG62171G8 ,5CG62171GD CND6521GYC	11

Description: Batteries have the potential to overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard

Actions:

Customers requested to validate their battery on the HP Battery Recall website at: www.HP.com/go/batteryprogram2018.

For more information:

Contact Data: + 96824791773

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WORLD

CORRUPTION CASE
Netanyahu's confidant turns state witness

JERUSALEM: A confidant of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to turn state's witness in one of several corruption investigations posing a serious threat to the conservative leader's political survival, local media said.

Shlomo Filber's decision to testify for the state against his former boss is a dramatic turn for Netanyahu, whose inner circle had so far seemed watertight.

Filber's change of heart could leave the tough-talking Netanyahu at his most vulnerable yet, with one critic writing him off as a "political corpse".

The development has also fuelled speculation that Netanyahu, 68, will call a snap election to try to stall legal proceedings during the campaign and rally his right-wing power base behind him.

The prime minister denies all the allegations against him and has said he will seek a fifth term in office in a national ballot due in late 2019.

So far, partners in his governing coalition have stood by him, showing little appetite for bringing down the government and risking an early poll. —Reuters

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/world](#)

US school massacre survivors push for ban on assault rifles

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, became the latest school targeted by a gunman using a semi-automatic AR-15 assault rifle



DISTRAUGHT: Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School speak with Florida state legislators, following last week's mass shooting on their campus, in Tallahassee, Florida, US, February 20, 2018. —Reuters

TALLAHASSEE/WASHINGTON: Dozens of teenaged survivors of the second-deadliest public school shooting in US history marched on Florida's capital on Wednesday to ask lawmakers to ban sales of assault rifles of the sort used to kill 17 students and educators last week.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, became the latest school targeted by a gunman using a semi-automatic AR-15 assault rifle, stirring the nation's long-running debate about gun rights and public safety.

Dressed in jeans and T-shirts and carrying signs with the slogan "#Neveragain," survivors of the February 14 mass shooting met with lawmakers in Tallahassee, to ask for stricter controls on gun sales. Investigators said the assault was carried out by 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz, who purchased an AR-15 nearly a year ago.

Police have charged Cruz, who had been kicked out of Douglas for disciplinary problems, with 17 counts of premeditated murder. "We want to see some common sense gun laws so this will never happen again," said Rachel Padnis, a 16-year-old sophomore from the school near Fort Lauderdale.

President Donald Trump, a strong supporter of gun rights, was due to meet later Wednesday with parents, students and teachers who have been victims of gun violence, including those

affected by the Valentine's Day shooting in Florida. The White House meeting comes a day after Trump said his administration would take steps to ban bump stocks, an accessory that enables a rifle to shoot hundreds of rounds a minute.

A spokeswoman said the administration was open to the idea of setting national age limits on sales of assault rifles.

The state Senate on Wednesday postponed discussion on a proposed gun control bill, with Senate President Joe Negron, a Republican, saying the chamber will take up other measures.

The legislative session wraps up on March 9, leaving lawmakers little time to act. Before that move, dozens of students packed into a meeting room and peppered Negron with questions about why civilians should have continued access to assault rifles.

Negron declined to say whether he would support any specific gun control measures, saying, "That's an issue we're going to look at as we work to develop legislation."

Trump, a strong supporter of gun rights, was scheduled to host a "listening session" with high school students and teachers at the White House on Wednesday.

Trump's support for any tight-

ening of gun laws would mark a change for a Republican who was endorsed by the National Rifle Association gun lobby during the 2016 presidential campaign.

The NRA opposes an outright ban on bump stocks but has said it would be open to restrictions on the devices.

Under pressure after Parkland, the deadliest-ever shooting at a US high school, Trump on Tuesday directed the Justice Department to quickly complete a proposed rule that would treat "bump stocks" as machine guns, which could effectively outlaw them in the United States.

Last October, a retired real estate investor and high-stakes gambler used multiple assault rifles equipped with bump stocks to kill 58 people at a Las Vegas outdoor concert, the deadliest attack by a single gunman in US history.

Bump stocks have not played a prominent role in other recent US mass shootings.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on Wednesday urged Trump to back legislation, instead of a regulation, on bump stocks, noting that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has questioned whether it has the authority to ban bump stocks. —Reuters

MIGRANT CRISIS

Macron govt proposes toughening France asylum rules

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron's government on Wednesday proposed toughening France's immigration and asylum laws despite strident criticism from human rights groups, in a move that will test the unity of his left-and-right majority.

The bill will double to 90 days the time in which illegal migrants can be detained, shorten deadlines

to apply for asylum, and make the illegal crossing of borders an offence punishable by one year in jail and fines. The government says it wants to be both firm and fair on immigration.

Its proposal will also make it easier for minors to get asylum and aims to halve the time it takes for authorities to process any asylum request. "The law is balanced,"

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said, arguing that if France did not tighten its laws it would attract refugees put off by tougher rules elsewhere in Europe.

"If we don't take this into account, we won't be able, tomorrow, to guarantee the right to asylum in France."

But while Macron's parliamentary majority, a mix of lawmakers

who have their roots both in right-wing and left-wing parties, has so far been very united, the government's migration plans have triggered disquiet in its ranks.

Mathieu Orphelin, a lawmaker from Macron's Republic On the Move party, said on Tuesday increasing the detention time from 45 days to 90 days was problematic, adding that he intended to

propose amendments to modify the bill.

Another lawmaker from Macron's party, Sonia Krimi, has accused the government of "playing with people's fears" with its migration reform.

"Not all foreigners in France are terrorists, not all foreigners cheat with social welfare," she said in a parliamentary debate.

Collomb told a news conference he was confident parliament would approve the law despite such criticism.

But Jean-Francois Dubost of Amnesty International said the rights group would press lawmakers to amend virtually all aspects of the bill. —Reuters

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/world](#)



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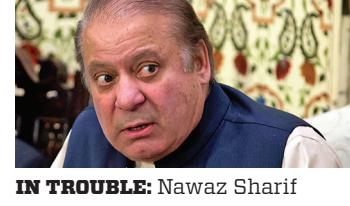
OVERTURNS LEGAL AMENDMENT

Pakistan's Supreme Court rules ousted PM Nawaz Sharif cannot lead his party

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered on Wednesday that ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif be removed as head of the political party he founded, six months after the court removed him as premier.

The ruling could throw into disarray Senate elections due on March 3, with opposition figures saying it invalidates candidates from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) who were nominated by Sharif.

Wednesday's order overturns a legal amendment by PML-N lawmakers allowing the former premier to lead the party despite being



IN TROUBLE: Nawaz Sharif

legally banned from holding public office after the Supreme Court disqualified him last July over an undeclared source of income.

"The Election Commission is directed to remove name of Nawaz Sharif as president of PML-N from all official records," Chief

Justice Saqib Nisar said from the bench. "As a result, all steps taken, all orders passed by Nawaz Sharif are also declared to be as if they had never been taken."

Faisal Chaudhry, a lawyer for one of the 17 petitioners who sought Sharif's removal as party head, said the court decision includes Sharif-nominated candidates for the Senate election.

"My understanding is that the candidates can still contest but as independent and not as Nawaz Sharif's party ticket holders," Chaudhry said. Sharif has said his removal from office was part of a political conspiracy against him,

and in recent weeks he and his party have waged a war of words against the judiciary.

The PML-N holds a majority in the lower house of parliament, the National Assembly, and it has been hopeful of winning control of the Senate in the March 3 election. Control of both houses could allow the PML-N to change the constitution to make Sharif eligible to hold office again when the party contests general elections due later this year. Sharif has served as prime minister twice before and each time was removed from office -- in 1999 by a military coup and 1993 by presidential order. -Reuters



SWEETS OF OMAN SAOG
P.O. Box 49, Rusayl - 124, Sultanate of Oman
Tel : 24446278 / 79 / Fax : 24446276

Invitation to The Annual Ordinary General Meeting for Sweets of Oman SAOG for the financial year ended 31st December 2017

The Board of Directors of Sweets of Oman SAOG is pleased to invite the shareholders of the Company to attend the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held on Wednesday 14/03/2018, at 3:00 pm, at Al Falaj Hotel Ruwi to consider the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Report of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended 31/12/2017.
- To consider and Approve of the Board of Directors performance report for the financial year ended 31/12/2017.
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report of the Company for the financial year ended 31/12/2017.
- To consider the Auditor's Report and approve the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income account for the financial year ended 31/12/2017.
- To consider and approve the proposal to distribute a cash dividend of 20 % at the rate of 20 Baisa per share to the shareholders as on the date of AGM.
- To approve the sitting fee paid to the Board of Directors meetings and its Sub-committees for the financial year ended 31/12/2017 and determines the fee for the forthcoming financial year ending 31/12/2018.
- To consider and approve the amounts allocated and spent for the company's social responsibilities for the financial year ended 31/12/2017.
- To consider and approve a proposal to donate an amount of R.O.15,000/- (Rial Omani Fifteen thousand only) to the local Society for the financial year ending on 31/12/2018.
- To elect a new Board of Directors for the Company from amongst shareholders or non-shareholders. Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director's Nomination Form. Such a form can be delivered to the Company at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company (by the end of business hours on 11/03/2018). The Company will not accept any application received after this date. If the candidate is a shareholder, according to the company's Articles of Association he/she should own (50.00) share at the date of the meeting.
- To approve the criteria for measuring the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ending 31/12/2018.
- To appoint an independent expert to evaluate the performance of the Board for the financial year ending 31/12/18 and determine their fees.
- The appointment of the Statutory Auditors for the financial year ending 31/12/2018 and approve their fee.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company, any shareholder has the right to appoint a proxy in writing to attend and vote on decisions taken on his behalf. The proxy must carry the authorized proxy card attached with the notice to attend the general meeting as issued by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC. If the shareholder is a natural person, he is required to attach with the proxy card a copy of ID for adults, passport for females and minors who don't have an ID card, and resident cards or passports for expatriates. If the shareholder is a juristic person, the proxy card shall be signed by an authorized signatory and sealed with the company's seal and submitted together with a copy of the commercial registration certificate and authorized signatories form.

All invitees are requested to attend the meeting at least half an hour before the meeting time.

If you have any inquiries kindly contact Mr.S.Balakrishna at the following numbers: Tel : (968) 24446278 / 24446279 . Fax : 24446276

Chairman Auditor Legal Advisor



The National Detergent Company S.A.O.G.

P.O. Box 3104, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of The National Detergent Co. SAOG takes pleasure in inviting the shareholders to attend the 37th Annual General Meeting to be held at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, 12th March 2018 at 'Habroud & Lubaan Hall' Hotel Grand Hayat, Qurum to discuss the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2017;
- To consider & approve the evaluation report of the performance of the Board for the financial year ended 31/12/2017;
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the year ended 31 December 2017;
- To Consider Auditors' Report, approve and adopt the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017;
- To consider and approve the proposed final cash dividend to the shareholders @ 45% of Share capital i.e. Bz. 45 per share, recommended by the Board, for the year ended 31 December 2017;
- To approve the Directors' sitting fees paid for the year ended 31 December 2017, and to determine the sitting fee for the next year;
- To consider and approve the proposal of distributing Directors' remuneration amounting to RO 27,000/-, recommended by the Board, for the year ended 31 December 2017;
- To disclose and approve the contracts and transactions entered into by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2017 (in line with the list sent to the shareholders along with the notice);
- To approve contribution as part of the social responsibilities for the financial year ended 31/12/2017;
- To consider and approve a proposal to donate an amount of RO. 10,000/- (Rial Omani Ten thousand only) towards social responsibilities for the financial year ending 31/12/2018;
- To elect a new Board member to fill vacant position in place of temporary director. Any person who wishes to nominate himself for the directorship, fill out the nomination form prepared for this purpose and submit it to the Company at least two business days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting by no later than Wednesday 7/3/2018. No submission will be accepted after this date. If the candidate is a shareholder, it is stipulated as per articles of association of the company, should have not less than 20000 shares in the company at the time of annual general meeting
- To appoint Statutory Auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2018 and fix their remuneration;
- To discuss and approve the criteria for the evaluation of the performance of the Board for the financial year ending 31/12/2018;
- To appoint an independent expert to evaluate the performance of the Board for the financial year ending 31/12/2018;

Under the statute of the company, shareholders have the right of appointing, in writing, a proxy to attend the meeting and vote on his/her behalf, wherever necessary.

Note: The SAOG Companies should deposit the investors' funds unclaimed within a period of 6 months from its due date to the Investors' Trust Funds. Shareholders are advised to refer to the Muscat Depository and Securities Registration Company to enquire about any amounts due from them.

In case of enquiry, please contact Mr. Nasser Al Rawahi, Tel: 24493824-92869333

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Auditors

Legal Advisor



OMAN CEMENT COMPANY (S.A.O.G.)

P.O. Box 560, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman

Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Respected Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Cement Company (SAOG), I am pleased to welcome you to the Company's General Assembly in its 40th Annual Ordinary Meeting. The Annual Report supported by the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Comprehensive Income along with the Auditor's Reports presented before you shows the Company's achievements during the financial year ended December 31, 2017.

During the year 2016, Oman Cement Company had registered a new Company, namely Al Wusta Cement Company LLC in joint venture with Rayset Cement Company (SAOG). Al Wusta Cement Company LLC has now been allotted 500,000 Sq Mtr of land by Economic Zone Authority of Duqm (SEZAD) for setting-up of a new cement plant in Duqm and Al Wusta Cement Company LLC has signed a usufruct agreement with SEZAD in this regard.

Company has continued its efforts to overcome the adverse impact of steep rise in prices of some major elements of cost, with better cost management and sustained efforts to improve productivity during the period.

The Company continues to be an ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 certified Company. It has also API Spec 10A (American Petroleum Institute) quality monogram certification for manufacturing and sale of Oil Well Cements.

1. PRODUCTION:

(i) **Clinker Production & Import:** Company has produced a total quantity of 2,344,588 MTS of Clinker during the year as against 2,123,350 MTS during the previous year 2016, being higher by 221,238 MTS (10.42%). No import of Clinker has been made during the year. It had imported 200,024 MTS of Clinker during the previous year.

(ii) **Cement Production:** Company has produced 2,476,609 MTS of Cement during the year as against 2,309,317 MTS produced during the previous year 2016, which is higher by 167,292 MTS (7.24%).

2. TURNOVER & PROFIT:

(i) Company achieved a sale of 2,479,210 MTS of Cement during the year which is higher by 178,919 MTS (7.78%) as against the sale of 2,300,291 MTS of cement during the previous year 2016. In value terms, the sales for the period is RO. 57,548 Million as against the sales of RO. 56,804 Million during the previous year, being higher by RO. 0.944 Million (1.67%).

(ii) The Profit before tax for the year ended 31 December 2017 stands at RO. 12,820 Million as compared to RO. 14,483 Million during the previous year 2016 registering a decrease of RO. 1,663 Million (-11.48%). The decrease is primarily due to lower average sales realization on selling price, increase in gas and electricity tariff and increase in some other components of the cost.

(iii) The Profit after tax for the year ended 31 December 2017 is RO. 9,592 Million as against RO. 12,876 Million during the previous year 2016 being lower by RO. 3,284 Million (25.50%). The decline in post-tax profit is due to implementation of changes in income tax laws increasing the rate of income tax from 12% to 15% and abolishing basic exemption of RO. 30,000/- granted earlier. The deferred tax has also been adjusted resulting in a major increase in deferred tax liability, thereby requiring a major additional provision for income tax and adverse impact on post tax profit.

3. INVESTMENTS:

Company's surplus funds remained invested in fixed deposits, bonds, sukuk and other listed/ unlisted securities to achieve optimum return on investments. Company has continued to have discretionary portfolio management agreements with four companies appointed as Portfolio Managers to handle part of its investments in shares.

4. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:

The company has complied fully with the requirements of the Corporate Governance. In this regard reference may be made to:

(i) Management Discussion and Analysis Report, which gives in detail the company's performance and expansion program.

(ii) Report on corporate governance.

The above two reports demonstrate the company's determination to follow the best management practices.

5. ASSOCIATE COMPANY:

Mondi Oman LLC: The associate company has reported profit during the year 2017. Share of profit amounting to RO. 266,659/- (previous year RO. 208,652/-) has been suitably accounted for in the financial statements of the Company.

6. DIVIDEND POLICY:

The Company adopts a balanced shareholders dividend policy based on the results achieved taking into consideration the circumstances of the industry and market as well as the investors expectation and also with consideration to transfer to reserves to strengthen Company's competitive position in the market and to ensure a consistent dividend pay out.

The dividends declared by the Company during last five years are indicated in the table given below:

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Dividend % on Paid up Capital	35%	35%	30%	30%	30%

7. INTERNAL CONTROL:

The internal control systems of the Company are being assessed regularly for effectiveness.

8. MARKET DEMAND & FUTURE OUTLOOK:

With the company's well structured pricing policy, we hope that even with the continued competition, company will continue to do well in retaining its market share.

9. EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION AND UPGRADATION:

(i) The project of Upgradation of Pollution Control Equipment for Line-2 to further reduce the dust emission level as part of the company's continues effort towards environmental improvement is nearing completion.

(ii) The company has hired the services of a consultant to study and eliminate the bottlenecks in the existing

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2017

2017 RO 2016 RO

ASSETS Non-current assets

Property, plant and equipment 121,370,419 121,585,827

Intangible assets 74,016 102,483

Investment in an associate 1,018,967 937,114

Investments available for sale 9,857,121 12,431,413

Held-to-maturity investments 11,290,831 10,272,700

It's time

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Brexit faction demands clean break from EU

62 Conservative lawmakers demanded a tougher approach in a number of areas, including 'full regulatory autonomy' outside the EU and the ability to start negotiating trade deals



PRESSURE MOUNTS: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street in London, Britain February 21, 2018. - Reuters

for Britain to toughen its position in talks to unravel more than 40 years of union. The letter adds to an increasingly divisive and angry debate over Britain's future relationship with the EU. Anti-EU campaigners are concerned that those calling for the closest possible ties will force a Brexit in name only. "It's to strengthen the government's position, because the EU will read the letter," Andrew Bridgen, a Conservative lawmaker and member of the ERG, told Reuters.

Pro-EU and pro-Brexit campaigners often send letters to May to air their views. But the timing of this letter - circu-

culated widely, and which Bridgen has confirmed - is no surprise.

May will meet her top ministers at her country residence, Chequers, on Thursday. They will try come up with a final version of her government's approach to possibly the most difficult phase of the negotiations - settling on a transition phase and final agreement.

The group of 62 lawmakers demanded a tougher approach in a number of areas, including "full regulatory autonomy" outside the EU and the ability to start negotiating trade deals "immediately".

They represent less than a fifth of the 316 Conservative members

of parliament, but after May lost her parliamentary majority in a snap election last year, she cannot afford to alienate them, and she has been wary of setting out too many details of the government's negotiating position.

The EU wants May to clarify how she sees Britain's future relationship with the bloc. It is pressing for a status quo transition period, which Brexit campaigners fear will see Britain subject to new EU laws that could threaten the status of London's financial centre.

They want a veto over any news rules or regulations and the ability to change British laws without authorisation from Brussels from the moment the country formally leaves the EU on March 29 next year. The EU says Britain cannot undercut tax, labour or other standards and must ensure a level playing field during a transition.

Some Brexit campaigners also want to make sure that a future free-trade agreement is locked in while Britain continues to pay the EU during the transition phase.

The debate will come to a head on Thursday when May will host senior ministers to try to broker an agreement.

She is then expected to set out her plans in a speech in the next couple of weeks, before formal trade talks begin in March. - Reuters

LONDON: More than 60 Conservative lawmakers have written to Theresa May demanding a quick, clean break from the European Union, adding pressure on the prime minister before her ministers meet to decide Britain's negotiating position.

Members of the hard-line European Research Group, a faction in her Conservative Party, wrote the letter days ago and have been adding signatures to bolster demands

But the timing of this letter - circu-

PHILIPPINES

US intelligence tags Duterte a threat to democracy



CONCERNED: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte

long extension of martial rule in the volatile southern region of Mindanao to suppress threats such as communist insurgents and militants.

This is not the first time the United States has shown concern about Duterte, who is notorious for his defiance of international pressure. Duterte was infuriated by expressions of concern by former president Barack Obama's administration about drug-war killings in the Philippines.

Obama's successor, Donald Trump, praised Duterte for doing an "unbelievable job on the drug problem," but refrained from expressing concern about the crackdown during a visit to the Philippine capital last November.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in what police call legitimate operations against suspected drug dealers and users in Duterte's signature war on drugs since July 2016.

Rights groups accused police of summary executions, which authorities deny.

International Criminal Court prosecutors have opened a preliminary examination into Duterte's anti-drugs campaign. - Reuters

"We view this declaration from no less than the intelligence department of the United States with some concern," presidential spokesman Harry Roque told DZMM radio.

Democracy and human rights in many Southeast Asian nations will remain fragile in 2018 because of autocratic tendencies, rampant corruption and cronyism, the US intelligence community said in its Worldwide Threat Assessment report of February 13.

Duterte has suggested he could suspend the constitution, declare a 'revolutionary government', and impose nationwide martial law, "it said.

CONTINUING POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

Protests by teachers, health workers over public spending cuts spread in Algeria



UP IN ARMS: Algerian doctors, who are completing their residency stage of their studies, hold a sit-in protest in Algiers, February 12, 2018. - Reuters/Ramzi Boudina

young teacher who works at Said Hamdine school in Algiers and is taking part in the strike. Workers in the public health sector have also held protests over pay and conditions. At a demonstration by doctors at the Algiers University Hospital in January, around 20 protesters were injured in clashes with police and several arrested, local media reported at the time. The ongoing teachers' strike is taking a toll on students.

As Tunisia and Egypt's leaders were toppled, Algerian security forces contained those demonstrations. The government was able to further calm tensions by increasing spending as oil and gas revenues, the country's lifeline, flowed freely from crude sold at \$100 a barrel.

Since independence, Algeria's

ruling elite has tried to buy loyalty through public spending, which has risen sharply since Bouteflika came to power in 1999. But the system is now under strain. Annual energy revenues have halved since 2014, forcing authorities to cut back on spending and secure new sources of funding to cover the budget deficit. The government also restricted the import of hundreds of goods, pushing up prices. The cost of lentils and coffee, for example, has risen by as much as 15 per cent.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia warned protesters last week to stop what he described as "anarchy", apparently playing to fears of instability in a country where as many as 200,000 people died in a civil conflict in the 1990s.

"It's time for the train of anarchy to stop," Ouyahia told members of his party at a rally in the eastern city of Biskra. "Barakat (that's enough!). This situation can not last ... because the train of anarchy can lead to the irreparable." That drew a quick riposte from strikers in Algiers, who chanted: "We are not afraid, Mr Ouyahia." - Reuters

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

WORLD

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TODAY'S CARTOON



ONLINE HOT PICKS

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Indian dancers' video shot in Oman goes viral



TWEET WE LIKE

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It has been great having ten Oman-based startups in NDRC's offices these past two weeks. Plenty achieved to date, can't wait to see how the ventures progress @OTF_Techweek

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READERS' FORUM

Send letters to the Readers' Forum, containing not more than 100 words with full name, address and telephone number, may be sent by e-mail (akhtar@timesofoman.com).

Students can easily adapt to e-learning process

This refers to the report, *Digital the way ahead for education* (February 20). The importance and influence of digital technology in modern education has taken a long leap as the access to the world of Internet and computers are as close as our old black boards in the classroom. Innovative ideas and methods can easily be incorporated in the e-learning process as the scope for teaching and learning skills are vast and wide in the world of digital technology. As students are easily exposed to various electronic gadgets like mobile phones and tablets, it would be easy for them to accommodate e-learning in a more comfortable way than conventional learning methods.

- P.A. Jacob, Muscat

Read on timesofoman.com/opinion

BANNED CHARITIES POSE CHALLENGE FOR PAKISTAN

SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNTS ON RAMAPHOSA

WITH MEDICINE RUNNING OUT, VENEZUELA'S TRANSPLANTS LIVE IN FEAR

FEARING TOURIST DROUGHT, CAPE TOWN CHARTS A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH WATER



LIFESTYLE

It's time

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ADD FIRE SAFETY TO YOUR FAMILY'S ROUTINE

Think of all the items you replace regularly—your cellphone, lightbulbs, and even your toothbrush. But when was the last time you replaced your smoke alarm batteries, or even the alarms themselves? It's easy to overlook, but the time to think about fire safety is now—before an emergency strikes.

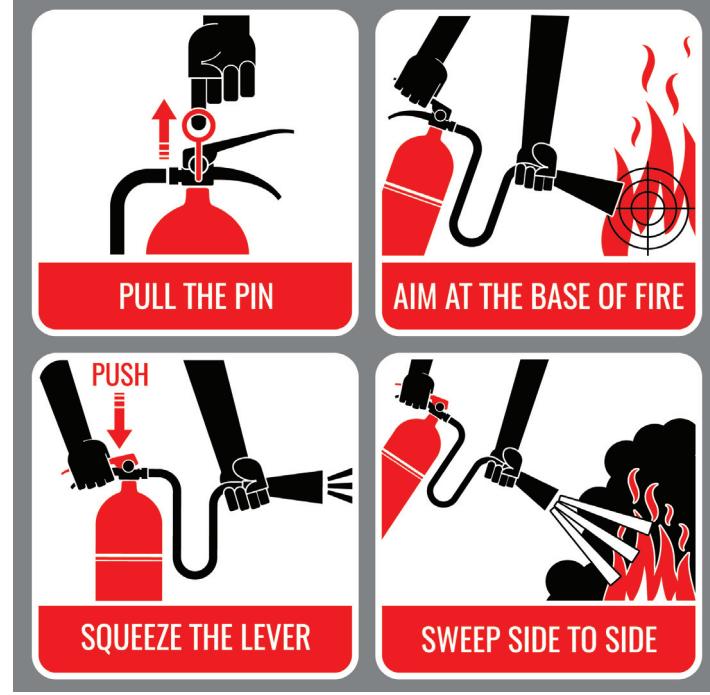
Many assume that because they have smoke alarms in their homes, they're protected in the event of a fire. In reality, smoke alarms need to be installed, maintained and tested regularly to ensure they're working properly. That effort includes knowing how old smoke alarms and their batteries are, as neither lasts forever.

While smoke alarm lifespan and sensing technology have improved in recent years, the fact remains that all smoke alarms—even hard-wired and sealed battery models—expire after 10 years.

"According to the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org) in the US, three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms or from missing or dead batteries," said Tarsila Wey, director of marketing for First Alert. "Just like other household duties, it's important to make sure alarm maintenance and replacement and escape planning and practice become a regular, ongoing part of your family's routine." Here are some important ways to ensure your family is best protected from fire:

Count the alarms: In most cases, one alarm isn't enough. In fact smoke alarms be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement, as well as one carbon monoxide (CO) alarm on each level and in each sleeping area. A quick and easy way to remember is one on every level and in every bedroom.

Install them properly: Does your alarm ever sound when cooking? Chances are, you've installed the alarm too close to your appliances. An easy way to reduce false alarms and maximise coverage is to take a moment to review manufacturer guidelines and install alarms in the proper locations. Smoke alarms should generally be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance to minimise false alarms.



It's also recommended to install smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings. Remember, smoke rises, so high placement provides a

direct path for detection. Lastly, don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors or ducts, where drafts might interfere

with their operation.

Get complete coverage: In general, there are two types of fires—quick flaming and smoldering. Today's smoke alarms are effective at detecting both but use unique technologies that make them better suited for particular locations within the home.

Install and maintain: Having smoke alarms is only one part of the story. In order to function properly, all alarms must be regularly inspected and maintained. Make sure

to test the alarm, by simply holding down the test button, at least once a month. Also, when testing, it's important to clean the alarm to remove any dust or debris. This advice holds true even for newer alarms, which feature 10-year batteries, as well as hardwired alarms that feature a battery back-up. Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.

Plan your escape: Maintaining alarms is essential to every household, but what about your es-

cape route? Unfortunately, recent research indicates that just 25 per cent of families have an escape plan that they practice regularly.

To develop an effective plan, walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes.

Identify two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year and make sure to plan a meeting spot.

—BPT

ON MY MIND

The Musical Notes of Life



By Siddhant Suri Dhawan

INFERNAL SHRIEKS and ghoulish screeches pierced the air, permeating the trembling walls and inflicting injury on the ears of all those who had the unfortunate privilege of being within sufficient radius of hearing them.

The dog ran, the neighbours called and my mother bellowed with distress, but I continued undaunted. The noises that seemed so horrendously excruciating to them sounded nothing lesser than cherubic hymns to me and I re-

lentlessly produced more of these noises, exulting in the magnificent melodies and lilting tunes that I so 'masterfully' generated.

To imagine that my violin could cause such severe distress to all those within two hundred metres of me seemed unfathomable at the time. It wasn't until my Tunisian violin teacher declared the verdict on my playing that my ever-expanding bubble burst, meteorically sending me back down to Earth. For as long as I could remember,

I dreamed of becoming a 'first-class' violinist. I watched the great Joshua Bell and Itzhak Perlman with admiration and yearned to attain even a fraction of their adroitness.

So, after considerable amount of instruction in the piano and theory of music, at the ripe young age of ten, I decided to purchase my first violin and enlist the services of the best violin teacher I could find.

While a fiddle and a bow are not quite what every ten year-old covets, it was my deepest desire to learn to play and I was absolutely determined. Those who have received any training in the violin would know that every beginner starts off with scratches and unintelligible noises that within a month or two of consistent practice, metamorphose into clear and confident tonalities. But like a butterfly trapped in its cocoon, I struggled to break free from my musical 'training-wheels'.

And now that my violin teacher had corroborated the views of my parents, dog and neighbours, I was heartbroken. Was I naturally inept or was I not practicing hard enough? Was I holding the bow wrong or plucking the strings too harshly?

Was I just not intelligent enough or was I tone-deaf? An endless spiral of self-doubt ensued and my violin teacher's inability to diagnose the problem only pushed my self-esteem lower and lower.

Yet despite the criticism, I wasn't ready to give up on my violin-playing dreams just yet. I practiced with greater rigour and resolve than ever before and incessantly played from morning till evening during my winter vacations, trying to perfect every cadenza, articulate the notes perfectly and inject sufficient poise and sentiment into my playing.

All of this resulted in very little success and my violin teacher said that I still sounded like a "crow with a sore throat". So, in a fit of childish rage I flung my violin across the room, which ejected some of its strings. Once my internal hot-boiler had been brought back down to a safe temperature, I took my violin to the store to be restrung.

What the workshop-man discovered next altered not just my musical pursuits but even my philosophy of life and achievement. Using forceps and some oil, he dislodged a loose wood

chip that had been carelessly left by the manufacturer between the F-holes and back of the violin, distorting its sound and ruining its tone. As you might imagine, my violin sounded infinitely better after that miraculous 'surgical intervention'. But to me, this experience was so much more than my fruitless escapades with a faulty fiddle.

It impressed upon me that failures in life are more than often not a reflection on one's own ability, effort, talent or competence, but are often result of extraneous factors that are beyond our estimation or judgement.

This simple, yet more enlightened approach to life has enthused me with self-worth, optimism and drive, whether it is while navigating the slippery slopes of a Mozart symphony or as a student about to put his first foot forward into the big wide world.



Siddhant Suri Dhawan is Grade XII student of Indian School Ghubra

ART FOR THE AGES

Children up to the age of 16 who would like to have their art considered for inclusion in "Art for the Ages" can e-mail their drawings or paintings (in jpeg or tiff format) to lifestyle@timesofoman.com



Zaina Harris, Grade 9, Indian School Salalah

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SPORTS



FORMULA ONE

Mazepin to debut new F1 car of Force India

English county teams impressed with cricket facilities in Oman

With lush green grass grounds and quality pitches to play on, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire players and officials believe they have chosen the right country to develop their game



MUSCAT: Oman's excellent cricket facilities, its great culture, friendly people and amazing hospitality have all contributed to help English players from Lancashire and Nottinghamshire counties enjoy their tour and look forward to coming back in future.

With two lush green grass grounds having floodlight facilities and different types of pitches to play on, English players and officials believe they chose the right

country to develop their game in their off season.

Apart from cricket, the two teams are enjoying all the other elements of being in Oman that make this Gulf country irresistible and unforgettable for the visitors.

Gary Yates, Director of Academy, Lancashire, is clearly impressed. "We have had an excellent

trip so far. We are enjoying the hospitality of the people of Oman and Oman Cricket who have made us feel very welcome here. They have pulled out all the stops to make this a fruitful tour for us," he said.

Talking about cricket facilities, the Lancashire coach said Oman had excellent grounds in Amerat with first class practice and match

facilities. "We are having a great time playing over here and enjoying the lovely weather too. We have enjoyed the cricket so far," he added.

Commenting on the opposition they had faced in Oman, Gary said they had played a 50-over game against Oman Cricket's National Youth Development Team (NYDT) and were

impressed by their skills. "NYDT has a long way to go but we were impressed by the skills of some of their players. We are going to face more local teams and are expecting excellent cricket against the Best of Premier Division XI in our next T20 game," he said.

He said his players were certainly going to leave Oman with a lot of pleasant memories having experienced its culture, weather, different playing conditions and different types of wickets.

"The facility over here is second to none and I am sure some of our young players would have learnt a lot playing in these conditions which are so different from what we have back in England. This may certainly encourage more countries to come and spend their pre-season preparation here in Oman," Gary added.

Senior Lancashire pro Jordan Clarke, who is a quality paceman, said Oman's spin-friendly pitches could contribute to improving batting skills against spinners.

"The wicket here generally breaks up a little, gets a little bit slower and helps reverse swing. So apart from helping the batsmen to work on their game against spin, it's good for the bowlers to practice reverse swing," he explained.

LONDON: Force India's Russian development driver Nikita Mazepin will be first to drive the Formula One team's new car when testing starts in Barcelona next Monday.

Force India published its schedule on Wednesday, with race drivers Frenchman Esteban Ocon and Mexican Sergio Perez taking over for the following two days before handing over to Canadian reserve Nicholas Latifi.

While most other teams will have unveiled new cars ahead of the weekend, Force India will roll out theirs shortly before the pit lane opens for testing at the Circuit de Catalunya.

The Mercedes-powered team, who have finished fourth overall for the past two seasons, have also been mulling a name change and there has been renewed speculation in the media about a possible change of ownership.

Force India are run and co-owned by Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya, who is fighting an Indian government request to extradite him from Britain to face fraud charges related to the collapse of his Kingfisher Airlines. - Reuters

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FOOTBALL

Conte calls Chelsea performance against Barca almost perfect



ANTONIO CONTE: "I think we were very close to playing a perfect game." - Reuters

LONDON: Chelsea coach Antonio Conte said his side played almost the perfect game against Champions League favourites Barcelona on Tuesday, but he was still disappointed with the 1-1 home leg result.

The Italian's Premier League champions have struggled to impose themselves in domestic football this season but soaked up Barcelona pressure before Willian scored in the 62nd minute of their last-16 first leg tie.

"I think we were very close to playing a perfect game," Conte said. "We made one mistake but against these opponents like (Lionel) Messi, (Andres) Iniesta and (Luis) Suarez, if you make a mistake you pay."

Barca had two shots on target and scored with the second, when Iniesta cut the ball back to Messi in the 75th minute with the Chelsea defence out of position.

"It's a pity and we are disappointed with the final result but at the same time I think this game must give us a lot of confidence to trust the second leg. The qualification is open," Conte said.

"It won't be easy but tonight we showed that if we are ready to work very hard together de-

fensively, to continue to have the right feeling when you are with the ball to have the chance to score then we have the chance to do something incredible at the Nou Camp."

Chelsea travel to Barcelona for the second leg on March 14.

Conte had spent much of the first half hopping and skipping along the touchline, gesticulating wildly at his players to push forward in an attempt to wrest possession from the Catalan side.

The statistics, 68 percent possession for the visitors against 32 for the home side, disguised an absorbing, balanced match in which Chelsea enjoyed the better chances. Willian hit the post twice in the first half before putting the ball away into the bottom corner set up by Eden Hazard.

"We gave too much space to Willian to shoot. The pass to him was perfect, the control was perfect," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

"They might be happy with the result... they pressed us high and made it difficult for us but anything can change in the Nou Camp. The away goal isn't definitive but it is important," Valverde added. - Reuters

FOOTBALL

Messi finally makes his mark on Chelsea

LONDON: Barcelona's Lionel Messi had to wait 12 years and endure a goal drought of eight games against Chelsea but he finally broke his duck in Tuesday's 1-1 Champions League last-16 first leg draw. The last time Barca played Chelsea, in a semifinal in 2012, Messi whacked a penalty against the bar which allowed the London side to claw their way back to an unlikely win at the Camp Nou.

The diminutive Argentine atoned on Tuesday, giving Barca a precious away goal as he

strode on to a pass from Andres Iniesta in the 75th minute and calmly side-footed the ball home to cancel out Willian's opener for Chelsea 13 minutes earlier.

"For us he is the best player in the world. He's not just any player," Barca midfielder Ivan Rakitic said of Messi, who has now scored 98 Champions League goals compared to his Real Madrid rival Ronaldo's 116 in the competition. - Reuters

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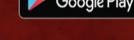
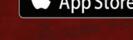
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Al Farsi shines as Omani sailors impress in Kuwait

Al Moatasem Al Farsi led the way taking first place overall by a clear five-point margin, with Mohammed Al Qasmi just off a podium finish in fourth after three days of racing



NEW EXPERIENCE: The members of Oman team pose for a group photo after the conclusion of Kuwait Optimist Championship.

MUSCAT: With Al Moatasem Al Farsi leading the way, the young Omani sailors came up with a great performance at the Kuwait Optimist Championship held in Kuwait City.

The eight strong squad – all members of Oman Sail's Oman-tel Youth Programme – overcame shifty wind conditions and strong

currents to post impressive results in the competitive 35 boat fleet.

Al Moatasem Al Farsi took first place overall by a clear five-point margin, with Mohammed Al Qasmi just off a podium finish in fourth after three days of racing.

Al Waleed Al Oraimi and Saleem Al Alawi also finished in the top

half of the fleet in 11th and 12th position respectively. Making their first trip abroad, Salim Al Alawi and Nibras Al Awaisi showed great potential, backed up by Osama Al Zadjali and Jihad Al Hasani.

Racing from the Kuwait Sea Sport Club, the young sailors faced teams from Kuwait, Egypt, Italy, Algeria,

Tunisia, the UAE, Bahrain as well as a single entrant from Canada.

"This was our first event of the year and it was a good start with some encouraging performances from all in the team," said Mohsin Al Busaidi, Oman Sail's Youth Sailing Programme Manager.

"The wind was changing all the time and the current was very strong, which is a new experience for the sailors. They improved day by day and were able to overcome the challenges they faced, and at the end we got good results."

And he added: "Our goal in participating in events like this is to test and evaluate the skills of the sailors and then create two youth teams so we always have a back-up team ready to take part in regattas around the world."

"When they race against young sailors from other countries we can spot our strengths and our weaknesses, so we have something to work on in our training camps."

Al Busaidi also highlighted that the experience also benefitted the Oman Sail coaching team of Sulaiman Al Wahaibi and Khalid Al Araimi, the latter attending his first foreign regatta.

FOOTBALL



Oman football team's loyal fans rewarded with free entry for Palestine match

MUSCAT: In appreciation of the Omani fans' support to the national team, the Oman Football Association (OFA) has announced free entry for the forthcoming Oman-Palestine Asian Cup qualifying match.

The final match of the 2019 Asian Cup Group D qualifiers is scheduled to be played at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex on March 27. The match will kick off at 7:00 p.m.

According to a statement issued by the OFA on Wednesday, the Sultanate's football governing body took the decision while appreciating the fans support to the national team as well as ac-

knowledging the need for a large turnout for the home match.

In the away match played on June 14, 2017, Oman were handed a 2-1 defeat by Palestine.

The Palestinians lead the four-team Group D, which also comprises Maldives and Bhutan, with 15 points while Oman are in second place with 12 points.

Oman and Palestine, both of whom have already qualified for the 2019 Asian Cup in the UAE, will be looking for a victory on March 27 with the ultimate aim of advancing to the finals as group toppers. The Asian Cup will take place across eight venues in the UAE from January 5 to February 1.

CRICKET

Australia beat New Zealand to clinch T20 tri-series title

AUCKLAND: Australia claimed the trans-Tasman Twenty20 tri-series after Glenn Maxwell and Aaron Finch helped secure a victory against New Zealand under the DLS method in the rain-affected final on Wednesday.

Maxwell scored 20 while Finch was 18 not out as they combined for 37 runs after Australia had lost three quick wickets in the middle of their innings to give the hosts and their fans at Eden Park slim hopes of an upset victory.

The Australians, who won all five of their matches in the series that also included England, were 121 for three when they were forced off for rain for the second time during their innings. They had restricted New Zealand to 150 for nine.

"Right from the get go we played superb cricket," Australia captain David Warner said. "I just asked the guys to execute with energy in everything we did and they have.

"People talk about us not tak-

ing T20 seriously, but this bunch have come... with superb form and I couldn't be prouder of the guys.

"It proves the great depth in Australia cricket."

Both sides had scored more than 240 runs each on the same pitch last Friday, but Australia ensured that would not happen again as they bowled a fuller length, cleverly changed their pace and set up the victory. - Reuters

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/sports](#)

SOHAR, AL NASR, AL SHABAB IN HM'S CUP SEMIS

Sohar, Al Nasr and Al Shabab qualified for His Majesty's Cup Football Championship as the second leg action of the last-eight round concluded on Wednesday. Sohar advanced with a 2-0 home win against Ahli-Sidab following a goalless draw in the first leg. Al Nasr edged Al Bashayir 1-0 to move with a 4-1 aggregate. Al Shabab qualified for the semifinals despite losing by a 2-3 margin against Sur. Al Shabab won the first leg 1-0 at home. - OFA



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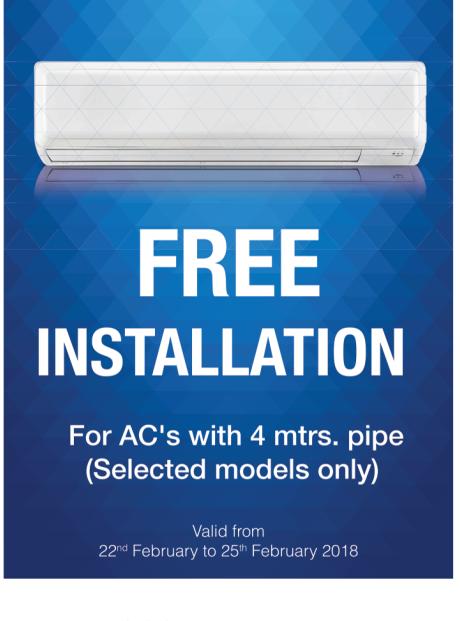
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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

Oman Crude (April delivery) declined by 72 cents to \$61.72 per barrel, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The average price of Oman Crude (March delivery) has stabilised at \$66.32 per barrel, \$4.75 per barrel higher than February delivery. —ONSA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



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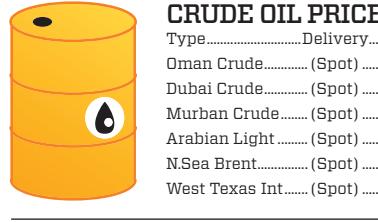
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4,583.67
+ 5.88
+ 0.13%

Saudi Arabia
7,502.14
- 3.95
- 0.05%

Kuwait
6,701.31
+ 20.79
+ 0.31%

Bahrain
1,351.66
+ 7.09
+ 0.53%

Qatar
9,119.01
+ 20.37
+ 0.22%



CURRENCY RATES*
Forex rates vs OMR1*
US Dollar 2.58
Euro 2.08
Pound 1.84
Indian Rs 167.73
Pakistan Rs 286.20
Bangla Taka 212.68
Phil Peso 135.35
* Rates as of February 21
Source: Bank Muscat

DRAFT RATES (OMR1)*
Indian Rs 168.00
Pakistan Rs 287.03
Sri Lanka Rs N/A
Bangla Taka 216.65
Phil Peso 135.35
* Rates as of February 21
Source: Oman UAE Exchange



GOLD PRICES*
Muscat 24ct per gm (OMR) 16.95
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Dubai 24ct per gm (Dh) 160.75
Dubai 22ct per gm (Dh) 151.00
* Rates as of February 21
Source: Malabar Gold & Diamonds

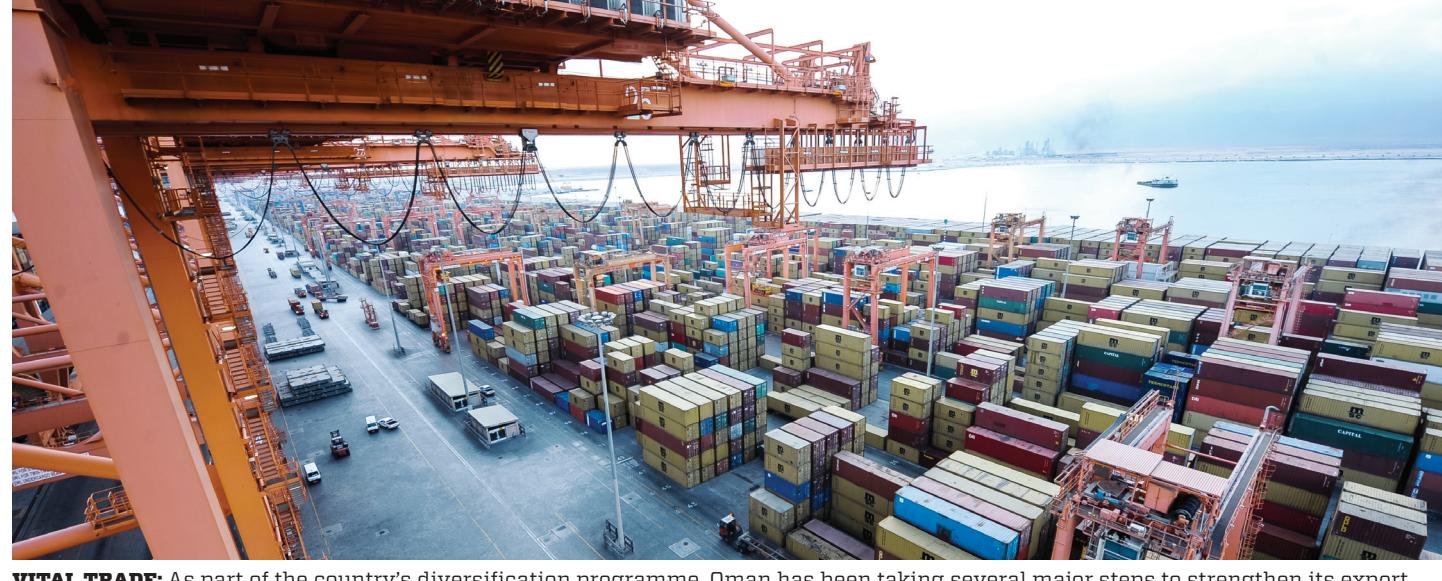
Oman's non-oil exports soar by 28 per cent to OMR2.6 billion

A major recovery in energy prices indirectly helped the country strengthen its non-oil export revenue as well.

A E JAMES
businesseditor@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: The value of Oman's non-oil exports touched OMR2,600.8 million in the first 10 months of 2017, 28.2 per cent up from the OMR2,028.4 million registered in the same January to October period of the previous year.

A major recovery in energy prices indirectly helped the country strengthen its non-oil export revenue as well. Since prices of several petrochemical products are positively correlated to the global prices of energy, Oman could immensely gain from a rise in oil prices.



VITAL TRADE: As part of the country's diversification programme, Oman has been taking several major steps to strengthen its export base of non-oil products, including minerals. —Times file picture

es. A robust growth was witnessed in the export of minerals, plastics and rubber, and base metals and chemical products, shows the latest monthly statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) on Wednesday.

Among the Sultanate's non-

oil products, exports of minerals surged by 50.6 per cent to OMR679.8 million, and exports of plastics and rubber shot up by 40.6 per cent year-on-year to OMR166.6 million during the January to October period of 2017.

Further, export revenue from chemical products and base

metals jumped year-on-year by 33.6 per cent and 35.4 per cent to OMR674.2 million and OMR526.8 million, respectively, the NCSI report stated.

Exports of live animals and electrical machinery, however, witnessed a fall during the January to October period of last year.

As part of the country's diversification programme, Oman has been taking several major steps to strengthen its export base of non-oil products, including the mineral sector. Apart from petrochemicals, the Sultanate's focused non-oil export products include processed aluminium, fertilisers, fish, min-

erals, metals and metal products, dates, chemicals, plastic products, detergents, mattresses, and pharmaceuticals.

The country's export promotion agency, Ithraa, not only conducts market surveys in potential export markets, but also organises trade exhibitions to promote Omani products. Re-exports showed a 6.3 per cent fall to OMR1,630.70 million from OMR1,740.2 million during the period under review.

The country's total exports grew by 20.4 per cent to OMR10.20 billion during the January to October period of 2017, from OMR8,469.6 million for the same period of the previous year, mainly on account of a recovery in crude oil prices in the international market.

Export revenue from oil and gas rose by 26.9 per cent to OMR5,965 million for the first 10 months of 2017 from OMR4,700.90 million in the same period of 2016.

Also, the average price of Oman Crude in January 2018 surged by 36.6 per cent to \$60.8 per barrel from \$44.5 a barrel for the same period of last year.

This was against the government's assumed price of \$50 per barrel for estimating the budget revenue for this year.

ECONOMY

LANDMARK GROUP

Bahrain to go ahead with value-added tax, says finance minister

MANAMA: Bahrain will go ahead with imposing a value-added tax (VAT) to strengthen state finances, Minister of Finance Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa said on Wednesday, after domestic political opposition slowed the plan.

"We'll be working with parliament on VAT and aim to have everything set up by the end of 2018," Sheikh Ahmed told an investment conference in Manama, without giving a firm date for when the tax would be launched.

Bahrain, its sovereign debt rated "junk" by major credit rating agencies because of low oil prices, needs to diversify state revenues beyond oil. It originally planned to introduce VAT at a 5 percent rate last month, at the same time as neighbouring Saudi Arabia and the UAE. But the plan ran into resistance from some members of parliament, and last month officials said the government would not proceed with new austerity steps until parliament agreed on a new system to compensate citizens for a higher cost of living.

"We have a system of consensus building, such as parliament. It's vital for Bahrain to go through that process as we diversify," Sheikh Ahmed said, adding that the government was diversifying revenues "not in a panicked way, in a controlled way". He also said the government had no new plans to cut the subsidies it pays to keep down consumer prices of fuel, food and services.

Bahrain is covering its budget deficit partly through international borrowing, and the central bank governor said on Tuesday that the government would return to the international debt markets soon to raise money. "We communicate well with world markets. We make sure they understand how we are dealing with our challenges," Sheikh Ahmed said. —Reuters

Oasis Mall to open in Sohar and Salalah



SHOPPERS DESTINATION: Built over a combined area of 33,000 square metres in Sohar and 35,000 square metres in Salalah, the malls are supported by Landmark Group's vast history of creating innovative businesses, and utilising rich experience and expertise. —Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Landmark Group, one of the largest retail and hospitality conglomerates in the Middle East, Africa and India, has announced Oasis Mall's expansion in Sohar and Salalah. With seven malls across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and another four in the pipeline, Oasis Mall, the leading neighbourhood shopping destination in the region, is set to open by 2018-end in Al Waqiba in Sohar and Square G, New Industrial Area, in Salalah, home to numerous hotels, restaurants, flats and villas.

Built over a combined area of 33,000 square metres in Sohar and 35,000 square metres in Salalah, the malls are supported by Landmark Group's vast history of cre-

ating innovative businesses and utilising its rich experience and expertise. The upcoming malls will be located in vibrant communities and deliver enjoyable experiences to customers.

Oasis Mall will enhance its capabilities and cement its position as a market leader across the retail sector as a leisure and entertainment destination, which will include over 90 outlets in Sohar and 43 outlets in Salalah.

"We are excited as we expand Oasis Mall in the historic cities of Sohar and Salalah in Oman. With malls across the region, all unique because of their positioning and location, the bar is now raised as we look to enhance the experiential factor for consumers," Mark Ruffle, business head at Oasis Mall, said.

"Our mall will further expand the offerings and will be able to generate jobs in retail, food and entertainment. The expansion will not only contribute to Oman's retail sector but also to the country's overall economy," he added.

The upcoming, multi-storey destination will host several of Landmark Group's products and other brands as well, including Centrepoin, Home Centre, Max, Shoexpress and Fun City.

With a focus on implementing sustainability and world-class shops across destinations, and providing a compact, shopping-friendly format with ample parking spaces, Oasis Mall strives to be a "good neighbour" in every way, as part of its commitment to enhance lifestyles in the various communities it serves.

CRUDE SUPPLIES

Opec gets closer to original target of oil cut agreement

run until the end of 2018.

A strong level of adherence by producers to their pledged cuts helped to erode the surplus. Opec said their compliance in January was 133 percent, meaning they were cutting more than pledged and a figure which Al Qahtani said was a record high.

"This conformity level has been very successful in withdrawing the overhang," Al Qahtani told the Energy Institute's IP Week, an annual conference of the oil trading industry in London. The stated goal of the supply-cutting deal was to reduce oil inventories to the five-year average. The surplus of 74 million barrels is the smallest yet reported since the cuts began. But Opec officials are increasingly talking of looking at different metrics. —Reuters

Oil stocks in developed Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) economies, which were 340 million barrels above the five-year average in January 2017, were just 74 million barrels above that level last month, Ayed Al Qahtani, Opec's head of research, told a conference. The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is reducing output by about 1.2 million barrels per day as part of its deal with Russia and other non-Opec producers. The pact began in January 2017 and will

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MARKET



MSM index ends lower

Ahli Bank was the top gainer, while Renaissance Services was the top loser, down by 6.06 per cent.

MUSCAT: The MSM30 Index closed the session at 4,987.37 points, down by 0.26 per cent. The MSM Sharia Index declined by 0.19 per cent to close at 704.85 points. Galfar Engineering was the most active in terms of volume as well as turnover. Ahli Bank was the top gainer while Renaissance Services was the top loser, down by 6.06 per cent.

Industrial Index fell by 0.47 per cent to close at 6,823.68 points. Jazeera Steel Products was the only gainer in the sector and was up by 1.92 per cent to close at OMR0.318.

National Aluminium, Oman Refreshment, Oman Cement and Al Anwar Ceramics declined by 4.13 per cent, 2.50 per cent, 0.99 per cent and 0.76 per cent, respectively.

Services Index declined by 0.76 per cent to close at 2,630.41 points. Ooredoo Oman was the only gainer and was up by 0.39 per cent to close at OMR0.514. Renaissance, National Gas, Jazeera Services and Muscat City Desalination declined by 6.06 per cent, 3.16 per cent, 1.80 per cent and 0.63 per cent, respectively.

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSM30 Index	5,003.25	4,987.22	4,987.37	5,000.48	-13.11	-0.26
Financial Index	7,392.70	7,355.38	7,355.62	7,390.28	-34.66	-0.47
Industrial Index	6,862.11	6,823.68	6,823.68	6,847.87	-24.19	-0.35
Services Index	2,651.08	2,630.33	2,630.41	2,650.48	-20.07	-0.76
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	706.28	704.85	704.85	706.19	-1.34	-0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
15,538,302	1,860,494	833	17,904,123,507	3	15	26	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002176	ALJAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	34,100	10,844	4	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.006	1.923	0.318	0.318	0.322	0.100	39,717,551
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	90,560	46,496	32	0.516	0.516	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.002	0.381	0.514	0.514	0.520	0.100	334,585,334
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	45,000	17,010	5	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.000	0.000	0.378	0.378	0.386	0.100	37,900,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,600	1,280	2	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.100	126,000,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	3,000	2,364	2	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.000	0.000	0.788	0.788	0.784	0.100	159,200,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	85,713	9,310	10	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.108	0.110	0.100	218,034,094
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	353,250	46,438	20	0.132	0.133	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.000	0.000	0.131	0.131	0.133	0.100	26,200,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	3,000	5,100	1	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.700	0.000	0.000	1.700	1.700	1.700	0.100	165,300,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	310,554	127,506	58	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.410	0.414	0.100	1,110,838,360
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	74,536	82,272	48	1.105	1.120	1.105	1.110	1.110	0.000	0.000	1.120	1.115	1.120	0.100	852,500,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	62	31	1	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.498	0.498	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.490	0.500	0.100	35,250,930
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	40,000	5,200	5	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	-0.001	-0.763	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.100	38,507,779
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	39,130	15,738	11	0.404	0.404	0.402	0.402	0.402	0.004	-0.985	0.402	0.392	0.402	0.100	133,010,829
OM0000004768	AI MADINA TAKAFUL	406,550	36,996	26	0.091	0.092	0.090	0.091	0.092	-0.001	-1.087	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	15,925,000
OM0000002228	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	74,000	12,165	12	0.168	0.168	0.162	0.164	0.167	-0.003	-1.796	0.162	0.162	0.165	0.100	10,375,501
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	68,651	10,777	8	0.158	0.158	0.156	0.157	0.160	-0.003	-1.875	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.100	31,400,000
OM0000003398	BANK SOHAR	201,109	30,655	15	0.154	0.154	0.152	0.152	0.156	-0.004	-2.564	0.154	0.152	0.154	0.100	271,266,229
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	172,364	52,834	18	0.310	0.310	0.304	0.306	0.316	-0.010	-3.185	0.304	0.300	0.310	0.100	18,360,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HOLDING	534,095	62,294	30	0.123	0.123	0.115	0.117	0.123	-0.006	-4.878	0.115	0.114	0.118	0.100	10,530,000
TOTAL		19	2,537,274	575,765	308											
PARALLEL MARKET																
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	100,000	16,000	2	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.005	3.106	0.166	0.162	0.166	0.100	236,556,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINE. INV.	125,114	24,037	18	0.199	0.199	0.190	0.192	0.192	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.186	0.192	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	52,000	6,997	10	0.138	0.138	0.134	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.100	16,875,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	18,100	2,063	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.100	32,533,966
OM0000001681	OMAN AND EMIRATES INV.HOLDING	162,150	18,019	10	0.112	0.112	0.109	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	13,528

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MKT

Sohar Port inks deal with Dutch company

An agreement was signed between Sohar Port and Freezone and the Netherlands' Strukton International for developing a wastewater treatment plant.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sohar Port and Freezone and Netherlands-based Strukton International for the development of a revolutionary wastewater treatment plant at the port.

The agreement was signed on



HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION: The agreement was signed on the sidelines of a visit of Sigrid Kaag, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Foreign Trade and Development for the Netherlands, and Laetitia van Asch, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Oman. - Supplied picture

the sidelines of the visit of Sigrid Kaag, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Foreign Trade and Development for the Netherlands, and Laetitia van Asch, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Oman.

The proposed treatment plant uses the new Verdigo modular technology for efficient and environmentally responsible waste water treatment. The new technology allows the treatment plant to rapidly scale operational capacity and deliver sustainable options for waste water reuse for

industry or greenhouses, making a considerable reduction in traditional water and energy demands at the port and free zone.

Wastewater treatment

"We have named 2018 as the year of "Smarter Thinking" at Sohar, and our MoU with Strukton International for an innovative waste water treatment plant underlines our commitment to maximise our use of existing resources. There are many examples of smarter thinking at play in Sohar. We're in the process of installing PV

solar cells around our head office, which will significantly reduce the amount of electricity drawn from the power grid. We are also conducting a feasibility study to convert our port vehicles to run on hydrogen, which is an underutilised by-product of the industry at Sohar," Mark Geilenkirchen, CEO of Sohar Port, said.

Sohar Port and Freezone welcomed Kaag and van Asch, along with a high-level delegation, on Tuesday.

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/business](#)

ENERGY DEMAND

BP sees electric vehicles crimping oil demand by 2040

LONDON: The emergence of self-driving electric cars and travel sharing are set to dent oil consumption by 2040, oil and gas giant BP said, forecasting a peak in demand for the first time.

In its benchmark annual Energy Outlook, BP forecast a 100-fold growth in electric vehicles (EVs) by 2040, with its chief economist Spencer Dale painting a world in which we travel much more but instead of using private cars, we increasingly share trips in autonomous vehicles.

While travel demand more than doubles over the period as economies in countries such as China and India grow, higher oil demand will be more than offset by increased engine efficiency standards as well as the larger number of EVs and shared travelling.

Share of electric vehicles

Unlike many other forecasts, including previous BP Energy Outlooks, which looked solely at the growing share of EVs in the car fleet, BP this year focused on the share of vehicles kilometres powered by electricity. Under BP's Evolving Transition scenario, which assumes that policies and technology continue to evolve at a speed similar to that seen in the recent past, some 30 per cent of car kilometres are powered by electricity by 2040 from almost zero in 2016.

At the same time, the number of EVs is set to increase from 3 million today to over 320 million by 2040, representing roughly 15 per cent out of a total car fleet of 2 billion.

The gap between the increasing number of EVs on the road and the kilometres powered by electricity is due to the expected growth in so-called shared mobility by EVs, Dale said.

"Cars will be used much more intensely over time," Dale told reporters in a briefing on Monday ahead of the release of the report on Tuesday.

As a result, fuel demand from



AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES: BP expects autonomous vehicles to become available in the early 2020s. - Times file picture

the car fleet is forecast to dip to 18.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2040 from 18.7 million bpd in 2016, when it represented around one fifth of total oil demand, according to BP.

Cheaper rides

BP expects autonomous vehicles to become available in the early 2020s. Their initial high cost means the vast majority of the cars will be bought by fleets offering shared mobility services.

The average electric car is expected to be driven about two and a half times more than an internal combustion car, according to Dale.

"What we expect to see in the 2030s is a huge growth in shared mobility autonomous cars... Once you don't have to pay for a driver, the cost of taking one of those share mobility fleets services will fall by about 40 or 50 per cent," Dale said.

The vast majority of the shared mobility is expected to be EVs because of their lower maintenance costs.

Car makers including General Motors and high-tech giants such as Google Waymo and Uber Tech-

nologies have poured billions into the autonomous vehicles industry hoping gain a first-mover advantage. Robo-taxi services are seen as the main use for most self-driving vehicles.

BP sharply raised its estimate of growth in electric vehicles in the coming decades from last year's forecast that EVs would reach 100 million by 2035. The big upwards revision is due to an increase in hybrid cars and an expected sharp growth in EV purchases in the second half of the 2030s, Dale said.

London-based BP joined other oil companies such as Royal Dutch Shell in forecasting a peak for oil demand in the late 2030s, when it is expected to slightly decline at around 110 million bpd.

It did not foresee a peak in demand in its previous outlooks that stretched into 2035.

While the transportation sector will continue to dominate the growth in oil consumption, demand for plastic manufacturing will become the main source of growth in the 2030s. - Reuters

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REFINED PRODUCTS

US refiners turn to export markets

LONDON: US gasoline consumption has levelled off as the stimulus provided by low and falling oil prices between 2014 and 2016 has faded, so refiners are increasingly turning to diesel and customers in emerging markets.

US gasoline consumption is forecast to rise by just 40,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2018, after remaining essentially unchanged last year, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Slower consumption growth stands in contrast to the earlier surge when usage rose by almost 260,000 bpd in 2015 and another 140,000 bpd in 2016.

Traffic volumes are also growing more slowly, after rising sharply during most of 2015 and 2016, according to separate estimates from the Federal Highway Administration.

Traffic on US roads was up by less than one per cent in the three months to November compared with the same period a year earlier.

Traffic growth has slowed from a peak of well over 3 per cent per year in the early part of 2016, shortly after oil prices hit their lowest point in the current cycle.

Oil prices have been trending higher for more than two years and are now within \$10 per barrel of their average real level over the

entire of the last cycle.

So while the cost of fuel is not expensive, it is no longer especially cheap, and the steady increase in prices has started to moderate consumption growth.

The nationwide weighted-average retail price of gasoline was \$2.67 per gallon in January, an increase of more than 60 cents per gallon compared with two years previously.

If oil prices continue to climb through the remainder of 2018 and into 2019 as the price cycle matures, US gasoline consumption growth will likely slow even further.

After two years in 2015/16 when the US motorists provided a significant boost to global oil demand, the main drivers of demand growth are rotating towards diesel and the emerging economies of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Freight volumes are rising at some of the fastest rates this decade in the United States and around the rest of the world.

Since almost all cargo is moved by high-powered engines on ships, trucks and railroads that use diesel fuel, freight growth is providing a major stimulus for diesel consumption. - Reuters

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KENYAN WOMEN CLUB TOGETHER TO LEAVE SLUM LIFE BEHIND

With people migrating from rural areas in search of jobs as local farm business suffer from extreme weather and rising food imports, the rapid pace of urbanisation has pushed 56 per cent of Kenya's city dwellers into slums.

The thought of getting old, retiring and still living in a slum used to scare Emma Ochieng. Now the 55-year-old primary teacher has a new house on an estate about a 45-minute drive from the city of Kisumu in western Kenya.

For over 20 years, the single mother of one lived in Kisumu's overcrowded Nyalenda slum, polluted by poor drainage, waste, noise and high crime rates.

"Staying in a decent neighbourhood was beyond my means," Ochieng told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Owning a house in the city was but a wild dream!"

But in 2015, she began contributing 500 Kenyan shillings (\$4.95) per month to the Nyalenda Housing Cooperative, part of the Kisumu Local Urban Forum which helps members in five of the city's slums access decent housing.

Ochieng also joined Kenya's National Cooperative Housing Union (NACHU), an umbrella body that builds affordable homes for low-income earners on estates known as "greenfields".

With people migrating from rural areas in search of jobs as local farm business suffer from extreme weather and rising food imports, the rapid pace of urbanisation has pushed 56 per cent of Kenya's city dwellers into slums.

"Informal structures are coming up faster than government planning," said George Wasonga, CEO of the Civil Society Urban Development Platform. "People are moving into areas before the government can offer infrastructure for basic services like roads, water, sewer connections, electricity and security."

Today, across the globe, nearly one billion people live in slums and informal settlements in

about 100,000 cities — about a quarter of the urban population.

Many are located on riverbanks or near dump sites and industrial areas, often on degraded soils and in swampy, steep or flood-prone areas susceptible to disasters.

Poorly constructed homes expose communities to extreme temperatures, a lack of ventilation and toxic waste — all detrimental to their health.

Of the 10 million more people added each year to sub-Saharan Africa's urban population, 7 million end up in slums. Only 2 million of them can expect to move out to a better environment, according to figures quoted in a 2016 UN report on slums.

Saving groups

Ochieng is one of the lucky ones. She got the key to her two-roomed house in April 2016, enabling her to leave the Nyalenda slum.

Jessica Wekesa, NACHU's Nyanza regional coordinator, explained how the cooperative assists people to save on a small scale so they can acquire their own land and homes.

In groups of 20, they identify a suitable parcel of land. NACHU then conducts a background check and helps them register the land, also making a loan for its purchase.

The organisation constructs starter homes of two rooms with a bathroom and kitchen, and hands them over to the owners, who can expand their property into a three-bedroom house.

Over a few years, the client pays for the land, the starter home and related services at a 14 per cent rate on the reducing balance of their loan, after which they get the title deed.

In the past seven years, NACHU and its partners have built about 2,000 housing units in seven regions of Kenya for low-income earners, ranging from small traders to motorcycle taxi operators and teachers.

"We use cheap, locally available technology," said George Kopallah, coordinator of the Kisumu Local Urban Forum. "We have been using bricks made from sand mixed with water and exposed to high heat."

Ochieng said each member of her group was expected to save at least 140,000 shillings, which took her about a year.

The 20 people in her scheme split into groups of five, and lent each other money from their pooled savings at 10 per cent interest, sharing out the additional income at the end of the year.

"This helped me grow my savings for the house, as well pay school fees for my daughter," she said.

Ochieng's house cost 704,000 shillings, including her share of the communal land on which the homes were built. She expects to secure her title deed by April 2019 after paying back her loan.

Meanwhile, she has also borrowed money from the bank to extend her sitting area with iron sheeting.

Esther Akinyi, a 41-year-old mother of two, said the micro-savings group had helped her cope with unpredictable income from her printing and design business.

"As a widow, bearing the family burden on your own can be draining at times," she said.

The loan from the group allowed her to cover school fees, while building up her business — although she won't expand her home until she has paid back what she owes.

National push

As cities around the world expand, local leaders and activists at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur this week are working out how to make them more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in line with global development goals.

The New Urban Agenda, adopted by UN member states in 2016, recommends that gov-

ernments should put housing at the centre of national and local development policies.

Kenya's government intends to construct 200,000 social homes to improve living conditions for the poor in slums, and 800,000 affordable houses for better-off families over the next five years.

The private sector will cover 60 per cent of the overall cost of 2.6 trillion shillings, with 30 per cent coming from the National Social Security Fund and 10 per cent from the treasury.

As part of this effort, the Kisumu County government intends to build 10,000 social housing units using imported prefabricated panels of fibre cement and galvanised steel.

As yet unnamed private investors will fund the project, says the county government, which plans to set aside special economic zones offering free land to developers to reduce the cost.

For now, in Nyalenda, 40 families have benefited from new homes, while the cooperative has secured 5 acres (2 hectares) of land to put up 100 more units.

Nyalenda Housing Cooperative Chairman Valentine Odhiambo said the aim was for its 325 members — around two-thirds of them women — to have "a place not just to call home but within a non-hazardous environment, protecting them from extremes of changing climatic conditions and pollution".

In the meantime, Ochieng is much happier than she was in the slum, where she spent at least 600 shillings each month buying water to cook and do laundry.

Now she has cut her water bill by almost a third, and has enough for a shower and a toilet — and even to irrigate her vegetables.

"Though it's been a long journey, it's a rewarding journey," she said. "My future and that of my daughter is secured."

— Thomson Reuters Foundation

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ROUND-UP

OGWA to bring international, local oil and gas companies from the GCC

The OGWA-SPE Exhibition & Conference 2018 will be held from March 26-28 and will be hosted under the auspices of the Ministry of Oil & Gas and supported by PDO and Opal



MUSCAT: Amid the current oil situation, the oil and gas sector remains optimistic about the prospects and the sector's continuous growth and development; and what these opportunities represent for oil and gas companies.

Executives from biggest exhibitions and conferences organiser Omanexpo, along with a distinguished panel from the oil and gas sector addressed the media in a press conference recently for its 11th edition of Oil & Gas West Asia (OGWA) Exhibition and Conference, held at the Grand Hyatt Muscat Hotel.

The panel included key industry

individuals such as Dr Sultan Al Shidhani, Petroleum Engineering manager of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and OGWA-SPE Technical Committee Chairman, Michelle Boyd, director of Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia; Musallam Al Mandhari, CEO, Oman Society for Petroleum Services (Opal), Shabib Al Maamari, Communication & External Affairs manager, BP Oman, Murtaza Firoz, executive director, Vanguard Engineering & Oilfield Services, Hamza Qarooni, VP, Gulf Energy, along with Nader Abbas, general manager of Omanexpo.

The OGWA-SPE Exhibition & Conference 2018 will be held from March 26-28 and will be hosted under the auspices of the Ministry of Oil & Gas and supported by PDO and Opal. Mohammad bin Al Zubair, the adviser to His Majesty the Sultan for Economic Planning Affairs, will formally open the event.

Since its launch in 1998, the OGWA-SPE Exhibition and Conference has grown and known to become one of the most important and recognised oil and gas events in the region. In Oman, it has become the landmark event for the

sector, playing a major role in helping boost government initiatives to open paths to viable alternatives to the current extraction and explorations techniques and technologies, provide a ready platform to present key projects and potential business and investment opportunities, and encourage trade.

The SPE EOR Conference, held alongside the OGWA exhibition, will feature a keynote panel session and an executive plenary session where distinguished industry leaders from the Ministry of Oil and Gas, Oman, will share their

views of the industry's successes and progress made in enhanced oil recovery in addition to enhancing the industry's contributions to socio-economic developments. Technical sessions will cover the latest advances in chemical EOR, thermal EOR, miscible gas injection EOR and low salinity water flooding and much more.

Over the years, this event has become a hub for professionals from around the globe to meet in one place to share their experiences and discuss new technologies and advances in EOR.

This year, the exhibition will be held for the first time at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre and will showcase over 300 companies representing 19 countries. Highlighting the exhibition are six country pavilions (China, Iran, Italy, India, Egypt and the SPE Technology Pavilion), and the ICV Riyada Pavilion, where with the support of Strategic Partner Business Gateways, it will present about 130 companies who will showcase their profiles at the Riyada JSRS e-marketplace and 10 stands at the exhibition.

TECHNOLOGY DONE RIGHT

2018 Chevrolet Traverse offers seamless, thoughtful technology



view of the area behind the vehicle, without the obstruction of head restraints, rear-seat passengers or cargo.

Another available feature that enhances driver awareness and occupant safety is rear cross traffic alert. The system can detect an approaching vehicle during a reversing manoeuvre and apply the brakes if the driver does not respond to the warnings.

Furthermore, the array of active safety technology is complemented by unwavering passive safety features such as 7 airbags, including Front Center Side-Impact Air Bag pioneered by the older generation Traverse.

The 2018 Traverse also offers a vast selection of connectivity features to minimise driver distraction. At the heart of the Traverse's advanced connectivity is Chevrolet's award-winning MyLink system, which is available with 7- and 8-inch-diagonal touchscreens. The system mirrors the

layout of a smartphone and supports Apple CarPlay.

The inclusion of Siri Eyes-Free,

meanwhile, allows the driver to control several vehicle functions using voice commands, without the need to take the eyes off the road or hands off the wheel.

Finally, a new Rear Seat Reminder feature is standard on all trims. It activates when the rear doors are opened or closed, up to 10 minutes before or anytime the vehicle is on. The Traverse displays a reminder to double check the rear seats for valuables, once the vehicle is turned off under certain conditions.

While the abundance of technology can become intrusive in most vehicles with a multitude of beeps and warning lights, their application in the Traverse is seamless. The computers ensure progress is safe, smooth and convenient without becoming a distraction. Just the way you would expect in a Chevrolet.

With the abundance of technology can become intrusive in most vehicles with a multitude of beeps and warning lights, their application in the Traverse is seamless. The computers ensure progress is safe, smooth and convenient without becoming a distraction. Just the way you would expect in a Chevrolet.

Also on offer is the innovative rear mirror camera. This segment-exclusive rear-view mirror acts as both a conventional mirror and video display for a wide-angle, high-resolution camera. In camera mode, it provides a full

ANNUAL SPORTS MEET



McDonald's supports children with special needs

MUSCAT: McDonald's Oman (Al Daud Restaurants) honoured the spirit of sportsmanship by supporting the annual sports meet of children with special needs organised by the Indian School Muscat - Center for Special Education.

Held under the theme 'Orenda 2018', the event gathered all children with special needs along with their families and friends at the Indian School's playground.

McDonald's Oman is active on making feel-good moments and supporting activities and events

organised by various communities. Its dynamic involvement in kids' and youth's sports activities and local charities is a sheer demonstration of its ongoing commitment to give back to the local community, which is an essential part of the way it operates.

ENGAGING EXPERIENCE

Muscat Bay hosts 'Yogathon'



our visitors the feeling of being far from downtown, thus allowing our visitors to escape their busy city lives.

"It is these qualities that make Muscat Bay the ideal place to host activities as relaxing as yoga."

Marksim Karki, founder of Yoga Shaala said, "Yoga and music both teach us to participate in the unknown and partake in something greater than ourselves. This combination in a class setting creates an interconnection between everyone in the room and facilitates a bond of unity. The key purpose of the

'Yogathon' was to be able to establish an engaging experience for yoga buffs in the local community and enable them to build an enjoyable social relationship with like-minded individuals."

"We are glad to have been able to host the 'Yogathon' and extend our gratitude to Yoga Shaala and all the yoga teachers who prepared the marvellous array of workshops. We look forward to be a part of any similar events they may have in the future and to encourage a healthy and relaxing lifestyle for our community in Oman," Paul added.

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Toyota Prius stands out as a global hybrid icon

The Toyota Prius is by far the world's most successful hybrid that has been spearheading a new era in hybrid technology across the Middle East

MUSCAT: As the present is increasingly veering towards an alternative energy source, automakers are scrambling for solutions that can brighten experiences.

Toyota Motor Corporation has been instrumental in pioneering Hybrid Electric technology way back in 1995 with the introduction of the first Prius. From then on, every generation has set an unprecedented benchmark in the industry by introducing possibilities that many can be inspired by.

Toyota Prius stands out as a global hybrid icon. Every detail has been optimised to make it both advanced and efficient. Its cutting-edge lightweight materials, combined with its proven hybrid technology, all work harmoniously to enhance performance while maximising and redefining efficiency.

The Toyota Prius is by far the world's most successful hybrid that has been spearheading a new era in hybrid technology across the Middle East.

The fourth-generation Prius not only brings ground-breaking technology & performance to the fore but also encompasses a fun-to-drive-spirit that promises to

appeal to driving enthusiasts. Creating a significant impact in terms of sustainable mobility, the Prius stands apart with a striking design that complements its refined interiors. It delivers superb driving dynamics with remarkable engine performance & fuel economy. Its advanced safety technologies signify comprehensive protection for passengers.

The Prius design is based on Toyota's Iconic Human-tech design philosophy of fusing emotional and rational vehicle factors. The exterior of the Prius hints at the car's advanced functions while also expressing its fun-to-drive spirit, creating an instant and lasting impression.

The Prius has advanced full-colour, dual 4.2-inch TFT displays with a full-colour meter that has high brightness, contrast and precision. The colour Head-Up Display (HUD) projects a range of important information – from driver alerts to navigation, speed and an energy meter – on to the windscreen in the driver's line of sight. The audio system harmonises the ride, with 10 JBL speakers placed optimally throughout the cabin.

It is a symbol of Toyota's innovative nature and inherits Toyota's legendary QDR (Quality, Durability and Reliability). Combining improved aerodynamics, excellent handling and comprehensive safety features with an elegant interior designed to pamper its occupants, the Prius represents another step forward for Toyota's renowned hybrid technology.

The Prius is a superior hybrid and eminently versatile. Unlike most of the other hybrids, the Prius can be driven completely by electrical power or with a combination of electric motor and gaso-

line engine depending on the driving behaviour.

Based on the advanced Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA) – an innovative, integrated development program for powertrain components and vehicle platforms – the all-new Prius takes the hybrid driving experience to another level, thanks to a lower centre of gravity, increased body rigidity and improved suspension.

The Prius sets high standards for safety with an impressive array of active and passive features. These include 7 airbags to protect the driver and passengers. There are also 3-point seatbelts with ELR (Emergency Locking Retractor), pre-tensioners and force limiters. The Electronically Controlled Brake System employs a newly developed Active Hydraulic Booster. It also incorporates active safety features such as the Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and Traction Control (TRC).

It also boasts advanced features such as Regenerative Braking (A system that charges the battery when brakes are applied and during deceleration), Lane Change Assist with Blind Spot Monitor (Developed to warn the driver if there is a vehicle on either side while changing the lane). The Rear Cross Traffic Alert (Helps the driver when backing out from a parking space by detecting vehicles approaching from the right or left, on the rear of the vehicle)

In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive support Toyota's outstanding product quality.

PARTICIPATION

Bank Muscat supports global risk management conference at SQU



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial services provider in the Sultanate, in step with its commitment to promote best practices in service and business operations, extended support and participated in the first international risk management conference hosted by Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) under the auspices of Sheikh Dr Al Khatib bin Ghalib Al Hinai, deputy chairman of the State Council.

The conference addressed by experts highlighted risks faced by higher education institutions, public and private sector institutions. The conference addressed the challenges facing institutions in today's rapidly changing environment, covering a wide range of topics in risk management and health, safety and environment. Panel discussions focused on risks facing society such as risks of social networks, projects and investment.

Sakina Al Shahi, IT Internal Audit Manager – Bank Muscat, made a presentation highlighting risks in projects. The bank's risk management practices are benchmarked to industry best practices. An independent risk management function ensures that risk is managed through a well-designed architecture as well as through policies and processes approved by the Board of Directors, encompassing independent identification, measurement and management of risks across the various businesses of the bank.

The bank reckons risk management as an area of core competence and focuses on refining and improving its risk management systems and strengthens its enterprise-wide risk management framework.

The conference provided the participants with a broad overview of the best practices in di-

The conference addressed by experts highlighted risks faced by higher education institutions, public and private sector institutions. The conference addressed the challenges facing institutions in today's rapidly changing environment, covering a wide range of topics in risk management and health, safety and environment

verse areas of risk management and the tools in use for measuring and reporting risk. The participants commented that the conference reflected a pro-active approach to risk management. Against the backdrop of the increasing complexities and challenges facing institutions in the current global operating environment, the conference helped to focus on issues aimed at ensuring business continuity under diverse risk environment as well as measures for an effective risk management framework.

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ROUND-UP



Abeer begins its journey in Oman

Abeer Hospital in Ruwi High Street is a multispecialty modern medical facility. The hospital which is a 100-bed facility in its full capacity utilisation offers dedicated parking and valet parking facilities for the patients

MUSCAT: Abeer Medical Group had a soft launch of its first hospital at Ruwi, Muscat marking its entry to the Sultanate of Oman.

Abeer Hospital in Ruwi High Street is a multispecialty modern medical facility. The hospital which is a 100-bed facility in its full capacity utilisation offers dedicated parking and valet parking facilities for the patients.

Arguably the fastest growing healthcare network in the Middle East, Abeer Medical Group has established its presence in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, India and Oman. Abeer is known for its quality and affordable healthcare. Abeer Medical Group is holding and operating six hospitals and 25 medical centres across GCC and India.

The healthcare facilities are top-notch medical centres and hospitals catering to the healthcare needs of many million people every year.

"We as a group strive for excellence in healthcare delivery and the very essence of the thought is ingrained in the culture and DNA of Abeer. The growth and expansion have only increased our commitment to our core values and vision," commented Alungal Mohammed, president - Abeer Group, on the launch of the new hospital.

According to Jabir Valiyakath, vice president - Finance & International Business, Abeer has a clearly defined strategy of expanding to new territories in the Mena region, which is an extremely attractive prospect. Growth in the healthcare sector in this region is driven by population growth, ageing, demographics, increase in lifestyle diseases, mandatory health insurance regulations and a move towards medical tourism.

The Abeer Hospital in Ruwi, the first venture in the Sultanate is a multispecialty medical institution providing cutting-edge technology, world-class infrastructure, offering services at affordable cost.

"It is important to provide safe and comfortable healing space for better clinical outcomes," remarked Dr Jemshith Ahmed, vice president - Strategy & Planning, Abeer Medical Group on the superior inpatient rooms.

"We take this opportunity to acknowledge the visionary leadership of the rulers of the nation, the support from the ministries and public which has been the impetus to the project and the future plans of Abeer in Oman," remarked Jayan K, vice president.

"Abeer Hospital, Ruwi Muscat would benefit from the large reservoir of clinical talent within the group and it is our goal to make a positive contribution to the healthcare sector in Oman," said Jamsheer Hamza, director - Operations, Oman."

EXHIBITION

Maserati takes part in IDF Oman

MUSCAT: Alfardan Motors, the official Maserati importer in Oman, participated in the fifth edition of the popular IDF Oman to showcase the impressive Maserati Levante and Levante S, both of which stand out for their design, performance and exclusive interiors by Italian fashion label Ermenegildo Zegna.

Two variants of first-ever SUV by Maserati - Levante and Levante S - captivated the hearts of automobile enthusiasts at IDF Oman, the interior design, décor and furniture exhibition, held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre recently.



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25 - 27*	22 - 24*	22 - 24	

*R.a.K (Rub al Khalij) Empty Quarter. Entry from Al Ghaba

** All other event dates are in Sharqiyah Desert.

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Contact- 90614096

Email: careergrowth84@yahoo.in

Very well local market experienced passionate, self-motivated, highly optimistic go-getter is looking for Sales & Marketing opening for any high value products or services in and out of Oman.

Contact- 99011006

Email: paulfreyo0@gmail.com

Sales Manager - Mechanical

15 years of Oman exposure, Energetic Indian MBA, experienced in Oilfield products, Heavy Equipments, Generators, Compressors, Building Materials, Construction, seeks suitable placement in a suitable position.

Contact - 90920969

SENIOR MANAGER SALES & PROJECTS

9 Years experience in Oman, Proficient in Business Development, Sale Strategy, Project Delivery, Account Management, Selling Integrated Solution, Budgeting & Forecasting, Procurement & Cost Control, Inventory Management, Negotiating, Recruitment & Training. Looking for job.

Contact - 97584315

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Sri Lankan with several years experience in Oman in Post & Pre-contract. Quantity survey works seeks suitable placement.

Contact- 99880157

Email: armsam2015@gmail.com

ACCOUNTING & MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL

30+ Years experience in India (7 in Oman) Finalization, MIS Reports, Budgeting, Tax, VAT, Inventory Management & General Management. Seeking suitable placement. NOC available.

CONTACT - 99359254

DRIVER

Light driver job. Contact 98853810

8 Years GCC experience in heavy vehicle driving & crane operating. Have Valid Saudi license, knows Arabic, Hindi & English. Contact- 92699773, 99070502

Light Driver looking for a job. Nationality Pakistan, with 5 years Oman experience. Contact- 91336263

4 Years experienced driver looking for job. Contact- 94236323

Bangladeshi male light driver, 16 years of experience, age 48 years, need job and visa transfer with release paper. Contact- 99165961

Indian Driver 12 years Oman experience. Contact- 99501396

12 Years experienced driver looking for job. Contact- 97608511

Bangladeshi male light driver, experience 2 years, need job. Contact- 95039264

Indian male heavy driver looking for job. Contact- 90927203

Two years of experience in light driving, looking for job. Contact- 94008627

Driver with car. Contact- 91355972

Driving job, experience 5 years, age 26, knowing Arabic, Hindi & English. Contact- 93705571

Looking for light driving job. Contact- 95301943, 92683498

Bangladeshi male looking for driving job, 8 years Oman experience. Contact- 99327665

5 Years experienced driver looking for job. Contact- 98440049

6 Years of experience in driving looking for job. Contact- 96651934

Bangladeshi male Driver with 10 years of experience, looking for job. Contact- 92937803

Pakistani male heavy driver having PDO passport with seven years Omani experience. LTV and HTV license available, need job and visa transfer available. Contact- 93687299, 94356826

Light vehicle driver, Oman license, 3 years of Muscat experience, looking for placement. Contact- 96611370

Driver with car 3 years experience. Contact- 96721538

Bangladeshi male light driver with 6 years experience, need job. Contact- 98072915

Driver with 8 years of experience (GCC) looking for job. Contact 91060017

Driving job, experience 5 years, age 26, knowing Arabic, Hindi & English. Contact 93705571

Driving job wanted language Arabic, Hindi Contact 94563012

4 Years experience in driving looking for job. Contact- 97658070

Driver with car 3 years experience. Contact- 97379365

Light driver job. Contact 97020205

Bangladeshi male with D/L, long experience in Oman, looking for heavy driving job. Contact 90209309

Electrician and driver 7 years (GCC) experience looking for job Contact 96936462

Driver with car, hotel delivery job. Contact- 94393808, 79173731

3 Years experienced Driver Indian (Keralite) Contact- 71931615

ENGG. / TECH./MECH.

Indian male Mechanical engineer with nebosh certificate(UK standard). Looking for suitable placement. Contact- 79374339

Email: ahamedsameer786@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS

15 Years experienced Accountant looking for suitable position. Last 10 years in Oman. Indian male. NOC available. Contact: 98042943 Email: cb3415@gmail.com

Indian male 25 years, MBA Finance, 2 years exp in accounts/ finance filed. Looking for suitable position, on visit visa. Contact 92588329 Email: qomanshaik@gmail.com

A CA having experience over 20 years in Accounting as per IAS/ IFRS, bank arrangements, cash flow, budgeting, cost allocations and ERP implementation mainly in Construction and manufacturing industries seeks managerial position. Contact- 91741230 Email: maqsoman@yahoo.com

Accountant male (CA) intermediate, 6 years of experience of Accounts up to Finalization (2 years experience in Oman) seeking suitable placement. Ready to join immediately, NOC available. Contact- 79049355 / 7120610

A dynamic finance professional with 5.6 years of rich experience in F&A. Accounts Payable, Sox Audit, Us taxation, VMF, Forecasting & MIS Reporting experience with SAP Oracle and MS Excel knowledge - On Visit Visa. Details - 2SM. Contact- 97528785 & +91 9962094329 Sarathkumarcpl991@gmail.com

Indian male 25 years MBA (Finance) 2 years experience in Cash Application & Accounts looking for suitable position, on visit visa. Contact- 97639183 Email: daniyalkd7@gmail.com

Chartered Accountant and MBA, 29 years Indian male with 3+ years of experience and excellent communication skills looking for immediate openings in Muscat. Contact- 97127343

Accountant with 2 years experience in Contracting and Sales in Oman, on visit visa, can speak Arabic and English. Contact- 96459105

Indian male 12 years of Dubai experience with Dubai D/L. B.Com and MBA finance pursuing, knowledge ERP Applications and MS Applications. Experts in fin reports & reports seeking senior accountant & accounting position. Contact- 71152039 Email: shamshy1983@gmail.com

Accounts /Admin Indian male on visit 10 years experience in Gen. Accounts, Admin & Purchase looking for urgent placement. Contact- 92082708

Indian male MBA (F) with 7 years of experience as an Accountant proficiency in various A/C software SAP(FI/Co) D/L NOC available. Contact 98665219 Email: abdulhameed1527@gmail.com

Exp. Accountant, M.Com, proficient in Tally, NOC available. Contact: 99035707

Part time Accountant 10 years experience up to Finalization day to day Accounts, holding Balance sheet making. Contact- 92290584

Indian male ICMA having about 20 years GCC experience in Finance and Accounts, with D/L. Looking for a senior position in the same field. Contact- 90214044

Accountant: Indian Male 34 years (B.Com) having 9+ years accounts exp in Oman, looking for suitable placement. Holding Oman D/L. NOC available & ready to join immediately. Contact- 97494322. mail: manusodharan83@gmail.com

Indian male 12 years Dubai experienced with Dubai D/L B.com & MBH finance pursuing knowledge of ERP application and ms office preparation financial statement and MIS report seeking Senior Accountant position. Contact 71152039 Email: shamshy1983@gmail.com

Young indian male, MBA (Finance), B.Com, with 3 years experience in accounts seeks suitable placement. Mob.99709336

Indian male on visit having 7 years of experience in Accounts, looking for job. Contact- 71572864 Email: sknayeeem20@yahoo.com

Indian Male, on visit, Bcom Graduate having 2 years experience in Procurement, Looking for suitable job in Procurement / Accounts Contact 91736363/ Email: rishalpc@gmail.com

Female Senior Accountant with D/L. 7 Years of experience. Contact- 95921553

Chartered Accountant, Indian female, having 3+ years exp in industry and audit. Seeking placement. Contact- 92760162 / khushbumehtha02@gmail.com

5 Years experienced Accountant looking for suitable job. NOC+D/L Available. Contact 91367217

Qualified Chartered Accountant & ACS 11+ years managerial experience, looking for immediate opening, open to any GCC. Contact- 90788509 Email: kartirevy@gmail.com

MBA Finance, Indian male 25 years Accountant, 3 years of experience in accounts, looking for suitable job. On visit visa. Contact: 97670010. Email: shaikishaq393@gmail.com

Srilankan Accountant 24 years CA, looking for a suitable placement, 3 years experience with Tally & QB in Accounting capable of handling up to finalizing Accounts .Contact 97584350 Email: amjadeen777@gmail.com

Part time senior Accountant with 15 years experience in Accounting, Finance, Auditing and Tax Management. Contact 96180434

Finance Manager MBA Finance with 19 years experience in Multinational Oil & Gas industry Contact 96263157

Indian Senior Accountant, B.Com, 8+ years of experience, Accounts up to finalization, Tally, SAP. With driving license & NOC. Contact- 71971292

M.Com Graduate having work experience of 20 years in Oman as a Chief Accountant in Salalah needs a job. Contact 98788089

Indian Female, 25 years M.Com with 4 year experience as Accountant, on visit visa, seeks suitable placement. Contact 99426920

Sri Lankan female Chartered Accountant and a B.Sc. Business Administration (Special) graduate, carrying over 12 years experience out of which 9 years managerial level experience with valid Oman D/L, seeking for a suitable position in accounting, auditing, taxation and consultancy field. Contact 95470150

Sri Lankan Female ACCA Qualified Accountant with B.Sc. (Accounting) looking for suitable job. 3 Years experience, knowledge in Tally ERP, QuickBooks. Contact: 97913734, Email: noora_nizar@live.co.uk

Indian male MBA (Fin) MCA 11years experience in Gulf, 9 years in Oman, proficiency in management accounts internal audit. Having valid D/L, seeking immediate placement. Contact: 96974637 Email: goutam14b@gmail.com

Indian lady 31 yrs, MBA in Finance with 6 yrs accounts & admin experience in Muscat, having D/L & NOC, seeking better placement. Contact 96963124.

Indian male M.Com, CMA(Final), LLB, 20years(10 years Gulf) ERP & Tally finalization,cash flow, budget & costing, with NOC, seek suitable position. Contact- 97557689

Accountant Manager M.Com, handling accounts independently up to finalization & audit, ERP, Tally, Focus, Salsabel & Orion. 13 Years experience (Oman, Dubai & India) join immediately. Contact- 90554680

Accounts & Taxation: Part time handle all accounts related up to finalization. Contact- 98371850

Part time Female Accountant with D/L Contact- 95921553

Part time Accountant available weekdays/ weekend. Contact- 9394 9091

Looking Account job two years experience, 23 male. Contact- 95686718 Email: anushebin17@gmail.com

Indian male 25 years, MBA/ Finance, 2 years experience in Accounts, looking for suitable position in Accounts /Administration/Hr. Currently on visit visa. Contact- 92588329 Email: skhmct25@gmail.com

Indian male 28, 2+ years experience, PG (Finance/Marketing) US educated. Seeking suitable position, currently in visit visa. Contact 97539075 Email: bkoman28@gmail.com

Audit Finalization and Support Services. Contact- 96975454 Email: ibfc.gcc@gmail.com

32 male Accountant having oman 4 years experience know ERP Tally and Oracle looking for job. Can join immediate. Contact 93464555

Accounts 10 years experience, seeking suitable placement, NOC available. Contact 92493653

Indian male 23 years old, B.Com + Tally ERP 9 with one year exp in Accounts & Finance in India, currently on visit visa looking for suitable job. Contact- 94185757 Email: alsalparappupara88@gmail.com

Indian female 32 years MBA Finance. 4 Years experience in Oman & 2 years in India. Looking for a suitable job in Accounts/ Admin. Currently in a family visa. Can join immediately. Contact: 94068969

Indian male, Keralite B.Com, 8 years experience with FMCG & Contracting Co. in Accounts up to Finalization, Cost Allocation, Inventory and Payroll. SAP, Tally ERP 9 & Focus RT. With NOC & D/L. Contact- 97982606

Indian Female, MBA Graduate, 11 yrs exp in Accounts & Customer Care, looking for suitable placement. PH: 95483687, 98672956

Sri Lankan female Chartered Accountant and a B.Sc. Business Administration (Special) graduate, carrying over 12 years experience out of which 9 years managerial level experience with valid Oman D/L, seeking for a suitable position in accounting, auditing, taxation and consultancy field. Contact 95470150

Freelance AutoCAD 2D /3D / Interior works /BOQ. Contact- 97103168, 93837973



JOB WANTED

ENGG. / TECH./MECH.

B.E Mechanical Engineer Indian male 25 years old, 2 years of experience in piping fabrication & erection, seeking for immediate placement. Now in Oman on visit visa. Contact- 98444806

Experienced Plumbing Engineer with valid driving license. Contact- 94722815

HSE Engineer with 10 years experience looking for new opportunity. Contact- 95701119

Indian male Electronics & Communication Engineer with PLC & SCADA knowledge and having Oman experience on electro-chlorination system, data loggers & irrigation system. Looking for any suitable job. NOC available & ready to join immediately. Contact- 91472173 Email: munir3494@gmail.com

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 7 years experience with GCC driving license. NOC available, urgently situation wanted. Contact- 91693008

B.Tech (Electronic Engineer) Indian male. Having 5.9 years of experience in Muscat, with NOC. Seeking for a job opportunity. Available for immediate joining. Contact- 95944451 Email: sebi@mailme@gmail.com

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 7 years of experience, with GCC driving license. NOC available, can join immediately. Contact- 91693008 Email: firoz010184@gmail.com

Indian male 19 years of experience as HVAC/Plumbing Maintenance Supervisor, with Oman driving license & NOC. Contact- 91774365

Civil Engineer looking for job. Contact- 99723585

Qualification: ITI 2 year Diploma (FITTER), NEBOSH from UK. Experience 8 years (Dubai, Qatar & India) Safety systems installation and troubleshooting (HSE supervision) Piping supervision, Plumbing and electrical jobs Supervision. On Visit. Contact- 95960047, 91692188

Indian, 11 years of experience in UAE, D/L holder, Nebosh IGC, OSHA, IOSH, Diploma in fire & safety. Looking for suitable job, NOC available. Contact- 97569237

Civil Engineer BTech National experience 3 years, International 1 year. Having Oman light license. Contact- 94031436, 96242773

Diploma Civil Engineer Indian male, 7 years of experience in India as contracting company specialized in project management site engineer. Seeking suitable placement. Contact- 94073150 Email: hafees.hafiz21@gmail.com

Indian male 23 B.Tech Civil Engineer/ AutoCad Draftsman with Oman driving license, looking for suitable job. Contact- 99789455, 94781810

B.Tech Civil Engineer QA/QC Pakistani, 10 years of experience in Gulf with NOC, looking for job opportunity. Available for immediate joining. Contact- 90145926

B.E Civil Project Engineer, 7 years Oman experience, with driving license. Contact- 79397420 Email: prasadsp111@gmail.com

Indian male B.Tech Civil Engineer having 3 years experience as Site Engineer in India, presently in Muscat on visit visa, looking for a suitable placement. Contact- 93648345

Indian MEP Engineer male having more than 15 years experience, with D/L seeking suitable job. Contact- 91477647

Plumbing Engineer, GCC exp in MNCS D/L NOC available. Contact- 99505934

Electrical (Electronics) Engineer Pakistani Male 26, with valid D/L & NOC, 15 years of experience in an electrical workshop seeking for suitable position in any electrical sales and sales engineering field. Contact- 91814506 Email: ubaidjamil@rocketmail.com

Indian male 27 B.Tech Civil Engineer 4 years experience have Oman driving license looking for suitable placement, have Engineer Visa & Release letter. Contact- 98233199 Email: shameezrasheed@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor 15 years experience in Buildings & Pipeline. NOC available. Contact- 90970280

Indian male 23 years old, B.Tech Production Engineer & Certified in Advance Diploma in Oil & Gas Technology (LVL III IVQ) AutoCad. Looking for suitable job in production, mechanical, oil & gas or other engineering fields, currently available in Oman on visit visa. Contact- 97533889 Email: arjunasasidharan194@gmail.com

HSE Engineer with 10 years experience looking for new opportunity. Contact- 95701119

Indian male Electronics & Communication Engineer with PLC & SCADA knowledge and having Oman experience on electro-chlorination system, data loggers & irrigation system. Looking for any suitable job. NOC available & ready to join immediately. Contact- 91472173 Email: munir3494@gmail.com

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 7 years experience with GCC driving license. NOC available, urgently situation wanted. Contact- 91693008

B.Tech (Electronic Engineer) Indian male. Having 5.9 years of experience in Muscat, with NOC. Seeking for a job opportunity. Available for immediate joining. Contact- 95944451 Email: sebi@mailme@gmail.com

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 7 years of experience, with GCC driving license. NOC available, can join immediately. Contact- 91693008 Email: firoz010184@gmail.com

Indian male 19 years of experience as HVAC/Plumbing Maintenance Supervisor, with Oman driving license & NOC. Contact- 91774365

Civil Engineer looking for job. Contact- 99723585

Qualification: ITI 2 year Diploma (FITTER), NEBOSH from UK. Experience 8 years (Dubai, Qatar & India) Safety systems installation and troubleshooting (HSE supervision) Piping supervision, Plumbing and electrical jobs Supervision. On Visit. Contact- 95960047, 91692188

Indian, 11 years of experience in UAE, D/L holder, Nebosh IGC, OSHA, IOSH, Diploma in fire & safety. Looking for suitable job, NOC available. Contact- 97569237

Civil Engineer BTech National experience 3 years, International 1 year. Having Oman light license. Contact- 94031436, 96242773

Diploma Civil Engineer Indian male, 7 years of experience in India as contracting company specialized in project management site engineer. Seeking suitable placement. Contact- 94073150 Email: hafees.hafiz21@gmail.com

Indian male 23 B.Tech Civil Engineer/ AutoCad Draftsman with Oman driving license, looking for suitable job. Contact- 99789455, 94781810

B.Tech Civil Engineer QA/QC Pakistani, 10 years of experience in Gulf with NOC, looking for job opportunity. Available for immediate joining. Contact- 90145926

B.E Civil Project Engineer, 7 years Oman experience, with driving license. Contact- 79397420 Email: prasadsp111@gmail.com

Indian male B.Tech Civil Engineer having 3 years experience as Site Engineer in India, presently in Muscat on visit visa, looking for a suitable placement. Contact- 93648345

Indian MEP Engineer male having more than 15 years experience, with D/L seeking suitable job. Contact- 91477647

Plumbing Engineer, GCC exp in MNCS D/L NOC available. Contact- 99505934

Electrical (Electronics) Engineer Pakistani Male 26, with valid D/L & NOC, 15 years of experience in an electrical workshop seeking for suitable position in any electrical sales and sales engineering field. Contact- 91814506 Email: ubaidjamil@rocketmail.com

Indian male 27 B.Tech Civil Engineer 4 years experience have Oman driving license looking for suitable placement, have Engineer Visa & Release letter. Contact- 98233199 Email: shameezrasheed@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor 15 years experience in Buildings & Pipeline. NOC available. Contact- 90970280

Diploma Mechanical, Indian male 27 years, 5 years experience MEP (Plumbing, Fire-Fighting) Supervisor. PDA experience, working as Permit Applicant, NOC available, seeking suitable placement. Contact- 96392829

B.E Electrical Engineer, 10 years GCC experience with driving license. Contact- 94578878 Email: selvananto@gmail.com

Indian male, MEP Engineer, 7 years of experience looking for suitable job in relevant field. Contact- 91780611

24 years old Keralite BE MECHANICAL ENGINEER & CERTIFIED IN ADVANCED MEP DESIGNS, looking for a suitable job in mechanical/construction/oil and gas/MEP or HVAC field. Currently available in Oman on visit visa. Contact +968 94549464 Email: suhaielmng@gmail.com

B.E (Mechanical Engineer) with 2 years experience as Project Engineer, with driving license, seeks job opportunities. Contact- 91091765

B.Tech Mechanical, 26 years Indian male, 4 years experience in HVAC & Project Management, working in Muscat. With Oman D/L & NOC. Contact- 71968600

Architectural Engineer more than 13 years of experience in Egypt, Saudi & Oman (Project Eng. Consultant) Contact- 99856859

Diploma in Civil Engineering 8 years experience (6.5 years in Oman) NOC available, PDO experience. Contact- 92726423 Email: engr.rabul007@gmail.com

HSE/Safety Officer Indian male 43 years on visit visa with 10 years Gulf experience in Health & Safety. Looking for a good job. Contact- 90635660 Email: sijo.ccl@gmail.com

Electrical Diploma Engineer with 14 years Oman experience seeking suitable placements. Driving license and NOC is available. Presently on visit visa. Ready to work in any position. Contact- 99849773 Email: vincentmathew.july@gmail.com

M.Sc. Geology & Diploma in Petroleum Exploration, having 1 year experience. Looking for suitable position in any reputed company or organization. Contact- 91296615, 99896985 Email: gracalos999@gmail.com

Civil Engineer 4 years experience, Residential buildings & Schools buildings, having license and NOC. Contact- 94266991 Email: mohmmmed1990@gmail.com

Pakistani male 25 years, DAE Electrical Diploma holder, having 3 years experience looking for suitable placement in Oman. Currently on 2 years visa, NOC available. Contact- 98422788

Indian male with 20 years experience as Senior Technician of Electronics and vehicle tracking systems in Oman with valid driving license looking for suitable placement. NOC available.

B.S.C. Civil Engineer having 10+ years exp (ROP, Ministry & Municipality Projects) in Oman, with D/L. Looking for suitable replacement. Contact- 97432396 Email: jamal_rangun@yahoo.com

Mechanical Engineer (B.E) 6+ years Gulf experience in Oil & Gas MEP piping projects with valid Oman driving license and NOC. Contact 91987143(Oman) +919539949244 (India) Email: jebilk21@gmail.com

Civil Engineer 4 years experience, Residential buildings & Schools buildings, having license and NOC. Contact- 94266991 Email: mohmmmed1990@gmail.com

Diploma Mech. Engineer experience in plumbing & drainage. Contact 99505934

B.Sc. Civil Engineer having 10+ years exp (ROP, Ministry & Municipality Projects) in Oman, with D/L. Looking for suitable replacement. Contact- 97432396 Email: jamal_rangun@yahoo.com

Indian male 23 B.E Mechanical Engineer 1 year experience, seeking suitable placement. Contact- +918921668504, 95287489 rahulramachandran19@gmail.com

B.E Electrical Engineer, 7+ years total experience (5+ years in Oman) with driving license. Contact- 71422669 Email: michaelherin24@gmail.com

Diploma Civil Engineer, India having 9 years experience in Oman, with D/L seeking for suitable job. Contact- 926365674

B.Tech Mechanical Engineer, 23 years, Indian National looking for a suitable placement. Currently on visit visa. Contact: 98407788 / 95586878

B.Tech Civil Engineer 25 years Indian female on visit visa certified AutoCAD Tekla staadPro MS office & experience in structural design seeks a suitable position in Muscat. Contact 99032143 Email: chandinivas@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer Indian male, 1 yr exp.,on visit visa looking for suitable placement in Muscat. Contact 95718330 Email: samthomaskw@gmail.com

PDO Engineer 10 years experience, now working 15 years in business development, sales for multinationals. Contact 99875918 / 94902691

HVAC Design Engineer experience in system design heat load estimation pump head & static pressure calculation preparation of BOQ, with GCC D/L. Indian male residing in Muscat. Contact 91690765

Electrical Engineer 10 years of experience in Oman, looking for a suitable job. Contact- 96280782

BE Mechanical Engineering, Indian male HVAC & NDT Level II, 3 years experience in Gas Turbine Power Plant. On visit, looking for job. Contact- 96573173 mohamedfazil1908@gmail.com

Facilities & MEP Engineer, Indian male, having 7 years of experience in computer network administration looking for job. Contact CCNA MCSA certified. Contact 97202522 email:connectjinomjohn@yahoo.co

Structural Engineer (male) having more than 8 years experience is looking for job. Immediate availability with NOC. Contact- 93697602 Email: shaharulce@gmail.com

Indian male, 23, Mechanical Diploma Engineer with 1 year Indian experience in MEP & GCC 3 months Oil & Gas Foreman. Searching for suitable job. Contact- 95809291

Indian Male, 27 B.Tech (Electrical) 5 years experience (3 years Oman) in Building Projects & Utilities. NOC & D/L available. Contact- 91103287 Email: adarshooty@gmail.com

Indian ECE Engineer, fresh Graduate looking for job. Contact- 91060020 Email: vacancyforeeengg@gmail.com

23 Years Indian male B-Tech Civil looking for good opportunity. Contact- 96952973 Email: khamnudassirali1994@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer HVAC Design and Site Engineer 4 years of experience. Contact- 96583270 mazinsalah226@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer 20 years experience in structural steel fabrication, knowledge in drawing, estimation of all type of fabrication work. Contact- 0091 9886759251

Indian male 21 years, BE Mechanical Engineer looking for suitable placement in Muscat. Contact: 0091 8113000243, 9274 3241/ Email: rahulr2425@gmail.com

Young Indian female BE Civil graduate with 1 year experience as HR executive, currently on visit looking for a suitable placement in Administration/Coordination/ Accounts. GSM: 91179641 Email: saranyaamish1417@gmail.com

Electrical Engineering Graduate (female) currently in Muscat on family visa, having 1.5 year Indian experience from a construction & switchgear firm seeks a job. Contact 95299442 Email: sibinanoop1@gmail.com

Electrical Engineer 5 years experience. NOC & driving license available. Contact- 91907472

Looking for job opportunity, BE Mechanical Engineer with 2 years Indian experience and 6 months Gulf experience. On visit visa. Contact 94067050

Plumbing Engineer, GCC exp in MNCS D/L NOC available. Contact- 99505934

EDUCATION/TRAINING

BSc. Chemistry, B.Ed. IELTS Female looking for suitable teaching or non-teaching jobs. Contact- 92940218, 91257160

Spoken Arabic Teacher. Professional Arabic course for Non-Arabs. Contact- 99101142

JOB WANTED

MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

Indian CA, (M-36) having 5+ years experience in Oman in Senior Post in A/C, Audit/Fin, ERP. Seeking a senior post in finance (FM or above) NOC available. Call 94939552 Email: caraj700@gmail.com

Well experienced about 9 years in Oman Real Estate field and worked as factory Incharge, looking for the suitable placement (any field) Contact- 94286984

Indian Male 33 years. 10 years experience in Oman as a Vehicle In-charge & Journey Manager, logistics. Holding valid Oman D/L. NOC available. Contact- 93319151

Projects Manager 17 years of experience, 10 years in Oman on Project Execution. Available to join immediately, with local release. Contact- 99158607

MBA (UK) B.E Civil, PMP, 17 years EPC Project Management experience of which 11 years in Oman. With D/L. Contact- 91233102

Indian male 19 years of experience as HVAC/Plumbing maintenance Supervisor, with Oman driving license & NOC. Call 93291169

MED 31+ years experienced (23 Oman) steel fabrication, production & planning, steel furniture sheet metal work, powder coating etc. Looking for managerial position in Sohar. Contact- 99314899

Well experienced Sales Manager with FMCG back ground seeking for suitable job. Contact- 91974888

Accounts Manager 13 years of experience in Accounts and Finance up to Finalization. MBA & M.Com, have valid Oman D/L, seeking placement. Contact- 96915438

Indian male (38) looking for suitable job in Senior Technical Management position. Having experience in Physical Security Solutions (CCTV, ACS, SCS, QMSNCS) & able to Design / Maintain/ Coronate high-end physical security solutions. Contact- 95726788

Production Manager in Plastic Industry, 13 years of (5 years in Oman) experience. Good Administration and Operational skills in Production, Planning, Scheduling, Quality & Maintenance. Contact- +91 9944735767 Email: beemaraasrinivasan@gmail.com

8+ Years Oman experience in Procurement, Logistics & Transportation, seeking immediate change. NOC & D/L available. Call 94777651

HR & Admin Manager 43 years. Indian male with PG in HR, working in Oman since last 13 years, currently working for Multinational Company with 5000+ workforce, seeks placement, NOC available. Contact- 96792103

Indian male 32 years old, worked as Manager, with 10 years of experience looking for suitable job in IT & construction. With valid Oman D/L. Contact- 95873997

Experienced Senior Management Professional seeking for opportunity in a senior level in industrial sector or service sector including oil & gas. Contact- 97488683 Email: lansdowneindia@gmail.com

Indian well experienced Accounts and Operations Manager looking for suitable opportunity. Contact 95362046 Email: sjobsinoman@yahoo.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian male 40 CMA with 12 years of experience seeking suitable position, available in Oman on visit visa. Contact- 93515916

Indian Male M.Sc. Biotechnology Oceanography & Fishery B.Sc. Zoology & Applied Fishery. Looking for Suitable Placement. Contact- 92140760 Email: tambefarhan6@gmail.com

Indian Male Msc Biotechnology Oceanography & Fishery, Bsc Zoology & Applied Fishery. Looking for Suitable Placement.#92140760, tambefarhan6@gmail.com

Document Controller having 10 years experience, with valid UAE license. Contact- 97586533 Email: shajiickd@hotmail.com

Freelance works experienced. Contact- 99506977

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian male 27 years (Company Secretary Internship) & M.Com with 3.5 years experience in Indian, looking for suitable job in Accounts, Admin and HR. Currently on visit visa. Contact- 90386298, 98986154 Email: jomi840@yahoo.com

Indian male 40, 10 years experience in Oman market retail & wholesaler sector FMCG, building material, consumer good. Contact- 96119670

Omani Female Arabic and English speaking searching for a job. Contact- 91331673

Indian male B.Com & MBA (Marketing & Finance) looking for vacancy in outdoor sales/ indoor sales etc. 2.5 years experience in office admin, audit & accounts. Contact- 90163553

Experience Indian Male seeking job in Sale/Accounts/Store Management. Holding Oman D/L, ready to join immediate with NOC. Contact- 94871963

Indian male (27) BBA (UK) MBA (UK) currently on visit visa, specialized in Marketing and HR, excellent command in English, looking for business level jobs. UK driving license holder. Contact 91750043 Email: rohitps15@gmail.com

Indian male 34 years B.Com Finance, IATA/ FIATA, Tally with 8 years experience in TRV Int. Airport as customer service Agent and 3 years experience in FMCG sales experience in Saudi Arabia and India. Looking for suitable job in customer service/admin/sales. Currently on visit visa. # 95308827

Female MCA, experienced, software test job, teaching, office admin. Contact- 96276106

Bachelor of Art (BA) at Social Sciences, 2 years of experience, seeking any kind of job. Contact- 97460925 Email: khaliqdrabdul@yahoo.com

Business Graduate Pakistani male, strong knowledge of Procurement and Business Relations. Looking for opportunity in Accounts /Supply Chain/Business Development. Excellent MS. Office, communication skills. Can join immediately, available till March 9.2018 on visit. Contact 97685955 Email: isfandalamia.i@gmail.com

Indian male having 8 years of experience in Building Material shop. Knows English, Arabic, Hindi & Malayalam. Looking for suitable job. Contact- 95470462 Email: ratheeshks83@gmail.com

Male 24 Indian MBA Graduate HR and Marketing Waljat 2 year experience, investor visa 6 years driving experience, looking for permanent job. Contact- 93121727 Email: mohammed.shifin777@gmail.com

MBA 6 years experience in Procurement in GCC with valid driving license .Contact 92317282

MEDICAL

Asst Pharmacist, D Pharma, holding Oman Pharmacy License, 7 years experienced. # 99825501

Female Pharmacist looking for job in Muscat, passed MOH VIVA. Contact- 97259752, 92508230 Email: nmoha76@gmail.com

Female Dentist in Muscat seeking suitable vacancy, 3-4 years of experience in India. Cleared Prometric exams and Data Flow. Capital area preferred. #91225025, 99722486. Email: nesline2325@gmail.com

Indian Female Lab Technician looking for suitable placement. Contact- 93515501, 96791162 Email: roobi777@gmail.com

Indian Female BSC Nurse, 4 years experience, Prometry 66% Data flow completed, seeking suitable placement. Contact- 91267793 Email: neethuelizs@gmail.com

Dentist Indian female, 3+ years experience in Oman, 6 years in India. Looking for suitable placement. Contact - 94227073

Indian male Pharmacist 15 years experience in Oman, holding MOH license, looking for suitable placement. Release available. Contact- 92381881

Indian Female Assistant Pharmacist with MOH license, 5 years experience in Oman, seeking for suitable placement in Sohar area. Release available Contact- 92132979

MEDICAL

Indian female Dentist, 5 years experience with MOH license & NOC, looking for suitable placement in Muscat, ready to join immediately. Valid Oman driving license. Contact- 93689098 Email: hashmisarwat@gmail.com

SECRETARY/OFFICE

Executive Secretary Indian having 24 years working experience with top management. Key skills: Self-correspondence, Minutes Recording, Presentation, travel management. Have NOC and driving license. Contact- 96770885 Email: suratvimala@gmail.com

A young Indian female graduate with working experience in events, credit cards, is looking for a suitable placement. Contact: 97778218 angelenebrandon@gmail.com

Indian Male more than 10 years Gulf experience in Office/ Purchase Coordinator, Admin, Secretarial and Sales with good computer skills. Holding Oman driving license. Looking for suitable placement. Contact- 95149624

Sudanese young female 24 years, experience in Management, Secretarial & Coordination HR. Completed PC in National University Khartoum, with Oman D/L, knows Arabic & English. Contact- 91433804

SKILLED/MECH /TECH-

Indian male 30 years Diploma in Electronics Mechanic & one year experience rental car field. NOC & Oman driving license available. Contact- 92612716 Email: rremith2@gmail.com

Punjabi Male 30, 19 years experience in India. Looking for helper job. Contact- +96895826845, +919888070466

Indian male 30 years Certified Mobile Technician, 5 years GCC experience in Sales also, with GCC D/L. Seeking for suitable placement. Contact- 98201244

Instrumentation Technician (28-Indian male) on visit visa, having 7 years experience in Oil & Gas, CCTV, Fire-alarm projects & maintenance. Seeking suitable job. Contact- 95065418, 99690168 Email: na.jith.ashok@gmail.com

Electrician, Plumber (overseas) Contact- 93554741

Helper, sh/carpenter, steel fitter, (overseas) Contact- 93554741

Fire Technician, experienced, with Oman D/L. Contact- 99506977

SALES / MARKETING

Sales Executive employed in FMCG industry with driving license looking for suitable opening in similar industry Contact 94625495

Sales/Marketing, MBA+ Tally, Indian male (26 years) on visit, looking for suitable placement.#96727756 Email: sheringgilson@gmail.com

Indian male with 17 years experience in Marketing and Brand Management seeking suitable placement, having own car. NOC available. Contact- 99039533

A young Indian graduate with experience in marketing, and event management, looking for a suitable placement. Contact 97778218 Email: mhosam1986@gmail.com

Indian male MA literature Hafiz e Quran 5+ years experience in reaching & sales looking for good opportunity. Contact- 71149122 mdafkhruddin5049@gmail.com

Marketing/Sales Indian male 24 years, having MBA experience, with D/L. Contact- 96979362

Indian male with 18 years of experience in Sale & Marketing with driving license, looking for job. Contact- 93890463

22 Years old BBM Graduate with 15 years of experience in Sales & billing, looking for suitable position in Accounts, marketing or sales. Contact- 96602281 Email: abdulmuhimim5@gmail.com

Indian male 14 year GCC experience in Sales with D/L. Looking for an opportunity. Contact-93337261

Sales/ Marketing, MBA+ Tally, Indian male (26 years) on visit, looking for suitable placement. Contact 96727756 Email: sheringgilson@gmail.com

Indian male Assistant Pharmacists with MOH license, 5 years experience in Oman, seeking for suitable placement in Sohar area. Release available. Contact- 92132979

SALES / MARKETING

Indian Post Graduate Male, 14 years ongoing Oman experience in Oilfield / Industrial Supplies Trading. Sales / Operations - Engineered Products - Handled Reputed Agencies. Looking for suitable opportunity. NOC available. Contact 90738212

Indian Female with 13+ years Oman experience in one of the leading media house, with valid Oman driving license, NOC, excellent PR & Communication skills. Looking for senior placement in advertising, sales & marketing, business development, corporate communication, media relation, events. Contact- 92847957

MBA Graduate (Indian male 29) 6 years of experience in dealing with International Clients in Corporate Sales/Operations and Vendor Management. Seeks opportunity in sales operations. Contact- 98945126 Email: eldhogeorge68@gmail.com

Sales/Accounts, MBA Marketing/ Finance +Tally, Indian male (26 years), on visit, looking for suitable placement. Contact- 96727756 Email: sheringgilson@gmail.com

Indian Male 24 years, MBA Marketing & Finance from Cardiff Metropolitan University UK, having 1 year, marketing experience, currently in Muscat on visit visa, looking for a suitable job placements. Contact- 95933877 Email: pvhafis@gmail.com

Indian Male 27 yrs, Degree Holder (B.Sc. Maths) having experience in Sales and Marketing; seeking for a relevant job. Now available in visit visa in Oman(Sohar). Have knowledge in Accounting and also knows Arabic typing. Contact: 9313070 / 93763933

Indian Graduate male with 3 years of experience in Sales, with driving license, looking for suitable job. Contact 97536965 Email: suman512@gmail.com

Sales/ Marketing Graduate Indian male with 7 years of experience looking for suitable placement. NOC available. Contact- 91319850 Email: mohammedhussain20@gmail.com

Indian male experience in Sales/ Marketing looking for job, with GCC driving license. #90927203

Electrician, Plumber (overseas) Contact- 93554741

Helper, sh/carpenter, steel fitter, (overseas) Contact- 93554741

Fire Technician, experienced, with Oman D/L. Contact- 99506977

MBA Post Graduate with Marketing & Finance specialization, have 3 years of experience in Printing Company & Health Company. Currently on visit visa, available immediately. Contact- 95308324 Email: rahulsekhar.rs@gmail.com

MBA Post Graduate with 1 year of experience as Business Development Executive, looking for job in Sales, Marketing & HR. Currently on visit visa, available immediately. Contact- 95308429 Email: alexjin@gmail.com

8 Years of Oman experience in Sales, looking for suitable opportunity, Sales, Operations & Business Development. To handle interior (turnkey & furniture showroom) projects. Contact- 97792871 Email: mhosam1986@gmail.com

Indian male 23 M.Com, Tally having one year of experience Outdoor Sales with accounts trainee. Looking any suitable job. Contact 98673158, 71796679

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