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BRUNEI, GUYANA

HM sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of greetings to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan has expressed his sincere greetings along with his best wishes of good health and happiness to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and his country's people further progress.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has also sent a cable of greetings to President Donald Ramotar of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty has expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes to President Ramotar and his country's people. -ONA

SPANISH CYCLIST VALLS WINS TOUR OF OMAN

Spanish cyclist Rafael Valls, left, reacts on the podium after the sixth and last stage of the cycling Tour of Oman on Sunday. Valls won the Tour of Oman as Matthias Brandle of Austria clinched the 133.5km final stage. Right, cyclists in action during the sixth and last stage of the Tour of Oman in Muscat on Sunday. - Photos: AFP See also >C1

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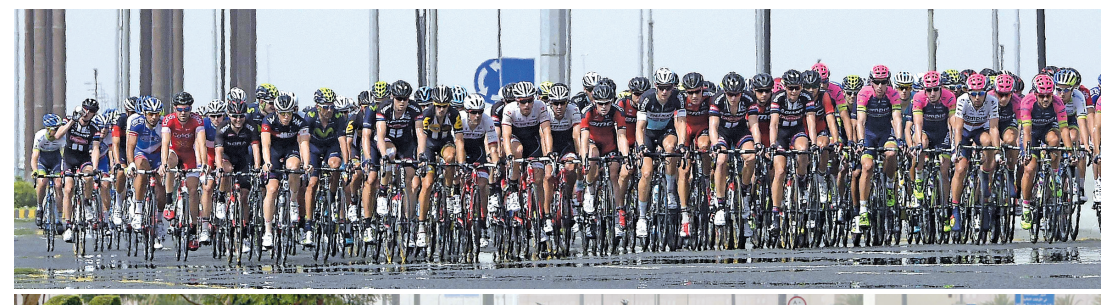
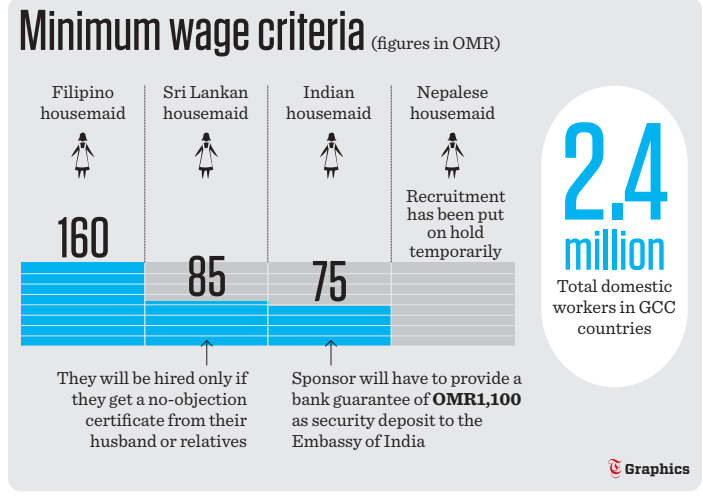




Fair wage rule sparks debate in Sultanate

Employers are feeling the heat as the countries supplying maids have enacted stricter rules to protect their citizens and end exploitation



FAHAD AL GHADANI
fahadnews@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: As governments commit to new labour contracts designed to safeguard their citizens overseas, the debate over fair pay and conditions for expatriate maids in Oman has reopened.

Some employers in Sultanate have expressed "disappointment" over increasing procedural difficulties when trying to hire domestic staff, while champions of migrant rights, and housemaids here in the country, have lauded the efforts of governments in developing better labour migration policies.

Recently, the Philippine embassy in Oman announced OMR160 would be the minimum salary for Filipino housemaids. It is the latest such move to protect domestic expat staff that has sparked debate on social media.

One hashtag on Twitter said after the announcement: "Hiring a housemaid has become a costly affair in Oman with employers having to pay more and bearing the new agreement contracts that have more benefits for maids. The rules of embassies and governments are getting stricter and complicated."

"It is not just about raising the salaries of housemaids. It is about coming up every day with a new decision with no one to defend the employer," said Abu Khalid, a national working in the government sector.

However, Vani Saraswati, Qatar-based social worker and journalist with Migrant-Rights.org said, "It is true that employers face procedural delays and pay exorbitant amounts for recruitment that cannot be passed on to the domestic worker, who in all likelihood has also paid huge fees. But it is important to reform the recruitment processes in both origin and host countries, and it is equally important to ensure minimum wages, decent working and living conditions."

She said that unless the Gulf Cooperation Council countries adopt a common unified contract, "governments will have no option but to ensure as much protection as possible for their citizens."

Saif Al Wishahi, a government worker, felt that countries have the right to protect their domestic workers and GCC countries, including Oman, are serious about implementing reforms. >A6

STUDY

Oman's northern parts more prone to quakes

Times News Service

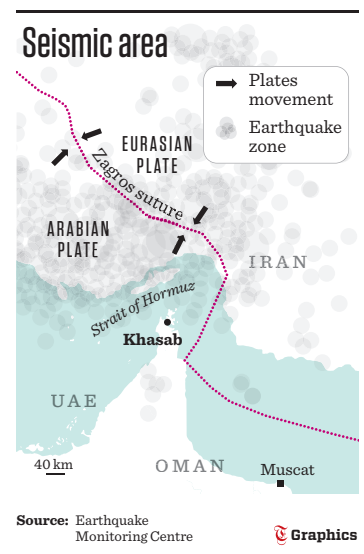
MUSCAT: Northern parts of the Sultanate are more vulnerable to earthquakes, researchers have found after a seismic hazard assessment.

Scientists who have studied seismic hazards for the Sultanate say that based upon calculations on how hard the earth shakes in a given geographic area (Peak Ground Acceleration), the highest hazard has been found in the northernmost city of Khasab.

"This is because of the proximity of Khasab to the Zagros and Makran seismic zones near the Strait of Hormuz," they said.

Earthquakes at a distance of 90km from Khasab pose greater hazards to the city, noted officials.

These findings were discussed at a workshop organised by the Earthquake Monitoring Centre at Sultan Qaboos University. >A2



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Sandstorms dissipate
1 Sandstorms started dissipating on Sunday, bringing in cooler weather in Oman, according to the Met department. >A2

OMAN
Leave entitlement
2 Leave entitlement and air passage are issues to be agreed between employer and employee prior to their relationship. >A3

MARKET
OMR330m dividend
3 A dividend payout of around OMR330m by listed companies on the MSM next month is expected to prop up trading activity. >B1

T OMAN

> Hazy conditions with low visibility will prevail over most of Oman and partly cloudy skies over Musandam, the coastal areas of Oman sea and Al-Hajar mountains
> **DGMAN official**

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Futaisi, Minister of Transport and Communications, on Sunday launched the new website of the ministry. The website provides the public with information on the ministry's transport, ports, airports and communications projects. The ceremony was attended by the two undersecretaries of the ministry, CEO of Public Authority for Civil Aviation and top officials.

—Talib Al Wahaibi/TIMES OF OMAN

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MOBILE TRUCK WEIGHT

Ministry tightens regulations to check overloading of trucks

MUSCAT: To control the carrying of excess weights by trucks, the Ministry of Transport and Communications in collaboration with Royal Oman Police (ROP) will implement the mobile truck weight system on the main and secondary roads.

As per the provision of Article No. 37 of the Executive Regulation of the Traffic Law issued by a Royal Decree, the load carrying limit will depend upon the axial weights and not on the gross weight of the truck.

The Ministry informed on Sunday, that the maximum load of each truck driven with a single axle should not exceed 8 tonnes.

The gross maximum weight for any vehicle driven with non-single axis should not exceed 13 tonnes. The ideal gross weight of any tandem axle of any vehicle should not be more than 21 tonnes. The gross weight on the road of any vehicle driven by tri axle should not be more than 32 tonnes.

The Ministry pointed out that in order to ensure gradual implementation of the system and in order not to cause harm to companies, establishments, individuals and beneficiaries of land transport, the Ministry and ROP allowed variation of 25% of the total weight of the gross weight of the vehicle axis as of the end of 2015.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications provided some examples for the transport means and the ideal weights. For example, for a tipper trailer (head and trailer) whose empty weight is 25 tonnes, driven with single axis of 8 tonnes, double axis of 21 tonnes and triple axis of 32 tonnes, the gross weights of the axles will be 61 tonnes. After adding the variation factor (25%) to this, the gross weight of the truck and the load should not be more than 75 tonnes. If we subtract the empty weight of the vehicle, the allowed load will be 50 tonnes.-ONA

Sandstorms ease; cool winds lower mercury

Muscat's temperature came down to 28 degrees on Sunday



FOG AND DUST: Hazy conditions with low horizontal visibility will prevail over most parts of the Sultanate.-TIMES OF OMAN

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sandstorms started dissipating on Sunday, bringing in cooler weather to Oman, according to Directorate General of Meteorology and Air Navigation (DGMAN), which monitors weather conditions in Oman

Speaking to the *Times of Oman*, a senior official of the DGMAN said that for the last 48 hours, Oman witnessed reduced visibility as a result of the dust storm and cloudy weather, which was due to strong to moderate winds, blowing dust and sand into the country.

"But things are clearing up and we are experiencing a drop in temperatures," he said.

Giving an example, he said Muscat recorded 38 degrees on Friday, but on Sunday it was just 28 degrees – down by 10 degrees.

"However, hazy conditions with low horizontal visibility will prevail over most of the Sultanate and partly cloudy skies over Musandam, the coastal areas of Oman sea and Al-Hajar mountains with chances of isolated rain and occasionally thundershowers," he said.

The sea, however, will be rough along Musandam and Oman Sea coasts with maximum wave height of 3.5 metres and moderate winds along Arabian Sea coasts with maximum wave height of 2.7 metres because of the high winds blowing into the sea.

"We urge fishermen to exercise caution and avoid going out to sea during the period until they were sure it was safe," he said.

He also urged the motorists to be alert while driving as there are chances of low visibility in some areas. "There were low clouds and sands all over and the visibility also dropped," Shabbir Khan, an Indian expatriate at Al Wusta governorate, said.

Across the country, many signboards have been knocked down and sand has piled up along some roads. Then there were reports of minor accidents all over the country. An official also said that there was a possibility of rainfall in a number of wilayats due to the unstable weather conditions. "But there is very little chance of rain in Muscat," the official added.

MONITORING

< FROM A1

SQU assesses seismic hazard

Dr Eissa El Hussain, Director of the Earthquake Monitoring Centre at SQU, presented the results of the "probabilistic and deterministic seismic hazard assessment of the Sultanate of Oman". The workshop marks the completion of the seismic hazard assessment study for Oman.

The workshop was presided over by Dr Ali bin Saud Al Bimani, the Vice Chancellor of SQU. Prof Amer bin Ali Al Rawas, SQU Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research, said that the study on seismic hazard assessments is part of SQU's efforts to build its abilities in this area.

"The government is aware of the importance of the earthquake risk assessment. Hence, the Council of Ministers has assigned the task of preparing a study of the risk of earthquakes in the Sultanate to the Earthquake Monitoring Centre at SQU, in cooperation with the relevant authorities in the Sultanate. The project began at the end of 2009, when a committee was formed to oversee the project, headed by SQU with members from Muscat Municipality, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources and the Supreme Council for Planning", Prof. Al Rawas said.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor further said that the results of this study have shown that the northern areas of the Sultanate may be more vulnerable to earthquake risks than is Muscat. "So we have to start thinking about conducting detailed studies of earthquake risks of northern areas, especially the areas with high population density and major economic significance. Therefore, a permanent committee, called the "Committee for Monitoring Earthquakes", has been formed to establish construction and development perceptions in terms of seismic risks", he added.



ENTERTAINMENT

Bollywood stand-up adds humour to Indian history



FUN AND SONG: Through this special act, comedian and actor Vir Das will take Omani audience through a historical journey with his unmatched wit. Accompanying Vir Das and to add music to the evening, will be India's popular all girl band *Indiva* which will perform fusion music. -Supplied photo

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Here is a chance to revisit the chapters of Indian history through the eyes of stand-up star and Bollywood actor, Vir Das. Event management company Eventful is all set to present Vir Das' popular comedy show 'History of India 'Vir'tten' on March 13 at the Majan Ballroom at the Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

"Following the success of our back-to-back shows in December 2014 'Dhoom Machale with Sunidhi' and 'An Evening with the Bangladeshi Superstars,' we at Eventful are delighted to bring to you yet another diverse show under our new production theme 'Irresistible India'," said Dr Sathish Nambiar, managing director, Eventful. Under the theme of 'Irresistible India' Eventful plans to bring India-centric entertainment to Oman.

"You can be assured that through this special act, comedian and actor Vir Das will take you through a historical journey with his unmatched wit," Dr Nambiar added.

Accompanying Vir Das, to add music to the evening, will be India's popular all girl band *Indiva* which will perform fusion music.

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"We have invited them to mark the International Women's Day which falls on March 8. Their music will keep you spellbound," organisers promised.

"The evening will be complimented by an exquisite dinner put together by the renowned chefs of the Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel," the organiser added.

Indiva features four "women" on a musical journey that blends Indian classical music Hindustani, elements of jazz, classical and world music.

"Charting a soundscape that fuses *raga* influenced melodic lines and Indian rhythm patterns, their music breathes nature's elements of earth , wind, fire and water. Together these divas of music blend their skill, grace and style to create a very refreshing sound," said the organisers.

Vir first explored stand-up comedy with his first (1-1/2 hour) special play which debuted to an audience of 800 in Knox's Harbach Theatre. He later went on to receive a Richter Scholarship for Theatre and the Colton Performance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Acting from Knox. He was a teaching assistant for Beginning Acting at Knox. At Harvard, Vir trained as a method actor for six months and performed eight plays with the Moscow Arts Theatre.

Vir returned to India in 2003 and since then has performed over 100 comedy shows in all the major cities. He has debuted six (1.5 hour) comedy specials written, directed by and starring him at the India Habitat Centre to audiences of over 900 a night. These include *Not for Members Only, Bored of The Things, Who Let the Das Out?, Son of a Switch,* among others.

Vir started his career on TV when he hosted two TV shows on Zoom Channel. The first one was *Is Route Ki Sabhin Linein Maast Hain* where he was an agony uncle. The second was his own stand-up comedy late night show *Ek Rahin Vir*. Although early for their time, they got noticed and put Vir on the comedy map in India. Vir has also hosted *Top Drive* getaway for Star World. Apart from the approximately 35 plays, the stand-up comedian has eight TV shows, two movies and six comedy specials behind him.

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COMMENTARY

Leave encashment a matter between employer, staff

Times of Oman, in association with Khalifa Al Hinai Legal Consultants, will answer the legal queries of readers every Monday. Questions can be sent to readersclub@timesofoman.com

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READER'S CLUB

Some of our employees wish to reimburse their leave salary immediately after completing 11 months of service, even before going on their annual leave. Please advise whether it is permitted and if so, is it after the completion of 11 months or 12 months? We would also like to know whether the paid leave with return ticket is to be provided to the employees after the completion of 12 months or 24 months? Does the company have the right to reject the interim leave applications of their employees after 12 months or 24 months?

Leave entitlement and air passage are issues to be agreed between the employer and the employee prior to commencement of their relationship. There is no hard and fast rule for this and the employer may decide whether to grant leave after 11 months or 12 months. Article (61) of Oman labour law only states that the employee would be eligible for certain days of annual leave on completion of one year's continuous service. Regarding air passage, the law only states that the employer is obliged and duty bound to repatriate an expatriate employee on completion of his/her employment. Some provisions that made it mandatory for air passage were there in the previous version of Oman labour law but were subsequently removed mainly due to the fact that provisions like annual air passage are not applicable to Omani employees. The provisions of the labour law are only for general guidance and nothing prevents an employer from offering anything better than what is stipulated under the Law to the employees. Article (6) of the labour law reads: "The employer may establish schemes from which his/her employees may get advantages which are more beneficial than what is prescribed (by law) or provide them with other benefits, or enter into agreements with them, the terms of which are more beneficial than the terms provided for in this law."

It is the prerogative of the employer to decide whether the right to annual ticket can be encashed or whether leave can be granted annually or once in two years. However, in a competitive market where it is getting increasingly difficult to retain performing employees, any prudent employer will evolve schemes and programmes that would ensure the loyalty of the employees in the long run.

Leave entitlement and air passage are issues to be agreed between the employer and employee prior to commencement of their relationship. There is no hard and fast rule for this and the employer may decide whether to grant leave after 11 months or 12 months

I work with a reputed engineering company and my wife works at a reputed international school. Recently, I received termination letter from my employer giving me one month's notice. If the company refuses to give me an NOC, or if I can't find a job, will it be possible to transfer my residency to my wife's sponsor and later transfer it to another professional sponsor?

Family visa for husband is not a common practice in Oman and the same is granted only under special circumstances at the discretion of the authorities. Therefore, if you are unable to get an NOC from your present employer, it would be difficult for you to enter Oman for the next two years. Please explain your situation to the employer and request for a consideration on humanitarian grounds. Your employer will not lose anything if you are granted a NOC to re-enter Oman.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this column are for general guidance purposes only. They are based on facts presented to us and are not substitute for expert legal advice. Readers are advised to seek legal assistance for specific legal issues. Times of Oman and Khalifa Al Hinai Advocates & Legal Consultancy do not assume any responsibility towards anyone on this matter.

OMANI CHARITABLE ORGANISATION

Aid for 2,486 Shinas families

MUSCAT: Omani Charitable Organisation (OCO) on Sunday issued a detailed statement of the beneficiary families of its aid in the Wilayat of Shinas.

The statement explained that 2,486 families benefited from the OCO aid in 2014, including eight sectors of the aid programmes. The programmes included cash aid, emergency aid and maintenance aid, as well as medical treatment aid and relief aid.

The statement said that OMR261,030 was the total amount of financial aid provided to families in the Wilayat of Shinas. The statement explained that the bulk of the aid provided to the beneficiary families was given to the food programme, which involved 2,105 families.-ONA

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SEMINAR

OCCI meet for more women entreprenuers

MUSCAT: A seminar on women's economic empowerment, organised by the Arab Woman Media Enterprise, began at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Sunday.

The seminar focused on promoting entrepreneurship among women and highlighted women's contributions to economic activities in the Sultanate's economy.

Dr Muna bint Salem Al Jardaniyah hailed the role of Omani women and their ability to translate many of the principles adopted by the Government. The seminar covered a number of issues, including challenges facing SMEs and how to develop small projects, as well as business project legislation, the women's share of senior positions in the private sector, social insurance for entrepreneurs and the role of traditional crafts in the economic development of women.

The seminar also reviewed a number of success stories of women entrepreneurs.-ONA

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WINNERS OF TIMES OF OMAN-LIFELINE HOSPITAL LLC ONLINE CONTEST

MUSCAT: Winners of the Times of Oman-Lifeline Hospital LLC online contest availed themselves of the comprehensive medical check-ups designed especially for them.

As part its 40th anniversary celebrations, *Times of Oman* had offered its online readers an executive health screening package from Lifeline Hospital LLC, a unit of VPS Healthcare. First established in February 23, 1975, *Times of Oman*, which is the Sultanate's first English newspaper, is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Among the 40 winners, 20 were selected from Muscat, 10 from Salalah and 10 from Sohar.

The 40 winners were chosen from among those who registered for the free executive health screening package atwww.timesofoman.com. The contest received an overwhelming response from Times of Oman online readers.

"The idea by Times of Oman to offer executive health screening packages from Lifeline Hospital LLC as part of their 40th anniversary celebrations was a great idea. The health check package was custom designed for all age groups and disease profiles," said one of the winners. The winners from Muscat were Salini Sajeev, Malhal Mohanan, Mariya Khorakiwala, Ajit Limaye, Anila, Linu Thomas, A Ashok Kumar, Jilsi Jayaraj, Ameerali.V.K, Sudheer Mambra, Pavithra, R Prabhakar, Rinzia Rajan, Zainab Esmail, Ajith, Abdul Rahiman Gulam Hussain, Afshan, Zahid Mehmood, Mini and Haider.

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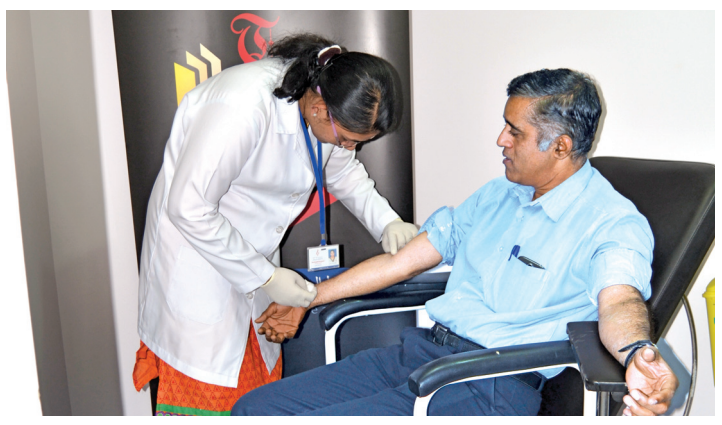
The winners from Sohar were Biju Chatoth, Sadiq, Saqeb Shahzad Mohammad, Hosmar Ganesh Shenoy, Sunanda Keshava Shenoy, Samskrati Gulvady, Liju G R, Diana Alphonso, Jyoti Tolani and Sivakumar Rajendran.

The winners from Salalah included Jethin P. S, Arunkumar Subramanian, Syed Imran Abbas, Jinumol K J, Sudha Subramanian, Ravichandran, Jameel Ahmed, Arun Loknath Poojary, M Noman Luqman and Suresh Babu.

Expressing his pleasure with being associated with the online promotion, Dr J. Retnakumar, CEO, Lifeline Hospital LLC (Oman), said, "I am happy that readers of *Times of Oman* were pleased with the packages that were on offer. We are delighted to have been associated with this promotion, which marks 40 years of *Times of Oman*, and we congratulate *Times of Oman* for its achievements and the innovations and initiatives it continues to undertake." Dr. Rohil Raghavan, Director, Lifeline Hospital LLC (Oman), announced free consultations would be available to the winners who received free health check ups in Muscat.













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Oman-India ties on the upswing

The visit of Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj to Oman has further strengthened the bilateral relations between the two countries



> Oman is a strategic and important partner for India in the Gulf region. The two countries have deep-rooted ties, thanks to geopolitical and socio-
>
> **Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah**
> Minister responsible for external affairs

MUSCAT: Keen to bolster its strategic ties with India, the Sultanate has invited Indian industries to establish more joint ventures in sectors like finance, insurance, engineering and telecom as the country seeks to diversify its economy.

Days after the maiden visit of Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to Oman, Oman's Minister Responsible for External Affairs Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah said his country was keen to enhance trade and economic ties with India.

"Oman is a strategic and important partner for India in the Gulf region. Indeed, the two countries have deep-rooted ties, thanks to geopolitical factors and socio-cultural and historical values across the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean as well," Abdullah told PTI.

As the Sultanate's economy is being keenly diversified in other areas such as tourism, fisheries, investment and agriculture, it is the endeavour of the Omani government to further reinforce economic and trade ties with India by engaging in joint venture enterprises ranging from finance, insurance, engineering, construction, investments and telecommunications, he said.

The minister also lauded the role played by the over seven lakh-strong Indian community in Oman's development.

The Indian community has contributed in "building, maintaining and reinforcing the infrastructure of the country at large. They are very much welcomed in the Sultanate and their work is appreciated," Abdullah said.

Indians form the largest expatriate group in Oman. They also repatriate around $3 billion annually.

"You all are the vital organic links between India and Oman," Swaraj had told a gathering here during her recent visit, the first by an Indian External Affairs Minister in seven years.

Abdullah said the visit of Swaraj to Muscat has enhanced bilateral political and diplomatic relations, apart from strengthening Oman-India economic and commercial relations, given the fact that Oman is "politically stable and economically prosperous."

During Swaraj's meeting with Oman's top leadership, India and Oman reviewed their strategic ties and decided to expand defence and maritime cooperation in maintaining the stability and security of the Indian Ocean region.

Oman is a key trading partner of India in the Gulf region with bilateral trade exceeding $5.7 billion in 2013-14.

The two sides also explored opportunities on how Oman can plug into the expanding opportunities in India, including as a natural gas supplier.

Given India's thirst for clean energy, the possibility of revisiting an undersea pipeline was also discussed.

There are more than 1,500 joint ventures between India and Oman. The major ones are the Oman-India fertiliser company in Sur and the Bharat-Oman refineries in Bina in Madhya Pradesh.

India has vital stakes in the security and stability of the Gulf region which hosts around 7 million Indians.

The Gulf countries are the source of two-third of India's crude oil requirements and form the largest trading regional block for India accounting for about a quarter of India's global trade.

Commenting on the growth prospects of India-Oman trade ties, FICCI President Jyotsna Suri said, "Oman plays a very important role in India's relationship with Gulf with bilateral trade exceeding $5.7 billion, and rising. With more than 1,500 Indian joint ventures, Indian investments in Oman exceed $6 billion," she added.

Opportunities for India in Oman are there in sectors like renewable energy, textiles, chemicals, healthcare education, and IT enabled services, she added. Besides, in areas like engineering, the Indian industry would also like Omani investment and joint ventures in Indian manufacturing sector.-PTI

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Book Fair from February 25

MUSCAT: Dr Abdul Munim bin Mansoor Al Hassani, Minister of Information and Head of the Organising Committee for Muscat International Book Fair, on Sunday said the 20th edition of Muscat International Book Fair will be held at Oman International Exhibition Centre from February 25 to March 7 under the auspices of Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture.

He said that more than 633 publishing houses from 24 Arab and foreign countries will take part in the Fair either directly or through agents.

He added that the Fair includes two sections. The first one named Al Farahidi, is dedicated to Arab and foreign publishers who display Arabic books. Ahmed bin Majid section will be dedicated for the publishing houses displaying foreign, Arab, children books.

"The Fair stretches over 7,848 houses and 872 pavilions at the two sections. Fourty-four publishing houses and bookshops from the Sultanate and other countries (25) will take part at the Fair," he added.

"The number of book titles listed at the Fair website stands at 180,000. The additional feature at this year's Book Fair is that Nizwa as Capital of Islamic Culture has been selected as a guest of honour. A media centre in addition to two halls for cultural and other events have been dedicated at the Fair," he added. - ONA



Dr Abdul Munim bin Mansoor Al Hassani - ONA

ARAB BROTHERHOOD

Oman holds talks with Palestine

MUSCAT: An official session of talks between the Sultanate and Palestine was held on Sunday at the Ministry of Social Development.

The Omani side to the talks was led by Sheikh Mohammed Suayed Al Kalbani, Minister of Social Development and the Palestinian side was led by Dr Shawqi Abdul Majeed, Minister of Social Development.

The Palestinian delegation was briefed on the initiatives of the Ministry of Social Development, as well as the role it plays in serving the various sectors of the Omani society.

The Omani side provided details of the family guidance and counselling department which promotes development programmes for families, including the marriage counselling programme 'Tamasuk'.

This initiative supports would-be and new couples to reduce the number of marital discord cases taking place.- ONA

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VISION
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TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) Announce for the following Tenders:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Tender Name	Last Date for Obtaining Tender Documents	Last Date for Submission of Offers	Grade	Tender Document's Price (RO)
01	139/2014 Retender	Providing Silicon Rubber Insulation Coating for Porcelain Tension Insulators in Sharqiya Grid Stations	05/03/2015	30/03/2015	Companies with experience in same field and have a valid Tender Board registration certificate	25/=
02	26/2015	Supply of Transformer Evacuation System	05/03/2015	30/03/2015	Companies with experience in same field and have a valid Tender Board registration certificate	25/=
03	33/2015	Supply of branded professional laptops and desktops	05/03/2015	30/03/2015	Companies with experience in same field and have a valid Tender Board registration certificate	60/=
04	34/2015	Installation of SkyWrap Cable between SFZ-Ittin-Alqurm GS	05/03/2015	06/04/2015	Companies with experience in same field and have a valid Tender Board registration certificate	90/=
05	36/2015	Sub-Harmonics Measurement Numerical S-PRO Relay	05/03/2015	06/04/2015	Companies with experience in same field and have a valid Tender Board registration certificate	25/=

Participate: Interested Companies may obtain Tender Documents from Tenders, Procurement and Contracts Department, Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC) at Al Mawalleh. The Tender Documents shall be issued to Firms who will produce a copy of valid Tender Board's Registration Certificate.

Time: The Tender Documents might be collected during working days from 8.00 am-1.00pm

Fees: Against the non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document. POS machine available

The deadline for clarification: Before two weeks from the Submission date

Submission: Each Tender should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope addressed to The Chairman of Internal tender Committee mentioning Tender Number and the Subject on the top of the envelope. No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope.

Terms and condition:
- No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope.
- The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the Tender value and addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC).
- OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender received.

Offer: The completed Tender documents should be deposited in the Tender Box No. (1) of the Tenders, Procurement and Contracts Department at the Company's building before 10:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.

Company Address: Muscat - Al Mawaleh
Road No: 2153 – Building No. 4230Block No: 321

Email tenders@omangrid.com



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T OMAN

> The growing demand for energy in the Middle East calls for a focus on technologies that promote efficiency and ensure the conservation and long-term sustainability of natural resources.
> **Matteo Codazzi,** CEO of CESI

Automated metre reading system soon

The new system would help expedite metre-based data processing and also improve billing accuracy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In order to expedite metre-based data processing, improve billing accuracy and cut down query-related costs, automated metre reading is set to become a reality in Oman.

CESI Middle East—a subsidiary of CESI, a global leader in technical consulting and engineering—has signed an agreement with Oman's Electricity Holding Company SAOC (EHC) (Nama Group) on behalf of the distribution and supply firms in Oman. This agreement was signed to introduce 'automated metre reading' technology for high value customers.

EHC is a joint stock enterprise that holds shares of the government in nine companies engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity and related water services.


The smart metering tech will enhance data processing speed.

The agreement with CESI was signed in the presence of senior executives from EHC's subsidiaries, including Muscat Electricity Distribution Company SAOC, Mazoon Electricity Company SAOC, Majan Electricity Company SAOC, Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC and Dhofar Power Company.

According to the agreement, CESI will help EHC and its subsidiaries to develop the blueprint for the implementation of AMR, also known as smart metering, for high value customers in Oman. In addition to defining the customer segments and functional requirements of AMR, CESI will also plan the rollout approach, outline security measures and standards, design the market messaging system, and detail the solution architecture and system level designs to be employed in the AMR system.

Its other responsibilities will include identifying metre specifications, framing telecommunications, media and IT solutions, handling the Metre Data Management System (MDMS), and charting out the testing strategy, governance practices, risk evaluation and mitigation practices.

Stress on efficiency

CEO of CESI, Matteo Codazzi, said, "The growing demand for energy in the Middle East calls for a focus on technologies that promote efficiency and ensure the conservation and long-term sustainability of natural resources. This agreement is a fine example of how private and public sectors can collaborate to identify the best technologies to improve productivity and unlock the maximum potential in any given asset, ultimately benefitting citizens, smaller enterprises and government functions."

The smart metering technology will enhance the quality and speed of processing of metre-based data, improve billing accuracy, reduce debtor days, mitigate losses and lessen query-related costs.

Managing Director of CESI Middle East, Dr. Floris Hendrikus Schulze, noted, "This agreement is a milestone for the Government of Oman as it works to secure energy reserves and improve awareness and understanding of sustainability. CESI is fully committed to provide strategic insight required for such an important project."

NEW REGULATIONS

< FROM A1

'Plan to streamline housemaid hiring'

The six-nation GCC is home to nearly 2.4 million domestic workers, mostly from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

In November 2014, GCC labour ministers, while meeting with their Asian counterparts in Kuwait, had agreed on minimum terms in the contracts of domestic workers.

The GCC countries had agreed on a new standard contract for domestic workers, which, when it comes into place, would impose an eight-hour limit on their working day, give them a day off each week, entitle them to overtime compensation, and paid annual leave. A Ministry of Manpower official said the aim is to streamline the housemaid market in Oman.

In the recent past, the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Indian governments have put in place more restrictions on hiring of maids.

A notice from the Philippines authorities dated February 15, 2015, addressed to recruiting agencies and employers stated that effective from March 1, the embassy's labour attaché department will strictly implement the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) rules and regulations on the $400 or OMR160 as minimum salary for household service workers in Oman.

Hiring of Indonesian domestic workers in Oman was suspended from March 1, according to a senior official of Indonesian embassy in Muscat, and they had temporarily stopped endorsing job requests.

Similarly, recruitment of Nepalese housemaids in Oman has also been put on hold.

D B Chettri, president of Muscat chapter of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), said that the ban has been imposed to regulate the recruitment process and to ensure safety of female workers.

"It will also end the malpractice of manpower agencies in Nepal who recruit domestic workers," he said.

Following the ban, the Ministry of Labour in Nepal appointed a committee to study and recommend regulatory mechanisms in the recruitment process of housemaids.

"Once the recommendations are made, new rules will be introduced and recruitment agencies will have to follow them," he said.

In an effort to protect its nationals, the Sri Lankan Embassy in Muscat said that they will be hired only on getting a no-objection certificate from their husband or relatives.

Restrictions

According to the Indian Embassy's website, "The sponsor will have to provide a bank guarantee of OMR1100 as a security deposit to the Indian embassy. The deposit shall be used for any unpaid dues, salary and legal obligations. The deposit shall be reimbursed to the sponsor after he/she produces visa cancellation/transfer papers and a letter from the housemaid specifying that all dues have been paid. The housemaid proposed to be employed in Oman should be between 30 and 50 years of age. The sponsor should furnish an insurance policy for the housemaid with an approved Insurer for compensation against illnesses, accident and occupational injuries etc as per Omani laws. The minimum salary of the Indian housemaid should be OMR75."

Mohammed Ashraf, a recruitment agent said, "It is important to regulate the process, but I feel the salary quoted for Philippine nationals is very high compared to the others."

Ashraf said that hiking of salaries might encourage black market deals between people without the transfer of housemaids through agencies and embassies.

Decision welcomed

Mariyah K, a Filipino housemaid working in Oman, welcomed the decision of her government.

"Each embassy should stand up for its nationals especially when it comes to domestic workers. There are many housemaids who do not know their rights," she said.

According to Ellene Sana, executive director at Centre for Migrant Advocacy, Philippine, "The $400 entry level monthly salary for Filipino domestic workers has been in place since the end of 2006. This is part and parcel of the household service workers reform package that was promulgated by POEA in the aftermath of the Lebanon war in 2006. I am actually surprised to know that the $400 salary demand from the Philippine government has yet to be considered by employers."

Elena added, "I know there are numerous violations in the policy of the Philippine government. But officially, this is part of the package of reforms that the Philippine government carries on the negotiating table with countries of destination for Filipino migrant domestic workers. The Philippine embassy and government should ensure co-operation of the host countries and set up an effective monitoring mechanism for the compliance."

"Migrant workers should know their rights and entitlements and not settle for less. You can say that this is easier said than done. Government policies are not enough unless there is an effective monitoring mechanism and enabling environment for its effective implementation," she added.

However, Omani national Abu Khalid felt that the government was only listening to the embassies and implementing their directives.

"Someone should speak for the employer," he said, while adding that the Ministry of Manpower should put the same pressure on embassies as they do on employers.

On the other hand, Khalid Al Balushi, working in the private sector, felt that he would never hire domestic workers after the latest decision.

Not affordable

"My wife was trying to convince me to hire a housemaid, but after the latest move I will definitely not do it," he said. He could not afford to pay such a high monthly salary for a housemaid, he added.

Meanwhile a special committee of the State Council is studying a legislation which regulates the employment of expatriate workers in the Sultanate

The committee has also addressed the final draft of its report. It held several meetings with officials from the concerned authorities and discussed the issue of absconding housemaids and its impact on communities and individuals. Meanwhile, Shaji Sebastin, Muscat based social worker for the last 30 years said, "Domestic workers in the region are not sufficiently protected by law and have limited means to redress their grievances, so governments are justified in implementing stricter rules."

- With inputs from Rejimon K and Rahul Das

CORRIGENDUM

Computer Stationery Industry SAOG had erroneously published the day of the Annual General Meeting in Times of Oman on February 22, 2015. The correct day of the meeting is Wednesday March 11, 2015.

NOTICE



This is to to notify that **Mr. Varghese Antony Nettayikodathu**, holder of **Indian Passport No.: F 9955527** has left the services of our company effectivve **1st February 2015**. This is to inform all concerned that SHINING STAR TRADING will not be respnsible for any dealing transacted with him on our behalf.

SHINING STAR TRADING
P.O. 331, P.C. 131, Al Hamriya, Sultanate of Oman

INDIAN SCHOOL, SALALAH
P O Box. 2305, Salalah– 211, Sultanate of Oman
Phone: 23235700/23235701 (Extn: 106), Fax: 23235376
Email: iss2305@omantel.net.om; Website: indianschoolsalalah.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from authorized companies for the

DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SUN SHADE FOR ASSEMBLY AREA

Interested parties shall remit a sum of RO 10/ (RO Ten only) at the school Main Office and collect the tender document between 9.00 AM and 1.00 PM on all working days from February 23 to 26, 2015. For more details contact Mr. Nobin M G, Administrative Officer at 99671891/23235700 (Extn. 106)

Indian School Salalah reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Last date of submission: 01/03/2015 before 1.00 pm

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INVITATION TO ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Muscat Thread Mills SAOG are pleased to invite all the shareholders of the company to attend its Annual Ordinary General Meeting to be held on Tuesday the 10th March 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Mills' premises at Rusayl Industrial Estate. The following will be the agenda:

1- To consider and approve the Chairman's Report for the year ended 31st December 2014.
2- To study and approve the Corporate Governance report for the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
3- To consider the Auditor's Report and approve the Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account) for the year ended 31st December 2014.
4- To consider and approve the declaration of stock dividend at 10% of the paid up capital of company (1 share for every 10 shares).
5- To approve the sitting fees paid to the members of the Board of Directors and Board Committees for the year 2014 and the fees proposed for the year 2015 as set out on the annexure detailing the sitting fees. (Annexure 1)
6- To consider the proposal to allocate RO 5,000 for the community service programs during 2015.
7- To appoint external auditors for the year ended 31/12/2015 and fix their remuneration.

In accordance with the company's Articles of Association, every shareholder may delegate any other person, to attend and vote on his or her behalf. The power of attorney should be made on the forms issued by Muscat Clearance & Depository Company (copies of which are enclosed with the invitation). The natural or juristic person should attach with the power of attorney, copy of ID (for adults), copy of the passport (for females and minors) that do not have IDs, residence card or passport copy for Non Omanis. The power of attorney made by the juristic person should be signed by one of the authorized signatories and stamped with the company stamp. You should also attach copy of the CR and samples of authorized signatories signature form.

Please attend at least 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

For further information please contact Mr. Manish Rachh on phone 2444 6806.

Chairman **Auditor** **Legal Advisor**

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NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Computer Stationery Industry SAOG invites all Shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, 11th March 2015 at 4 PM at the Al Falaj Hotel to discuss the following agenda:

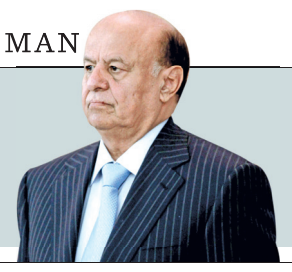
1 To consider and approve the report of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
2. To consider and approve the Report on Corporate Governance for the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
3. To consider the Auditors' report and approve the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
4. To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend distribution of 20 % of the paid up Capital (at the rate of RO 0.020 baisas per share).
5. To approve the sitting fees being availed by the members of the Board of Directors and members of the Board's sub-committees for the financial year ended 31st December 2014 and to specify the sitting fees for the next financial year (as per attachment 1).
6 To bring to the attention of the Shareholders the transactions entered into with related parties during the financial year ended 31st December 2014 (as per attachment 2).
7 To consider and approve the proposed transactions to be conducted by the company with related parties during the financial year ending 31st December 2015 (by facility)
8. Election of the members of the new board of the company (the shareholders or non-shareholders), for those who wish to run for board membership to mobilize the nomination form prepared for that and delivered to the Company prior to the AGM for two working days and no later than the end of the day Sunday, 8th March 2015, and will not accept any form received after that, and if it is the candidate of the shareholders in accordance with the Statute of the company is required to be the owner of the number of (10,000) shares the date of the AGM.
9. To appoint auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2015 and approve their fees.

In accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company, any Shareholder may authorize, in writing, any person to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, provided that the authorization is executed on the Proxy Form issued by Muscat Clearing and Depository (SAOC) attached to the meeting notice. If the proxy is issued by a natural person, a copy of such person ID card in case of adults, copy of the passport in case of women and minors who do not have ID cards and copy of resident card or passport in case of non-Omani must be attached to the Proxy Form. If the proxy is issued by a juristic person the Proxy Form must be sealed by the company's seal, signed by one of the company's authorized signatories and copies of the company's Certificate of Commercial Registration and Authorized Signatories Form must be attached to the Proxy Form.

The Shareholders and their Proxies are requested to be present at the meeting hall, at least half an hour prior to the commencement of the meeting for registration.

For further information please contact Mr. Khalil Ahmed Al Balushi on phone no (94306245)

Chairman **Auditors** **Legal Advisor**



What is going on is a struggle for authority of the first order and not due to concern for the interests of the people
Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi, Yemen's President

REGION

RAIN WATER FLOODS GAZA STRIP VILLAGE

Palestinians ride horse carts as they evacuate their animals in the village of Al Moghraga after it was flooded by rain water, near central Gaza Strip on Sunday. — Reuters

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CHARGES OF INSULTING

Kuwaiti opposition leader sentenced to two years in prison

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's appeals court sentenced prominent opposition leader Mussallam Al Barrak to two years in jail on Sunday on charges of insulting the country's ruler, his group said.

The charges relate to a speech he gave to tens of thousands of demonstrators in October 2012 protesting changes to the electoral law which he said would allow the ruling Al Sabah family to manipulate the outcome of elections.

Barrak was a member of parliament at the time but his nationalist Popular Action Movement boycotted December 2012 and July 2013 polls held under the new electoral law.

"The appeals court passed a two-year sentence on Barrak," PAM said on its Twitter account.

It quoted its leader as vowing that the campaign for reform in the country would go on.

"You can jail my body but not my ideas and will," he said.

The appeals court tried Barrak after quashing a five-year jail term handed down by a lower court in April 2013 on the same charges of insulting Kuwait's Emir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al A Jaber Al Sabah.

Angry protests

That judgement sparked angry protests by opposition activists, several of whom were wounded when police responded with tear gas and stun grenades.

In July last year, there were further demonstrations when Barrak was detained for five days on separate charges of insulting the judiciary.

Since 2012, Kuwaiti authorities have cracked down on the opposition, handing down heavy jail terms and even revoking the citizenship of PAM spokesman Saad Al Ajmi last September.

Article 25 of Kuwait's 1970 penal code provides for jail terms of up to five years for anyone who publicly "objects to the rights and authorities of the Emir or faults him". — AFP

APPROACHING DEADLINE

Kerry, Zarif meet for fresh nuclear talks

GENEVA: US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Geneva on Sunday for fresh talks with his Iranian counterpart on Tehran's nuclear programme, after warning "significant gaps" remain ahead of a key deadline.

World powers are trying to strike a deal with Iran that would prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb in return for an easing of punishing international economic sanctions.

Iran denies its nuclear programme has military objectives.

Kerry had been set to arrive in the Swiss city on Sunday morning for two days of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, but was delayed in London. US and Iranian diplomats have been meeting in Geneva since Friday, and senior negotiators from the so-called P5+1 group of Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany were also expected to meet on Sunday to help drive the talks forward.

'Greater resolve'

Speaking before the talks, Wang Qun, director general of the arms control and disarmament department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said: Our resolve is greater than the difficulties."

There is a heightened sense of urgency as the clock ticks down towards a March 31 deadline to agree on a political framework for the deal.

But Kerry warned in London Saturday that "there are still significant gaps, there is still a distance to travel." — AFP

Hadi seeks to resume duties as Yemen's head of state

Yemen's president convened governors of several southern provinces and military commanders at the presidential retreat in Aden

ADEN: Yemen's President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi sought to resume his duties as head of state on Sunday, holding his first public engagement with state officials since he fled house arrest in Sanaa by the Houthi group that dominates the northern half of the country.

Hadi convened governors of several southern provinces and military commanders at the presidential retreat in the economic hub of Aden, in a meeting which was broadcast on the city's local television channel.

Hadi submitted his resignation last month after Houthi fighters seized the presidential palace and held him under house arrest in the capital Sanaa in a power struggle that followed months of tension over a constitutional dispute.

But the Yemeni parliament had never convened to approve the resignation for it to go into effect as stipulated by Yemeni laws.

On Saturday Hadi appeared to rescind his resignation after he escaped from Sanaa, saying in a statement he was still president. Aden is firmly outside the control of the Houthis.

Sources at the meeting said Hadi re-affirmed his commitment to a 2011 Gulf-sponsored power transfer deal that allowed his predecessor, veteran Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh, to step down following months of protests.

He also slammed the Houthi group, which seized Sanaa in September and completed its takeover of the government last month.

"What is going on is a struggle for authority of the first order and not due to concern for the interests of the people," one source quoted Hadi as telling the meeting.

He also called for the release of Prime Minister Khaled Bahah and other government officials, who have also been kept under house arrest, and demanded they be allowed to resume their duties.

Political efforts

Hadi received the governors of various southern Yemeni provinces, Aden governor Abdulaziz bin Habtoor said.

"The president will keep up his political efforts to lead from Aden," Habtoor told reporters after the meeting, which was also attended by army and security chiefs.

"His priority is to normalise the security situation in Aden in order to receive foreign delegates who have requested appointments to meet him," he said.

Aden is jointly controlled by troops loyal to Hadi and allied local militia known as the Popular Committees.

Southern Yemen is friendly territory for Hadi, himself a southerner, and local leaders have refused to recognise the authority of the council formed by the Houthis. An aide to Hadi said the president used the meeting to call for restarting a political transition process that stalled after the Houthis overran Sanaa in September. "He underlined the need to implement the recommendations of the national dialogue" which include turning the republic into a federation of six regions, the aide said.

Talks sponsored by UN envoy Jamal Benomar in Sanaa to end the political deadlock stalled on Saturday following Hadi's escape but were expected to resume.

But the pan-Arab Nasserist party said such discussions are "no longer useful" and invited Hadi to "assumes his duties as a head of state". — Agencies



SHOW OF SUPPORT: A protester shouts slogans to show support to Yemen's President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi in Yemen's southwestern city of Taiz on Sunday. - Reuters

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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

The Board of Directors of Sweets of Oman SAOG takes pleasure in inviting shareholders to attend the Annual Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 5.00 P.M on Sunday, 15th March 2015 at Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry,Al Batina Hall (Ground floor), C B D, Muscat to consider the following agenda:

1. To consider and approve the report of the Board of Directors for the Company for the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the Company for the year ended 31st December 2014.
3. To consider the Auditor's Report and approve the Statement of financial position as at 31st December 2014 and the Statement of comprehensive Income for the year ended 31st December 2014.
4. To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend to shareholders of 50 Baisa per share (50% on the paid up Capital) for the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
5. To approve the paid sitting fees for the Board of Directors for attending both the board meetings and the subsidiary committees for the previous financial year and for the forthcoming financial year as per the attached.
6. To consider and approve the transactions entered into by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended 31st December 2014.
7. To elect members of the Board of Directors from among the shareholders and/or the non-shareholders. Any person wishing to nominate/herself to the Board of Director may fill out the Nomination Form prepared for this purpose and submit it to the Company 2 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, not later than Tuesday March 10, 2015. Any Nomination Form submitted after this deadline will not be accepted. If the candidate is a shareholder, the candidate is required in accordance with the company's article of association to own (50,000) shares of the company's share at the Annual General Meeting date.
8. To appoint Auditors for the Company for the year ending 31st December 2015 and to fix their remuneration.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association of the Company and Amendments thereto, any shareholder is entitled to authorise any other person to attend the meeting and vote, provided that the authorisation should be done on the proxy form issued by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company attached to the notice. Any natural person appointing a proxy should attach his/her ID Card for an adult, or a copy of the Passport for ladies and minors, or a Residence Card and Passport for non-Omanis. Any juridical person appointing a proxy, proxy form should be signed by one of the authorised signatories and carry the Company's stamp with a copy of the commercial registration and the specimen of the authorised signatories.

Kindly come to the meeting place at least half an hour before the specified time to prevent delay.

For further information please contact Mr. S. Balakrishna,
Tel : (968) 24446278 /24446279 . Fax : 24446276
email: sweets@omantel.net.om

Chairman **Chartered Accountants** **Legal Advisor**

Ministry of Housing

TENDER NOTICE

Ministry of Housing (Directorate General of Housing at Al-Buraimi Governorate – Administrative and Financial Affairs Department) announces the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Last date for obtaining tender documents	Last date for submitting bids
3/2015	Construction of a house (Twin Villa) on plots Nos. (4503 – 4470)	25/02/2015	02/03/2015
4/2015	Construction of a house (Twin Villa) on plots Nos. (4505 – 4472)	25/02/2015	02/03/2015
5/2015	Construction of a house (Twin Villa) on plots Nos. (4504 – 4471)	25/02/2015	02/03/2015

1. Companies or institutions specialized in the abovementioned works may obtain tender terms from the Financial Affairs Section at the Directorate General of Housing at Al-Buraimi Governorate during working hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. against payment of a non-refundable RO 25/- per copy.
2. Bids shall be submitted in closed envelops, sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Sub-Committee at the Directorate General of Housing at Al-Buraimi Governorate, bearing the tender number and subject with no indication to the name of the tenderer.
3. Bids shall be deposited in the tender box at the building of the Directorate General of Housing in Al-Buraimi Governorate before 1 p.m. of the last day for submitting bids.
4. Bidding companies shall enclose a bank warranty of (1%) of the tender value. Any bid not enclosing that warranty shall not be considered.
5. The Ministry of Housing shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

www.housing.gov.om

INDIA

> One thing is clear that this government will not allow anybody to subvert the system. This government is determined to punish those who break law
> **Dharmendra Pradhan,** Oil and Petroleum minister

Nitish returns as Bihar chief minister

Governor K.N. Tripathi, who administered oath to Nitish Kumar and his ministers, directed the new government to seek a confidence vote in the assembly in March

PATNA: Nitish Kumar on Sunday returned as Bihar chief minister, nine months after he resigned following his Janata Dal-United (JD-U) party's massive defeat in the 2014 general elections.

Party leaders said he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek more funds to speed up development work in the state.

The 66-year-old Janata Dal-United leader was administered the oath of office as the 24th chief minister of Bihar by Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi. Along with Nitish Kumar, 22 ministers also took oath at a simple ceremony at Raj Bhavan here.

Fourth stint

Most of the ministers were in his earlier cabinet and are considered loyal and trusted. This will be Nitish Kumar's fourth time as chief minister. Nitish had resigned as chief minister last year after the JD-U's rout in the Lok Sabha polls.

Jitan Ram Manjhi, who was made chief minister in May 2014, resigned on February 20 after a political row in the state. JD-U leaders said Nitish Kumar will seek a meeting with Modi in the first week of March to request more funds for the state's economic development.

"Governor K.N. Tripathi, who administered oath to Nitish Kumar and his ministers, directed the new government to seek a confidence vote in the assembly in March," officials said. The party's national general secretary K.C. Tyagi said Nitish Kumar will meet Modi for the sake of Bihar's development.

"Nitish will certainly meet Modi soon," Tyagi told media persons ahead of the oath-taking ceremony. JD-U state president Vashisht Narain Singh said: "There is a need for more cooperation from the central government for the state's development. Nitish Kumar will meet Modi soon."



BACK AT THE HELM: JD(U)senior leader Nitish Kumar is administered oath of office as Chief Minister of Bihar by Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi at Raj Bhawan, in Patna, on Sunday. - PTI

Cabinet members

Those who were inducted into his cabinet were Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Bijendra Yadav, Ramai Ram, Ramlashan Ram Raman, Damodar Rawat, P.K. Shahi, Shyam Razak, Lesi Singh, Dular Chandra Goswami, Awadesh Narain Kushwaha, Lalan Singh, Sharvan Kumar, Ramdhani Singh, Jai Kumar Singh, Baidnath Shahni, Bima Bharti, Ranju Gita, Narendra Narain Yadav, Naushad Alam, Ninod Yadav, Manoj Singh Kushwaha, and Jawed Iqbal Ansari.

Several of the new ministers touched Nitish Kumar's feet after they took oath. Former prime minister H.D. Deve Gowda, JD-U president Sharad Yadav, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, former Bihar chief minister Manjhi and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi attended the swearing-in function.

Nitish Kumar had last year snapped ties with long-time ally BJP after Narendra Modi was named the party's prime ministerial candidate. This proved counter-productive and resulted in the JD-U's rout in the Lok Sabha polls.

Born in 1951, Nitish Kumar was elected to the Bihar assembly for the first time in 1985. He became president of the Yuva Lok Dal in 1987 and secretary general of the then undivided Janata Dal two years later. He was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1989 and went on to win five parliamentary elections from Bihar.

A minister of state in the V.P. Singh government, he became railway minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government but resigned when a train disaster claimed the lives of about 250 people.

Apologised

He returned to the cabinet as minister for surface transport and agriculture. Nitish Kumar on Friday publicly apologised to the people of Bihar for his "mistake" for having resigned as chief minister last year. "I admit that I made a mistake by resigning as chief minister. I publicly apologise for it to the people of Bihar. Please forgive me, as I will not repeat my mistake," he said.

In the 243-member assembly, the JD-U has 115 legislators. The party has the support of 24 Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) legislators, five Congress legislators, two independents and a Communist Party of India legislator. The BJP has 88 legislators and is supported by three Independents. - IANS

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Sl/ No	Vehicle Type	Truck No	Truck Capacity	Truck Model	Issue Date	Expiry Date
1	Isuzu Truck	7710 AK	3.5 MT	2007	22/8/2014	26/04/2015
2	Isuzu Truck	4932 ML	3.5 MT	2005	15/5/2014	05/11/2015
5	Mitsubishi	2055 R K	3.5 MT	2013	09/01/2014	16/07/2015
4	Isuzu Truck	6136 HK	10 MT	2007	28/08/2014	08/10/2015
6	Isuzu Truck	4747 WB	10 MT	2007	23/03/2014	10/02/2014
3	Nissan Sunny	2133 BW	Saloon	2007	08/06/2014	14/07/2015
7	Nissan Sunny	7521 RR	Saloon	2006	15/12/2013	11/06/2014
8	Nissan Sunny	7522 RR	Saloon	2006	15/12/2013	11/06/2014

CORPORATE ESPIONAGE CASE

All guilty will be punished but no witch hunt: Padhan

NEW DELHI: Against the backdrop of leakage of documents from his ministry, Oil and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday asserted that all those who subverted the system would be punished but made it clear that the government was not targeting any particular corporate.

He also said that his ministry is ascertaining whether standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling confidential information were violated.

"*Yeh kisi ek ke bare mein ya kisi ek ki khilaf nahi hai. Hamare ghar mein chori hui hai and humne competent system ko approach kiya is cheeze ko throughly investigate karne ke liye*. (this is not about anyone (corporate) or against anyone. Our house has been burgled and we approached the competent authority for investigation," Pradhan said.

"One thing is clear that this government will not allow anybody to subvert the system. This government is determined to punish those who break law," he said.

His comments came as the probe by Delhi Police continued to expand with 12 people, including five executives of private companies, being arrested and raids being carried out at various places.

According to police, some of the accused allegedly used fake ID cards to gain access to Shastri Bhawan, the building that houses the Petroleum Ministry on the second floor, in the middle of the night to get hold of confidential documents and allegedly sold them to purported agents of certain corporates.

The arrested executives belong to Reliance Industries,Essar, Cairn and Reliance Group.

"Nobody is above law. Nobody will be spared. Law will take its own course," Pradhan has said.

"Nobody will be spared... nobody can breach law, howsoever powerful he may be...We will not allow anyone to breach the system," he said. - PTI

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

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

Directors' Report

Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I am pleased to welcome you all to the 34th Annual General Meeting of The National Detergent Co. SAOG and present the Annual Report along with the Auditor's Report for the year 2014.

Highlights of 2014
Despite various challenges faced by the company during the year like increase in manpower cost and other operational costs, your company had achieved higher volume and value sales compared to the previous year. Profit before tax was impacted due to increased direct operational costs, increased raw material prices and continued price competition in the market place. However, our conscious efforts to increase sales and additional investments in brand equity building had contributed to the higher sales achievement.

Due to consistent quality and continued consumers' patronage, your company's flagship brand BAHAR has improved its market position in Oman. Some of the export markets have registered consistent good growth during the year compared to the last year.

All the major products have performed well both in local and export markets during the year 2014. Sohar powder plant and liquid plant are fully operational now and additional capacities of these plants have helped in exploring new markets and tapping the available opportunities in the existing markets. Utilization of capacities in all the manufacturing plant of the Company was at optimal level during the year. Your Company is setting up a new non-tower detergent powder plant in Sohar, which would help in improving the Company's presence in powder segment in the years to come.

Sulphonation Division
During the year, Sulphonation division has also performed well both in terms of volume and value sales growth, however, the profitability for the division was under pressure due to unstable and declining raw material prices. Severe price competition and availability of excess capacity in the region has also impacted the profitability of this division.

Results for the year 2014
The sales revenue for the year was RO 23,385,726 compared to RO 21,703,585 in the previous year, registering a positive growth.

The Company's profit from operations for the year was RO 1,133,680 compared to the last year figure of RO 1,408,670.

Profit Before Tax for the year was at RO 915,415 compared to the previous year figure of RO 1,196,477 and the reduction in profitability is mainly due to increased manpower cost and other operational costs.

Omanisation
The Company's efforts to improve the Omanisation at various levels of the organization including the senior and middle levels, with adequate training inputs, continued during this year. In spite of high turnover of Omani employees due to various factors, the Omanisation percentage was maintained at the year-end at above 35%, including senior levels of the company.

Dividend
Based on the net profit of the year, your Board is pleased to recommend a cash dividend of Bzs. 40 per share of Bzs.100 each, which would mean a payment of RO 680,500/-.

Details of the cash dividend paid during the last few years are given below:

Year	Dividend
2013	40%
2012	35%
2011	40%

Compliance with Internal Regulations and Control System
Your Company has in place an internal control system, commensurate with the size and nature of its business. Your Company has utilized the services of M/s. Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP, an internationally reputed Audit firm, for conducting periodic review of the internal control system and the Audit Committee oversees the process at regular intervals.

Future Outlook
The Company will endeavor to maintain the profitability with effective control on costs and better product mix focus in the coming years. In spite of many challenges like increased manpower cost, other operational costs and stiff import duties charged for Omani products even in Arab League countries, the Company will continue its efforts to improve the sales in local as well as in GCC markets by identifying new market opportunities and expanding the product range. The capacity expansion in Liquid products achieved will help increasing our presence in local as well as in export markets in the coming years.

Oman social responsibility initiative
As a responsible corporate citizen of Oman, the company has been involved in various social initiatives, which are reviewed periodically, and further steps are being taken for enhancing social responsibility initiatives for Omani society. The company uses Omani transporters for its logistics activities and gives conscious preference to use the services of Omani nationals to the possible extent. The company also encourages the local talent and motivate them becoming self-employed by giving training and awarding various jobs directly / indirectly related to our industry. The Company also provides good medical facilities to the Omani employees and they are also sent for various training / educational program which will enhance their talents and they will become skilled personnel for the industrial society. The company maintains the Omanisation level well in line with the prescribed norms and also engages Omanis as trainees in various departments. Regular donations to various Omani associations in cash and in kind are being given, wherever possible, to encourage their activities.

The Company's Sales and Marketing team has over the years been encouraging potential Omani nationals and giving them guidance at various stages to set up retail outlets to sell FMCG products and be successful self-employed entrepreneurs, which is yielding good results.

Future social responsibility initiatives
Your Company is actively pursuing initiatives in the areas of transportation, logistics, contract packing and marketing to assist Omanis, who are interested in pursuing entrepreneurial ventures in their areas of interest. A few of them have already been successfully inducted to provide these services to the company, as part of our SME initiatives.

The company will continue in recruit and train more Omanis at various levels in the organization. The company will also look at other non-core activities of the business, which can be effectively outsourced to interested nationals in this pursuit.

Acknowledgement
On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I thank His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said for his continuous support and encouragement to the industrial sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

I would like to express our gratitude to all the Ministries and Muscat Municipality for their cooperation. I would also like to thank all the shareholders for their confidence reposed in the Board of Directors, the Auditors for their cooperation and support, and our employees for their dedication and efforts.

I also wish to express our sincere thanks to all our trade partners for their valued patronage and co-operation and to all our customers who have continued to place their trust and confidence in our range of products.

Redha Baqir Al Lawati
Chairman, Board of Directors

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2014

	2014 RO	2013 RO
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	**14,185,780**	13,796,858
Current assets		
Inventories	**4,367,698**	3,992,452
Trade and other receivables	**5,943,929**	5,005,080
Cash and bank balances	**1,793,859**	1,278,495
	12,105,486	10,276,027
Total assets	**26,291,266**	24,072,885
Equity		
Share capital	**1,701,250**	1,701,250
Share premium	**364,263**	364,263
Legal reserve	**567,083**	567,083
Revaluation reserve	**7,228,682**	7,228,682
Proposed dividend	**680,500**	680,500
Retained earnings	**2,717,156**	2,588,527
Total equity	**13,258,934**	13,130,305
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Long term loans	**2,392,684**	2,340,281
Deferred tax	**1,085,919**	1,061,033
End of service benefits	**655,979**	577,021
	4,134,582	3,978,335
Current liabilities		
Current maturities of term loans	**603,332**	583,332
Short term loans and overdrafts	**4,036,526**	1,500,000
Trade and other payables	**4,176,492**	4,750,818
Taxation	**81,400**	130,095
	8,897,750	6,964,245
Total liabilities	**13,032,332**	10,942,580
Total equity and liabilities	**26,291,266**	24,072,885
Net assets per share	**Bzs 779**	Bzs 772

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 RO	2013 RO
Revenue	**23,385,726**	21,703,585
Cost of sales	**(18,020,997)**	(16,182,558)
Gross profit	**5,364,729**	5,521,027
Selling and distribution expenses	**(3,253,741)**	(3,172,806)
Administrative and general expenses	**(1,008,269)**	(976,082)
Other operating income	**30,961**	36,531
Profit from operations	**1,133,680**	1,408,670
Finance costs	**(200,136)**	(182,193)
Finance income	**3,871**	-
Finance costs -net	**(196,265)**	(182,193)
Directors' remuneration	**(22,000)**	(30,000)
Profit before tax	**915,415**	1,196,477
Taxation	**(106,286)**	(139,978)
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	**809,129**	1,056,499
Basic earnings per share	**Bzs 48**	Bzs 62

Note:
1. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder on request either in Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt of the request.
2. Shareholders and investors are advised to read the full financial statements.
3. Certain comparative figures have been reclassified in order to conform to the presentation for the current period.

BANGLADESH VISIT

BJP accuses Mamata of moving around with corrupt people

KOLKATA: The BJP on Sunday charged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with maintaining a double standard in her relationship with corrupt and tainted persons, saying she moved around with them freely, but once they were arrested she quickly disowned them.

The party demanded that she explain to the people her link with such "suspicious elements".

"She always maintains a double standard in her relation with corrupt and tainted associates and disowns them or denies any link once they are arrested.

"But she has to answer to people about her link with such suspicious elements," BJP state President Rahul Sinha said.

"This has once again been proved with the chief minister stating that the arrest of businessman Shibaji Panja had nothing to do with his being a member of her entourage to Bangladesh," he said.

"I wonder the way our chief minister loves to stay with corrupt persons and I never heard if any member of the chief minister's entourage was arrested earlier. Earlier a coal mafia also accompanied her to Singapore for a business trip," Sinha alleged.

Criticising Mamata on her attack on media, Sinha said,

"How dare she attacks on media which is described as the fourth pillar in a democracy."

Mamata had on Sunday snapped back at the media when she was asked about Panja's detention, saying she could have put them in jail also.

The BJP national secretary incharge of West Bengal Siddharth Nath Singh said the arrest of Panja would once again disclose how the CM and her party were steeped in corruption.

"Now she has to answer to people about Panja's relation with her and her party and also what this businessman arrested in a case of financial fraud was doing in Bangladesh and Singapore," Singh said.

The businessman-cum-film producer Panja was detained at the immigration counter of the airport on a 'Look out' notice by the Delhi Police after the team landed here on Saturday night before being arrested. - PTI



IN THE EYE OF STORM: Businessman Shibaji Panja being produced at Barrackpore Court in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Sunday. — PTI

> Now she has to answer to people about Panja's relation with her and her party and also what this businessman arrested in a case of financial fraud was doing in Bangladesh and Singapore
> **Rahul Sinha**
> BJP state president

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H1N1 VIRUS DISEASE

Flu claims 38 more lives, death toll crosses 800

NEW DELHI: A specific type of flu claimed 38 more lives in the country taking the death toll beyond 800 even as the total number of people affected by the disease on Sunday breached the 13,000 mark.

According to Health Ministry figures, the total number of deaths due to the disease has now reached 812 while 13,688 people have been affected with the H1N1 virus across the country.

Health Ministry officials had on Saturday said that the number of people affected by the flu was 12,963 while deaths caused by the infection was 774 as per figures available till February 20.

A senior health official said that in comparison to Saturday, there has been a dip in the number of fresh positive cases.

Seven more persons succumbed to the flu in Rajasthan.

Out of 4318 patients who tested positive for the HINI virus, 212 have died since January 1, an official of Medical and Health Directorate (MHD) said here.

The Union Health Ministry has already asked the state drug controllers to ensure that chemist shops display prominently availability of medicines for its treatment. - PTI

Modi in conciliatory mode, rival parties not impressed

Opposition made clear their mood to take on the government despite Prime Minister Modi's strong plea for smooth functioning of Parliament in the Budget session



ALL PARTY MEET: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior ministers along with leaders from other parties at the all party meet at Parliament House in New Delhi on Sunday. - PTI

NEW DELHI: Government on Sunday made a vigorous bid to seek Opposition cooperation as it faces a torrid Budget session of Parliament starting today but rival parties appeared to be in no mood to relent on some thorny issues like the controversial Land Ordinance.

At a meeting of political parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed for cooperation for the benefit of common man while Parliamentary Affairs Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu said the government is willing to walk the "extra mile" to accommodate opposition's concerns.

Modi made a strong plea for ensuring smooth functioning of Parliament as the Budget session is very crucial and people look at it with lots of hopes and aspirations.

The Budget session lasts till March 20 and the Parliament will reconvene on April 20 and the session is due to conclude on May 8.

The leaders of all political parties should collectively ensure proper utilisation of time in both Houses of Parliament "so that we can work towards meeting the hopes and aspirations of people", he said about the session during which his nine-month old government will present its first full-fledged Budget on February 28.

"It is the collective responsibility of leaders of all parties to ensure that this session runs smoothly so that the House can fulfil aspirations of people...Hope we can collectively work for the benefit of common man," Modi said.

Referring to the various issues that opposition is waiting to raise, he told the leaders attending the meeting, "I can assure you that all the issues you have referred to will be discussed adequately and appropriately in order of their priority and importance."

Earlier, the tone for the conciliatory approach was set when Naidu, in an unusual gesture, drove to Congress President Sonia Gandhi's residence to meet her to seek cooperation of the largest opposition party in carrying out the legislative business.

"The government is willing to walk the extra mile to accommodate the opposition. My only appeal is that House should be allowed to function smoothly," Naidu said later.

However, the opposition parties appeared to be unimpressed and made clear their mood to take on the government, particularly on the move to amend the Land Acquisition Act.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said that Congress will not support those Ordinances and bills, which "do not help people".

JD-U President Sharad Yadav said it will be a "fight to the finish" as he lashed out at the government, saying it had made the land law worse than what existed during the British time.

Naidu admitted that some opposition parties expressed reservations against the land ordinance move even as there was "broad consensus" on five other Ordinances to be converted into Acts.

While describing his meeting Sonia as a "cordial" one, Naidu said she expressed concerns over Land Ordinance.

Naidu acknowledged that land acquisition is an "emotive issue" and needs to be addressed "sincerely without undue politicisation". Significantly, Naidu, unlike earlier, evaded direct reply to questions about the possibility of convening a joint session to pass the bills in the face of the non-cooperation of the Opposition. - PTI

EIGHT MONTHS IN CAPTIVITY

Priest abducted in Afghanistan freed

NEW DELHI: Eight months after his abduction in Afghanistan, Indian Christian priest Father Alexis Prem Kumar has been released safely and arrangements are being made to reunite him with his family at the earliest.

The announcement of the release of the 47-year-old private aid worker from Tamil Nadu was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through tweets.

"Delighted at securing the release of Indian priest Father Alexis Prem Kumar from captivity in Afghanistan," he tweeted.

"Have spoken to Father Alexis Prem Kumar. Informed happy family of Father Alexis Prem Kumar of his safe return after eight months in captivity," he added.

Prem Kumar was abducted in Herat province in western Afghanistan by unidentified gunmen on June 2 last year.



Father Alexis Prem Kumar

"The matter of his release has been pursued by our leadership, including at the highest levels by the prime minister," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said.

"Father Alexis Prem Kumar is now back in the safety of his homeland and arrangements are being made for him to rejoin his family soon," he added.

He expressed India's "deep gratitude to all those who worked tirelessly over the last eight months to help in this humanitarian task of ensuring the safe release of one of our citizens". At the time of his abduction, Prem Kumar was working with the Jesuit Refugee Service, an international NGO, and was engaged in the educational field in Afghanistan.

He was its Afghanistan Director and had been in the country for over three years. - PTI

Ministry of Housing

ADVERTISEMENT

Ministry of Housing, Directorate General of Housing at Al Dakhileyah Governorate, announces the following tenders and re-tenders:

Tender No.	TenderDescription	Location	Last date of obtaining tables and maps	Last date of tender submission	Document's fees (non-refundable)	Notes
84/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Haditha	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	With connection of power supply
85/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Muraibeekh	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
86/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Handali	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
87/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Faleej	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
88/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Ghabah	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
89/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Saleel	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
90/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Sumairat	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
91/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Hajer	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
92/2015	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Ghaidharanah	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
93/2015	Supervision and follow-up - Wilayat Adam		10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
Re-floating Tenders						
361/2014	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – AL Manayef	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
362/2014	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Qala'a	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
379/2014	Construction of a residential unit	Adam – Al Qateena	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	
381/2014	Construction of a residential unit	Adam - Sanaa	10/03/2015	16/03/2015	RO 25/-	

1. Companies and institutions specialized in the above-mentioned works may obtain the tender's documents of terms and specifications from the Directorate General of Housing – Social Housing Section, during official working hours from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., as per the data mentioned above.
2. Each tender shall enclose an interim bank warranty/cheque from a locally registered bank at 1% of the tender value and valid for 90 days from the date of tender submission, addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Sub-Committee at the Directorate General of Housing at Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. Any tender not enclosing the interim warranty shall not be considered.
3. Tenders shall be submitted in closed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Sub-Committee at the Directorate General of Housing at Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, bearing the tender number and subject with no indication to the tenderer.
4. Tenders shall be deposited in the tender box at the Directorate's building in Nizwa before 10 a.m. of the last day of tender submission.
5. The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Committee.

www.housing.gov.om

Al Jazeera Steel Products Company SAOG

P.O. Box.40, PC.327, Sohar Industrial Estate, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 26751763/64/65 - Fax: 26751766

Chairman's Report- 31 December, 2014

Dear Shareholder,

With the grace and mercy of Allah, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG, I would like to welcome you to the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Company to present the Annual Report, Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Report for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Key points of 2014Operational Performance

During the year, there was a continuous fall in steel raw material prices and the 4th quarter was the most negatively impacted. Iron ore prices dropped nearly 50% from the price at beginning of the year due to a prevalent slackness in steel demand. Further drop in oil prices by 45% can have a potentially adverse effect on GCC government spending on infrastructure. This said, most governments have announced a continuation of their future infrastructure projects but it will be prudent to wait for the budgets announcements. If the drop in oil prices continues, most of the governments will be forced to curtail further less critical spending that might affect the steel demand. Fortunately, the US economy is doing well and we were able to do reasonably good in the non-GCC. With the currently low energy costs, we expect the US economy along with the EU to perform better in 2015, which is expected to enhance our operations in these countries.

In spite of all these adverse factors, your company was able to achieve a growth of 14% in net profits compared to the same corresponding period of last year, which is the highest profit ever made by your company. With the blessings of Allah all mighty, we are happy to celebrate the 4th consecutive year of record profits.The year 2014 has been a year of achieving the highest production and dispatch for both Tube Mill and Merchant Bar Mill. This was possible mainly due to the well planned sales and availability of raw materials. The drop in Iron ore and oil prices started in a noticeable way by the third quarter.The management was able to capitalize the positive trends and was able to achieve the improved results. It is indeed commendable to mention that the management's cost optimization initiatives and effective control to attain higher profits has reaped the benefits. Diversification of raw material suppliers has helped the company reduce concentration risk and control inventory holdings. In addition, better negotiations with banks lead to a significant saving on interest and financing costs, leading to improved margins.

The Company was able to achieve significant growth in its sales as well as net profits in 2014, compared to 2013. Production and sales' tonnages were also higher by 12% in 2014, compared to 2013. Even though there is an increase in the sales quantity by 12%, revenues have increased only by 8% mainly due to the progressive reduction in raw material costs.

Particulars	31 Dec 2014	31 Dec 2013	% growth
Production in MT	**319,551**	286,111	12%
Sales in MT	**324,473**	290,899	12%
Sales – RO	**95,331,203**	88,370,890	8%
Profit in RO	**5,206,570**	4,553,033	14%

Future plans

With oil prices hovering around USD 50,the expected spending on the infrastructure may reduce and in turn the steel demand in this region could be lower. We are in the process of expanding further our geographic scope in order to compensate the lower demand from the GCC region. Even though with the awarding of 2020 world expo to Dubai and 2022 world cup in Qatar, we expect the real construction boom will start only by 2017. The surplus funds available with most of the GCC countries will act as a buffer for the next couple of years even though oil prices are to remain at the current levels.The Chinese government has withdrawn the tax rebates given to the exporters from January 2015 onwards, which will restrict the dumping to a larger extent to GCC.This will have some positive impact on the operations of the Company. We would have hoped that the GCC governments take a more active approach in preventing foreign dumping of products in their markets, which is harming local industries all across and curtailing their development.

The rebar making facility is ready and we are in the process of getting various certifications from different agencies. The test trials have already been successful. Once the certification is ready, we can start full commercial production. We expect the same by the first quarter of 2015. With this additional facility, the Merchant Bar Mill will be operating on 24 hours basis. We expect to produce and sell additional 4,000-5,000 MT of rebar products on a monthly basis. This excess production will lead to over 60% capacity utilization from the present level of 40% only.

On the cost optimization front, a close eye is being kept on the developing news to instill a higher minimum wage for locals and reduction of energy subsidies in the private sector. Though this might be a great positive step towards the further involvement of professionals in the private sector, the expediency of such move will lower the margins which are already under severe pressures from regional competitors. The Company has been taking necessary precautions to keep costs under control. With regular investment in automation, improvement in production process and training, the Company will make all efforts to control operating costs.

Dividends:

The Board of Directors is pleased to recommend a cash dividend of 22% amounting to Bz 22 for the year 2014 for every share held. The following table shows the dividend distributed during the past years.

Year	Cash Dividend	Stock Dividend (Bonus Share)
2013	20%	
2012	16%	-
2011	15%	-
2010	9%	-
2009	-	-
2008	7%	-

Internal Control Systems and their adequacy

The Company has proper and adequate systems of internal controls required to ensure that all assets are safeguarded and protected against unauthorized use or disposition and that all transactions are authorized and reported correctly. The internal control system is supplemented by an extensive program of internal audits, review by management, documented policies, guidance and procedures. The internal control system is designed to ensure that all data is reliable for preparing and maintaining financial statements.

The Company has an audit committee comprising of non-executive directors to review the audit work which in turn is reviewed by the Board.

The greatest strength of your Company is the quality and spirit of its people. In addition, it enjoys a good reputation in the market for its quality and dependability, and all these contribute positively to its future prosperity.

M/S. Ernst & Young, the Company's Auditors have audited the accounts up to 31 December 2014, and their report is enclosed.

Finally, on behalf of the Company and the Board of Directors, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said for the encouragement and support given by his Government for the industrial development in the Sultanate of Oman.

At this juncture, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our team and management, the Union, Bankers, Suppliers, Customers, Muscat Securities Market and all ourshareholders for their support and cooperation, which in turn reflects the confidence placed in us. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the Management and Employees for their efforts towards achieving these results.

On Behalf of the Board

Sulaiman Mohammed Shaheen Al-Rubaie
Chairman
18 February 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION at 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014 RO	2013 RO
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	**23,219,941**	23,902,287
Current assets		
Inventories	**22,908,601**	18,272,601
Trade and other receivables	**26,157,895**	24,949,203
Bank balances and cash	**2,502,337**	2,275,655
Total current assets	**51,568,833**	45,497,459
Total assets	**74,788,774**	69,399,746
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	**12,489,796**	12,489,796
Share premium	**13,856,484**	13,856,484
Legal reserve	**3,171,835**	2,651,178
Retained earnings	**10,520,958**	8,333,004
Total equity	**40,039,073**	37,330,462
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	**2,002,502**	4,002,502
Employees' end of service benefits	**317,768**	214,615
Deferred tax liability	**697,295**	697,295
Total non-current liabilities	**3,017,565**	4,914,412
Current liabilities		
Borrowings - current portion	**19,492,289**	17,448,147
Trade and other payables	**10,937,533**	8,756,422
Income tax payable	**1,302,314**	950,303
Total current liabilities	**31,732,136**	27,154,872
Total liabilities	**34,749,701**	32,069,284
Total equity and liabilities	**74,788,774**	69,399,746
Net assets per share	**0.321**	0.299

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014 RO	2013 RO
Revenue	**95,331,203**	**88,370,890**
Cost of sales	**(81,975,040)**	**(76,614,799)**
Gross profit	**13,356,163**	**11,756,091**
Selling and distribution expenses	**(4,653,974)**	**(3,851,999)**
General and administrative expenses	**(1,690,787)**	**(1,545,776)**
Other operating expenses	**(34,008)**	**(39,020)**
Operating profit	**6,977,394**	**6,319,296**
Net finance costs	**(889,744)**	**(1,043,679)**
Profit before taxation	**6,087,650**	**5,275,617**
Income tax expense	**(881,080)**	**(722,584)**
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	**5,206,570**	**4,553,033**
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	**0.042**	0.036

PAKISTAN

> An eight-year old boy was killed and six others were wounded when a bomb planted on a motorcycle exploded in Taj Bazaar
> **Agha Mohammad,** Local police station chief

Imran calls for use of open ballots for Senate elections

I ask all political parties to have a constitutional amendment for holding direct elections of Senate, said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf chairman at a press conference



SEEKING CHANGE: Imran Khan

Imran's proposal conflicts with Article 226 of the Constitution which reads, 'All elections under the Constitution, other than those of the prime minister and the chief minister, shall be by secret ballot'

ISLAMABAD: In what appears to be an unconstitutional demand, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan urged political parties to agree on open balloting for the upcoming Senate elections to curb horse-trading.

"I would ask all political parties to agree to hold open voting for the upcoming Senate elections," the PTI chairman said, while addressing a press conference on Sunday.

Imran's proposal conflicts with Article 226 of the Constitution which reads, "All elections under the Constitution, other than those of the prime minister and the chief minister, shall be by secret ballot."

However, Imran did not restrict himself to propose mere open balloting and demanded, "I ask all political parties to have a constitutional amendment for holding direct elections of Senate."

In order to substantiate his point of horse-trading and bribes in Senate elections, the PTI chief said, "Someone has offered Rs150 million as donation to Shaukat Khanum Hospital for a party ticket." Imran did not share further details about the offer.

"Why are Senate elections held through secret balloting?" he questioned, claiming it allows people to bribe lawmakers.

He also pointed out that all political parties except the PTI had awarded party tickets to people from a province where they do not belong.

"The PTI is contesting elections merely from Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and have (sic) not given a ticket to anyone from outside the province," he added.

Responding to a question, he said that the PTI would take serious action and even put its own members of Provincial Assembly behind bars if allegations of bribe to vote for a particular senate candidate are proved.

Letter to election body

The PTI is also planning to write to letter to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he added.

Responding to a question regarding delays in the constitution of a judicial commission to probe his rigging allegations in 2013 general elections, Imran said his party's demand was still the same and they "will not backtrack from that."

Claiming that the election tribunals have started issuing verdicts, he said, "We would prove that the PML-N has cast over seven million fake votes in 2013 general elections. We will prove it even if judicial commission is not constituted."

Pre-poll rigging

Further, Imran warned he would protest against what he termed 'pre-poll' rigging by the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in the Gilgit-Baltistan elections.

He alleged the government handpicked the caretaker government, appointed a dozen ministers instead of three, appointed an employee of Karakorum Bank as chief minister and then appointed a sitting federal minister as governor.

"We will first go to Supreme Court and then take to streets but will not let the government rig elections as was done in 2013."

The PTI chairman also renewed his demand that Frontier Constabulary (FC) be sent back to its parent province of K-P saying, "FC was made to guard K-P's border but it has been deployed in other parts of the country." — Express Tribune

INSURGENCY

Motorcycle bomb blast kills child in Balochistan

CHAMAN: A motorcycle bomb on Sunday killed an eight-year old boy and wounded six other people in the restive southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan, officials said.

The bomb went off in a main market street in the border town of Chaman, which faces Afghanistan's town of Spin Boldak and has seen several bomb and suicide attacks in the past.

"An eight-year old boy was killed and six others were wounded when a bomb planted on a motorcycle exploded in Taj Bazaar," local police station chief Agha Mohammad told AFP.

It was not clear who was behind the attack.

Provincial home secretary Akbar Hussain Durrani confirmed the bombing and casualties.

Bodies retrieved

Meanwhile, rescue workers on Sunday retrieved the bodies of seven people killed in a coal mine collapse in the province, an official said.

A rescue worker was killed during the search operation when he was buried under rubble. His body was retrieved on Thursday.

"A section of the coal mine caved in on Thursday and seven miners were buried in the rubble. A rescue worker also died during the search operation," local government official Shahzeb Kakar said. — AFP

DECISION

Separate jail, police stations for terror cases in Sindh

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to establish separate police stations and a jail to deal with terrorism in the province.

This decision was made during a high-level meeting held at the provincial home department on Saturday, which was attended by officials from the police, intelligence agencies and home department.

Home secretary Abdul Qazi Kabeer told the media that two police stations had already been set up in Karachi to handle cases of terrorism and one police station each will be established in Hyderabad and Sukkur for the same purpose.

"There will also be a separate jail for terrorists in Karachi," he said. "We have received approval from the higher authorities and will arrange the land for it soon."

Kabeer, who also heads the provincial execution committee for the National Action Plan, said that the committee had already referred 64 cases to the military courts and shortlisted 21 more cases to send to them. He added that the government will soon make laws for the establishment of mosques and seminaries in the province. "No one can establish mosques or seminaries without government approval."

Sindh's Home secretary Abdul Qazi Kabeer told the media that two police stations had already been set up in Karachi to handle cases of terrorism and one police station each will be established in Hyderabad and Sukkur for the same purpose

Political influence

Responding to a question about political influence within the police department, the home secretary said, "Transfers and posting are being done purely on merit and there is no influence being exerted by the Pakistan People's Party government to appoint police officers of its choice." However, he added that interference in governance by influential people was a problem in the entire country, not just Sindh. He further said that a DNA testing laboratory will start working in Sindh in a week.

Sindh IG Ghulam Hyder Jamali also told the media that a female counter-terrorism force will also be launched in Sindh. "We discussed the mechanisms of the new counter-terrorism forces in the province during the meeting," he revealed.

"Initially, 1,000 cops will be inducted. Personnel from the Special Security Unit will be nominated to deal with terrorism until we complete the process for the appointments in these forces."

Jamali further said that the police had inked an agreement with the National Database and Registration Authority for a 'crime tracking system'. "After the arrest of any criminal, we will be in the position to track their entire family," he explained. — Express Tribune

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S CRITICISM



CRACKDOWN: Afghan refugees wait outside a registration office of the Pakistani National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) in Islamabad on April 18, 2014. Within hours of the December 16 attack on a school in Peshawar, officials pointed the finger at Afghanistan and vowed to crack down on illegal immigrants who they say furnish a cover for militants— AFP file photo

'Stop making Afghan refugees the scapegoats in Peshawar attack case'

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged Pakistan to stop scapegoating Afghans for the Taliban's atrocities in Peshawar, while requesting the government to order local authorities to stop pressuring registered refugees to return to Afghanistan.

"It is inhumane, not to mention unlawful, to return Afghans to places they may face harm and not protect them from harassment and abuse," the HRW said in a statement issued on Sunday.

The HRW further added, "The Pakistan government has an obligation to protect all Afghans in the country, including those not registered as refugees, from harassment and other abuses."

Thousands of Afghans under threats of arrest and growing hostility towards them have flocked out of Pakistan back home, leaving behind boarded-up shops, houses and restaurants.

Within hours of the December 16 attack on a school in Peshawar in which more than 150 people were killed, officials pointed the finger at Afghanistan and vowed to crack down on illegal immigrants whom they say furnish a cover for militants.

"Pakistani officials should not be scapegoating Afghans because of the Taliban's atrocities in Peshawar," said Phelim Kine, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

In December 2014, the government specifically assured Afghan refugees that the Peshawar attack would not prompt any official reprisals. The Ministry of States and Frontier Regions pledged that the government would "maintain its traditional hospitality" toward Afghan refugees.

"Despite these assurances, since December 16 there have been numerous reports of government and public harassment and intimidation against the country's Afghan population," the statement read.

Those reports include accounts that police have threatened Afghans with arrest unless they leave the country immediately.

Tarnishing reputation

"Pakistan's government is tarnishing the country's well-deserved reputation for hospitality toward refugees by tolerating the punitive and potentially unlawful coercive repatriation of Afghan refugees," Kine said.

"The government needs to defend the rights of its Afghan population and ensure that local authorities aren't carrying out vindictive reprisals for an atrocity the Afghan refugees bear no responsibility for." — Express Tribune





I call on the public to do all that is necessary to stop the harassment meted out to me and other politicians to save Maldives
Mohamed Nasheed, Maldives' former president

41 killed as Bangladesh ferry sinks, search on for missing

The ferry collided with a cargo vessel and sank within minutes on the Padma river, the second deadly boat accident in a fortnight in the country, which has a history of ferry tragedies



SHOCKED: Relatives of Bangladesh ferry accident victims mourn the deaths at Manikganj some 30kms west of Dhaka on Sunday. Officials said they did not know the exact number of people missing, but said search and rescue efforts would continue through the night. — AFP/STR

PATURIA (BANGLADESH): An overcrowded ferry sank in a Bangladesh river on Sunday leaving at least 41 people including 11 children dead as rescuers searched for missing passengers, officials said.

The ferry collided with a cargo vessel and sank within minutes on the Padma river, the second deadly boat accident in a fortnight in the country, which has a history of ferry tragedies.

"Divers have recovered 41 bodies. The dead included 11 children and seven women," local police chief Rakibuz Zaman told AFP, updating an earlier toll of 38.

Officials said they did not know the exact number of people missing, but said search and rescue efforts would continue through the night, with the aid of floodlights from other ferries on the river.

Rescuers were unloading bodies from small boats some 70 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital Dhaka at the Paturia ferry terminal in the country's northwest, where grieving relatives have gathered to identify them.

"We found one body but five are still missing. We were returning home after the opening of a temple," Hindu holy man Kumud Ranjan Goswami said of his colleagues.

Survivors said the MV Mostofa was overcrowded with about 70-150 passengers crammed into the upper and lower decks, leaving them scrambling to find their loved ones when the tragedy struck. "I was holding my mother's hand when the cargo boat hit our ferry from behind," an 18-year-old who gave his name as Al Amin told AFP at the terminal. "Within two minutes the ferry was sunk. Before I realised I was washed away to the middle of the river.

"I swam and a ferry rescued me. But I don't know what happened to my mom."

Police chief Zaman said some 50 people "swam ashore or were rescued by other vessels". Bangladeshi ferries do not normally keep passenger lists, making it difficult to establish how many are missing after an accident.

Ship's master arrested

An official said a salvage vessel was on its way to raise the sunken ferry, adding that the master of the cargo ship and two other crew had been arrested.

The Padma river is one of the largest in the delta nation, and boats are the main form of travel in many of Bangladesh's remote rural areas, especially in the south and northeast.

Local newspaper Prothom Alo quoted one survivor, Hafizur Rahman, as saying the cargo ship hit the boat 15 minutes after departure -- causing it to overturn and trapping many passengers.

"I was on the deck of the ferry and fell into the river. Those who were on the deck were able to come out but none of the passengers inside could get out," Rahman told the paper.

Boat capsizes are common in Bangladesh, one of Asia's poorest nations, which is criss-crossed by more than 230 rivers.

Overcrowding

Experts blame poorly maintained vessels, flaws in design and overcrowding for most of the tragedies.

This month, at least five people including a minor were killed when an overloaded ferry carrying some 200 passengers capsized in an estuary in the south of the country.

About 50 people were also killed in August last year when a crowded ferry sank in rough weather in the Munshiganj district.

Naval officials have said more than 95 percent of Bangladesh's hundreds of thousands of small and medium-sized boats do not meet minimum safety regulations. — AFP

HAVE YOUR SAY

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TRIAL TO BEGIN

Ex-president of Maldives arrested on court orders

MALE: Police in Maldives arrested former president Mohamed Nasheed on Sunday after a court said he might flee the country to avoid hearings on terrorism charges, leading to clashes between his supporters and authorities.

Nasheed, Maldives' first democratically elected president, had been facing criminal charges over his order to arrest a top judge in January 2011. Nasheed stepped down in early 2012, saying he had been overthrown in a coup.

Last week the prosecutor-general withdrew the original charges against Nasheed, but issued an arrest warrant on Sunday under new charges of terrorism relating to the same incident of the arrest of the judge four years ago. The first hearing will be held today.

Police used teargas to disperse protesters from Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) as he was taken from his home.

"I call on the public to do all that is necessary to stop the harassment meted out to me and other politicians to save Maldives," Nasheed told reporters in Male while being taken to a detention centre on a separate island.

Last week Nasheed asked India to intervene in case President Abdulla Yameen, to whom Nasheed lost the last election in 2013, imposed emergency rule.

An opposition alliance between the MDP and Jumhooree Party, which broke away from Yameen's ruling coalition, has held a series of street demonstrations in recent weeks accusing the government of breaching the constitution a number of times. — Reuters

ESCALATING CONFLICT

IS rebels attack Iranian envoy's home, airport in Libya

TRIPOLI: Militants claiming loyalty to IS said they were behind Sunday's twin bomb attacks on the residence of the Iranian ambassador in the Libyan capital and a rocket strike on the eastern Labraq airport, a group statement.

The attack on the ambassador's residence came two days after the group claimed responsibility for a double suicide bombing that killed more than 40 people in the eastern town of Qubbah, one of the worst attacks on civilians since a 2011 uprising toppled Muammar Gaddafi.

Western powers are concerned that Libya is emerging as a thriving battleground for militants loyal to IS, which controls large areas of Iraq and Syria. Hardline fighters have exploited instability as two rival governments fight for control of territory.

The group has stepped up attacks since Egypt launched air strikes on suspected militant targets in the eastern Libyan city of Derna on Monday, a day after hardliners released a video showing the execution of a group of Egyptian Coptic Christians.

On Sunday, two bombs exploded at the gate of the Iranian ambassador's residence in central Tripoli. Iran's official IRNA news agency confirmed the blasts and said there had been no casualties, adding Iran had already suspended operations there.

"Two devices were laid, one exploded first and then the other. The point of the second bomb was to create confusion," Colonel Jumaa Al Mashri from the National Security Agency told Tripoli-based Al Nabaa television.

A Reuters reporter at the scene saw the second device exploding some 30 minutes after the first. Minor damage could be seen at the gate.

"IS targeted the Iranian embassy in Tripoli," the group said in a statement posted with pictures of a flame on Twitter.

The militants also claimed responsibility for a Grad rocket attack on Labraq airport, announced by officials on Saturday. No one was hurt. The airport is the main gateway into eastern Libya and Bayda, seat of the internationally recognised prime minister, Abdullah Al Thinni.

Libya Dawn

His government and the House of Representatives, elected in June, have been working out of the east since a faction called Libya Dawn seized Tripoli in August, reinstating the previous assembly and setting up a rival administration.

Last month, militants claiming affiliation with IS stormed the Corinthia luxury hotel in Tripoli, killing five foreigners and at least four Libyans. — Reuters



TARGET: Libyan security forces inspect the site of a bomb explosion at the entrance of the residence of the Iranian ambassador in the capital Tripoli on Sunday. — AFP

Don't litter a beautiful country like OMAN.
Ensure proper disposal of garbage.
Times OF OMAN

Royal Oman Police
Directorate General of Customs

Auction Announcement

Royal Oman Police, Directorate General of Customs, announces a public auction to sell used vehicles detained in Al Mazyona Customs Port in Dhofar Governorate for pending customs cases, whose owners have not liaised with the Directorate regarding them. The Auction will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2015.

Those interested in entering the Auction may inspect the vehicles displayed for sale on Monday 9 March 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Al Mazyona Police Station.

The Auction will be held according to the following terms:
- The buyer must pay the vehicle's value in cash and immediately.
- The buyer must pay the auctioneer's fees.
- The buyer must remove the vehicle within a period of three days from the selling date; otherwise he shall pay a charge of RO 5/ per each day of delay.

Best regards

DIWAN OF ROYAL COURT
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY
Advertisement No. (22/2015)

Companies specialized in the field and registered with Muscat Municipality, may obtain tenders documents for the following, on any working day between 8a.m. till 1pm, from, Customer Services Hall on payment of non-refundable tender fee as noted against each:

Tender No.	Description of Tender	Tender Fee	Last date to collect the tender	Tender Return Date
PRE/15/027	Refurbishment of Fire Fighting System for Muttrah Souq	Rial 50/-	12/03/2015	22/03/2015
PRE/15/019	Beautification Works at Different Locations at Bousher	Rial 90/-	12/03/2015	22/03/2015
PRE/15/018	Consultancy Services for Investigation and Suggestion for Corrective Measure for Water Seepage at Underpass at Burj Al Sahwa Area	Rial 50/-	12/03/2015	22/03/2015
PRE/15/029	Consultancy Services for Design Roads for Ghala Village at Bousher	Rial 50/-	12/03/2015	22/03/2015

Tender Conditions:

1) The Form of Tender (in small envelope) under wax sealed cover addressed to His Excellency the Chairman, Internal Tender Committee, Muscat
2) The tenderers shall submit with the Form of Tender (Financial Offer) a Certified Cheque or Tender Bond in the sum of 2% of the tender value valid for 90 days, issued in the name of Muscat Municipality by a locally registered bank in the Sultanate of Oman. Tenders without such bond shall be rejected.
3) Tender shall be placed in the Tender Box kept at reception area Muscat Municipality HQ, Darsait, before 09:00 a.m. on Sunday after refering to our staff of QS & Contract Directorate at Services Hall as per above date mentioned in the table. All envelopes are to be clearly marked with the name of the Tender being presented and no other marks.
4) The Last date for Enquires about the above mention Tender is 18/03/2015.
5) Muscat Municipality is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender that may be received.

For more information:

Website: www.mm.gov.om Tel.: 24753512 Fax: 24753049

COMMENTARY

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Anti-corruption agency targeted in Indonesia

Over the past decade, Indonesia was so determined to erase the tainted legacy of Suharto, the strongman forced to resign in 1998, that it established one of the world's more effective anticorruption agencies. Now the future of that agency, the Corruption Eradication Commission, known as the KPK, is under serious threat in a standoff with the police and President Joko Widodo. Over the years, the commission, with its professional team of investigators and prosecutors, has had an impressive record of attacking corruption. Since 2003, hundreds of government officials, politicians and businessmen have been put in jail. Not surprisingly, the commission has made many enemies and has often had to withstand attempts by entrenched interests to weaken or dismantle it. But nothing has seemed as perilous as the most recent turn of events.

On Wednesday, Joko dropped his nominee for national police chief, Budi Gunawan, after weeks of public criticism because Budi had been identified by the commission as a suspect in a multimillion-dollar bribery investigation. Joko then nominated the interim national police chief, Badrodin Haiti, whom many experts in Jakarta also view as being tainted by corruption. Despite outrage among members of the media and voters over the Budi nomination, Joko dithered for weeks over what to do. The result has been a distracted government and growing doubts about his competency and commitment to reform

The problem goes beyond a single bad nominee. In fact, "there are few institutions in this country that are not riddled with corruption from top to bottom. Tensions between the commission and the police are evolving dangerously. In a move widely seen as retribution, the police recently arrested Bambang Widjojanto, a human rights lawyer and accused him of forcing a witness to provide false testimony under oath when he was a lawyer in 2010. Criminal complaints have also been raised against Abraham.

Some experts say the legal moves, especially against Bambang, who has an outstanding reputation for integrity, appear to reflect an intent among the police and their allies to destroy the anticorruption agency. Commissioners and their staff members have also been threatened more systematically than ever before, including with bodily harm, the commission chairman, Abraham Samad said.

Transparency International, which annually rates countries on corruption in their public sectors, says Indonesia has improved its performance on the organisation's "corruption perception index" from 1.9 in 2003 to 34 in 2014; a score of 100 means the public sector is very clean. But Indonesia still ranks 107th out of 175 countries. For comparison, China is 100th on the list of nations, and Russia is 136th.

The effect of corruption goes beyond billions of public dollars lost to bribes and secret bank accounts. Bambang said that corruption is "one of the biggest enemies in the democratic society." Changing a culture is a monumental task, but it will be made harder if the beneficiaries of corruption manage to sabotage the commission's reputation, tie its leaders up in bogus legal cases, cut its financing or legislate it out of existence. - **The New York Times News Service**

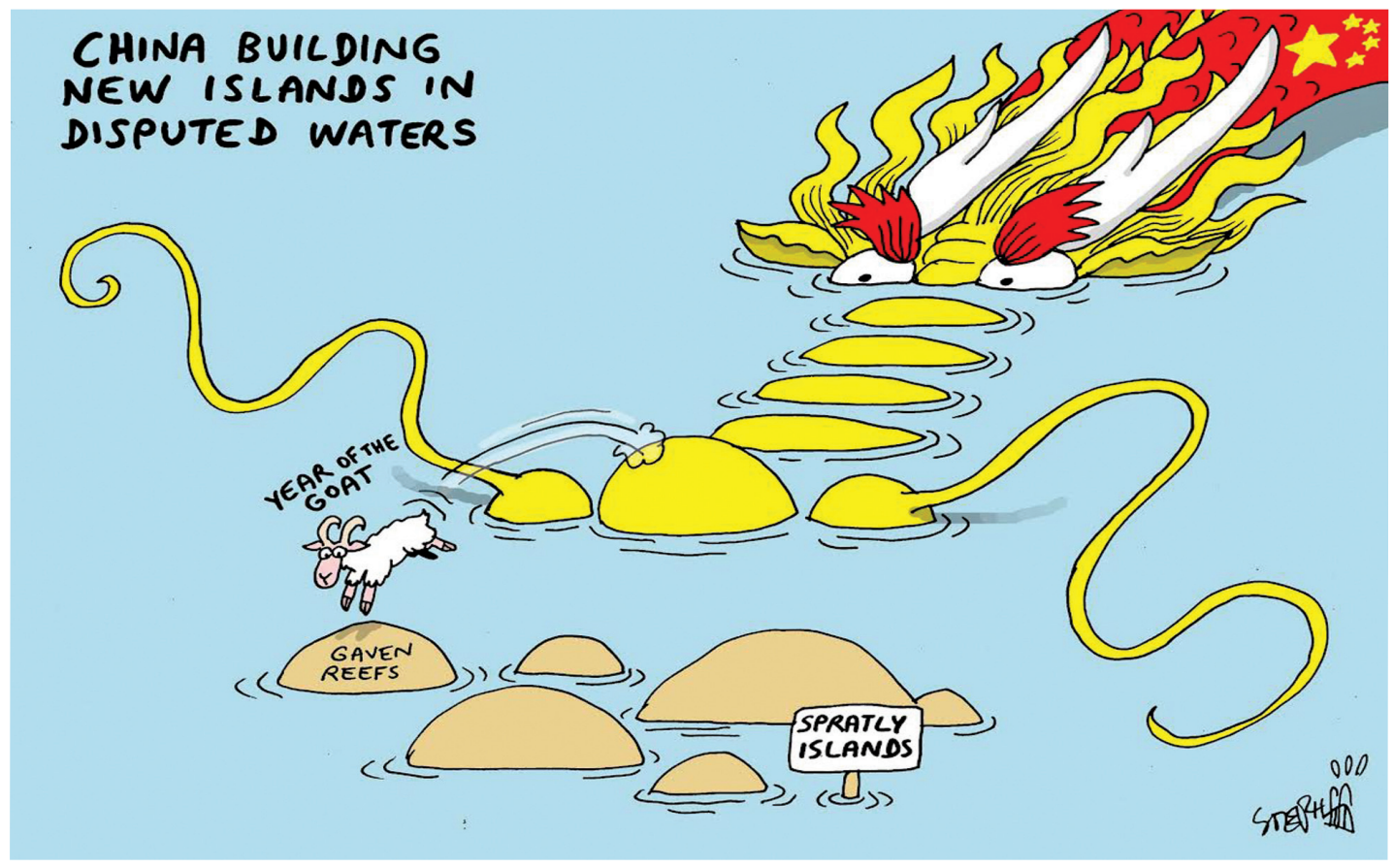
Greece bailout battle

The world of international financial diplomacy is unusually rich in euphemism. So Greece's request for a six-month "extension" of its European loan should be understood for what it is; a further bailout. It is not, as might be assumed, an acceptance of the plan put forward by Greece's EU partners for a renewal of the current bailout package. Germany, the eurozone's unhappy lender of last resort, has made it perfectly apparent that it will not budge. It should not.

The greatest objection to accepting the Greek pleas for a partial abandonment of the bailout package is nothing to do with Greece, but the precedent it would set. For it would say to the voters of other heavily indebted nations — Portugal and Spain principally — that all they have to do to skip free of their debts is to vote for some maverick group on the right or left. To invoke another euphemism, economists term this phenomenon "moral hazard" — perverse incentives to bad behaviour. That is no way to run a single currency.

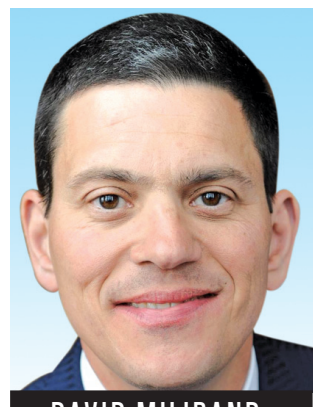
Greece is not an impoverished kleptocracy. The funds the Greeks borrowed weren't embezzled by a corrupt dictator. There has been much genuine suffering in recent years, but in the boom the Greeks happily imported German cars, French wines, Italian luxury goods and much else from their neighbours. For the best part of a decade they enjoyed German-style low interest rates.

Why should Greeks now be relieved of the obligation to pay? Why not extend the principle of debt forgiveness to the Spanish and others? In which case Germany really will have to adopt all her neighbours' debts. Even if the Europhile Germans fancied such a project — which they do not — they could not afford to do so in any case. That is why they keep saying nein; they have to. - **The Independent**



STATE OF ANARCHY

The enormous toll of a dying order



DAVID MILIBAND

Ukraine's crisis should not blind us to the main conundrum of global affairs today: while the world is more peaceful than it has been for 300 years, when measured by the number of wars between states, the level of disorder is rising. In fact, there is growing anarchy in the world's hotspots.

This tendency can be seen not just in the implosion of Syria and the spread of strife, displacement, and massive human suffering to neighbouring countries. In Nigeria, Africa's largest country, at least 2,500 civilians have been murdered by the radical extremist group Boko Haram in the last month alone. An estimated 1.5 million people have been displaced in the north eastern states of Yobe, Borno, and Adamawa, and the violence has spilled over into neighbouring Niger and Chad.

Moreover, the Taliban is far from vanquished in Afghanistan. The government of the Central African Republic struggles to establish its power even in its capital. Some 1,700 clans and militias are battling for power in Libya. There remain 40 major armed groups on the loose in eastern Congo. And the list goes on. In all of these places, an overstretched and under-resourced humanitarian sector has been thrust into the front line, salving some of the worst wounds of the record-breaking number of people displaced from their homes by conflict and disaster.

United Nations agencies and their NGO partners, designed to deal with the victims of organised, time-limited, rule-bound interstate conflict, are struggling to cope in the face of chaotic, long-term intrastate conflict. There are three schools of thought about why this is happening. One view is that, just as the Reformation convulsed Europe half a millennium ago, the world today is witnessing a struggle of similarly explosive potential. For all the talk of the threat posed by extremism to the West, it is worth bearing in mind the point lucidly put by Ahmed Rashid: "Isis is not waging war against the West.... This is above all a war within the faith."

This struggle within the faith pits pluralism against purification. It is ripping countries and regions apart, luring people to travel halfway around the world to join extremism, and threatening to unleash more violence one and all.

But the intra-faith battle is not a satisfactory or sufficient explanation for the state of anarchy we see in a place like South Sudan, whose 11 million people gained independence just over three years ago. Though the world's newest country emerged from a bitter civil war, the independence referendum received 99 per cent support. Yet today 1.5 million of its citizens have been uprooted, which has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with a struggle along ethnic lines for control of the country's resources.

> The Taliban is far from vanquished in Afghanistan. The government of the Central African Republic struggles to establish its power even in its capital. Some 1,700 clans and militias are battling for power in Libya

At least two other factors are vital to understanding the acute crisis in 30-40 fragile states around the world today. The first is the flip side of globalisation: Far from homogenising the world's population and erasing differences, our era is marked by the increasingly sharp assertion of local ethnic, political, and religious identities.

And, critically, an increasing number of states are unable to contain these divisions within peaceful boundaries. Their political systems are too brittle, their populations too poor, and their neighbours too meddlesome to enable their leaders to find ways to share power and meet people's needs.

But there is a further factor contributing to the sense that we are entering a decade of disorder in which destabilising humanitarian crises in failing or failed states are not properly addressed. It is a factor easy to state and difficult to redress: The international system is weak and divided.

Though the Cold War was marked by global polarisation, with distinct geopolitical blocs and proxy conflicts, it was also a period in which the international system was more ordered than it is today.

We should not mourn the Cold War's passing; but we should recognize the consequences of the vacuum that has persisted in its place for the last quarter-century. Today, the world's ability to come together in an effective way has become a dim memory. Consider the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. A slow and weak international response meant that local community-based initiatives were responsible for the heavy lifting. As a result, while Ebola was eventually beaten back, the death toll was much higher than necessary.

The larger picture is one of international institutions besieged by competing demands and national priorities. Far from being overweening — an allegation that is frequently made against the European Union and the UN — these institutions struggle to overcome entrenched national positions. Alongside weak structures in fragile states, this is a recipe for chaos. The humanitarian sector is working to improve its performance in a variety of areas, from clarifying outcomes to promoting evidence-based programming and value-for-money interventions.

But, while we can try to slow down the dying, we cannot stop the killing. That is a challenge for global politics — a challenge of prioritisation, organisation, and values. - **Project Syndicate**

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Military intelligence is a contradiction in terms
GROUCHO MARX

Introduction of road toll in Oman will be a good idea

This refers to the news story, *Why Oman should consider introducing road toll* (February 22). The introduction of road toll in Muscat will certainly be a good idea. From the economic point of view, road toll is an instrument that can be uniquely suited to the collection of efficient road use prices. Road toll system is there in many cities across the world. After all, it costs the governments and civic authorities to construct roads and to maintain them. In a country like Oman, where people do not pay any kind of direct tax, the introduction of road toll is certainly warranted. I don't see why people should not share the cost of road construction and the maintenance of these roads. People should do so because they are the ones who use the roads. I support the idea of introducing road toll in the Sultanate as it would be good for all.

Anu Shaikh
Wadi Kabir

Road toll won't help ease Muscat traffic congestion

This refers to the news story, *Why Oman should consider introducing road toll* (February 22). I am not opposed to the idea but I would like to point out that we, who drive in Oman, should also come forward in our own way to chip in at a time when the fiscal situation of Oman does not look too rosy. However, I do not subscribe to the view expressed in the referred story that the introduction of road toll would ease traffic congestion and bring down the number of accidents. I would love to have a study on these two points. I can vouch that road toll has neither eased traffic congestions nor reduced accidents.

Shahidullan
Darsait

Foreign food franchise owners are minting money

This refers to the news story, *Foreign food franchise owners smile all the way to the bank* (February 22). One can imagine the profit margins they keep. I find Muscat more expensive than New York City when it comes to profit making. These guys, the foreign food franchise owners, in Oman are ripping people off. PACP should look into the matter. The government has to seriously enforce the anti-monopolistic laws.

Arjun Nath
New York

Cost of living in Oman is comparable to Europe

This refers to the news story, *Foreign food franchise owners smile all the way to the bank* (February 22). Contrary to what people say, Oman is an expensive place where not only food, but everything is costly. In fact, if we compare, the prices of most things are almost as expensive as they are in some of the European countries.

Revathi Samuel
Muttrah

Shikhar seems to have come out of his bad patch

Shikhar Dhawan played a dream innings against South Africa. The way he batted showed he has come out of the bad patch he was into.

Ashok Panicker
Seeb

Letters, containing not more than 200 words with full name, address and telephone number, may be sent by mail (Times of Oman, P.O. Box 770, P.C. 112, Ruwi), by fax (24813153) or by e-mail (times@omantel.net.om)

PERSPECTIVE

The Obama years are indeed transformational

CHARLES M. BLOW

As the political parlour game increasingly turns to obsessions about the jockeying to become the next president, my thinking increasingly turns to how history will measure the current one.

While a truly comprehensive appraisal and historical contextualisation of a presidency is the scope and scale of books more than columns, there are things that, from my perch and according to the peculiarities of my personal interests, stand out. Some of these are things for which the president can — in part or in whole — take personal responsibility, but others simply happened on this watch. And yet, I believe that they will all be somewhat associated with him and his stewardship.

In an interview broadcast earlier this month, the president told CNN, "I'm proud of saving the economy." That may well be the most resounding mark of his presidency, even as people debate the quality of the recovery and his administration's role in it.

It is nearly impossible to overstate how close we came to economic collapse in 2008 and how frightened we all were.

Now, that has turned around. The private sector has seen job growth for 59 straight months. The unemployment rate was down to 5.6 per cent in December, the lowest since 2008 and as Reuters pointed out last month, new claims for unemployment benefits reached "the lowest level in nearly 15 years."

The Obama years will also be remembered for the reshaping of our politics. There was the rise of the Tea Party and the demise of moderate voices. There were the unfathomable and indefensible rulings by the Supreme Court to bless dark money in the Citizens United case and the gutting of the Voting Rights Act in Shelby County v. Holder.

There is an ongoing voter effort to shrink and restrict the voting pool as minorities are beginning to feel their power at the polls. The Obama years will be remembered as a cultural — and legal — tipping point for equality for all people. The Obama years will also be remembered for his signature legislation — the Affordable Care Act. This week, the president said that 11.4 million people had signed up for insurance or renewed coverage under the plan. Needless to say, the programme is reducing the number of people who are uninsured but it also appears to be lowering medical costs.

Yet, the future of the act is unclear. There is a case (King v. Burwell) before the Supreme Court — a laughable case about a language quibble that may be the most significant linguistic imprecision of a generation — that could spell doom for the law by withholding subsidies from millions of low-income Americans to purchase health insurance.

There's the Supreme Court again. One could argue that the Supreme Court — the judicial Divine Nine — has shaped the Obama presidency as much as Obama has. That's not to say that he hasn't done an amazing job of shaping the judiciary in this country himself. In addition to appointing two new members to the Supreme Court — both women, a first for any president — he has completely transformed the lower courts. As Jeffrey Toobin pointed out in *The New Yorker* in October:

"When Obama took office, Republican appointees controlled ten of the thirteen circuit courts of appeals; Democratic appointees now constitute a majority in nine circuits. Because federal judges have life tenure, nearly all of Obama's judges will continue serving well after he leaves office."

Furthermore, Toobin laid out the diversity of the Obama transformation, writing:

"Sheldon Goldman, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a scholar of judicial appointments, said, 'The majority of Obama's appointments are women and non-white males.' Forty-two per cent of his judgeships have gone to women.

Twenty-two per cent of George W. Bush's judges and twenty-nine per cent of Bill Clinton's were women. Thirty-six per cent of President Obama's judges have been minorities, compared with eighteen per cent for Bush and twenty-four per cent for Clinton."

This is huge.

And there isn't space in this column to address the many other things the Obama years will be remembered for: our engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Arab Spring and the rise of the Isis in the Middle East, Russian aggression, moves on climate policy and the rise of American energy, the re-fighting of issues over women's reproductive rights and immigration policy, to name a few.

Whether you agree that Obama was a transformational figure or how he ranks among other presidents — a new survey of American Political Science Association members puts him 18th — there is no doubt that the time of his presidency will be remembered as transformational. - The New York Times News Service

> The private sector has seen job growth for 59 straight months. The unemployment rate was down to 5.6 per cent in December, the lowest since 2008 and as Reuters pointed out last month, new claims for unemployment benefits reached 'the lowest level in nearly 15 years'

Obama just cannot win

RUPERT CORNWELL

> Obama has concluded that when an immediate and vital US interest is not at stake, broad international coalitions are the way to go. But this principle is muddied by another reality

Damned if you do, and damned if you don't. George W Bush was blamed, rightly, for launching his war of choice in Iraq. Now, his successor Barack Obama is assailed from every side for doing nothing as the world — from Syria and Libya to IS, Boko Haram and radical extremism, to the crisis over Ukraine — seems to be going to hell in a hand basket.

An enduring fallacy has it that foreign policy doesn't much matter in US elections, that they're invariably about bread-and-butter domestic issues.

In truth, Obama's opposition from the outset to the Iraq invasion was a key factor in his defeat of Hillary Clinton in the primaries and then John McCain in 2008.

And foreign policy shapes presidential legacies: Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam; Jimmy Carter and the Camp David accords and the Iranian hostage crisis; Reagan and victory in the Cold War.

Bush senior is remembered for the first Iraq war, his son for the second. But Obama thus far? The killing of Osama bin Laden, the expanded use of drones — and that's about it.

For the rest, his critics say, just vacuity. He dithers, he has no personal touch, he's naïve, he over-analyses, he leads from behind, he makes promises and threats he doesn't keep.

And when it comes to Obama's famous "red line" over Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons, they have a point.

The United States can't solve all the world's ills. "You take the victories where you can," he told the online network Vox in a revealing interview last month, "You make things a little bit better rather than a little bit worse."

He said this didn't mean that "America is withdrawing or there's not much we can do. It's just a realistic assessment of how the world works."

On one hand, the US intends to remain a global policeman, the lone superpower to whom the world would look when some international crisis flares up. On the other, it seems to be abdicating that role.

Obama has concluded that when an immediate and vital US interest is not at stake, broad international coalitions are the way to go.

But this principle is muddied by another reality: despite horrific images of beheadings and immolations that flash around the globe in seconds, today's world is actually growing less violent.

Old-fashioned inter-state wars are in decline, replaced by messy internal conflicts that often spill across borders. Hence the paradox of a world with fewer wars, but less peace. The question when to intervene becomes ever more complicated.

In these circumstances, "strategic patience" makes sense. But that doctrine comes up against an eternal truth of all human relations: that power lies in the perception of power, and the perceived readiness to use it.

Too easily, caution is perceived as weakness. Vladimir Putin's behaviour over Ukraine suggests he falls into this camp.

So too may Iran as talks continue for a deal on Tehran's nuclear programme, whose success or failure, and all that flows therefrom, may prove Obama's most important foreign legacy.

The hawks bay for blood: address Putin with force, the only language Russia understands, they clamour, and make clear to Iran that if it doesn't stop enriching uranium, its nuclear facilities will be bombed to smithereens.

But who wants a new war — whether one against Iran whose long-term scale would probably dwarf Iraq in 2003, or, heaven forfend, against Russia.

Obama is right. The US can't do it all. That is simply a recognition of reality. But no previous president could have uttered such opinions — until this son of a Kenyan, who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, who understands that other countries have other points of view, that every country, not just the US, regards itself as "exceptional" in its way.

And which previous president, at a National Prayer Breakfast, held amid revulsion at the barbarities of IS, would have pointed out that Christianity had such sins as the Crusades and segregation in its own past.

More pertinently, neither Clinton nor the Republican contenders offer alternatives: not Jeb Bush's vaguely hawkish platitudes last week in a "major foreign policy speech" which could not escape the shadow of his brother's Iraq debacle; and certainly not Chris Christie's boast that if he'd been in the White House, Putin would have backed down over Ukraine. Dream on. - The Independent

Retire Barbie and give Cinderella some soup

KATY GUEST

Unlike the million viewers who switched off after week one, I'm still watching Wolf Hall, and still fascinated by how little has changed since 1536. (If you don't believe me, just try watching the historical drama and Michael Cockerell's documentary, Inside the Commons, back to back.) Now there are arguments about the manipulation of images of women in the series. Is Jane Seymour too pretty?

Is Anne Boleyn too busty? And that's even before Holbein gets involved with his airbrushed portrait of Anne of Cleves.

Meanwhile, last week was the 25th anniversary of Photoshop. "Today," says its owner, Adobe, "the digital imaging revolution that Photoshop started is so pervasive that remembering a time before it existed takes some work ...". Not only that, but "photoshop" is that rare thing, a brand that has become a verb, and although the product is used for lots of interesting and creative projects, "to photoshop" now generally stands for using any technology to manipulate an image, often of a woman, to make the photoshopee look just as the photoshopper thinks she should — that is, Barbie. Or, as Adobe also says, "making dreams visible is the product's literal promise".

Last week, leaked photos emerged of what Beyoncé looks like before digital retouching. Many fans were horrified to learn that what she looks like in real life is an exceptionally good-looking person and not a goddess made out of false lashes and magical unicorn dust; others reacted as though some uneven skin tone and an eyebrow hair in the wrong place makes her a 21st-century Flanders Mare.

At the same time, Sir Kenneth Branagh had to deny that images of Lily James, star of his film Cinderella, were airbrushed to give her a waist the size of most women's wrists. But he did admit that he constantly worried if she was eating and tried to feed her soup.

All of this retouching is quite insulting to real women, but it's much more damaging to young girls who may not realise that real people do not look like this. Recently, I have been reading Girls, Uninterrupted: Steps for Building Stronger Girls in a Challenging World, by Tanith Carey, to be published by Icon Books in March.

Among other hair-raising information, she reveals that women on television and in magazines are already "15 per cent thinner than the average woman"; that "by the time they're 17, girls have seen 250,000 TV commercials telling them they should ... have a body size it is almost impossible to achieve"; and that "half of three to six-year-old girls say they worry about being fat". Well, go figure.

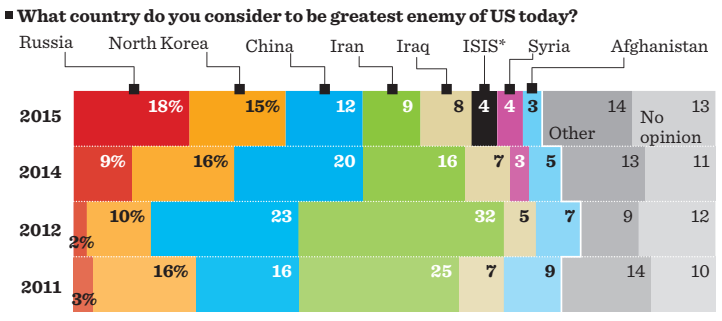
If I were Queen, I'd give Beyoncé the week off, let all the photoshoppers go and draw Manga cartoons, and put little girls in charge of manipulating images.

They'd certainly make them look more interesting. Perhaps we can make Flanders Mares fashionable. - The Independent

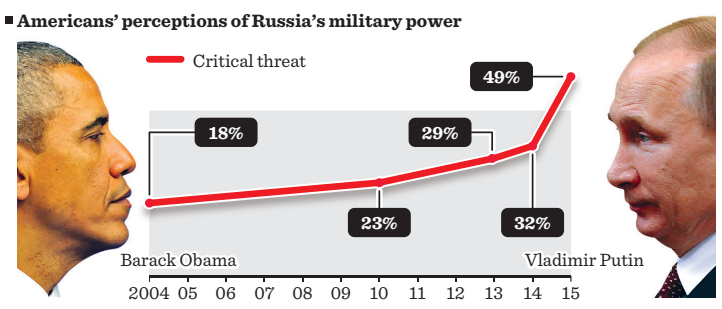
Russia perceived as US enemy number one

Russia has edged out North Korea as the country Americans consider to be the US greatest enemy – with 18% putting it first. *Countries in which ISIS operates

■ **What country do you consider to be greatest enemy of US today?**



■ **Americans' perceptions of Russia's military power**



Source: Gallup

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TODAY IN HISTORY

303 *Emperor Diocletian orders the general persecution of Christians in Rome.*

1516 *The Hapsburg Charles I succeeds Ferdinand in Spain.*

1574 *The 5th War of Religion breaks out in France.*

1821 *Poet John Keats dies of tuberculosis at the age of 25.*

1846 *The Liberty Bell tolls for the last time, to mark George Washington's birthday.*

1847 *Forces led by Zachary Taylor defeat the Mexicans at the Battle of Buena Vista.*

HISTORYNET.COM



FROM OUR ARCHIVES

GOYSCA CHIEF LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA

MUSCAT: Sheikh Mohammed bin Marhoon Al Ma'amari, chairman of the General Organisation for Youth Sports and Cultural Activities (Goysca), and his accompanying delegation, left here yesterday for Saudi Arabia, to attend the meeting of the AGCC youth and sports ministers, which began later yesterday. In a pre-departure statement to Oman News Agency, Ma'amari said the two-day meeting would discuss a number of sports, cultural, social and art topics.

OPINION POLL

Should the Sultanate of Oman consider the introduction of road toll?

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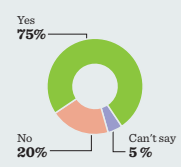

Do you think that Oman needs more anonymous HIV testing centres?

GLOBAL EYE

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FRANCE: The replica of French frigate Hermione arriving in La Rochelle's Vieux Port (Old Harbour) in France after carrying out tests offshore. The boat is scheduled to cross the Atlantic Ocean in April and May 2015 in the footsteps of its illustrious predecessor built in the XVIIIth century. - AFP



BELARUS: A woman with a Kalashnikov rifle poses for a photo during Maslenitsa celebrations at the Belarussian Interior Ministry's special forces base in Minsk on Sunday. Maslenitsa is a pagan holiday marking the end of winter celebrated by pancake eating and shows of strength. - Reuters



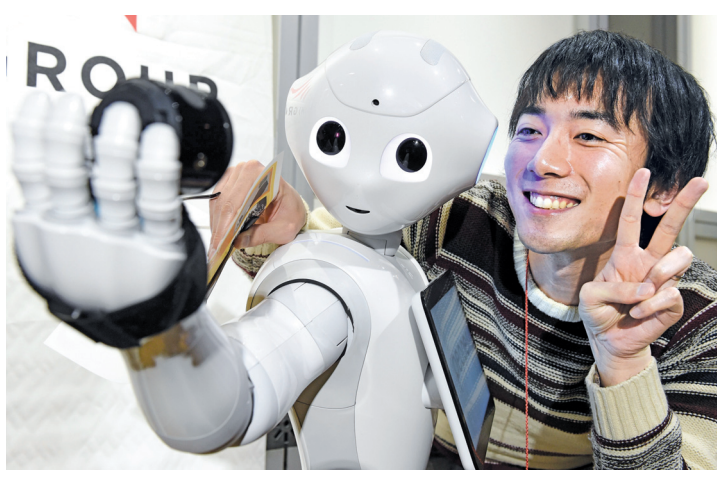
RUSSIA: People storm a snow fortress close to the village of Khlyupino, about 60 km from Moscow, on Sunday, in celebration of Maslenitsa (Shrovetide), a farewell ceremony to winter. Shrovetide precedes the beginning of Lent, with each day of the week holding its own meaning. Shrove Sunday, also known as the Sunday of Forgiveness, is a day for asking forgiveness for the harm caused to other people intentionally or unintentionally. - AFP



INDONESIA: The crater of Mount Sinabung volcano, glowing with lava, as seen from Karo district on Indonesia's Sumatra island. Mount Sinabung began erupting in September 2013 and recently had a series of eruptions last Tuesday. - AFP



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Emirati armed forces show their skills during a military show at the opening of the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre in the Emirati capital on Sunday. - AFP



JAPAN: A man poses as humanoid robot Pepper takes a picture at a booth of digital marketing company IMJ Corporation during the Pepper App Challenge 2015 in Tokyo on Sunday. - AFP



CHINA: Soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army patrol in temperatures below minus 10 degrees Celsius at China's border with Russia in Heihe, Heilongjiang province, on Saturday. - Reuters



SWEDEN: German Eric Frenzel soars during the men Nordic Combined team jumping event in the ski stadium of the 2015 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Falun, Sweden, on Sunday. - AFP



The action, which involved tanks, drones and reconnaissance planes as well as several hundred ground troops, was **the first such incursion by Turkish troops into Syria** since the start of the civil war there nearly four years ago

Turkish army rescues 40 soldiers surrounded by IS

Damascus described the operation as act of 'flagrant aggression' and said it would hold Ankara responsible for its repercussions



SUCCESSFUL OPERATION: Turkish tanks in the northern Syrian town of Kobane as they return from a military operation inside Syria on Sunday. - Reuters

ANKARA: Turkish forces swept into Syria overnight to rescue about 40 soldiers who had been surrounded for months by IS militants while guarding the tomb of a Turkish figure.

The Syrian government described the operation as act of "flagrant aggression" and said it would hold Ankara responsible for its repercussions.

The action, which involved tanks, drones and reconnaissance planes as well as several hundred ground troops, was the first such incursion by Turkish troops into Syria since the start of the civil war there nearly four years ago.

The military said no clashes took place during the operation although one soldier had been killed in an accident.

The 38 soldiers who had been guarding the tomb of Suleyman Shah, grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire, were brought safely home. The tomb, which is on a site within Syria that Ankara considers sovereign territory as agreed in a 1921 treaty, was relocated.

Normally, the detachment is rotated every six months but the last one was trapped there for eight months by IS militants.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told a news conference that Turkey had not sought permission or assistance for the mission but had informed allies in the coalition against IS once it began.

"This was an extremely successful operation with no loss to our rights under international law," he said, flanked by the chief of the military and the defence minister. The Syrian government said in a statement that turkey would be held responsible for its breach of the treaty after failing to wait for an agreement from Damascus before proceeding with the operation. The Turkish government had informed the Syrian consulate in Istanbul about the operation but had not awaited Syria's agreement, it said, adding that the operation was a violation of the 1921 agreement.

A Turkish security source said the operation was conducted via the Syrian Kurdish border town of Kobane with the support of local Kurdish authorities. Kurdish forces, backed by US-led air strikes, drove IS from Kobane last month.

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The Turkish foreign ministry said the tomb had been temporarily moved to a new site within Syria north of the village of Esmesi close to the Turkish border.

Davutoglu said about 100 military vehicles, including 39 tanks, were involved along with 572 military personnel including special forces commandos. Turkish fighter jets were on alert during the mission but did not need to be deployed, he said. Turkey has been reluctant to take an active role in the US-led military campaign against IS, partly because it wants to see the military action target Syrian government forces as much as the insurgents.

But the Turkish government said late last year that IS militants were advancing on the mausoleum, perched on the banks of the Euphrates river and made Turkish territory under a treaty signed with France in 1921, when France ruled Syria.

Davutoglu had repeatedly said that Turkey would retaliate against any attack on the tomb, which was located 37km (23 miles) from the Syrian border before being moved overnight.

"Countries which do not look after their historic symbols cannot build their future," he said on Sunday. The Syrian government statement said the fact that IS had not attacked the tomb "confirmed the depth of the ties between the Turkish government and this terrorist organisation".

Syria accuses turkey of supporting insurgent groups that have seized control of wide areas of northern and eastern Syria, including IS. Two operations were carried out simultaneously as part of what was dubbed operation "Shah Euphrates", Davutoglu said, one to Suleyman Shah and the other to secure the area around Esmesi. He said the remaining buildings at the original site were destroyed to prevent their use after the remains were removed.

Turkish soldiers raised the Turkish flag at the site where the tomb was relocated.

Davutoglu said it would be returned to its previous location once conditions allowed. — Reuters

EGYPT

215 Muslim Brotherhood members to face trial

CAIRO: Egypt's public prosecutor said on Sunday he had referred 215 members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to trial on charges of forming a militant group, the latest move in a sustained crackdown by authorities on hardliners.

Egypt has mounted one of the biggest crackdowns in its modern history on the Brotherhood following the army's overthrow of former president Mohamed Morsi, the country's first freely-elected president, in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.

The 215 defendants were charged with forming a militant group called "Helwan Brigades", Hesham Barakat, the public prosecutor, said in a statement. Helwan is a district in southern Cairo.

The prosecution's investigation said that the group was responsible for killing at least six policemen and wounding several civilians and policemen in separate attacks in Cairo. The group also had possessed weapons and ammunition. Of the group, 125 members are in detention, and Barakat ordered the arrest of those at large.

Thousands of Brotherhood supporters have been arrested and put on mass trials in a campaign which human rights groups say shows the government is repressing opponents.

President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, who as army chief toppled Morsi, describes the Brotherhood as a major security threat. But the movement says it is committed to peaceful activism.

On Tuesday, a prosecution source said that an Egyptian military court will try deposed president Mohamed Morsi and 198 harldine leaders and supporters over a deadly protest in 2013 following his overthrow. The defendants in the trial, which will start on February 23, also include Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie, the official MENA news agency reported. - Agencies





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Shebaab rebels' call to strike malls worries US

A video attributed to Al Shebaab appears to call for attacks on Western shopping areas. It specifically mentions Mall of America in Minnesota, the West Edmonton Mall in Canada, London's Oxford Street and sites in Paris



SECURITY ALERT: The entrance to the Mall of America is seen in this February 2, 2006 file photo in Bloomington, Minnesota. According to CNN on Saturday the group Al Shebaab has released a video calling for attacks on Western shopping malls. — AFP file photo

WASHINGTON: The US homeland security chief said on Sunday he takes seriously an apparent threat by Somali-based extremist militants against prominent shopping sites in the West including the Mall of America in Minnesota and urged people there to be careful.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson was reacting to a video attributed to Al Shebaab appearing to call for attacks on Western shopping areas, specifically mentioning Mall of America, the West Edmonton Mall in Canada, London's Oxford Street and sites in Paris.

Mall of America and West Edmonton Mall issued statements saying they were implementing extra security measures. "This latest statement from Al Shebaab reflects the new phase we've evolved to in the global terrorist threat, in that you have groups such as Al Shebaab and IS publicly calling for independent actors in their homelands to carry out attacks," Johnson told the CNN program "State of the Union,".

Threat to Canadians

Staff Sergeant Brent Meyer of Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police said authorities are looking into the video but "there is no evidence at this time of any specific or imminent threat to Canadians." A spokesman said London police were aware of the video and were assessing it.

Asked about the threat to Mall of America, one of the world's largest shopping complexes, Johnson said: "Anytime a terrorist organisation calls for an attack on a specific place, we've got to take that seriously." He advised people going to the Mall of America to be particularly careful.

Minnesota is home to a sizeable Somali population. US law enforcement officials have been concerned about the potential for radicalisation among some of the community. A Minnesota man was indicted last week on charges of conspiring to support IS and lying to federal agents investigating recruitment by militant groups.

Prosecutors said dozens of people from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, many of them Somali-Americans, have travelled or attempted to travel overseas to support groups such as IS or Al Shebaab since 2007.

"I'm very concerned about the serious potential threat of independent actors here in the United States. We've seen this now in Europe. We've seen this in Canada," Johnson said.

40 million visitors

Mall of America is a large private mall in Bloomington, Minnesota, that has about 40 million visitors a year, and contributes nearly $2 billion in annual economic activity to the state of Minnesota, according to its website.

The West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada, gets about 30.8 million visitors a year and has the world's largest parking lot, according to its website. Oxford Street is one of London's busiest shopping areas, home to several large department stores. — Reuters

ADVICE TO MUSLIM COUNTRIES

Curb extremism by education, says top Al Azhar cleric

MAKKAH: The head of Al Azhar called on Sunday for education reform in Muslim countries in an effort to contain the spread of religious extremism.

Speaking at counter-terrorism forum in the holy city of Makkah, Al Azhar grand imam Ahmed Al Tayib linked extremism to "bad interpretations of the Quran and the Sunnah. There has been a historical accumulation of excessive trends" that have led some people to embrace a misguided form of Islam, he told the gathering.

"The only hope for the Muslim nation to recover unity is to tackle in our schools and universities this tendency to accuse Muslims of being unbelievers," he said.

Tayib's comments come days after he expressed outrage at the IS group for burning to death a captured Jordanian pilot who took part in US-led air strikes against the extremists in Syria.

On February 4, after IS released a video showing Jordanian soldier Maaz Al Kassasbeh dying in a cage engulfed in flames, Tayib said the extremists deserved to be killed or crucified.

On Sunday in Makkah he made no mention of IS but denounced "terrorist groups... who have opted for savage and barbaric practices".

World Zionism

He blamed unrest in the region on a conspiracy by what he called "new global colonialism allied to world Zionism".

Tayib said that this plot has exploited "confessional tension" in conflict-hit Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya.

The opening day of the conference also heard a speech from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia who called for "an efficient strategy to combat terrorism".

"Terrorism is a scourge which is the product of extremist ideology," the monarch's speech, read by the governor of Makkah, said.

"It is a threat to our Muslim nation and to the entire world."

The three-day conference, organised by the Muslim World League group of non-government organisations, is being attended by senior clerics from across the Muslim world to discuss how Islam can combat extremism. — AFP

GIRL SUICIDE BOMBER

Five killed in Nigeria

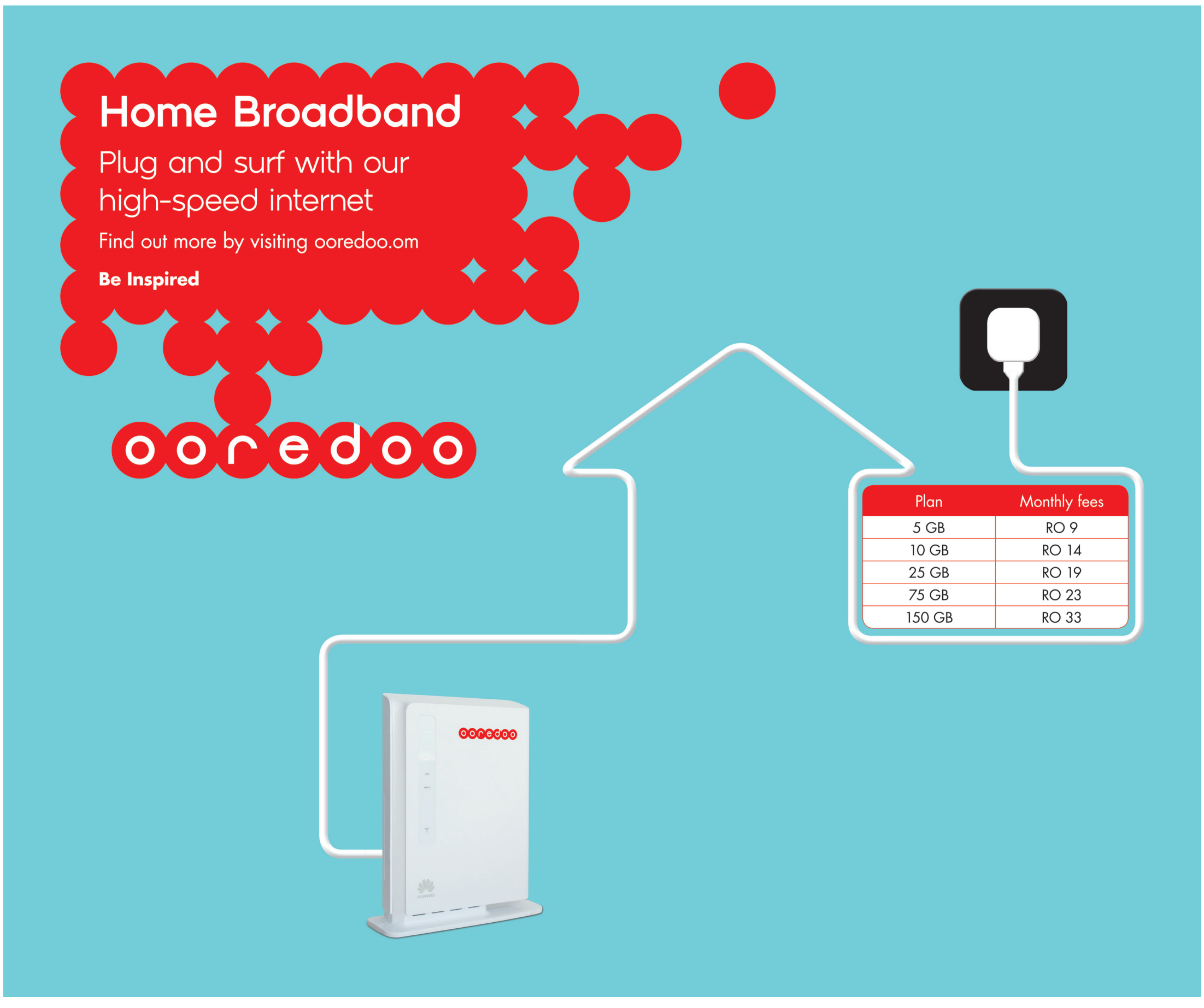
KANO (NIGERIA): A young female suicide bomber blew herself up and killed five others Sunday in an attack on a market in the northeastern Nigerian city of Potiskum, witnesses and a hospital source said.

Nineteen others who sustained various degrees of injury were taken to hospital after the blast in Potiskum, Yobe state's commercial capital, a vigilante leader said.

"So far, five people were killed with the girl while 19 others have been taken to hospital for injuries," Buba Lawan said.

A hospital source speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed the toll of the dead and the wounded. The attack occurred at around 1.30 pm (1230 GMT) during peak hours of business, traders said.

Witnesses said she appeared to be as young as seven-years-old and was the latest in a string of child suicide bombers in Nigeria. — AFP



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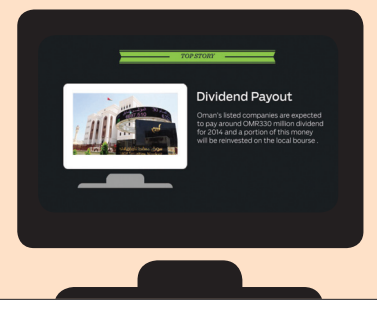

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Omani companies set to pay OMR330m dividend for 2014

The total estimated dividend payment for 2014 could reach OMR370 million, if interim dividends paid earlier by some of the companies are also taken into consideration

A E JAMES
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MUSCAT: A dividend payout of around OMR330 million by listed companies on the Muscat Securities Market (MSM) next month is expected to prop up the trading activity as almost 25-30 per cent of the money is expected to come back to the local bourse as reinvestment.

According to Muscat Securities Market (MSM), as many as 50 companies have already announced dividends. Market sources estimate total dividend so far at OMR279 million, which is more or less the same dividend payment of the previous year. Around 25 companies are yet to announce their dividend proposal. As many as 130 companies are listed on the MSM.

The total estimated dividend payment for 2014 could reach OMR370 million, if interim dividends paid earlier by some of the companies are also taken into consideration.

The four major blue chip companies that paid maximum cash dividend on the local bourse are Oman Telecommunications Company (115 per cent, including 40 per cent interim dividend), Oman Refreshment Company (100 per cent), Shell Oman Marketing Co (92 per cent) and Oman Cables (90 per cent). Among other firms, Hotel Management Co and Salalah Mills paid 65 per cent cash dividend each, while Oman Oil Marketing Company and Sweets of Oman paid 60 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively.

Also, companies that paid stock dividend or bonus shares include Muscat Thread Mills, Gulf Mushroom Products and ahlibank.

Traditionally, telecommunication, oil marketing firms and utilities are the companies that pay maximum dividend in Oman. "Industrial sector paid lower dividend this year due to a fall in profit," said a market source, who does not want to be named.

Although most of the annual general meetings are scheduled in March, investors will receive actual payment only by the first week of April. Market experts believe that 25 to 30 per cent of total dividend money will come back to the bourse as reinvestment, which will depend on investor sentiment, market outlook and fundamentals of companies. The investor community will opt for deploying their dividend money in the market rather than depositing in banks due to better market outlook and low interest regime.

With oil prices recovering, market started showing signs of stability and range-bound movement. However, dividend related adjustment or correction can be seen towards the end of March. But when the dividend money comes back to the bourse in April, the local bourse is expected to recover.



MARKET REACTION: As many as 130 companies are listed on the Muscat Securities Market. — Times file picture

CRUDE PRODUCTION

Oman targeting maximum oil output as price worries ease

MUSCAT: Oman, the biggest Middle Eastern oil producer that's not a member of Opec, is boosting crude output to as much as possible with the global price rout over, Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, undersecretary of the oil and gas ministry, said.

Oman will produce 980,000 barrels a day this year, Al Aufi said in an interview in Muscat on Sunday. That would be four per cent higher than in 2013, according to BP data. Oman will provide 2014 production figures in April, Al Aufi said.

"It's crucial that we continue executing the future projects," Al Aufi said. "It's crucial that we continue the seismic activities and the exploration activities because when the market turns around, we need to have these opportunities identified and ready to go."

Rising supply from the US to Russia is contributing to a worldwide crude surplus that Oman estimates at one million barrels a day. Brent crude futures have climbed five per cent this year to $60.22 a barrel after falling 48 per cent last year.

"Has it bottomed?," Al Aufi said, when asked about the oil price. "It probably did."

Governments in the region have had to reduce subsidies on diesel, natural gas and utilities while companies cut billions from capital budgets because of low oil prices. Qatar Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell called off plans to build a $6.5 billion petrochemical plant.

Oil and gas accounts for 79 per cent of Oman's revenue, Al Aufi said. With a projected deficit of OMR2.5 billion ($6.49 billion), Oman's 2015 budget assumes an oil price of $75 a barrel, he said. A balanced budget would need oil to be over $100, he said.

Oman has no plans to join the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), which controls about 40 per cent of the world's crude output, he said. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, led Opec's decision to keep output targets unchanged rather than cut production to boost prices.


Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi
— Times file picture

"If you're a member of Opec then you will follow," Al Aufi said. "We like to stay independent as much as possible unless we can influence the decision that will be taken by whatever organisation."

Review their costs

Oman's oil ministry asked energy companies about three weeks ago to review their costs to ensure production is still economical, he said.

"There are indications that there will be some cost reduction," he said. "Not activity reduction, cost reduction."

The government is still in talks with Iran to build a natural gas pipeline. In March, Iran announced that it signed an agreement to build a $1 billion pipeline to transport natural gas from the South Pars field to Oman. "The intentions are still there, that at some point in time we start importing gas from Iran," Al Aufi said.

Natural gas demand in Oman is growing six to 10 per cent a year and domestic prices will increase at least three per cent a year, he said. — Bloomberg News

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MARKET

GLOBAL ECONOMY

First likely rate increase in a decade puts US in spotlight

LONDON: Greece's struggles with its eurozone creditors may have grabbed much of the world's attention, but United States Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen is likely to reclaim the spotlight this week with testimony on a long-anticipated shift in policy.

If the Fed sticks to mid-year for its first interest rate rise in a decade, it will be perceived as a reflection of the world economy's growing resilience.

US core CPI inflation data due next week will also give some idea of just how much the collapse in oil prices which has tamped down inflation globally will work as a counterweight to the Fed's apparent comfort so far with higher rates in June.

Greece economy

But the fretting over Greece — which makes up less than half of one perc ent of world gross domestic product (GDP) — has underscored the impression that for all of the piles of monetary stimulus over the past few years, much of the troubles remain the same.

While purchasing managers' data for the eurozone in February are pointing in the right direction, Europe is still struggling to create meaningful growth that would generate the kind of strong hiring that might in turn push up wage inflation.

China is grappling with a property market and debt overhang as it tries to rebalance its slowing economy. - Reuters

NBO's mobile application to make banking convenient

The state-of-the-art app will be available to customers across Oman on IOS and android in Arabic and English. It will provide full range of leading services, including EZ pay



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: The launch of the state-of-the-art mobile banking app at Muscat Grand Mall was led by brand ambassador Ahmed Al Harthy and members of National Bank of Oman's senior management team. - Supplied photo

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) on Saturday launched its state-of-the-art mobile banking app at a special ceremony at Muscat Grand Mall.

The new mobile banking application, which will be available to customers across Oman on IOS and android in Arabic and English, provides a full range of leading banking services including EZ pay, a unique service that is being introduced for the first time in the Sultanate, and which will enable customers to transfer funds to a mobile number, as well as a 'one click balance' solution to view their account balance with a single click without even logging into their account.

In addition, by using the National Bank of Oman mobile banking app, customers can make local and international transfers; check utility bills and settle outstanding payments online directly.

Security and speed

They can also make online credit card inquiries, apply for products and services, view special offers, ATM and branch locations; prayer timings, foreign exchange and deposit rates, and use the app's loan calculators.

The development of the mobile banking app is in accordance with National Bank of Oman's dedication to lead the digital transformation of banking to deliver a superior customer experience.

The app has been created with a focus on delivering security, speed, convenience and simplicity to clients in an intuitive way at every stage. The launch event at Muscat Grand Mall was led by brand ambassador Ahmed Al Harthy as well as members of National Bank of Oman's senior management team.

Innovative services

On the occasion, Ahmed Al Musalmi, chief executive officer of National Bank of Oman said: "Today marks another major milestone in our digital leadership journey and we are delighted to announce the launch of our new mobile banking app. National Bank of Oman is committed to investing in technological innovations to deliver customer service excellence across all its customer touch points. It is important that customers can access their finances and key banking services anywhere and at any time. This is exactly what the next-generation mobile banking app has been designed for."

"As part of our focus on maintaining digital banking leadership and becoming the bank of choice, we have made firm commitments to continue to look at new ways of providing novel and innovative services that will see our customers enjoy the best that National Bank of Oman has to offer. The mobile banking app has a number of powerful features which allow customers to have full control of their personal finances. For the first time in Oman; our customers can now enjoy a new and very unique way of transferring funds directly to a mobile number through our EZ Pay service available on the app. Our team of talented digital experts will continue to build on, and enhance, the mobile banking platform to ensure that customers always have access to industry-leading features and services and can enjoy a unique and superior banking experience."

New portal

In early February 2015, National Bank of Oman announced the launch of its new fully-featured public portal, www.nbo.om.

The new website, designed for an intuitive customer-friendly experience in both English and Arabic, provides new, groundbreaking features for customers to interact digitally with the bank through innovative features such as web chat, easy access to essential information and services including branch and ATM locator, and loan calculators.

The remodelled National Bank of Oman site is also available on a wide range of mobile devices, including tablets and smartphones, to make banking more accessible than ever for the bank's clients.

ADVANTAGES

- Customers can transfer funds to a mobile number, as well as a 'one click balance' solution to view account balance with a single click without even logging into the account
- They can make online credit card enquiries, apply for products and services, view foreign exchange and deposit rates, check utility bills and settle outstanding payments online directly among other services

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AUTOMOTIVE

Apple plans to develop modern electric car

NEW YORK: Is the future of the United States car industry in Silicon Valley?

After Tesla and Google, Apple appears to be readying for a plunge into the industry long rooted far away in the steel belt of the US upper Midwest.

According to various media reports, the maker of iPhones and iPads has created a special unit baptised 'Titan' with hundreds of staff to begin developing an electric car, with 2020 the target date.

Apple remains silent on the project, but the reports were partially backed up by a lawsuit filed against the tech giant. Battery maker 123 Systems has accused Apple of aggressively poaching its staff.

But it puts Apple in line with Tesla, the current champion of the electric car, and Google, the online giant which is focused on the self-driving, also-electric Google car.

The Big Three US automakers — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler (now a part of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) — are taking the threat from the Detroit outsiders seriously. "Given the company's (Apple's) tremendous capabilities, that is no surprise to anyone," GM spokesman Dan Flores said.

Mass market

At Chrysler, spokesman Eric Maynes said: "We can't comment on something we haven't seen." Ford too had no comment on Apple's plans, but the number two automaker recently opened a research centre in Palo Alto, the heart of Silicon Valley, as it looks to the future of self-driving automobiles.

Bill Visnic, an analyst at industry specialist Edmunds.com, said that given the seven-year average time frame to develop and bring a car to the mass market, the Detroit giants are not under serious pressure yet.Even with the unexpected success of Tesla, for instance, the company still sold less than 35,000 cars last year in a national market of more than 16 million units. And Tesla's cars are confined to a very high-end niche market.

"Apple is not an immediate threat to the US auto industry. I don't think you'll see the volume there, the number of cars won't really begin to approach anything like Detroit is making right now at any time soon," said Visnic.

Alec Gutierrez, a market analyst at Kelley Blue Book, said Apple's strength is its role as a 'disruptor' in industries, and that the "comprehensive ecosystem" of its popular consumer electronics could be extended to an 'Apple car'.

Money to spend

Apple has the money to put into a new car -- some $180 billion in capital built up to invest in new projects. Even so, said Gutierrez, given the costs and competition in the auto industry, "it's fraught with risk." "The automotive space is so highly competitive today, and margins in new car sales are extraordinarily thin, which is something Apple is not used to."

"How many companies have totally failed into trying to enter the automotive industry? It's a tough thing and it's very expensive," added Brett Smith, program director at the Centre for Automotive Research. He pointed to Tesla continuing to lose money despite its success in marketing its luxury cars with battery systems superior to any offered by Detroit. And the major automakers are all working hard on making more and better hybrid and all-electric vehicles. That sets a high bar for any new entrant, notes Smith.

"Does Apple have better technologies than Mercedes or Ford or GM or Toyota to build a car? I really doubt it."

What Apple could bring to the industry is what Google brings: ways to process and use data.

Google is focused not on the physical car itself but on the technology that will allow cars to run themselves. - AFP

MONEY FOR NEW PROJECTS

- According to various media reports, the maker of iPhones and iPads has created a special unit baptised 'Titan' with hundreds of staff to begin developing an electric car, with 2020 target date. Apple has the money to put into a new car — some $180 billion in capital built up to invest in new projects

JOINT AGREEMENT

Korean Air and Airbus ink pact for jet fighter bid

SEOUL: Korean Air and European aerospace giant Airbus have signed an agreement to jointly bid for an $8-billion fighter jet project, a company spokesman said on Sunday, pitting the pair against a Lockheed Martin, Korea Aerospace Industries team-up.

The project is designed to develop and produce 120 F-16 fighter jets to replace the country's ageing fleet of F-4s and F-5s. "We've signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus," a spokesman said.

One of the conditions of the bid is that local enterprises should tie up with foreign companies to secure technological assistance, according to Seoul's Yonhap news agency. The pair will compete with Korea Aerospace Industries which has teamed up with America's Lockheed Martin.

South Korea's Defence Acquisition Programme Administration plans to announce the final winner in July. The country's military has overwhelmingly chosen United States suppliers in the past, especially where the airforce is concerned, reflecting their close military alliance.

But Airbus has also made a number of bids for the South's military contracts. - AFP





MARKET

TOURISM

Spain wooing Chinese with more flights, quick visas

MADRID: Spanish five-star hotels are serving up white rice for breakfast as Spain offers quicker visas and seeks more direct flights from China to tap into the surging wave of Chinese tourists.

When Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy visited China in September, he announced that visa applications from the country's travellers would be processed within 48 hours.

The government is also in talks with Asian airlines to boost traffic through Madrid's underused airport by offering reduced fees and promoting Spain as a hub for travel to Latin America.

So far only one airline, Air China, offers direct flights between Spain and China seven times a week. In contrast, Italy has 28 direct weekly flights to China, France has 70 and Germany 87.

While Chinese travellers usually visit several countries during a trip to Europe, they are unlikely to include Spain if they land in another country because of its geographic location, said University of London lecturer Keven Lathan, author of a book on Chinese tourism in Europe. China has been the world's fastest-growing source of tourists worldwide. - AFP

CORPORATE

Free distribution of shares to TruckOman staff is a recognition of loyalty: Chairman

ELHAM POURMOHAMMADI
elham@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Free distribution of shares to TruckOman employees set an important precedent in the private sector for acknowledging the services of dedicated workers, said a senior official.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Al Yousef Group, the main shareholder of TruckOman Oil & Gas Services — a company specialising in logistics services — recently awarded free shares to TruckOman employees.

Established in 1978, TruckOman, which was a just transport provider, has now developed as the logistics service provider of choice to Oman's oil and gas sector.

The company specialises in three core activities, namely oil and gas logistics, supply chain management and total logistics services, and its activities include rig moving services, freight forwarding, cargo haulage, yard management and warehousing.

Speaking to the *Times of Oman*' Dr Mohamed bin Musa Al Yousef, group chairman of Al Yousef Group and TruckOman Group, said that the grant of three million shares valued at OMR1,050,000 was recognition of the loyalty and dedication of the employees, who are the company's most valuable asset.



> This is obviously in addition to the profits which they are entitled to annually from the dividends that Mazaya will receive from TruckOman. Maybe, they will even have a member in future on the TruckOman board
>
> **Dr Mohamed bin Musa Al Yousef**
> Group chairman, Al Yousef Group & TruckOman Group

The share ownership scheme, which is aimed at motivating and encouraging the retention of employees, enables workers to become shareholders through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called 'Mazaya TruckOman', established to own shares on behalf of the staff.

Dr. Al Yousef said that in order to encourage employees to hold their shares for a long period, Mazaya will allocate 10 per cent bonus shares each year for a period of five years to the employees who continue to hold Mazaya shares.

"This is obviously in addition to the profits which they are entitled to annually from the dividends that Mazaya will receive from TruckOman," he said.

Furthermore, a clear mechanism has been laid down for those who want to sell their shares, and for this purpose a special booklet outlining the scheme and its modus operandi has been circulated to all employees.

Company turnover

Dr Al Yousef also added that TruckOman itself may allocate additional shares to Mazaya in future for distribution to existing employees as well as new employees.

The initiative was a 'very important' development in the private sector, said Dr. Al Yousef, while adding that the employees should have the feeling that they are not just employees but they are also shareholders in their own right.

"Maybe, they will even have a member in future on the TruckOman board," he added.

Dr. Al Yousef indicated that TrucKOman has an annual turnover of around OMR18 to OMR20 million and employs around 450 workers with an average Omanisation rate of 60 per cent.

In addition, he said that TruckOman plans to launch an initial public offering (IPO) and has been exempted by His Majesty's Government from the mandatory 40 per cent floatation and will float 25 per cent of the share capital.

The exemption is aimed at encouraging family-owned companies to float a portion of their shares for public subscription to broaden the base of participation and ownership in the national economy.

The documents have been submitted to the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and the launch of the IPO will be announced as soon as these are approved by the authority, said Dr. Al Yousef, adding that the floatation is expected in the first quarter of this year.

'India violating WTO pledge on wheat subsidies'

Countries like China and India have far exceeded their WTO commitments on key commodities resulting in serious trade distortions, says America's wheat industry

WASHINGTON: America's wheat industry has accused India of offering export subsidies to its farmers which are illegal under its World Trade Organisation (WTO) pledge, saying countries like China and India have far exceeded their WTO commitments on key commodities resulting in serious trade distortions.

"Increasing support levels gave Indian farmers an artificial incentive to produce more wheat. In fact, India's wheat production increased by 35 per cent over those seven years (2005-06 to 2013-14) to record levels. That buoyed world wheat supplies and increased pressure on prices that hurt wheat farmers in other countries," the US Wheat (USW) Associates said in a media release.

Referring to a recent study by Washington-based DTB Associates, it said India's minimum support price for wheat increased by 111 per cent between 2005-06 and 2013-14.

India recently notified the WTO of a much lower increase but the study showed that the Indian government used faulty tactics to calculate the number it reported, a number that many other WTO members have questioned, it alleged.

Over the same time, Indian wheat exports increased from 300,000 metric tonnes to 6.5 million metric tonnes, it said.



WHEAT EXPORTS

- Indian wheat exports increased from 300,000 metric tonnes to 6.5 million metric tonnes between 2005-06 and 2013-14

"The study also included evidence that India is offering wheat export subsidies that are also illegal under its WTO commitment," it claimed.

"Yet, claiming it must maintain a large public stockpile of grain to maintain food security as an advanced developing country, India has demanded exemptions to its trade-distorting levels of support," it said.

"We agree with our Untied States agricultural negotiators that we see no possibility of concluding the Doha agreement by pursuing the same approach used over the last decade," said USW vice-president of Policy Shannon Schlecht.

Doha Round

"Hopefully the facts in the study will help raise awareness of the current realities of trade-distorting farm subsidies. Without this information it will be impossible for WTO members to achieve a balanced Doha Round conclusion across the domestic support, market access and export competition pillars," Schlecht said.

The study claims that the governments of India, China, Turkey, Brazil and Thailand have dramatically increased trade distorting subsidies for wheat, corn or rice production over the past 10 years to levels that exceed their WTO agreements.

"The Untied States wheat farmers strongly support the goals of the WTO and the Doha Round," said USW president Alan Tracy. "We also believe every WTO member must follow the rules. Sadly, the facts we have uncovered show this is not the case."

Member countries are required to report their domestic support levels to WTO regularly, but more than 650 notifications were late as of November 2014, Tracy noted.

China has not reported since 2008 and India just submitted a notification last fall covering seven crop years to make them current through 2010. However, the study demonstrates that even notifications that have been reported often rely on faulty methodology. – PTI

CREDIT GROWTH

United Arab Bank CEO sees robust loan growth

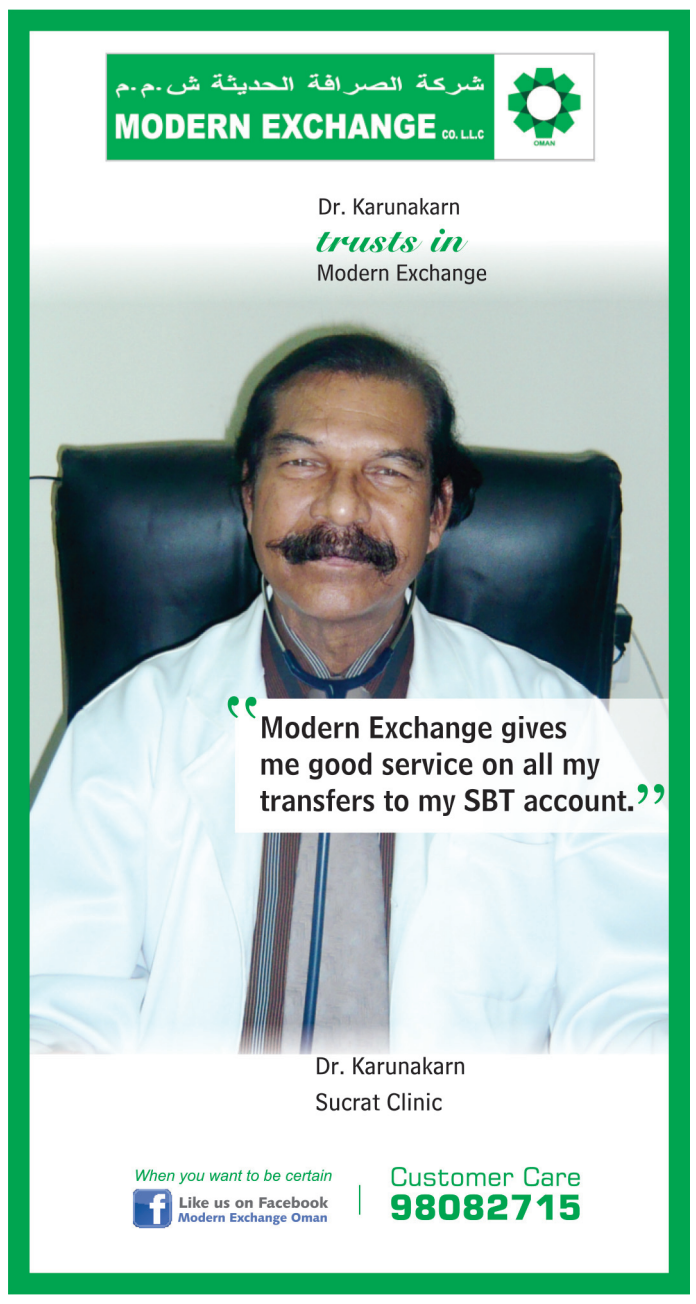
DUBAI: United Arab Bank will have 'good loan growth' in 2015 as the United Arab Emirates economy expands 2 per cent to 3 per cent, chief executive officer Paul Trowbridge said.

"We will outperform the sector," Trowbridge said in an interview Saturday in Dubai where the bank is building a regional office that it expects to open in five years. United Arab Bank is based in Sharjah, the emirate next to Dubai.

Assets grew to Dh25.7 billion ($7 billion) last year from 7 billion dirham in 2009, according to data. The expansion came by taking market share, Trowbridge said. He declined to give a specific forecast for loan growth this year.

The UAE economy is diversified enough in logistics to residential real estate and tourism that low oil prices will only be a "moderating factor" to growth, he said. The member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries holds about 6 per cent of global oil reserves.

Oil prices have dropped about 45 per cent in the past year. The UAE economic growth slowed from 5.2 per cent in 2013 to 4.3 per cent last year. - Bloomberg News









Investment Manager
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	Vision Al Khair GCC Fund	Real Economy Fund	GCC Fund	Oman Fund
NAV Date	19/02/2015	19/02/2015	19/02/2015	22/02/2015
NAV per Unit	1.197	1.682	1.350	1.239
Divindends paid till date	-	21%	26%	12.5%
Bonus units till date	5%	-	60%	-
*Since Inception performance	25.70%	95.46%	167.10%	36.75%

* Adjusted for bonus & dividends, assuming dividends are reinvested.

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MARKET

Index falls

The top gainer of the day was Gulf International Chemicals, while Al Batinah Power was the top loser

MUSCAT: Amid weak trading volume, the MSM30 Index closed at 6,634.46 points, down by 0.06 per cent. The MSM Sharia Index increased by 0.09 per cent to close at 1,001.56 points. Galfar Engineering was the most active in terms of volume while Al Anwar Holding was the most active in terms of turnover.

The top gainer of the day was Gulf International Chemicals, up by 5.29 per cent, while Al Batinah Power, down by 4.21 per cent, was the top loser of the day.

A total number of 978 trades were executed during the day's trading session generating turnover of OMR3.89 million with more than 12.69 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded stocks, four advanced, — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSM30 Index	6,640.31	6,627.03	6,634.46	6,638.57	-4.11	-0.06
Financial Index	8,346.63	8,290.84	8,290.84	8,346.27	-55.43	-0.66
Industrial Index	8,759.80	8,732.77	8,734.83	8,747.31	-12.48	-0.14
Services Index	3,586.64	3,576.50	3,581.97	3,579.23	2.74	0.08
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	1,003.08	1,000.19	1,001.56	1,000.67	0.89	0.09

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,690,912	3,893,804	978	14,982,783,643	4	19	15	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	MARKET CAP	PAR VALUE
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1,389,272	332,472	149	0.229	0.245	0.228	0.239	0.227	0.012	5.286	0.238	0.238	0.240	5,019,000	0.100
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	918,335	660,311	95	0.700	0.724	0.700	0.720	0.704	0.016	2.273	0.720	0.720	0.724	468,679,846	0.100
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT	52,654	3,791	9	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.072	0.073	14,914,900	0.100
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	21,820	48,640	5	2.230	2.230	2.220	2.230	2.220	0.010	0.450	2.220	2.220	2.230	136,643,250	0.100
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	65,395	114,768	26	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755	0.000	0.000	1.755	1.700	1.755	351,000,000	0.100
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT.DEV.AND INV. HOLD.	1,813	968	1	0.534	0.534	0.534	0.530	0.530	0.000	0.000	0.534	0.536	0.000	116,600,000	0.100
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	452,550	234,476	8	0.518	0.520	0.518	0.518	0.518	0.000	0.000	0.520	0.510	0.520	171,392,064	0.100
OM0000002176	AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	22,412	8,050	7	0.362	0.362	0.356	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.356	0.360	44,963,266	0.100
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,000	428	2	0.215	0.215	0.213	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.213	0.219	278,529,792	0.100
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	3,200	6,400	3	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	190,000,000	0.100
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	91,800	13,631	7	0.149	0.149	0.147	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.147	0.148	40,701,957	0.100
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	565,726	342,108	56	0.604	0.608	0.604	0.604	0.604	0.000	0.000	0.608	0.604	0.608	1,318,343,666	0.100
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	492	182	1	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.370	0.000	81,773,700	0.100
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	85,000	169,400	12	2.000	2.000	1.990	1.995	2.000	-0.005	-0.250	1.990	1.950	1.990	178,951,500	0.100
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	53,772	95,714	13	1.780	1.780	1.780	1.780	1.785	-0.005	-0.280	1.780	1.770	1.780	1,335,000,000	0.100
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	67,552	33,511	8	0.498	0.498	0.496	0.496	0.498	-0.002	-0.402	0.496	0.494	0.496	122,434,989	0.100
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	16,700	7,830	10	0.466	0.470	0.466	0.468	0.470	-0.002	-0.426	0.468	0.466	0.468	132,020,204	0.100
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	314,659	33,268	11	0.107	0.107	0.104	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.105	0.104	0.105	21,200,000	0.100
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON.	3,368,747	554,900	161	0.170	0.170	0.162	0.165	0.167	-0.002	-1.198	0.162	0.162	0.165	43,497,096	0.100
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	80,500	19,764	12	0.249	0.249	0.242	0.246	0.249	-0.003	-1.205	0.245	0.243	0.245	49,200,000	0.100
OM0000003398	BANK SOHAR	417,912	92,241	13	0.223	0.223	0.220	0.221	0.224	-0.003	-1.339	0.220	0.217	0.220	252,824,000	0.100
OM0000001681	OMAN AND EMIRATES INV. HOLDING	72,000	10,410	7	0.145	0.145	0.144	0.145	0.147	-0.002	-1.361	0.144	0.144	0.149	17,671,875	0.100
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	15,000	8,130	3	0.542	0.542	0.542	0.542	0.550	-0.008	-1.455	0.542	0.540	0.550	24,694,286	0.100
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	55,989	22,436	20	0.404	0.404	0.400	0.400	0.406	-0.006	-1.478	0.400	0.398	0.400	24,481,709	0.100
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	2,837,165	747,611	158	0.268	0.268	0.261	0.264	0.268	-0.004	-1.493	0.266	0.265	0.266	34,452,000	0.100
OM0000002820	GULF INVESTMENT SERVICES	497,950	89,590	37	0.182	0.182	0.177	0.180	0.184	-0.004	-2.174	0.177	0.177	0.182	10,591,779	0.100
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	297,500	104,790	28	0.360	0.360	0.350	0.352	0.362	-0.010	-2.762	0.352	0.350	0.358	35,200,000	0.100
	SUM:	11,767,915	3,755,820	862												
	TRADED SEC.	27														
PARALLEL MARKET																
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINE. INVT.	332	103	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.312	0.000	24,160,000	0.100
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	201,000	14,070	10	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.070	8,750,000	0.100
OM0000002564	AL HASSAN ENGINEERING	20,000	2,610	3	0.131	0.131	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.130	9,777,040	0.100
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	355	809	2	2.280	2.280	2.280	2.270	2.270	0.000	0.000	2.280	2.280	2.310	216,687,833	1.000
OM0000004925	AL BATINAH POWER	20,084	3,655	5	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.180	0.181	122,829,512	0.100
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	26,344	4,768	3	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.182	-0.001	-0.549	0.181	0.181	0.182	129,307,548	0.100
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	34,637	21,239	19	0.616	0.620	0.608	0.612	0.616	-0.004	-0.649	0.612	0.612	0.616	30,600,000	0.100
OM0000004768	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	81,110	7,468	8	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.093	16,100,000	0.100
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	141,820	12,626	18	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.091	-0.002	-2.198	0.089	0.089	0.090	133,500,000	0.100
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV. INV. HOLDING	369,315	67,297	45	0.188	0.188	0.178	0.182	0.190	-0.008	-4.211	0.180	0.179	0.180	5,460,000	0.100
	SUM:	894,997	134,647	114												
	TRADED SEC.	10														
BONDS MARKET																
OM0000004487	RENAISSANCE SERVICES BONDS3.75	28,000	3,337	2	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.122	50,353,860	0.100
	SUM:	28,000	3,337	2												
	TRADED SEC.	1														



GCC BOURSES

Saudi stocks gain on oil recovery

DUBAI: Saudi Arabian stocks climbed, heading for the biggest increase in a week, as Brent crude prices remained above $60 a barrel even after the drop in rigs targeting oil in the US slowed.

The Tadawul All Share Index added 0.6 per cent, poised for the biggest increase in a week, to 9,358.50 at 1:03pm in Riyadh. Saudi Basic Industries Corp., the world's largest petrochemicals maker by sales, increased 0.9 per cent to 93.25 riyals.

Saudi Arabian equities rose after Brent crude, the benchmark for about half the world's oil, settled last week at $60.22, near a two-month high, after declining 3.7 per cent in the two days through February 19. US oil explorers idled the fewest rigs in seven weeks, Baker Hughes said. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter and relies on oil for about 90 per cent of its revenue.

"What has been encouraging over the weekend is that Brent has managed to hold on to the $60 level despite reports that US oil production remained at a very high level," Yong Wei Lee, head of Middle East and North Africa equities at Emirates NBD Asset Management in Dubai, said by phone. — **Bloomberg News**









E-TIMES
TECH STUFF

HOW TO CONTROL LOCK-SCREEN NOTIFICATIONS

For devices running Google's Android 5.0 Lollipop, open the Settings icon and in the Device area, tap Sound & Notification. On the next screen, tap App Notifications to get a list of apps, then tap each app to adjust its notification abilities. In Windows Phone 8.1, open the Settings and select Notifications + Actions. Select an app from the list to block it from your lock screen or to make other changes for how it gets your attention.



Photoshop adapts to an Instagram world

The aggressive reinvention of Photoshop, if successful, could serve as a model for other companies, particularly Microsoft, that risk losing business to more nimble app-makers

FARHAD MANJOO

The history of digital technology is full of innovations that are praised for having changed the world: the Mac, Microsoft Windows, the Netscape Navigator browser, the iPod and countless others. Then there are the many products that changed the world and were suddenly overtaken by some newer, supposedly better thing: the Mac, Microsoft Windows, Netscape Navigator, the iPod and countless others.

What's rarer in tech is the product that causes major changes, hits turbulence and then, after some nimble adjustment, finds a surprising new audience.

This week is the 25th birthday of one such aging chameleon, Adobe Photoshop, an image-editing program that was created when we snapped pictures on film and displayed them on paper. It has not just survived but thrived through every major technological transition in its lifetime: the rise of the Web, the decline of print publishing, the rise and fall of home printing and the supernova of digital photography.

Photoshop attained the rare status of a product that became a verb — like Google and Xerox. Along the way, it became a lightning rod for controversy because of, among other things, the way it can be used to turn women's bodies into unnatural magazine-cover icons, or its use by propagandists and your casually mendacious social-networking buddies who doctor their vacation snaps.

But now, for all its cultural cachet, Photoshop risks missing out on a far larger market of casual photo bugs and their smartphones. Once, for better or worse, we Photoshopped photos. Now, more often than not, we Instagram or Snapchat them, and everyone, it seems, is a photo editor. But not everyone needs or even wants a fancy program like Photoshop.

"When I took over the business in 2010, I realised that the growth in our business did not match what was happening all around us," said David Wadhwani, the executive in charge of Adobe's creative software. "Visual expression was on the rise everywhere. Our business was a solid business, but it was not growing at the pace that we felt it should."

So Adobe is taking a big risk and reinventing Photoshop and, the company hopes, making it less acutely dependent on sales to a small group of professional customers. The aggressive reinvention of Photoshop, if successful, could serve as a model for other companies, particularly Microsoft, that risk losing business to more nimble app-makers. It also suggests a path to mobile devices for software that over the years grew fatter as PCs grew more powerful: Slice it up, cut the price, and you could end up attracting a far wider audience.

Or at least make sure your current audience doesn't abandon you.

Adobe's new plan for Photoshop actually started in 2011. Rather than selling licensed copies of Photoshop and its other high-end creative applications for hundreds of dollars each (Photoshop used to sell for $700 a copy), Adobe began offering monthly access for as little as $10 a month.

The price change was initially met with fury from loyalists, who didn't like the idea of renting rather than buying. Because subscription revenue comes in over time, the change also took a toll on Adobe's bottom line. Its annual net income declined 65 percent in 2013, and it fell 13 percent last year.

But the company sees the decline as the short-term cost of a long-term plan. By lowering the price of Photoshop, Adobe hopes to democratise access, gaining new users who, in the past, wouldn't have been able to afford $700 software.

Creative Cloud

The trend looks promising. Adobe now has 3.5 million subscribers to its Creative Cloud suite of apps (which includes Photoshop), and it expects to have nearly six million by the end of this year. Annual revenue generated by those subscriptions will approach $3 billion. It's on track to beat the record $3.4 billion that Adobe made from selling boxed software in 2011.

There are risks, of course. Low-end photo editing apps are becoming popular — fast. Adobe may not be reacting quickly enough to them. And when you reach out to new types of customers, you could offend the old ones who supported the business for decades. Will they find a high-end alternative if Photoshop starts looking a little too downscale?

Still, the company is forging ahead. Adobe also has grander plans to break up Photoshop into a number of apps, some of which it will make itself. Others will be made by third-party developers who will have access to Adobe's image-processing systems online. In some cases, those apps will even be free.

"The goal is to go from tens of millions of people benefiting from the technology within Photoshop to hundreds of millions of people over the years," Wadhwani said.

Adobe's move to apps and the cloud has earned plaudits from optimists on Wall Street. To understand why, it helps to understand Photoshop's history.

Photoshop began as a way to procrastinate from working on a doctoral thesis. In the late 1980s, Thomas Knoll, who was studying computer vision at the University of Michigan, began creating a collection of image-processing utilities for his younger brother John, who was a digital-effects specialist at Industrial Light & Magic. The program, which the brothers named Display, kept growing, and soon many of John's friends at ILM were using it.

In 1988, Adobe agreed to buy the program, but it didn't really have high expectations. Adobe gave the brothers no extra resources to finish the software; the company didn't even require them to go to Silicon Valley to work on it. John remained at Industrial Light & Magic, dreaming up new features for Photoshop, while Thomas stuck it out in Ann Arbour, where he wrote every line of code in the first version. "The end result was, I never did finish my Ph.D.," Thomas said. But after about two years, he did finish Photoshop. On February. 19, 1990, Photoshop 1.0 began shipping. It was an instant success. Over the next decade, Adobe sold more than three million copies.

Many of Photoshop's features were built as analogues to techniques that photographers had long been using in the darkroom, but what set it apart from competing image-editing programs was the way it improved on the darkroom.

— The New York Times News Service





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GADGETWISE

Dropcam keeps an eye on the neighbourhood

BRIAN X. CHEN



WHEN I set up a Dropcam last year, my original goal certainly wasn't to become some sort of neighbourhood watchdog.

Dropcam, which was acquired by Google's Nest Labs for $555 million last year, sells Internet-connected video cameras that can constantly stream video and store it to the cloud for a monthly fee of at least $10 (or about $99 for one year). The video is then easily viewable through mobile apps or a web browser.

The setup is fairly straightforward: You plug the camera into a power outlet, start the Dropcam mobile app and connect the camera to your Wi-Fi network.

In my first few months with a Dropcam, I did what any unimaginative tech user would do: I pointed the camera into the living room to spy on my cat and two dogs while I was away from my apartment in San Francisco's Mission District.

Alas, the cat spent most of her days napping in the sun, and the dogs did little more than bark at the occasional skateboarder rolling by outside or the janitor vacuuming in the hallway.

The Dropcam was shaping up to be yet another neglected $200 gadget in the junk drawer.

Then my girlfriend hit upon the Dropcam sweet spot: She pointed the camera out the third-floor window at our driveway so she could check the video on her smartphone to look out for pedestrians on the sidewalk while backing the car out of the garage. Cats and dogs are a bit boring, but it turns out my neighbourhood is not.

One Saturday afternoon, I came home to an unusually large patch of feces flattened onto our driveway. Someone, I thought, should really remember to pick up after their dog.

Except it wasn't a dog.

I opened my laptop and logged on to the Dropcam website to search the video for the instant the excrement appeared. The video revealed that at about 12:30pm, a man in dark clothes and a bright-orange baseball cap casually strolled past my driveway. It happened so quickly and so swiftly — in a split second, he gave his leg a shake and unloaded his gift through his pants leg. Then he marched away.

But that solved only half the mystery. About five minutes later in the video, I saw the poor soul who stepped in the pile and then spent a good minute and a half trying to scrape it off his shoe onto the sidewalk curb.

After that, the Dropcam kept an eye on the street and I became a bit of a neighbourhood hall monitor. One evening, I heard the sound of metal being smashed and brakes screeching. I looked out and saw a man who had fallen off his bicycle, apparently after colliding with a car.

My girlfriend ran outside to see if the cyclist was OK while I checked the video. Sure enough, it showed a turquoise car ramming into the cyclist in the middle of a turn. The cyclist slowly stood up and exchanged a few words with the driver, who stayed in her car with the window rolled down. I eventually emailed the clip of the video to the bicyclist in case he was filing an insurance claim or a police report.

Over the weeks that followed, the Dropcam captured more car accidents and odd incidents, including one night when a man lit firecrackers in the middle of the street and nonchalantly walked away from the explosions.

Powerful surveillance tool

Who knew that just a tiny tweak — pointing the camera out the window — would transform the Dropcam into a powerful surveillance tool?

I live in a mixed-income neighbourhood, where homelessness and drug use mix with chic restaurants, and gentrification is probably just as feared as burglary. Peace of mind, even if it comes from a $200 gadget, is not such a bad thing.

But was I really helping the neighbourhood or simply spying for my amusement? Critics of video surveillance say it is not just expensive but also largely ineffective. In 2009, a statistical study by New York University found that video surveillance did not deter criminal activity much, if at all.

Some case studies have pointed to video surveillance — like the ubiquitous video camera system in London — as a valuable tool for helping solve crimes rather than prevent them.

Most criticism around video surveillance has focused on so-called closed-circuit systems, which are viewable to some eyes only, like authority figures. Putting surveillance tools in the hands of residents can produce a different effect, as it did for me. Everyday people can use Internet-connected cameras to hold one another accountable or to keep an eye out for one another.

Or they can help solve everyday mysteries. Remember that if you leave a surprise in my driveway, my Dropcam will be watching.

— The New York Times News Service

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat conducts fire evacuation drill

The bank conducts fire drills at regular intervals to test fire evacuation preparedness as part of its commitment to the safety of customers, employees and suppliers



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial services provider in the Sultanate, as part of its Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) exercise, successfully conducted a fire evacuation drill at the head office involving over 1,400 bank and retail outlet employees. The evacuation from the building was carried out in less than 5 minutes, says a press release.

Significant coordination and preparations were in place to ensure that the exercise was a success.

The bank conducts fire drills at regular intervals to test fire evacuation preparedness as part of its commitment to the safety of customers, employees and suppliers.

Featuring intelligent design, practical in all aspects, the bank's purpose-built headquarters incorporates the latest technology and architectural features, meeting the key requisites in terms of functionality, security and BCP requirements.

The BCP looks at ways and means to equip the bank deal with a variety of eventualities that may come its way, providing the right set of tools and response mechanisms, as also identifying key procedures that will help protect the organisation during a crisis, reduce downtime and provide minimal disruptions in the normal delivery of products and services. The BCP process involves continuous review and upgrading to keep pace with the dynamic and ever changing business environment that the bank operates in.

Bank Muscat is committed to providing an accident-free work place by developing safety management systems that ensure the health and safety of employees, customers and members of the general public. The aim is to protect people by introducing management systems and best practices exceeding legal compliance to ensure workplace risks are dealt with sensibly and responsibly.

MUSCAT FESTIVAL

Visitors benefit from exclusive Renna promotions



MUSCAT: Renna Mobile (Majan Telecommunication) in its continuous endeavour to maintain a dedicated customer base had participated in this year's Muscat Festival. Renna's presence at Muscat Festival created a platform to further deepen the connection with visitors of Renna stall at the festival ground.

In its continuous efforts to provide the public with the best services and products, Renna mobile have gained a positive response from customers through providing fun activities and special promotions during the festival, says a press release.

"Muscat Festival reflects Oman's legendary history, culture and traditions attracting thousands of people from within and outside the Sultanate every year. Our participation this year represents Renna Mobile's commitment to the strengthening of cultural and social foundation of the Omani society and to provide our customers the best services and promotions from Renna Mobile," said Manasik Sharaf Al Moosawi, marketing officer at Renna Mobile.

It is worth mentioning that Renna mobile recharge cards and services are easily accessible by means of shopping outlets and several other locations across Oman. Customers can also recharge online, by signing up and logging in to Renna Mobile website and get 10% off their recharge.

CREATIVE PARTNER

TeO appoints ADINC DDB its advertising and PR agency



MUSCAT: Integrated Telecommunications Oman (TeO) has appointed Advertising International Company (ADINC DDB), a part of the OMZEST group and DDB worldwide network, as its advertising and PR agency.

The latest entrant in the telecommunications sector, TeO was looking for an advertising agency to develop and promote its new brand image, says a press release.

"More than an agency, we needed a creative partner to work closely with us in giving shape to our vision for TeO starting with building the brand identity we envision and its image to our stakeholders.

ADINC DDB demonstrated a deep understanding of the brand and where we want to take it, in coming up with creative solutions. Together we are one team already and we look forward to a mutually beneficial association," explains, Gurkan Ozturk, CEO of TeO.

ADINC DDB is working already on the campaign strategy for the launch. "Crafting a brand's image is the most exciting project for an agency. It calls for working closely and collaboratively every day with client top management involvement in every detail.

"We are truly privileged to work with the team at TeO who infuse their passion and fun into the process. With that spirit, success is sure to follow," said, Radha Mukherji, CEO, ADINC DDB.

Integrated Telecommunications Oman, a 100 per cent Omani company, is the first private CLASS I licensee international gateway operator, a mobile virtual network operator and first-of-its-kind over-the-top service provider in the Sultanate.

RECOGNITION

Gulf Medical University honours NLGIC CEO

MUSCAT: National Life & General Insurance Company (NLGIC), CEO, S. Venkatachalam, has been conferred with 'Special Award Of Honour and Recognition' during an event organised by Gulf Medical University.

Gulf Medical University in Association with Aafiya organised second annual conference recently in Dubai. Sheikh Mohammed bin Maktoum Binjuma Al Maktoum was present as the chief guest for the event.

Many dignitaries from key medical insurance companies participated in the conference and discussed 'Insurance Sector in UAE - Innovative Ideas and Strategies'.

Venkatachalam has received this coveted recognition for his rich expertise in insurance sector in the Gulf region. He has been appreciated for being a successful leader in the insurance field who works in an innovative, knowledgeable and systematic manner,



says a press release.

Commenting on this occasion, Venkatachalam said, "It's an absolute honour to be recognised at such a coveted platform. This prestigious recognition emphasises NLGIC's commitment and its focus on following the best insurance practices in all its activities. As committed insurance partners to our customers, it is our constant endeavour to offer them best in class insurance products coupled with an exceptional customer service."

He further added, "NLGIC possesses unique strengths. As an established insurance company in Sultanate of Oman, NLGIC aims to deliver reliable, and innovative insurance products and services. NLGIC has already made strong presence in Dubai insurance industry in recent years with its focus on medical insurance solutions.

"We have recently made entry into Abu Dhabi with our new branch. We look forward to further strengthen ourselves as key regional insurance player in GCC.

"Given the considerable progress our company has made in recent years, NLGIC is well-positioned for continued profitability and growth, having top focus on delivering excellent product and services to its valued customers.

"We are planning to further grow our reach across Oman which will provide its customers with increased accessibility to the full array of insurance services offered by National Life & General Insurance."

HEALTHCARE



KIMS Oman Hospital delivers distinctive physiotherapy services

MUSCAT: With the aim of providing a high quality, efficient and comprehensive physiotherapy services to the community, the Physiotherapy Department at KIMS Oman Hospital (KOH)-50 bedded hospital, equipped with excellence in healthcare delivery provides integrated care and therapy on site to the hospital's inpatients and outpatients by extending physiotherapy treatment for all neurological (brain and nervous system), musculoskeletal (muscles, bones, joints), in addition to paediatric problems, says a press release.

Physiotherapy treatment plays a vital part in reducing pain, increasing joint movement as well as helping patients to reach their full potential. At KIMS Oman Hospital specialists aim to rehabilitate patients suffering from an injury, post-operation or illnesses in order to enable patients to return to their previous routine and activity levels.

"In KIMS Oman hospital, we spare no effort in serving our patients with the highest quality medical care. All our services are delivered by highly skilled, expert physiotherapists, who offer a comprehensive range of care and treatments in addition to valuable advices and recommendations. They provide their services on an appointment basis to ensure optimum time and attention to every patient," said, Dr Hussam Akoum, Chief Operating Officer at KOH.

> Physiotherapy treatment plays a vital part in reducing pain, increasing joint movement as well as helping patients to reach their full potential. At KIMS Oman Hospital specialists aim to rehabilitate patients suffering from an injury, post-operation or illnesses in order to enable patients to return to their previous routine and activity levels

BIGGEST OF ALL

TAC opens Geely showroom in Nizwa



MUSCAT: With the aim of providing unrivalled services and experience to the Geely customers in Oman, Towell Auto Centre (TAC) recently inaugurated a sterling new showroom for the brand at Nizwa. This is the biggest exclusive showroom for Geely opened till date in Oman in the heart of Nizwa.

The inauguration was attended by customers, leading officials, residents and TAC employees amidst traditional music and entertainment. Towell Auto Centre's new showroom for Geely will be home to the brand's entire range of automobiles — Geely GC2, GX2, GC7, Emgrand 7 (Sedan and Hatchback), Emgrand 8 and the Emgrand X7 SUV, says a press release.

With the popularity of the Geely range spreading, the cars' luxurious, powerful and attractive features have been drawing in automobile aficionados to TAC showrooms across the Sultanate.

Speaking on the occasion, Riyadh Ali Sultan, Director, Towell Auto Centre said, "Geely has garnered great customer appreciation for its sheer standards of adhering to top-notch quality and its up-to-date technology. Great performance, superb quality and reasonable pricing of Geely cars results in customer satisfaction. Given the amazing response, we are extremely pleased to announce the opening of another showroom in Nizwa, the biggest in Oman."

The Geely range of vehicles has made a lasting impression on automobile lovers in Oman with their extensive offerings of style, safety, performance and unbelievable price. In fact, Geely has redefined the meaning of value with its surprising prices without compromising on quality or safety of the passengers. This Chinese brand is also doing exceptionally well globally, in US, Europe and in Middle East. All Geely vehicles have a 5 Star C-NCAP safety rating and TAC is offering assured cash gifts and free 24 hours AAA roadside assistance on their purchase for a 3-year period.

> "Great performance, superb quality and reasonable pricing of Geely cars results in customer satisfaction. Given the amazing response, we are extremely pleased to announce the opening of another showroom in Nizwa, the biggest in Oman
>
> **Riyadh Ali Sultan**
> Director, Towell Auto Centre

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Gulf Plastic holds blood donation day



MUSCAT: Gulf Plastic Industries conducted a blood donation drive on February 18 at Rusayl manufacturing facility organised through the Sultanate of Oman, Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Specialised Medical Care, Department of Blood Services as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative.

Gulf Plastic employees donated blood voluntarily with great pleasure and many other donors from neighbouring companies in Rusayl Industrial Estate also came up voluntarily to donate blood, says a press release.

Asok Kumar – GM of the company said, Gulf Plastic Industries will continue and extend their CSR activity to support the people of Sultanate of Oman.

He thanked the Department of Blood Services, Ministry of Health for their great support. He also thanked all the donors.

Sabbat Ayam
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RECRUIT JOB POSTINGS

"If we do not plant knowledge when young, it will give us no shade when we are old. — Lord Chesterfield

CAREER COACH

How to recruit, hire, retain best of Gen Y

EXPERTS have been warning employers for years about the impending brain drain as baby boom workers — the heart and soul of many organisations over the last three decades — leave corporate America in droves for retirements and re-careering options.

But with the gloom associated with the baby boomers' exit, comes the hope of a new generation of workers. Roughly the same size as the boomers, Generation Y is the foundation for the next three decades of employment and leadership.

So, what's the problem? It lies with the attitudes that Generation Y has to employment and work. Generation Y has been the most pampered and indulged generation. Growing up with the Internet and various technological gadgets, this generation is also the most tech-savvy and wired (or perhaps wirelessly connected) cohort. Their views of life and work are different from any others — and if employers want to recruit and retain these people, strategies and policies and procedures will have to change.

There is no question that a paradigm shift is occurring in recruitment and retention — with the most successful organizations already implementing changes to cater to this new generation of workers. Besides obvious things such as using social-networking sites to recruit employees and offering a corporate career site that is interactive and engaging, what else can employers do to help ensure that they will be able to recruit, hire, and retain Generation Y workers?

Here is a list of the 10 workplace issues most important to Gen Y job-seekers and workers:

1. Nurturing corporate culture Gen Ys view having strong friendships with co-workers and bosses as extremely important to them. There is much anecdotal support of workers staying longer in jobs simply because they loved the people they worked with — and did not want to leave them. Management styles must be Theory Y for Gen Y. Consider too a formal or informal organisation-wide mentoring programme.

2. Job flexibility Gen Ys not only want flexible hours and schedules, but remote work options because of their perception of the never-ending intersection of work and life. They see themselves doing work everywhere — except in a cubicle. Jobs must be designed to accommodate these workers personal lives — not the other way around.

3. Challenging work Gen Ys, more than any previous college grads, are graduating college with a dynamic mix of academic and work experiences that have them positioned to contribute from day one. They are not interested in "grunt" jobs, or jobs in which they have to "pay their dues;" they seek challenging work from the start.

4. Professional and personal growth opportunities Gen Ys value lifelong learning. They also tend to get bored easily and seek out new things. They want employers that offer tuition reimbursement, sabbaticals, and other growth opportunities.

5. Volunteering options Gen Ys have been involved in service most of their lives and have a true commitment to bettering the world around them. Employers should develop organisational volunteering programmes and options that allow workers to continue these efforts. Having an organisational culture that supports these values is essential.

6. Competitive salaries Gen Ys — especially younger ones fresh out of college — have more debt (both student loans and credit cards) than any previous generation, and they demand a salary that not only recognises their contributions, but also helps them pay the debt. Some employers even have plans in place to help these workers pay off student loans.

7. Advancement opportunities While Gen Ys are certainly not the most loyal bunch (but don't blame them — blame those employers that downsized their parents), they do seek out employers that have a plan for their success. Employers should examine and create new ladders to guide younger workers through a steady progression in the organisation.

8. Recognition programmes Gen Ys were raised in a bubble of constant praise and recognition from their families, and so this kind of constant reinforcement and recognition is something they expect. But please, no Office Space "flair" programmes; instead, implement authentic work recognition programmes.

9. Business casual Gen Ys, as a whole, have more tattoos and piercings than any previous worker cohort — and that personal style also applies to how they dress and how they want to dress for work. While they can look great in business suits, many prefer a work environment in which they can wear comfortable clothing that expresses their individuality.

10. Intrapreneurship programmes Study after study show that Gen Ys have an extremely strong entrepreneurial focus — with many planning to start their own businesses (partly so that they can control their own fate). Employers can retain workers longer — while leveraging that entrepreneurial spirit — by developing incubator and intrapreneurship programmes and opportunities. — Randall S. Hansen/www.quintcareers.com



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Qualification: Degree / HND / Diploma in IT / Computer Science with CCNA certification (Mandatory) CCNP preferred

Job Code:103 - Telecom Installers/ Cabling Technicians/Riggers

Qualification: High School / Secondary School
Experience required: Installation of antennas/feeders on tall telecom towers, Installation of UTP Structured data cabling, FOC cables. Candidates must be having skills for termination and testing of UTP and Splicing and Testing FOC cables. Valid Omani Driving License is a must.

Job Code:104 - IT Support Engineers/Technicians – 2 Years' Experience

Qualification: Degree / HND / Diploma in IT / Computer Science Experience on Microsoft Windows7 desktop environment Microsoft Certification preferred

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Please send your latest resume and a recent photograph to jobs@globcom-oman.com Omani candidates will be given preference for all of the above mentioned positions. Expats can also apply. Experience in Oil & Gas sector will be an added advantage for all the above mentioned positions.

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POWER YOUR CAREER

Phoenix Power Company (PPC) is the owner of Oman's newest and largest single site power plant. At 2000 MW, the gas fired combined cycle power generation plant represents c. 27% of the Sultanates electricity capacity.

PPC is seeking a highly motivated professional and appropriately qualified individual to be appointed as a Commercial Officer

Commercial Officer

Based in PPC Muscat office, the key responsibilities will include:
a. Effective leadership of the Company commercial affairs
b. Management of the key commercial agreements, typical of an independent Power Producer (IPP)
c. Interfacing with the Operating Company and ensuring optimum technical performance is achieved in line with contractual obligations
d. Supervising the preparation of the Company business plan and overall strategy
e. Developing and implementing key commercial performance indicators

Ideally the successful candidate should have:
a. At least 5 years of experience in a senior position within a power plant or similar environment.
b. An understanding of the key commercial drivers that impact on business performance
c. An understanding of the key IPP business challenges and how they can be met.
d. An accredited degree in an appropriate discipline (Accounting / Finance / Business management, or Engineering with suitable and direct commercial experience).
e. MBA would be an advantage.
f. Good level of English business language
g. Computer skills is essential

Omani citizen only should apply

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Mitsubishi's Winter Bonanza to end soon

This special offer, which will end on February 27, applies to all 2014 MY Lancer Fortis, Lancer EX, ASX, Pajero, Pajero Sport and Outlander models



MUSCAT: With just a few more days to go, the impressive Winter Bonanza from Mitsubishi, represented in Oman by General Automotive Company, is drawing to a close. The ongoing promotion, which gives customers an exclusive opportunity to choose from an enviable range of select Mitsubishi vehicles with special offers and cash gifts, will end on February 27, says a press release.

Commenting on the popularity of the campaign, Rajesh Sharma, National Marketing Manager of General Automotive Company said, "Each of these vehicles represent the very best of what Mitsubishi can offer whilst also providing owners with a truly unique ownership experience at an affordable price point.

"The value added benefits of our Winter Bonanza only serve to sweeten the deal further. In fact it has been very well received by our customers throughout the promotion period with many praising its wide-ranging benefits and generous cash gifts."

This special offer, titled 'Mitsubishi's Winter Bonanza', applies to all 2014 MY Lancer Fortis, Lancer EX, ASX, Pajero, Pajero Sport and Outlander models. As part of the offer each of these models will be available with six years unlimited mileage warranty, six years roadside assistance and free registration. Select models will also be available free insurance for one year, free two-year / 30,000km service package and special cash gift offers of up to OMR500.

Each of these cars offers customers a unique driving experience – the Lancer Fortis offers the power and performance of a 1.8l engine at an extremely attractive price point; the Lancer EX has a range of styles and engines to suit anyone looking for a spacious high-quality Japanese family saloon; the ASX offers the high-riding benefits of a SUV with the ride and handling qualities of a saloon; the Outlander is by far one of our most advanced models and also one of our newest; while the legendary Pajero offers market-leading off-road capability coupled with supple on road comfort.

"Our Winter Bonanza offers our customers a great opportunity for savings on their favourite Mitsubishi. I would like to encourage anyone wishing to purchase one to do so before the offer expires at the end of this month," added Rajesh.

EXHIBITION



Maserati thrills IDF visitors

MUSCAT: Alfardan Motors, the official importer of Ferrari and Maserati in Oman, recently sponsored the Italian Pavilion 'Casa Médinit', at the second Interior Design, Decor & Furniture (IDF) Exhibition.

Under the patronage of Paola Amadei, the Italian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Maserati showcased the luxurious Quattroporte and Ghibli, demonstrating the outstanding sporting performance that is always combined with Italian craftsmanship, comfort, luxurious interiors and elegant lines, says a press release.

Celebrating more than 100 years in the automobile industry, Maserati has played a consistently important role in the history of sports car culture and its development, and is today a true representative of Italian excellence worldwide.

The 'Casa Médinit', managed by Médinit SRL, featured more than 35 Italian companies from diverse interior design sectors, presented under an 'Opera, a living taste' theme that stimulates cognizance on the excellence and charm of Italian design. The theme demonstrated the colours, sounds and music of Opera, which perfectly complements the craft techniques involved in designs from the country.

TITLE SPONSOR

Mercedes-Benz set to unveil new models at Signature Couture Show

MUSCAT: Devoted to sophisticated and visionary design, Mercedes-Benz Oman has partnered with *Signature*, Oman's premier lifestyle magazine, to present the second edition of the Signature Couture Show.

Gearing up to enthral audiences, the event promises to be more glamorous with a mix of traditional Arabian culture, modern couture and international designs. Maintaining a longstanding partnership with the fashion industry, Mercedes-Benz will launch two new models during the show, heralding a new era of luxury vehicles, says a press release.

Perfection, the impassioned power of innovation and distinctive style, this is the link between Mercedes-Benz design and top-class fashion design.

Integral part

"Synonymous with luxury and classic elegance, Mercedes-Benz is excited to be an integral part of the second edition of the Signature Couture Show. The event continues the legacy of honouring designers who exemplify a dedication to design and craftsmanship. With a belief that the fashion industry standards are set by those who innovate, the show is the perfect platform to launch our new range of models, creating an unparalleled luxury product experience," said, Clive Hammond, CEO of Zawawi Trading Company-Automotive, Authorised General Distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Oman.

The Signature Couture show will be held at the Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa on March 5, and will once again draw attention to new emerging talent and give way to growth of the industry across the capital.

Special eclectic collections

Internationally-renowned designers will dress some of the region's top models – handpicked from six countries. For the first time ever, Varun Bahl and Masaba Gupta will debut their creations in the Sultanate of Oman. Joining them will be Omani designer Amal Al Raisi of Dar Al Aseel boutique and Mrunal Khimji of Mrunal's Boutique, who will present special eclectic collections.

"The event is a salute to the burgeoning generation of the fashion-conscious, as well as underlines the basic premise of the exclusive magazine that *Signature* is, says Alpana Roy, Executive Vice President of United Media Services, the publishers of *Signature*.

Proud partner

"For more than six years, *Signature* has defined luxury and captivated ultra-affluent readers, delivering authoritative coverage of the luxury market. The Signature Couture Show is the most intimate extension of our expertise, and we are proud to partner with Mercedes-Benz Oman for the second time."

The Signature Couture Show has attracted attention from a cross-section of audiences.

Sponsors

Apart from the title sponsor Mercedes-Benz, the event will see Ooredoo as the inspiring partner and Oman Arab Bank as the official banking partner for the event. In addition, Oman Air is the official airline partner, Vibes Salon is the beauty partner, Falcon Insurance is the insurance partner, Khafeef is the health partner and Oman Printers & Stationers is the official print partner. The show's event planners are Mosaic Events and the official media partners are *Times of Oman* and *Al Shabiba*.

EXPANSION

Michelin opens 7th Tyreplus branch

MUSCAT: In a bid to further strengthen its presence in the region, Michelin, a global leader and manufacturer of tyres and travel related services, opened a new Tyreplus branch and Michelin Truck Service Centre (MTSC) in the Sultanate of Oman recently.



The new branch located in Ghala Industrial area was inaugurated by Mohsin Haider Darwish, Founder of Mohsin Haider Darwish and Herve Skrzypczak, Tyreplus Franchise Manager for Michelin AIM zone, says a press release.

The inauguration of Tyreplus and MTSC facilities at Ghala was also attended by Lujaina M. Darwish – Chairperson, Mohsin Haider Darwish, Daoud Helmi, Michelin Commercial Director UAE & Oman, S. K. Wig, Director, MHD-T&B, ministry officials, several other customers and business partners.

Herve Skrzypczak, Tyreplus Franchise Manager for Michelin AIM, said: "We are all proud of this very important milestone. This achievement is clearly in line with our strategy to further expand our network to incorporate 80 new branches in the GCC by 2018. We take this opportunity to thank our customers and dealers for their steadfast support and trust in the quality of our service."

Since 2002, the Michelin Group has deployed the Tyreplus network across the world to provide customers with the best solutions in the market. Tyreplus is a one-stop-shop offering a wide variety of all major tyre brands, lubricants, batteries, suspension and braking systems all under one roof for customer convenience.

It also offers professional services such as alignment, air conditioning refilling and nitrogen inflation. Tyreplus provides both technical capabilities and values, such as a competitive pricing, strong brand & image, convenient location, national network, well trained staff, Michelin quality assurance, world standard operations and a well operated store environment.

In Oman, Tyreplus outlets are located in Al Mabela, Al Hail, Barka, Ghala, Salalah, Sohar and Sur. It is the first franchise network in GCC.

MTSC is a one-stop shop equipped with state of the art facilities including a computerised Truck tyre Alignment Machine, Truck tyre repair facility, Tyre fitment and rotation, Nitrogen filling etc and offers end to end tyre-related services for trucks.

The chief architect of MHD, Mohsin Haider Darwish had the keen foresight to envisage the rapid economic development of Oman and the business opportunities that would emerge in the process. Accordingly he laid the foundation for MHD and steered it to meet the challenges of a nation on its path to rapid development and also measure upto the aspirations of its people. Today MHD is one of the major business houses contributing to the growth of the Sultanate's economy.



SLOW DOWN
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DHAWAN TON SPARKS INDIA ROUT OF PROTEAS

Shikhar Dhawan smashed 137 off 146 balls as defending champions India whipped mighty South Africa by 130 runs in a Pool B match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to step closer to a quarterfinal berth in the World Cup on Sunday. >C5

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015

Valls triumphs at Tour of Oman

For Valls it ended several years of angst and self-doubt over whether he would ever prove himself at the highest level

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MUSCAT: Spanish climbing specialist Rafael Valls experienced the greatest moment of his career in winning the Tour of Oman on Sunday as Matthias Brandle of Austria clinched the sixth and final stage.

Valls, who seized control in winning the feature stage of the race, the climb to the 'Green Mountain' on Friday, had a nine-second advantage over American Tejay van Garderen, while another Spaniard, the experienced Alejandro Valverde, was third overall, 19 seconds adrift. Tour de France champion Vincenzo Nibali scraped into the top 20, more than three minutes off the pace. For 27-year-old Valls it ended several years of angst and self-doubt over whether he would ever prove himself at the highest level.

"These have been three dream days, and this is the apotheosis," said Valls, who was succeeding Britain's 2013 Tour de France winner Chris Froome, the winner of the previous two editions of the race but who didn't compete this year.

"It is a reward for the past four or five difficult years that I have experienced. I have proved to myself that I can ride at the level I had before. It gives me a lot of confidence," added Valls.

In the stage itself, Brandle went clear of three other breakaway riders in the final stretch along the Matrah corniche to finish four seconds clear of Belgian Iljo Keisse with the latter's compatriot Jef Van Meiraghe third, 13 seconds off the pace. - AFP



THE FINAL LEG: The riders go through a picturesque section during the sixth and last stage of the Tour of Oman between Oman Air to Matrah Corniche on Sunday. Spanish cyclist Rafael Valls, below second left, celebrates with Andrea Guardini, left, Louis Meint Jes and Jef Van Meirhaeghe, right, on the podium. - AFP

TOUR OF OMAN CLASSIFICATION

■ **Overall individual times after sixth stage**

Rider	Team	Country	Times	Gap
Rafael Espvalls Ferri	LAM	Spain	21h 09′ 31″	
Tejay usavan Garderen	BMC	US	21h 09′ 40″	+ 00′ 09″
Alejandro Espvalverde	MOV	Spain	21h 09′ 50″	+ 00′ 19″
Rafal Polmajka	TCS	Poland	21h 10′ 03″	+ 00′ 32″
Jacques Van Rensburg	MTN	South Africa	21h 10′ 35″	+ 01′ 04″
Louis Rsameintjes	MTN	South Africa	21h 10′ 39″	+ 01′ 08″
Jakob Denfuglsang	AST	Denmark	21h 10′ 41″	+ 01′ 10″
Ben Belhermans	BMC	Belgium	21h 10′ 46″	+ 01′ 15″
Julian Colarredondo	TFR	Colombia	21h 10′ 56″	+ 01′ 25″
Patrick konrad	BOA	Austria	21h 11′ 07″	+ 01′ 36″

Source: letour.com

Graphics



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CENTRE for OMANI DRESS
الشبيبة aShabiba

Mutrah Souq
Treasure Hunt 2015

Saturday 28 February 2015 at Riyam Park & Mutrah Souq
Check-in 9:00am–9:30am at Riyam Park

Join us and receive a FREE copy of the maps **Mutrah Souq: Uncovered** and **Mutrah Souq: At A Glance** (made by the Centre for Omani Dress).

- Registration OMR35 for a team of 1 to 4 players. Available until 24 February 2015, either online or at the *Times of Oman* office.
- Same-day registration OMR40 for a team of 1 to 4 players.
- Registration is limited to 100 teams and is on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- Event timing: 9:00am–1:30pm.
- The treasure hunt is 2 hours long and consists of 25 questions.
- One camera or phone with a built-in camera is required for each team.
- Gift bags, including the map **Mutrah Souq: Uncovered** for all team players.
- Prizes for the top 3 winning teams.
- Shuttle bus service between the park and the souq is provided.
- Complimentary buffet included for all players.
- See **Guidelines** on our website for further information.

For online registration and payment, visit:
CODtreasurehunt.timesofoman.com
www.centreforomanidress.com
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Mutrah Souq Uncovered

SPORTS

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FOOTBALL

Oman football body has OMR 650,000 in surplus

MUSCAT: The Oman Football Association (OFA) revealed that the Sultanate's football governing body has OMR 650,000 surplus funds after closing the financial accounts for the year 2014.

In press release issued on Sunday, the OFA informed 'this indicates a positive step as the OFA was able to overcome nearly 40 per cent of the cumulative deficits of previous years' as per the audit reports of 2014.

"As per the balance sheet, the financial statements indicate a possibility of overcoming all cumulative deficits in the next two years," the press release added.

The OFA's external auditors have sent their financial reports to the association management wherein they discussed and approved the financial matters.

The OFA will present the financial statements and the audited data at the General Assembly scheduled for March 28 for the approval of the members.


Sultan bin Amin Al Zadjali

Sultan heads to Riyadh

OFA Acting General Secretary and Executive Director Sultan bin Amin Al Zadjali, meanwhile, is scheduled to leave Riyadh to provide consultancy services to Saudi Arabian Football Federation for conducting the Fifa's GOAL Project.

Sultan Al Zadjali's three-day trip comes under the programme assigned by international football body, Fifa as recognition for the work done by the Omani official.

Ali Hameed triumphs at Oman Senior Open

Ali Hameed shot 82 to take the winner's Claret Jug, and he also went on to successfully defend the men's gross category title


GROWING IN STATURE: Winners in various categories pose for a group photo. - Supplied photo

MUSCAT: Omani golfer Ali Hameed emerged the winner at the 11th Oman Senior Open golf championship organised at the lush green course of Ghala Valley Golf Club on Saturday.

Ali Hameed shot 82 to take the winner's Claret Jug, and he also went on to successfully defend the men's gross category title.

Hameed said after collecting the big prize: "I am thrilled with this triumph but a little surprised, too. I couldn't imagine that I could win the championship with a score of 82. The competition was really tough with a total of 94 players participating. I had initially expected around 50 participants."

Sachin Bawa produced a gross score of 83, narrowly missing the title by a single stroke to settle for the men's gross category runner-up prize. The third place went to Stephen Monson, who carded 85.

The tricky weather played a key role, according to Hameed.

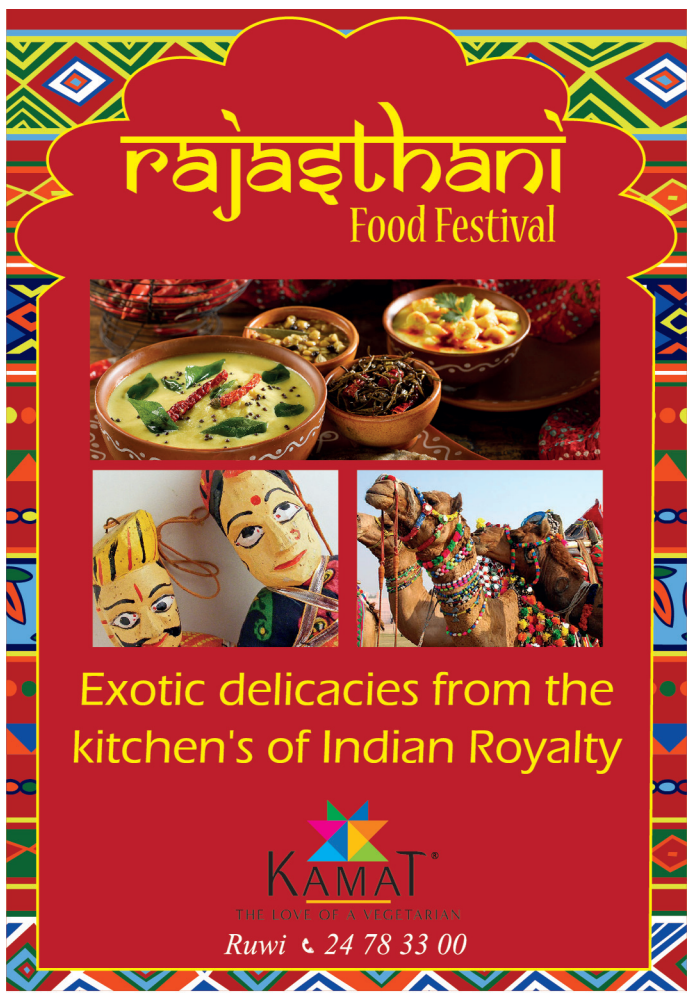
"For the last two days, the weather has been very dusty and windy. It affected play and sometimes it was difficult to play against the wind. But finally, I could manage and defend the title."

The tournament, organised annually by the Oman Golf Committee, was supported by Sohar Aluminium and Environmental Engineering. TMTEC and Nimr Bauer also backed the event.

Mohammed Al Tobi, the Minister of Climatic Affairs and Environment, handed over the trophies in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Al Rumhy, the Minister of Oil and Gas and the Patron of the Oman Golf Committee, Sheikh Rashad Al Hinai, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Sports Affairs, and OGC chief Mundhir Al Barwani.

Al Barwani, who also participated in the competition alongside Dr. Rumhy, said: "The competition has been a success and this year we saw the standard of golf getting even better."

Other winners: Men's nett: 1. Kevin Moss (68), 2. James Mills (70), 3. Frederick Rowgen (71). Ladies' nett: 1. Yvonne Welling (70), 2. Minke Gijselman (75). Super Senior gross winner: Graham Durheim (87). Nearest-to-pin: Majid Al Toky. Longest drive winner: Mohammed Al Mawaly.



A DIVISION

Enhance ease to win over NYDT

MUSCAT: In a Muscat Pharmacy & Stores-sponsored A Division 50 overs-a-side League match, Enhance recorded an easy 95-run win against the National Youth Development Team (NYDT').

Opting to bat first, Enhance scored 193 in 49.5 overs thanks to a top score of 57 from Mehran Khan who was adjudged man of the match.

Jaspreet Singh claimed three wickets while Kunal Pandya bagged two.

In reply, NYDT were bundled out for 98 in 32.3 overs.

Brief scores: Enhance 193 in 49.5 overs (Mehran Khan 57, Muthupandian 27, C.M. Pradeep Kumar 23, Khawar Ali 20; Jaspreet Singh 3/21, Kunal Pandya 2/37) bt **NYDT** 93 in 32.3 overs (Nester Dhamba 3/28, C.M. Pradeep Kumar 2/1, Muthupandian 2/18). **Points:** Enhance - 5 (7 games, 23 pts), NYDT - Nil (7 games, 5 pts).

OMAN CRICKET


GME STAR: Najeeb.


J DIVISION: Starcare team after their win over Cameron. - Supplied photo

Ton-up Robin stars in ISC win

MUSCAT: Opening batsman Robin Barmeda slammed 129 runs off just 77 balls as Indian Social Club (ISC) defeated Hasan Juma Backer (HJB) by 34 runs in a Khimji Ramdas-sponsored B Division 30 overs-a-side match.

The ISC tied with Sinha on points but Sinha took the runners-up position thanks to their superior net run rate of 2.47 against ISC's 1.37.

Brief scores: ISC 267 for 9 in 30 overs (Robin Barmeda 129, Nishit Punja 39; Jevan Amana 3/45, Mohd Rashid 2/40, Bharat Barmeda 2/40) bt **HJB** 233 for 9 in 30 overs (Daniel R. Nelson 49, Rana Naeem 41, Mohd Rashid 37, Syed Muntazir 34; Ansar Raza Ansari 3/30, Druvin Shetty 2/40, Puneet Singh 2/50). **Points:** ISC - 2 (7 games, 11 pts), HJB - Nil (7 games, 4 pts).

Bank Muscat beat RK Group

In an H Division T20 match, Bank Muscat registered a three-wicket win against R K Group. Batting first, R K Group were bowled out for 151 in 18.3 overs. Bank Muscat in reply reached their target scoring 154 for seven in 19 overs.

Brief scores: R. K. Group 151 in 18.3 overs (Vishal Bhupendra 40, Dileep Kumar 26, Satish Sitaram 24; Osman Al Zadjali 4/30, Abbas Al Balushi 2/17) lost to **Bank Muscat** 154 for 7 in 19 overs (Younis Murad 40, Abbas Al Balushi 25, Pankaj Kumar 22; Hassan Aslam 2/27, Vishal Bhupendra 2/32, Dinesh Meghwal 2/34). **Points:** Bank Muscat 2 (8 games, 8 pts), R. K. Group - Nil (7 games, 6 pts).

GME down OUA travels

Global Money Exchange (GME) recorded a 20-run win against OUA Travels in a G Division T20.

Invited to bat Global Money Exchange, playing with 10 men, scored 174 for nine in 20 overs. In reply, OUA Travels were bowled out for 154 in 18.2 overs.

Brief scores: Global Money Exchange 174 for 9 in 20 overs (Shaheer Najeeb 80, Rahul Rajeev 27, Ashok Patel 20; Linto Francis 2/34) bt **OUA Travels** 154 all out in 18.2 overs (Vishal Manoj 34, Nahas Haneefa 23; Noushad H. 3/19, Avinash Ramkumar 2/21, Jerrin George 2/31). **Points:** Global Money Exchange - 2 (7 games, 12 pts), OUA Travels - Nil (7 games, 7 pts).

Starcare stay in the hunt

Starcare defeated Cameron by 46 runs to remain in the hunt for J Division T20 top honours.

Invited to bat first, Starcare scored 166 for nine wickets in 20 overs. Cameron in reply scored 120 for eight wickets in 20 overs.

Brief scores: Starcare 166 for 9 in 20 overs (Meesam Ali 42, Faraz Ismail Al Balushi, Sujith Kumar V.S. 20; Aiman Khalid Al Sabri 4/21, Anoop Kumar 3/26) bt **Cameron** 120 for 8 in 20 overs (Arun Manohar 28, Anoop Kumar 28; Meesam Ali 3/16, Sujith Kumar V.S. 2/16, Justin Augustin 2/21). **Points:** Starcare - 2 (7 games, 12 pts), Cameron - Nil (6 games, 6 pts).

Haroon emerges hero

Haroon Trad Yaqoob Al Balushi claimed six wickets in four overs and then opening the batting scored an unbeaten 50 to steer OCT Al Hail B to an eight-wicket win against Trust Oilfield Strikers in a J Division T20 match.

Brief scores: Trust Oilfield Strikers 132 in 19.1 overs (Khuram Rashid 45, Tushar Verma 39; Haroon Trad Yaqoob Al Balushi 6/22, Abdul Ghani Al Balushi 2/25) lost to **OCT Al Hail B** 134 for 2 in 18.1 overs (Haroon Trad Yaqoob Al Balushi 50 n.o., Ahmed Al Balushi 50). **Points:** OCT Al Hail B - 2 (8 games, 10 pts), Trust Oilfield Strikers - Nil (6 games, 6 pts).

COASTAL XI WIN TRUST OILFIELD CRICKET TITLE

Coastal XI defeated Trust Oilfield Cricket Team by ten wickets in the final to win the Trust Oilfield softball cricket tournament. Trust Oilfield scored 37 for one in four overs with Wasim Abdul Karim contributing 29 runs. Coastal XI scored 38 runs without losing a wicket. Deepak scored 21 runs, Wasim was declared man of the series. — Supplied photo









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Match report on C5



Dhawan dines out on tamed South Africa attack

Delhi-born Shikhar Dhawan calls a leafy Melbourne suburb home for much of the year but on Sunday might have thought he was back in India when feted by a blue-clad horde of fans for a match-winning World Cup ton at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Dhawan's sparkling 137 fired India to an imposing total of 307-7, setting up a 130-run hammering of highly-fancied South Africa in their Pool B clash in front of a crowd of over 86,000, a record so far.

For a man who knows Australian conditions intimately, Dhawan has had a forgettable summer Down Under with both the Test and one-day teams but has found form at the right time for India's World Cup title defence. The 29-year-old humbled South Africa's vaunted pace attack with the highest World Cup knock against the Proteas, also his biggest score in ODIs.

Wearing the twirled moustache of a circus ringmaster, Dhawan made tamed lions of the Proteas' attack, clubbing 16 fours and two sixes to thrill a crowd of 87,000, dominated by Indian fans including a hugely impressed VIP observer, Sachin Tendulkar. "It was very important," Dhawan said, as he accepted his man-of-the-match award. "Of course, it's a great feeling for a player to score a century but, more than that, it was important that the partnerships should have been going big for the team. - Reuters

STANDINGS

POOL A							
Teams	M	W	L	T	N/R	Pts	Net RR
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	0	6	+3.586
Australia	2	1	0	0	1	3	+2.220
Bangladesh	2	1	0	0	1	3	+2.100
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	0	2	-0.861
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	0	0	-1.175
Scotland	1	0	1	0	0	0	-3.039
England	2	0	2	0	0	0	-3.952
POOL B							
India	2	2	0	0	0	4	+2.060
West Indies	2	1	1	0	0	2	+1.267
Ireland	1	1	0	0	0	2	+0.618
Zimbabwe	2	1	1	0	0	2	-0.495
South Africa	2	1	1	0	0	2	-0.680
UAE	1	0	1	0	0	0	-0.258
Pakistan	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2.260

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CRICKET world cup 2015

LEGEND APPEARS AND ...

'Sachin, Sachin' chants are back

MELBOURNE: Long retired from the game but Sachin Tendulkar's mere presence was good enough for a near-capacity crowd to go hysterical during India's World Cup game against South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, on Sunday.

Having retired from international cricket in November, 2013, Tendulkar hasn't dropped in for international matches often and therefore the legend's presence at the iconic venue was just the icing on the cake that the fans needed in such a marquee match.

Tendulkar is the 'Brand Ambassador' of World Cup.

However the moment the MCG giant screen showed Tendulkar, clad in violet shirt and dark trousers, enjoying the match, the chants of "Sachiiin, Sachiiin" were back again. – PTI

COMMENTARY

A splendid performance indeed



SUNNY STROKES
SUNIL GAVASKAR

What a splendid win! India once again played like the world champions they are with an all-round performance to be proud of as they beat one of the favourites South Africa by the big margin of 130 runs. It was the kind of team performance that will send a message to all other teams that when it comes to limited overs cricket India are a different team altogether. The body language is totally different and the swagger in the field is something else.

There were many 'experts' who wanted Shikhar Dhawan dropped for the one-day tri-series. Dhawan did not do too well at the start of that tri-series but the discerning could see that the confidence was slowly coming back. At Perth on one of the fastest pitches in Australia he got a good looking innings but not a big one. Then as the warm up games came about, you could see that he was consciously trying to play himself in and play towards mid-off and mid-on at the start of his innings. In the first match against Pakistan he got out unfortunately when Virat Kohli called him for a non-existent single and then sacrificed him. The signs were there that he had come to terms with his batting. He is a different player against the white ball in limited overs cricket in much the same way as Suresh Raina is. It does not move as much as the red ball does. He had a couple of anxious moments at the start when Dale Steyn bounced him, but most importantly he just smiled even after awkwardly fending those deliveries off. There is nobody, absolutely nobody, in the history of the game who has not had a tough time against a well directed bouncer. The crucial thing is to put it away from the mind and focus on the next ball which is what Dhawan did and got a hundred which the best players in the world would be proud of.

It was a home away from home ground for him as his wife is from Melbourne. In any case with almost 95% of the crowd being Indian it was like a home game for the Indians and how wonderfully the team responded to their fans' encouragement.

Though Rohit Sharma was run out for a duck, Kohli once again played the restorer along with Dhawan and luckily India did not fool around with the batting order and sent the in-form Rahane at his usual slot. Rahane played a delightful innings and kept the momentum going and India ended up with another 300 plus score.

Against this terrific South African batting line-up no score is safe but Shami bowled superbly and Mohit Sharma justified his selection with a spell in which he got important wickets and put the Proteas on the backfoot.

Ashwin was brilliant as he mixed his speed and flight and kept the batsmen guessing. India's fielding was top class as they had two run-outs that sent back de Villers and David Miller and they did not miss a catch. It was truly a splendid performance, one that all Indians can be proud of. Let us pray that the winning streak continues. – PMG



Triumph excites Dhoni

Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni heaped lavish praise on his fast bowlers, Mohit and Shami

MELBOURNE: Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said his team was on the right track at the World Cup after hammering South Africa by 130 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. The win left Dhoni's men needing a win over unfancied United Arab Emirates in Perth on Saturday to advance to the quarterfinals. "It is very satisfying to have back-to-back wins and especially the way we have won both games," a delighted Dhoni said.

"Both Pakistan and South Africa games were important for us. Against Pakistan it was a complete batting performance and this game too I felt we did really well with the batting.

"A total of 307 was definitely a par-plus score on this wicket and when we turned up with the ball, I think we bowled in the right areas and we made it tough for the opposition to score."

Dhoni agreed with South African skipper AB de Villiers that the pitch was two-paced in the second session which made batting difficult, but praised his bowlers and the team's fielding. "I felt the mix of pace was good from our bowlers, but what was really crucial was the use of the bouncer," he said . "The two run outs in the middle overs (of AB de Villiers and David Miller) from the deep really changed the game for us."

Fantastic

Dhoni heaped lavish praise on his fast bowlers, Mohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami, who claimed two wickets each to back up off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's three wickets.

"It was definitely a fantastic performance by them," he said. "Maybe the wicket also helped us a bit, but still it was important to hit the right areas. They quickly assessed what was the right length to bowl. They never gave any extra width to the batsmen."

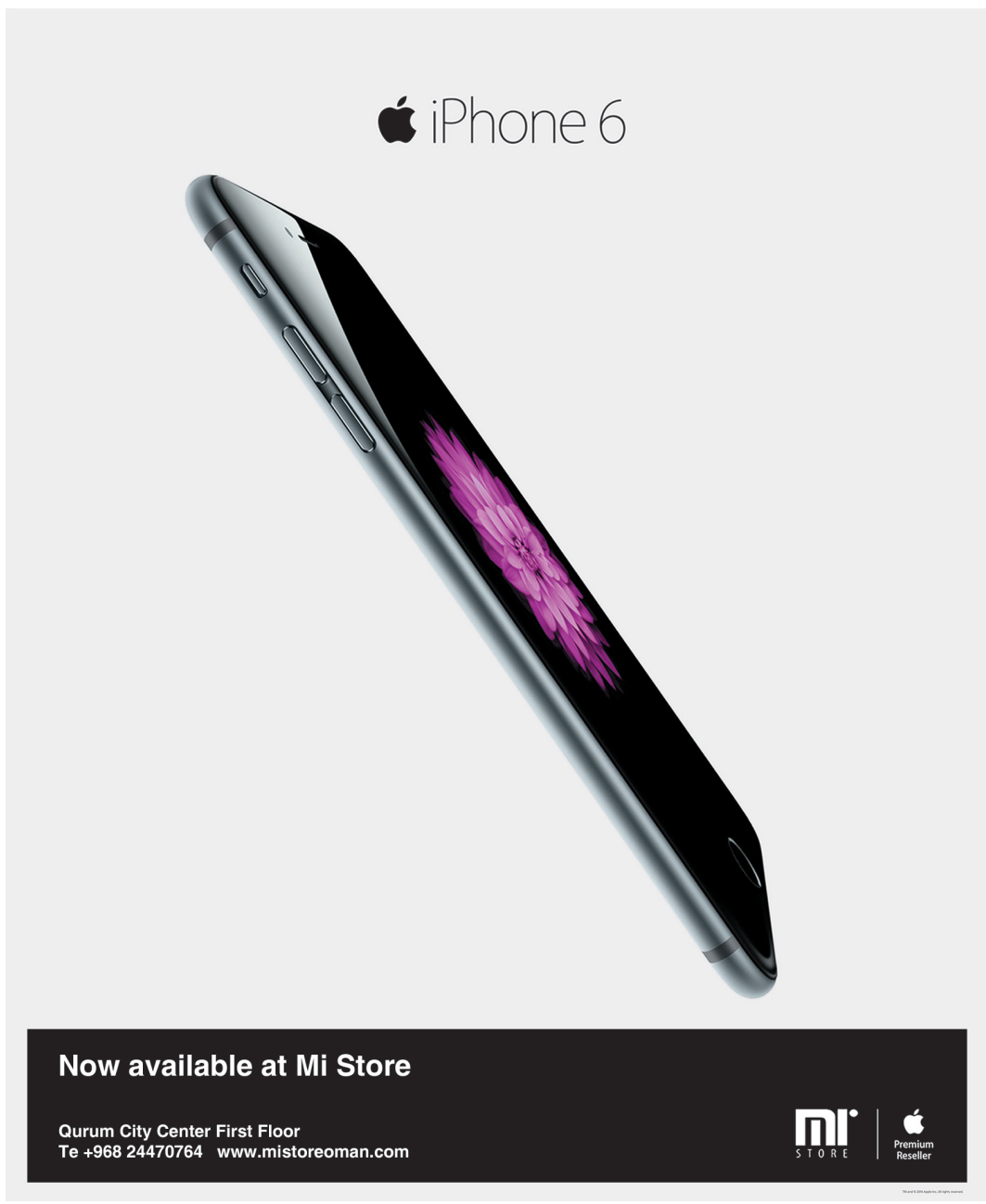
Dhoni said it was a pleasure playing in front of such huge crowds at the MCG.

"It's always good to play when you get good support and that too in Australia," he said. "Definitely we need to give a lot of credit to the fans, who have come not only from India, but from across Australia and England as well."

Dhoni was not surprised that his team had bounced back quickly after a disappointing bilateral tour of Australia prior to the World Cup where they lost both the Test and one-day series.

"You need to give a lot of credit to the support staff and the players for the good dressing room atmosphere despite the losses on the tour," he said.

"We had a long break, relaxed and then trained hard. That has helped." - AFP







WORRIED

De Villiers lashes out at 'average' team

MELBOURNE: South Africa captain AB de Villiers lashed out at his team after their massive 130-run loss to India in the World Cup on Sunday, saying it was an "unacceptable" performance. "All round we were very average," said de Villiers. "We lacked discipline in the field with dropped catches and untidy bowling and two run-outs in our innings was unacceptable."

The skipper himself was run out through a smart throw from the deep by Mohit Sharma and David Miller followed in similar fashion soon afterwards.

"You always feel the pressure of chasing 300, like playing shots you may not want to," said de Villiers. "But the top six are there to win games. Two run-outs in the top five is not what we want. It was a disappointing performance with both bat and ball. No excuses, we should have come up better today."

The captain said losing the toss and batting second under lights contributed to South Africa's defeat. "It was a good wicket to bat on in the afternoon," he said. "But there was wear and tear in the evening.

"It was a big knock for us to be beaten by 130 runs. We need to lick our wounds a while because confidence takes a knock." - AFP



PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA CRICKET world cup 2015

Dhawan ton sparks rout of Proteas

A boisterous crowd of 86,876 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground saw India pile up 307 for seven after electing to bat and then bowl out the Proteas for 177 with almost 10 overs to spare in the day-night Pool B match



MELBOURNE: Shikhar Dhawan smashed 137 off 146 balls as defending champions India whipped mighty South Africa by 130 runs to step closer to a quarterfinal berth in the World Cup on Sunday.

A boisterous crowd of 86,876 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground saw India pile up 307 for seven after electing to bat and then bowl out the Proteas for 177 with almost 10 overs to spare in the day-night Pool B match.

Faf du Plessis top-scored with 55 but India made regular dents in the South African batting, with off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin taking three wickets and seamers Mohammed Shami and Mohit Sharma sharing four wickets.

With two wins from as many games — India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by 76 runs last Sunday — Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men will move into the quarterfinals if they beat the unfaniced United Arab Emirates in Perth on February 28.

South Africa, one of the pre-tournament favourites who beat Zimbabwe in their first match, have two points from as many games. Dhawan, the left-handed opener who resides in Melbourne with his British-Asian wife Ayesha and three children, hit 16 boundaries and two sixes during his seventh One-day International century.

All his seven hundreds have come in a winning cause, but it was the confident display against Dale Steyn and company that would have pleased retired batting star Sachin Tendulkar who was present in the packed stands.

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Steyn, one of the most fearsome fast bowlers in the modern game, was clipped by Dhawan over backward square-leg for six and driven over his head for another six by Ajinkya Rahane. Steyn finished with figures of one for 55 from 10 overs.

Philander injury

South Africa were hampered further when seamer Vernon Philander hobbled off the field with a hamstring injury after sending down just four overs. Dhawan, who made 73 against Pakistan, put on 127 for the second wicket with Virat Kohli (46) and 125 for the third with Rahane (79 off 60 balls).

The 29-year-old Dhawan fell in the 44th over when Hashim Amla, who had floored a difficult chance off Wayne Parnell when the batsman was on 53, picked up an easy catch at fine leg off the same bowler.

India lost five wickets for 41 runs after being strongly placed at 261 for two, but they still managed to score 80 runs off the last 10 overs. India broke through in just the fourth over of South Africa's innings when Quinton de Kock, who had hit centuries in each of the last three one-dayers against them, was caught at mid-off for seven.

Dependable opener Amla had made 22 when he top-edged a pull off seamer Mohit Sharma and Shami, who had claimed de Kock's wicket, took a well-judged catch at long leg. Skipper AB de Villiers made 30 in a 68-run stand for the third wicket with du Plessis when he was run out as Mohit Sharma rifled in a throw from deep cover for Dhoni to break the stumps.

South Africa slipped to 133 for four in the 29th over when Mohit Sharma, returning for his second spell, had the dangerous du Plessis caught at mid-off by Dhawan.

Ashwin, who came into the attack in the 22nd over, had JP Duminy caught in the slips and then trapped Philander leg before.

In between those two dismissals, David Miller was run out for 22 to leave South Africa gasping for survival at 153 for seven in 34 overs. The tail folded up as Shami dismissed Steyn, Ashwin bowled Morne Morkel and Ravindra Jadeja claimed last man Imran Tahir leg-before to spark wild celebrations in the stands. - AFP



Scoreboard

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015 AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
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INDIA	
R. Sharma run out (de Villiers)	0
S. Dhawan c Amla b Parnell	137
V. Kohli c du Plessis b Tahir	46
A. Rahane lbw b Steyn	79
S. Raina c (sub)Rossouw b Morkel	6
MS Dhoni c de Kock b Morkel	18
R. Jadeja run out (de Villiers)	2
R. Ashwin not out	5
M. Shami not out	4
Extras (w-6, nb-2, lb-2)	10
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	307
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-136, 3-261, 4-269, 5-278, 6-284, 7-302	
Did not bat: Umesh Yadav, Mohit Sharma	

Bowling: Dale Steyn 10-1-55-1; Vernon Philander 4-1-19-0; Jean-Paul Duminy 7-0-39-0; Morne Morkel 10-0-59-2; Imran Tahir 10-0-48-1; Wayne Parnell 9-0-85-1

SOUTH AFRICA	
H. Amla c Shami b Sharma	22
Q. de Kock c Kohli b Shami	7
Du Plessis c Dhawan b Sharma	55
De Villiers run out (Sharma/Dhoni)	30
D. Miller run out (Umesh/Dhoni)	22
JP Duminy c Raina b Ashwin	6
W. Parnell not out	17
V. Philander lbw b Ashwin	0
D. Steyn c Dhawan b Shami	1
M. Morkel b Ashwin	2
I. Tahir lbw Jadeja	8
Extras (w-6, lb-1)	7
Total (all out, 40.2 overs)	177
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-40, 3-108, 4-133, 5-147, 6-153, 7-153, 8-158, 9-161, 10-177	
Bowling: Umesh Yadav 6-0-34-0; Mohammed Shami 8-1-30-2; Mohit Sharma 7-0-31-2; Ravindra Jadeja 8.2-0-37-1; Ravichandran Ashwin 10-0-41-3; Suresh Raina 1-0-3-0	

Man of the match: Shikhar Dhawan
Umpires: Richard Kettleborough, Aleem Dar
3rd Umpire: Steve Davis
Match referee: Jeff Crowe

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NEW DECISION

2019 WC to be 10-team format

MELBOURNE: ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dave Richardson said that the game's governing body is all set to prune the number of teams from 14 to 10 for next World Cup, scheduled to be held in England in 2019.

There is a possibility that the ICC World T20 will be made a 16-team event which would encourage some of the lower rung teams to get a taste of competitive cricket. The members of the ICC Board will be meeting here for a "Strategic Review Meeting" in which the members are likely to agree to a 10-team format rather than existing 14-team structure, which makes it a cumbersome seven-week long tournament.

"Like in 1992, we had a nine-team format, where everyone played each other. It was by far the most exciting World Cup where it was difficult to predict the four semifinalists. So we are hopeful that 10-team format might work," said Richardson sounding positive about the downsizing of teams. — PTI







CRICKET world cup 2015

Ton-up Jayawardene and Perera lead Sri Lanka to nervy victory



Perera and Mendis finished off what Jayawardene and Mathews had started after Sri Lanka had been reduced to 51 for four by Afghanistan as they chased 233 for victory

DUNEDIN: Thisara Perera and Jeevan Mendis combined for a 58-run partnership to give Sri Lanka a nervous four-wicket victory over Afghanistan in their World Cup Pool A match at University Oval in Dunedin on Sunday.

The pair finished off what Mahela Jayawardene (100) and Angelo Mathews (44) had started after Sri Lanka had been reduced to 51 for four by the World Cup debutants as they chased 233 for victory.

Jayawardene had appeared to have the outcome in control for Sri Lanka with his 19th ODI century and a 126-run partnership with Mathews but when he became Hamid Hassan's third wicket with 55 runs needed, the momentum shifted back towards Afghanistan.

Perera, an aggressive lower-order batsmen, then took the game away with some big hitting and finished on 47 as his side made 236-6 with 10 balls to spare. Mendis was nine not out.

Afghanistan had been dismissed for 232 in 49.4 overs, which was not considered enough of a target to defend on the small University Oval ground and good pitch that tends to get easier to bat on as the day progresses.

Their bowlers, however, started like they felt it would be sufficient with both Lahiru Thirimanne and Tillakaratne Dilshan dismissed for golden ducks, while Kumar Sangakkara was bowled by Hassan for seven. Hassan struck again in the 12th over when Dimuth Karunaratne was well caught by Nawroz Mangal at first slip for 23, which reduced the 1996 World Cup champions to 51 for four.

Afghanistan's batsmen had not looked out of their depth, though they did show a lack of experience at the highest level when they were unable to capitalise on good starts.

Asghar Stanikzai top scored with 54, his fifth ODI half century, but he was also guilty of getting out when he should have settled down to bat through until the end of the innings. Stanikzai had combined with Samiullah Shenwari (38) in an 88-run partnership and the pair appeared so comfortable they looked to have set a platform for their side to eventually push on towards a total approaching 300.

However, the wheels fell off when Stanikzai was caught in the deep by Mendis.

Shenwari went shortly after and it was left to captain Mohammad Nabi and Najibullah Zadran to rebuild the innings and set themselves to launch in the final 15 overs.

Both fell in the batting power play bowled by Lasith Malinga and Suranga Lakmal, who turned the screw by conceding just 10 runs in the five overs. - Reuters



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Sri Lanka's Jeevan Mendis, right, and Thisara Perera celebrates their victory over Afghanistan on Sunday. - AFP

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN	
Javed Ahmadi c Herath b Lakmal	24
Nawroz Mangal c Thirimanne b Mathews	10
Asghar Stanikzai c Mendis b Herath	54
Samiullah Shenwari c Mathews b Perera	38
Mohammad Nabi b Malinga	21
Najibullah Zadran c Perera b Lakmal	10
Afsar Zazai c Herath b Malinga	19
Mirwais Ashraf c Lakmal b Malinga	28
Dawlat Zadran b Mathews	4
Hamid Hassan c Mendis b Mathews	0
Shapoor Zadran not out	1
Extras (lb-6, w-16, nb-1)	23
Total (all out; 49.4 overs)	232

Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-40, 3-128, 4-157, 5-169, 6-175, 7-221, 8-227, 9-227.

Bowling: Malinga 9.4-1-41-3 (nb-1, w-5), Lakmal 10-1-36-2 (w-2), Mathews 7-0-41-3 (w-2), Perera 10-0-54-1 (w-1), Herath 10-0-41-1 (w-1), Mendis 3-0-13-0.

SRI LANKA	
L. Thirimanne lbw b Dawlat Zadran	0
T. Dilshan c Afsar Zazai b Shapoor Zadran	0
K. Sangakkara b Hassan	7
D. Karunaratne c Mangal b Hassan	23
M. Jayawardene c Mangal b Hassan	100
A. Mathews run out	44
J. Mendis not out	9
T. Perera not out	47
Extras (lb-2, w-3, nb-1)	6
Total (6 wkts; 48.2 overs)	236

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-18, 4-51, 5-177, 6-178.

Bowling: Dawlat Zadran 9-0-44-1 (w-1), Shapoor Zadran 10-1-48-1, Hamid Hassan 9-0-45-3 (nb-1), Mirwais Ashraf 8.1-0-31-0, Nabi 5.2-0-28-0 (w-1), Stanikzai 0.5-0-6-0, Shenwari 6-0-32-0.

Man of the match: Mahela Jayawardene

Umpires: Richard Illingworth (ENG), Chris Gaffaney (NZL).

TV Umpire: Johan Cloete (RSA)

Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

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Intense focus dulls Jayawardene's rescue mission

DUNEDIN: Sri Lankan maestro Mahela Jayawardene said it took all his powers of concentration to produce his match-saving World Cup century against Afghanistan in Dunedin on Sunday.

He was too focussed to even acknowledge his 19th ODI hundred, and fourth in a World Cup, but said afterwards he ranked it with his best Cup efforts.

"I was telling myself to make sure I commit to each and every shot," Jayawardene, 37, said. "I was waiting for every loose ball, every shot, every leave I did there was a lot of commitment.

"I had to make sure my focus was there because we had to keep the scoreboard ticking. That was the only way we could create a bit of pressure on them."

Ball by ball, in partnership with captain Angelo Mathews (44), Jayawardene turned the game around, showing no emotion when he took a single off Shapoor Zadran for his century.

"I just wanted to finish the game off, not get myself rattled, and keep the focus going, simple as that," Jayawardene explained of his lack of celebration.

But he admitted he "enjoyed that hundred as if it was the World Cup final hundred, a tough situation," recalling his unbeaten 103 in the 2011 Cup final when Sri Lanka came up short against India.

"Mentally, I had to be very strong out there today, so I'm very pleased with the effort. The (lack of) celebration is because I wanted to finish the game off so I was disappointed at the end." - AFP



COMMENTARY

World champions have well and truly awoken



PIGEON'S PERSPECTIVE
Glenn McGrath

I said in my previous column that India couldn't have wished for a better opportunity than a game against South Africa to send out a message to their World Cup rivals. Well, reflecting on their clinical dismantling of the Proteas at MCG, the message is loud and clear – the world champions have well and truly awoken.

The scale of victory did surprise me somewhat, but then I did say there were signs of South Africa's vulnerability against both New Zealand in the warm-up as well as against Zimbabwe in their opening game. Against the latter, it was, frankly, a brilliant partnership between Miller and Duminy that saved South Africa's blushes.

India knew that their chances largely depended on how successfully they could repeat their heroics against Pakistan. They did so, and how!

From winning the toss, to their batsmen again posting a challenging target, it was a rousing display rounded off with another impressive showing from the bowlers.

The architects with the bat were again Dhawan and Kohli who ensured there were no further hiccups after the early loss of Rohit Sharma. Then another valuable partnership between Dhawan and Rahane put them on course for a 300 plus total, which, as we are seeing with every passing match in this World Cup, is proving tough to chase down.

I'm really pleased to see Dhawan, my old Delhi Daredevils teammate, return to form. He had a splendid start to his international career but has gone through some lean patches since then, the most recent one occurring during the Test series against Australia and the tri-series which followed. I'm sure he'll be proud of the manner he's come back from being dropped in Sydney Test.

He was given a life when Amla dropped him off Wayne Parnell when he was only on 53, but good batsmen make you pay for the smallest mistakes and that's exactly what Dhawan did to the South African attack.

With the ball, India barely put a foot wrong. Shami and Mohit particularly seem to have hit good form. Mohit also played a crucial hand in the run-out of AB de Villiers. If you're playing South Africa and you manage to get AB out before he has cut loose, you know you've taken a huge step towards victory.

The world champions were able to assert their dominance once AB was back in the pavilion.

The past three months haven't given Indian fans much to smile about. But they are smiling and smiling broadly now as the World Cup is seeing it all come together rather nicely for MS Dhoni and his men. — PMG

SAME ODI

Golden ducks for Sri Lanka openers



FIRST BALL DUCK: Tillakaratne Dilshan

DUNEDIN: Sri Lanka became just the second team to have both openers fall for golden ducks in the same One-day International (ODI) innings when they collapsed at the start of their World Cup run-chase against Afghanistan on Sunday.

Set a target of 233 for victory, Sri Lanka were in immediate trouble at Dunedin's University Oval when Lahiru Thirimanne was trapped leg before wicket by the first ball of the innings from Dawlat Zadran.

In the second over, Tillakaratne Dilshan was caught behind off the first ball he faced from Shapoor Zadran.

The collapse did not end there, with Kumar Sangakkara bowled for seven runs and Dimuth Karunaratne out for 23 runs, both falling to Hamid Hassan as former champions Sri Lanka slumped to 51 for four against World Cup debutants Afghanistan.

The one previous occasion when both openers fell for golden ducks in an ODI was in 2006 when West Indies quick Fidel Edwards removed the Zimbabwe pair of Piet Rinke and Terry Duffin in the first four balls of the innings at Georgetown, Guyana. West Indies won that match by 82 runs. - AFP



CRICKET world cup 2015

Lack of experience cost us: Shenwari

Shenwari said 'we need some time from the ICC to give us more matches against Test nations so maybe we get more used to it'



SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES: Afghanistan's Samiullah Shenwari plays a shot as Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara during their match in Dunedin on Sunday. - AFP

DUNEDIN: Afghanistan believe a lack of experience cost them the chance of a major World Cup upset Sunday when Sri Lanka escaped with a four-wicket win in their Pool A clash.

A century by Mahela Jayawardene, who featured in a 126-run stand with Angelo Mathews, rescued Sri Lanka from a disastrous start when they were 51 for four chasing 233 to win.

When the Sri Lankan top order collapsed Afghanistan felt they were in with a chance but they eventually lost by four wickets with 10 balls remaining.

"It was very disappointing because we took four early wickets and Mahela, very experienced player, and Mathews, also very experienced, took the match from us," Afghanistan batsman Samiullah Shenwari said.

Shenwari featured in an 88-run partnership with Asghar Stanikzai for the third wicket in an innings he believed was 30-40 runs short and exposed Afghanistan's rawness at the top international level.

It was the first time in their short 47-match ODI history that the top eight batsmen posted double figures in one match but only Stanikzai (54) reached a half century with Shenwari's 38 the only other score above 30.

"We need some more matches with Asian teams to get more experience. We need some time from the ICC to give us more matches against Test nations so maybe we get more used to it," Shenwari said.

"Today was a good game but in the middle me and Asghar played an 80 partnership but we didn't make the 30-40 runs missing in this match

"Our bowlers did very well. Fifty runs, four wickets, it was a good chance to beat Sri Lanka but Mahela and Mathews took the match away," he said.

It was a much improved showing by Afghanistan who lost to Bangladesh by 105 runs in the first game in Canberra four days ago.

Their third match is against Scotland in Dunedin next Thursday. - AFP

COMMENTARY

Incredible India at their near best



BEYOND THE BOUNDARY
PRASAD PANICKER

Dale Steyn punched the air as the umpire raised the finger soon after the ball hit Ajinkya Rahane on the back of the thigh as he walked across to connect and failed. It was in the 46th over; that was only the fifth wicket to fall; India had already posted more than what experts said could be a challenging score to put pressure on South Africa; and the world's best player in the last five overs of a 50-over game (MS Dhoni) was still at the crease — so what was so much there to jump up and about for arguably the best fast bowler in the world?

The answer to that lies in the cool manner Rahane went about his job in the 90 minutes he had been out in the middle at the MCG, which even for AB de Villiers, unarguably the best batsman across formats, is the most intimidating place to pitch your tent and do business.

Few would have imagined Rahane to play like he did yesterday. We know he could anchor an innings and play second fiddle to aggressive guys like Dhawan, Virat Kohli or Suresh Raina, but after watching footage of him dismissing Steyn and Co. over the rope more than a couple of times (three, to be exact) in his breezy innings of 79 off 60 balls, the guys at the helm of teams perceived to enjoy better resources at their disposal to win the World Cup this time around would have to take this slim, unassuming, 5ft 5in guy more seriously than they would like.

India's 130 runs victory over the much-fancied rivals in the second encounter of the tournament was not something considered entirely unlikely, but when it happened as it did yesterday at the intimidating cauldron, the best way to describe it is by way of borrowing that much-used adjective: incredible. It was Incredible India at their best, and that makes Indian cricket fans wonder, a bit worriedly, if they are really peaking at the right time or just a bit too early.

Seldom had we seen team India announce a plan, and then stick to it, so completely and comprehensively. It was a pleasing example of how brilliantly a pre-match plan could be put on display by the team as a single unit in all departments: batting, bowling and fielding. And of how rewarding it's when everyone sticks to a plan and play the part just as it's in the script. We now have a delightful idea of the 'sustained momentum' Virat Kohli had hinted at during the press conference on the eve of the match, but the other spicy part of the plan, that's bowling short of a length, may not always bring India the results they look for. Not perhaps against teams like Australia or New Zealand.

Batting, bowling and fielding like champions, almost everything seemed to have fallen in place for India. Almost, but not all. In the sustained momentum scheme of things, what looked like a bit of concern was the performance in the last few overs, especially in the last five overs. At 8 runs an over, Dhoni and his boys' finishing powers were not bad, but the real concern was the poor yield from the last five overs. Against Pakistan it was just 27 runs, and against South Africa it was 36. Better, but way behind the normal Indian standards. When the 'Kanna keep calm' approach in the initial overs and the consolidation in the middle overs set in the sustained momentum, the spokes in the wheel are the below-par death over performance.

The jinx has been broken, and it's 1-3, so do we have to wait another four years to see it happen again? Perhaps not. The two might be on course for another interesting encounter to settle accounts in this very edition.

That, if it really happens, is what makes cricket interesting.

The writer is a freelance contributor based in India. All the views and opinions expressed in the article are solely those of the author and do not reflect those of Times of Oman

RAISE THE GAME

Sri Lanka must improve standards, says skipper Mathews

DUNEDIN: Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews admitted his side must raise their game if they are to win a second World Cup after surviving a scare against Afghanistan at University Oval in Dunedin on Sunday.

Mahela Jayawardene's 19th one-day century rescued the 1996 champions from a perilous 51 for four in pursuit of a 233-run target after openers Lahiru Thirimanne and Tillakaratne Dilshan both fell for golden ducks.

Jayawardene (100) and Mathews (44) put on a crucial 126 for the fifth wicket to steady the ship before Thisara Perera smashed a quickfire 47 not out to see them home.

It was 1996 champions Sri Lanka's first win of this tournament after an opening 98-run loss to New Zealand, while debutants Afghanistan have now been defeated twice following a first-up 105-run drubbing by Bangladesh.

"We really need to raise our standards to compete against the top teams," said Mathews, whose side next face Bangladesh on Thursday, with further Pool A fixtures to come against Australia, England and Scotland.

"I am feeling relieved at the moment but I thought we came back well. It was a see-saw kind of game. They started off well and then we pulled it back in the end. I knew I had to stay out there with Mahela to get some kind of stand going."

Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi admitted his team's 232 all out was always going to be hard to defend.

"I felt we were short by 30-40 runs. We bowled really well in the first 10-15 overs, we put pressure on them in the end. We kept them to a tight game, so we are pleased by that," said Nabi, whose team next play Scotland in Dunedin on Thursday.

Jayawardene, who was named man-of-the-match, praised Afghanistan and said the gap between Test nations and the second tier Associate sides was narrowing all the time.

"All credit to Afghanistan. They batted really well in tough conditions, then followed it up beautifully with the ball," said the 37-year-old.

"They have pace, movement and they're a handful. There is not a big gap between the top countries and these guys." - AFP



SEE-SAW GAME: Sri Lanka's captain Angelo Mathews fails to make the ground and is run out during their match against Afghanistan in Dunedin on Sunday. - AFP







CRICKET world cup 2015

Scottish confidence high ahead of clash against vulnerable England

Two games, two losses and a humiliated England — now under pressure to avoid falling to a low-ranked side such as Scotland — are searching for answers while the Scots are talking up their chances of an historic win



DESPERATION WRITTEN LARGE: England coach Peter Moores speaks to captain Eoin Morgan suring a training session in Christchurch.. - AFP

CHRISTCHURCH: Under-fire England have fuelled Scotland's self-belief going into their World Cup Pool B showdown at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Monday.

At any other time the outcome would be a foregone conclusion with England expected to cruise to victory without pressure.

But for England these are not ordinary times. They have come into the World Cup with a battle plan that is not working and key players struggling for form.

After a 111-run thrashing by Australia in their Cup opener, they were even more out of their depth on Friday when New Zealand whipped them by eight wickets.

Two games, two losses and a humiliated England — now under pressure to avoid falling to a low-ranked side such as Scotland — are searching for answers while the Scots are talking up their chances of an historic win. Scotland fared considerably better against New Zealand when they scored 142 and it took the tournament co-hosts 25 overs and the loss of seven wickets to secure victory. By comparison, England's 123 was mown down in 12.2 overs for the loss of only two wickets. England's opening partnerships against Australia and New Zealand were 25 and 18. Against Australia they were 92 for six and against New Zealand 108 for six with the cream of their batting back in the hutch.

James Taylor's 98 against Australia is the only score over 50 and Chris Woakes' has the only respectable bowling figures with two for eight against New Zealand.

Of England's main strike bowlers, James Anderson sent down 15 overs in the first two games for a return of none for 104. His new-ball partner Stuart Broad has figures of two for 93 from 12.2 overs.

"England don't look as if they'll get out of the group at this stage," was the blunt assessment of former England captain Paul Collingwood who has switched loyalties to Scotland since joining their coaching staff. There have only been two completed games between England and Scotland, in 2010 and 2014, and England won both with ease. But times have changed and Collingwood, who led England to the World Twenty20 crown five years ago, said Scotland held a "real confidence and belief" they can win now. "That's going to be an amazing feeling if we can get that first-ever World Cup win under our belt, there's no better time than against England."

Collingwood was not alone with former England opener-turned-commentator Geoffrey Boycott admitting to being "a bit nervous" a head of Monday's clash.

Although Scotland rarely get to measure themselves against Test-playing nations nine of their squad — all of them professionals — have county cricket experience.

And if Scotland do stun England then an Englishman could well be central to their success. Tenacious batsman Matt Machan, Sussex-born of Scottish parents, has a handy 37.75 ODI average and scored 56 against New Zealand.

Four years back, England showed they are there for the taking by the lesser sides when they lost to Ireland by three wickets at the 2011 World Cup. - AFP

FACTBOX

ENGLAND

Captain: Eoin Morgan

Coach: Peter Moores

Squad: Eoin Morgan, Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Gary Balance, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Steven Finn, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Joe Root, James Taylor, James Tredwell, Chris Woakes

Results so far at 2015 World Cup:

Lost to Australia by 111 runs

Lost to New Zealand by eight wickets

Top performers: James Taylor (98 runs); Steve Finn (five wickets); Joe Root (two catches)

SCOTLAND

Captain: Preston Mommsen

Coach: Grant Bradburn

Squad: Preston Mommsen, Richie Berrington, Kyle Coetzer, Frederick Coleman, Matthew Cross, Josh Davey, Alasdair Evans, Hamish Gardiner, Majid Haq, Michael Leask, Matt Machan, Calum MacLeod, Safyaan Sharif, Rob Taylor, Iain Wardlaw

Results so far at 2015 World Cup:

Lost to New Zealand by three wickets

Top performers: Matt Machan (56 runs); Iain Wardlaw (three wickets; Matt Cross (four catches)

Head to head

Total played: 3

England won 2; no result 1

Played at Hagley Oval: first match

Last match: May 9, 2014 - England won by 39 runs at Aberdeen

COOLING TEMPERS BACK HOME

Bell apology for 'embarrassing' England

CHRISTCHURCH: England opener Ian Bell apologised Sunday for his side's embarrassing start to the World Cup after being thrashed by Australia and New Zealand in their first two games.

"We expect people at home to be angry about that performance," he said on the eve of their third Pool A match, against Scotland, at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

England captain Eoin Morgan said after the New Zealand humiliation that his side was "disappointed" rather than "embarrassed", but for Bell there was no escaping the "E" word. "To go out and play like we did was embarrassing," Bell said.

"The fact we have to apologise to people about the cricket is not acceptable. It's really disappointing what we've done."

Bell, who produced scores of 36 and eight in England's opening games, where his side totalled 231 and 123 said England had been well off the pace in the tournament "so it would be nice to turn up and put on the kind of game we know we can".

"We were gutted about the performance" against Australia and New Zealand, he said.

"But it's about tomorrow now. Hopefully we can put on something that's at least — I don't think it will repair the damage fully —but at least it's a step in the right direction."

But he was adamant, there was no need to change their game plan of taking an aggressive approach, even though it is not working when either setting or chasing targets.

"We want to play aggressive cricket. We just haven't managed to do that in the last two games," he said. "It's no good doing it in the nets. We have to take it into the middle and do it there. You want to bat through but there's no point trying to survive either. You've got to play aggressive cricket.

"That's where one-day cricket is going. But that doesn't mean slogging, it doesn't mean hitting every ball for six — it's being smart as well." - AFP

SCOTLAND CAPTAIN SAYS

'Good time' to play humiliated England

CHRISTCHURCH: Scotland captain Preston Mommsen said now was a "good time" to play England as his side prepared for a World Cup clash against their border rivals in Christchurch on Monday.

England suffered a humiliating eight-wicket defeat by New Zealand on Friday, leaving them bottom of Pool A. Scotland were also beaten by New Zealand in their only match of the tournament so far, but lost by just three wickets and scored 142 compared to England's 123 against the Black Caps.

Former England all-rounder Ian Botham labelled Friday's hammering in Wellington as the worst one-day performance he'd seen in 40 years of playing for and watching England.

And Mommsen told reporters on Sunday: "Obviously, it is a good time to be playing them, but at the same time, we're pretty focused on our own game, and that's been the mindset over the last couple of days in the preparation leading up to the game tomorrow."

England were undone by a sensational spell of swing bowling from Tim Southee, who took seven wickets for 33 — the third-best World Cup return of all-time.

But someone who wasn't stunned was Scotland coach Grant Bradburn, who coached Southee at New Zealand's Northern Knights domestic team. "Having coached the Knights and having Southee and Boult in that environment for a number of years, not really, I was not surprised. I think it vindicated the 10 overs that they bowled at the start of our game in Dunedin (when Scotland collapsed to 12 for four) and would have had any side in the world in trouble."

Scotland's backroom staff includes former England all-rounder Paul Collingwood. Mommsen said victory on Monday would have incalculable consequences for Scotland who have never won a match at the World Cup. - AFP







EXTRA

it took some time for composers to get life to ‘awesome’

consider this year’s list of oscar nominees for best original song. your eyes gravitate to the clear favourites, john legend and common — who penned ‘glory’ from ‘selma’? there’s the sentimental choice — country great glen campbell, celebrated for a song written during his late-stage deterioration from alzheimer’s disease



john legend common

You can’t dismiss seven-time nominee Diane Warren (*Grateful* from *Beyond the Lights*) or Gregg Alexander, frontman of late-1990s alternative rockers the New Radicals, up for *Lost Stars* from *Begin Again*. Finally, there’s Shawn Patterson, who invariably triggers the question — Who is Shawn Patterson?

The short answer is he’s the composer and lyricist of *Everything is Awesome*, the gold plaque-burnished, Grammy-nominated, worker-bee anthem from *The Lego Movie*.

The longer answer is he’s a former plastic factory labourer, who gambled on Los Angeles two decades ago, with a few contacts and $400 in his pocket.

He began as a production assistant on the *Alvin and the Chipmunks* cartoon and slowly ascended through the animation world. Now, he’s about to walk the red carpet as the lone unknown in his field.

“It wasn’t one of those songs where I felt instantly strong about it,” Patterson admits at a friend’s studio in the San Fernando Valley. Wearing jeans, a navy button-up, several tattoos and a closely trimmed beard, the 49-year old vaguely resembles Russell Crowe cast as a music conservatory professor.

“I thought it had some good moments,” the father of three concedes. “But I had no idea that it would grow into the creature that it did — where Joaquin Phoenix would tell me at an awards show how much he loved it.”

He still has neither agent nor manager. He wrote a song about how everything was awesome amid withering divorce proceedings — making it the *Here, My Dear* of subversive pop confections written for toy adaptations.

Patterson started playing music as a teenager and practiced up to 10 hours a day, eventually expanding his repertoire and knowledge of theory through intense study and brief stints in music school.

But his early career was defined by odd jobs that occupied his days and nights: guitar lessons, security guard shifts, toil at a plastic factory and at a furniture assembly plant, on the hydraulic presses.

“I never lasted anywhere. Any hour I worked was an hour not put into music. But I had to survive,” Patterson recalls.

“One time in the factory, I was closing a chair with a giant, old-school press and my finger got caught on the edge of the chair. I managed to pull my hand out in the nick of time, immediately walked downstairs, and told my bosses, ‘I’m out of here.’ “

In 1990, he settled in L.A. Since first hearing John Williams’ *Star Wars* score, Patterson dreamed of composing for the big screen. He started about as far away from *Star Wars* as one could get; an *Alvin and the Chipmunks* production assistant gig was all the 24-year-old could land. His “welcome to Hollywood” awakening involved taking the boss’ Porsche 911 for detailing in Beverly Hills, frantically composing in his spare time and trying to pitch songs anywhere he could.

The future Oscar nominee’s first official sale was *Rock the House*, a rap written for a 1991 Chipmunks album. After that show folded, Patterson snared another assistant job at Spumco, the fledgling animation house that produced *Ren & Stimpy*. Eventually, Patterson rose to music editor duties.

“It was an amazing learning experience. I’d sit there for eight hours a day, watching the show with 3,000 CDs next to me,” Patterson says. “I’d honour the *Ren & Stimpy* sound, but cut in stuff like Stravinsky, and they loved it.”

In 2010, Adult Swim’s *Robot Chicken* hired Patterson for what became his most consistent job. Scoring the series’ final three seasons, he wrote songs for guests like Ke$ha and the RZA and reunited with an old acquaintance, director Chris McKay. When the latter was brought in to co-direct *The Lego Movie*, he recruited Patterson to conjure something that blended sly wit with the communal euphoria of the Lego world.

“We needed something poppy and hooky, but when you have a song called *Everything is Awesome*, it’s very easy to turn that into something that parodied and looked down on that songwriting,” McKay says.

“We didn’t want that. The first version of the song was so earnest and joyous, you just knew that he had the perfect tone. He just got it.”

But *Everything is Awesome* does gently lampoon the antiseptic sleekness of Radio Disney pop. Its empty-headed glee pokes fun at the market-tested positivity of Top 40. The rap bridge doubles as a role call of *Stuff White People Like*. Performed by Tegan and Sara and the *Lonely Island*, humour was clearly the intent. It’s catchy too.

“I tried to wrap my head around the psychology of this plain guy — Emmet, the construction worker outcast who really loves scooters, kazoo and teamwork,” Patterson says.

While Patterson denies that his divorce severely impacted the song’s sardonic bite, he admits that something may have seeped in.

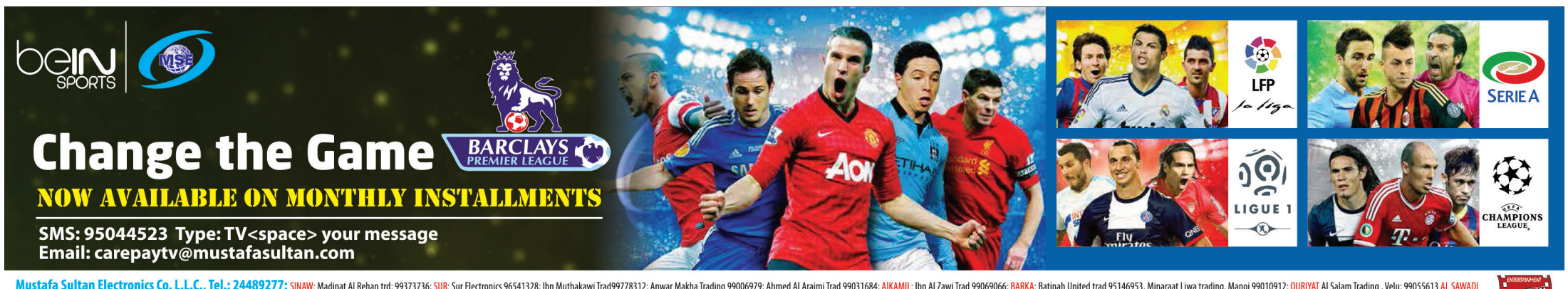
“It was ongoing, difficult, and my three kids were right in the middle. I know some sarcasm crept in,” Patterson continues. “But it benefitted the song: ‘Everything really isn’t awesome right now, but we’re still going to have fun with it’.”

Since its release last winter, *Everything is Awesome* has become almost a super-hit. Managers and agents have come calling.

In addition to the Oscar and Grammy nods, it has won several critics society awards, sold over 500,000 copies and crashed the Billboard charts in America, Canada, Britain, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

But rather than gloat, Patterson’s immediate concern is the next deadline for his latest show, *The Adventures of Puss in Boots*. And as much as he’d like to win the Oscar, you sense he’d rather find a producer for the musical he’s been writing over the last three years.

-Jeff Weiss/ The Washington Post



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An MSE Brand

EXTRA

the oscars

the best short films

there are three subcategories for this award. each film must not exceed forty minutes in order to qualify.
the fifteen nominees came from eleven countries and you need five hours and twenty minutes to watch them all.

live action



a1 boogaloo & graham

two brothers are over the moon when their soft-hearted dad presents them with two chicks to care for

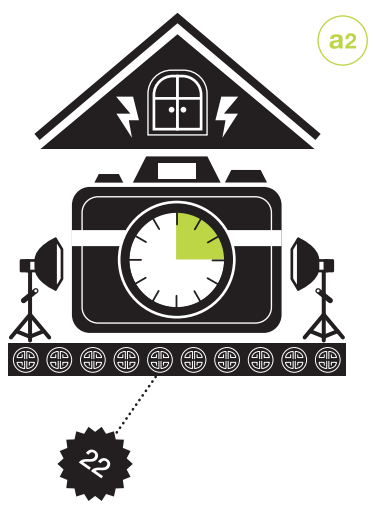
14 minutes

director
michael lennox

language
english

0

comedy — drama ← genre



a2 butter lamp

an itinerant photographer suggest to tibetan nomads to photograph them in front of various background

15 minutes

director
hu wei

language
tibetan

22

the most awarded film among the nominees



a3 the phone call

a shy lady who works in a call centre receives a call from a mystery man that changes her life forever

20 minutes

director
mat kirkby + james lucas

language:
english

5



a4 parvaneh

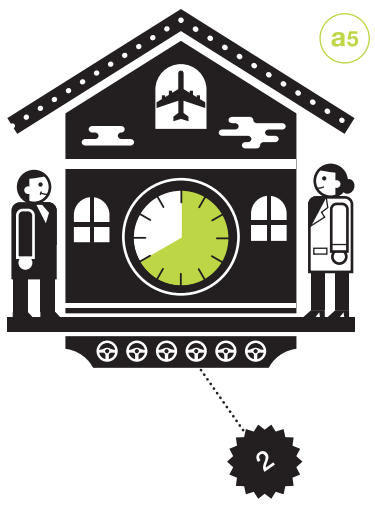
a young afghan immigrant who arrived at a transit centre for asylum seekers in the swiss alps

25 minutes

director
talkhon hamzavi

language
german

0



a5 aya

two strangers meet at an airport — he mistakenly confuses her to be his assigned driver

40 minutes

director
oded binnun + mihal brezis

language
english

2

animation



b1 a single life

when she plays a mysterious vinyl record single, she suddenly knows how to travel through her own life

3 minutes

director
joris oprins

language:
english

0

number of awards received from film competitions



b2 feast

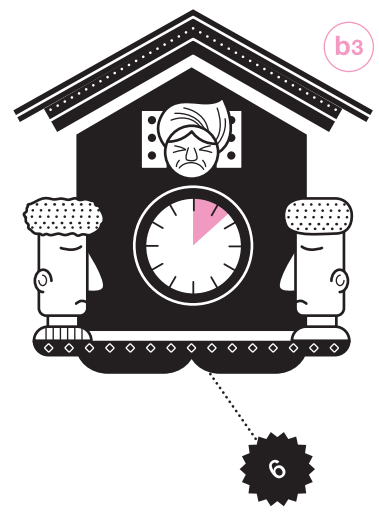
a man's love life is seen through the eyes of his dog and revealed bite by bite through the meals they share

6 minutes

director
patrick osborne + kristina reed

language:
english

2



b3 the bigger picture

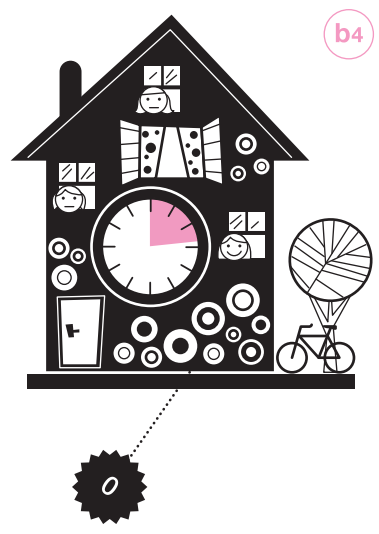
a stark and darkly humorous tale of two brothers who have to care for their elderly mother

8 minutes

director
daisy jacobs

language
english

6



b4 me and my moulton

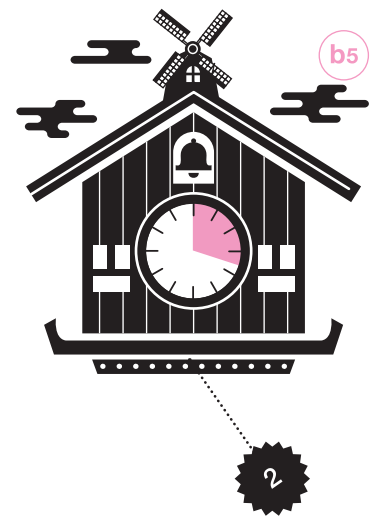
a girl who wishes for a bicycle from her parents, but gets something completely different

14 minutes

director
torill kove

language
english

0



b5 the dam keeper

one small town has survived because of a large windmill dam that acts as a fan to keep out pollution

18 minutes

director
robert kondo + dice tsutsumi

language
english

2

documentary



c1 white as earth

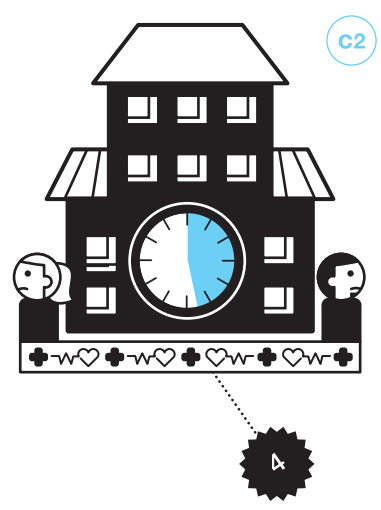
a mother and her children brave a cruel winter and flock to america's northern plains to seek work in the oil fields

20 minutes

director
j. christian jensen

language:
english

1



c2 our curse

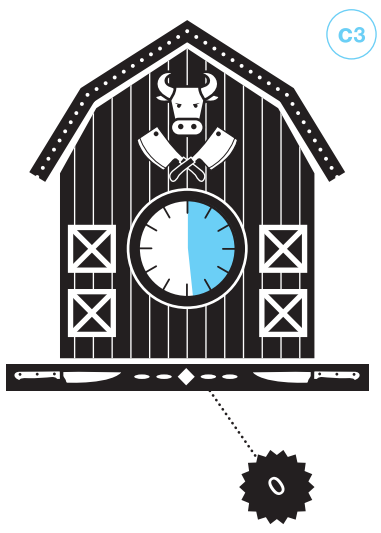
a personal statement of a couple who have to deal with an incurable disease of their newborn son

28 minutes

director
tomasz sliwinski

language:
polish

4



c3 the reaper

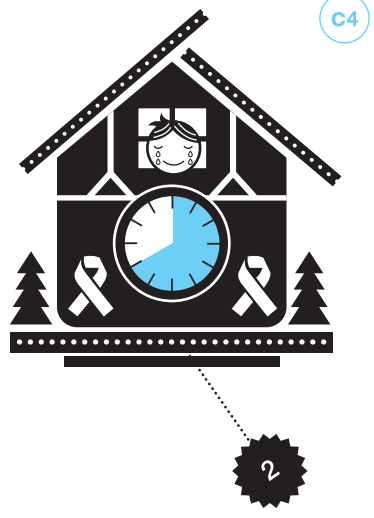
known as the reaper, he has long been working at a slaughterhouse and has deep relationship with the dead

29 minutes

director
gabriel serra

language
spanish

0



c4 joanna

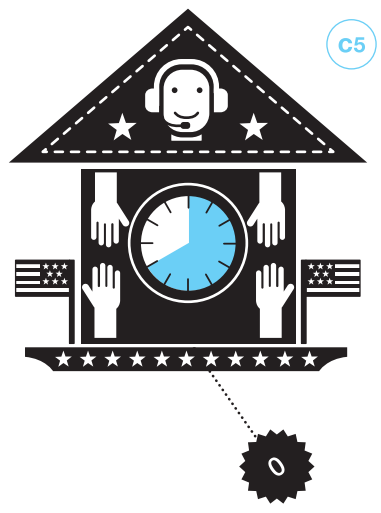
an icon of thoughtfulness, she wrote a blog describing her daily life in all honesty and accuracy

40 minutes

director
aneta kopacz

language:
polish

2



c5 crisis hotline

military veterans must turn to the unique services of the veterans' crisis line to help with their own traumas at home

40 minutes

director
ellen goosenberg kent

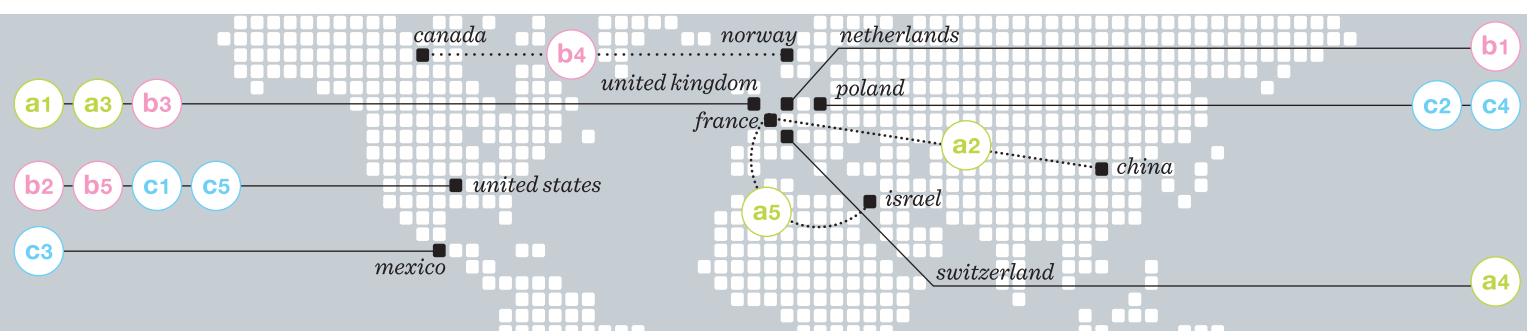
language
english

0

total run time

5 hours 20 minutes	1 hour 54 minutes	49 minutes	2 hours 37 minutes

participating countries



source: imdb.com, wikipedia.com

Can fashion launch an actress to the A-list?

The red carpet at the Rome Film Festival premiere of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* was massive even by blockbuster standards — Cameras in the thousands, metal barricades nearly crashing to the ground under the weight of the roaring fans. They cheered loudest that November 2013 night for Jennifer Lawrence, posing in a pale-yellow, strapless Dior gown — a choice advertising her well-documented relationship with the French haute couture house. But there was a lesser-known co-star drawing eyes, too — Meta Golding.

She doesn't have storied design houses jockeying to dress her. She doesn't have a stylist, and her *Hunger Games* contract didn't include a clothing budget. But Golding was determined to make the most of the moment — in a borrowed dress by a designer you've never heard of.

Red carpets — at premieres, boutique openings or parties — have become a crucial career-building opportunity. Yesterday, stars will promenaded and posed at the Academy Awards, where the who-are-you-wearing arrival ritual stretches on as long as the trophy show itself. Fashion has become a valuable tool in the actor's trade. It can build a brand that defines a star outside of a single role, embed her in the broader popular culture far beyond the audience for her work.

Like many in Hollywood, Golding is trying to build a fashion image. She travelled to Paris in hopes of seeding a relationship with a design house — someone willing to wardrobe her for red carpets and build her fashion credibility in the social-media conversation.

"For the Golden Globes, I thought Kate Hudson looked amazing," Golding says. "I don't think the general public could name the last film she's been in, but — how amazing she looked will get her a call about a film. When Lupita Nyong'o wore that Ralph Lauren red dress, it was helpful."

But at her current tier in the Hollywood hierarchy, "It's not like couture designers are saying, 'Wear my dress!' You have to prove yourself."

Search the Internet for "Meta Golding," and you'll see the many fashion pressures — and opportunities — for a rising actress.

There's Golding at a critics' gala. Golding at Comic-Con. Golding at the many *Catching Fire* premieres and the premieres of other people's movies. Places where she would inevitably be photographed, the images filtering out into magazine spreads, celebrity blogs, fashion forums, tweeted and e-mailed. Photos that could get people to notice her.

Golding was born in India to a Haitian mother and an American father who spent his career working on hunger relief for the United Nations and other agencies. He died in 2010, and her mother now calls Silver Spring, Maryland, home. But Golding grew up mostly in Italy, focused through childhood on figure skating. Her lack of citizenship blocked her path to the Italian national team. So when an injury forced her off the ice, she detoured to Cornell to major in theatre and political science — a useful combination for negotiating the fraught diplomacy of Hollywood.

By the time she graduated, she had an agent.



actress Meta Golding's has a strategy for the red carpet

She secured roles on the soap opera *Loving*, in assorted crime procedural dramas, on the short-lived CW series *The Tomorrow People*. And then she caught the eye of casting directors for the *Hunger Games* juggernaut. In *Catching Fire*, the second film of the franchise, Golding threw knives and bared her fangs as the fearsome games champion Enobaria, a role she'll reprise in *Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2* this fall.

Which is all to say that even if you haven't heard of her, she is that rara avis of Hollywood — a working actor.

She is a classic beauty, but with enough personality in her face to hold attention. In her early 40s, she does not look plastic, Botox-shiny or spray-tan orange. She looks very, very good. Her shoulder-length dark hair frames a delicate face with angular features. She is sample-size thin. But she is not short and would stand eye-to-eye with many leading men.

She is black — not dark-skinned, not fair, but brown. She comes with an asterisk. "The challenge is a constant conversation I have on a daily basis. In any other field, if they said, 'We're not going ethnic,' they'd be sued."

Television is more welcoming, she says. Film, she says, is harder. Every advantage helps. Fashion helps.

Hoping to build a red carpet persona, Golding and her manager Charlton Blackburne went to Paris in advance of the *Hunger Games* premiere. They went without a plan but with a purpose — to meet designers and perhaps forge a few mutually beneficial relationships. Though *Hunger Games* was a hundred million-dollar film, the studio did not fund her trip. She found an affordable boutique hotel. Blackburne made cold calls.

The big design houses such as Chanel or Dior didn't invite her to their shows. But she was welcomed by less-familiar names such as Manish Arora, Anne Valerie Hash and Martin Grant — the Australian-born designer who has been working in Paris for more than a decade. He met with her personally.

Grant agreed to provide cocktail dresses for press events and other public affairs. "She seems so young; the little dresses sort of suit her." So at a Piaget boutique opening in Beverly Hills, Golding turned up in a blush-coloured sheath by Grant and looked lovely.

The designer she has worn most often on the red carpet, however, is Juan Vidal, a 33-year-old womenswear designer based in Spain who is virtually unknown in the United States.

In June 2013, Blackburne happened to be sitting in a Madrid cafe and noticed a woman wearing a skirt with an oversized diamond print. He asked about its designer, then called Vidal out of the blue. Sure, said the designer, come on over.

Vidal was charmed by Golding. He loaned her a short abstract print dress to wear to an L.A. premiere last year. And when the crowd in Rome surged toward the *Hunger Games* red carpet, Golding was dressed in his slim-fitting white floral dress with a thigh-high slit.

It was Vidal's red carpet debut. "It was a bit scandalous in Spain. It makes a lot of noise with the social media, Twitter, Instagram. It was like I move three steps [forward] in my career," he says. "I'm a lucky boy."

Vidal is only now beginning to sell outside of Spain, first in Paris and Milan. He'll bring the collection to New York this month. "I want the woman to have presence. I don't want to lose the classy and elegant, but you have to be a little bit crazy or . . . " He pauses, searching a dictionary for the precise English word. "Unnoticed. Sometimes elegant is unnoticed, but with a touch of extravagance, magic happens."

Magic — Like a cosmetic endorsement deal, or a great script. Golding hasn't had any of that happen yet. "I can't say it's translated economically," Golding says. "But on social media, it gives the impression that you're participating in popular culture."

Golding looks at red carpet photographs just like everyone else. After this year's Globes, she marvelled at how Jennifer Lopez "always looks like a diva," Catherine Zeta-Jones "like a movie star." On Kerry Washington: "I think her fashion choices have certainly helped her career."

Golding is still figuring out her own style. "I like to look good, but I love fashion and I want to be cutting edge," Golding says. "I like to think I can play the field, but maybe style-wise, I'm being naive."

Golding does not have a red carpet arrival strategy. The big concern is getting stuck in traffic and missing the red carpet. So there have been occasions when she arrived extra early. She waited in the car.

She doesn't yet have a preferred pose. When she started, she didn't even know how to stand. A stylist offered some free advice: Cross your feet when your photo's snapped.

No, a fleet of tailors does not arrive with her borrowed dress to make sure it fits just so. She recently paid $900 to have two loaner dresses nipped and tucked — and at the end, "I don't even really have a dress."

The red carpet is a business — both Golding and the dress are products being merchandised — but she still has a red carpet dream. She'd love to wear Valentino someday. "That would be the epitome for me," she said. Perhaps even a career-changing, red-carpet moment.

— Robin Givhan/The Washington Post

FIND-IT-ALL

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12.25pm
Asr	3.44pm
Maghrib	6.11pm
Isha	7.22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5.19am

Sunset	6:06pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	6.34am

High tide	11:58am	12:02am
Low tide	6:02pm	6:40am

YOUR BIRTHDAY

BORN today, you seem to know exactly where you are going, how you are going to get there, and when you will arrive — right down to the minute! This is true not just in the symbolic, metaphoric sense, but often literally — you try to live your life according to a strict timetable that you have constructed for yourself to maximise gains, minimise dangers and ensure for yourself both success and lasting contentment. You believe strongly in the notion that nothing good ever happened entirely by accident; you always want to be prepared for the next eventuality so that you can take full advantage of it when the time comes.

You are one of those modern individuals who maintain ties to the past that enable you to progress in a way that displays both continuity and tremendous originality. You spend a great deal of time looking at what has been done before so that you can do it your way, better — and you usually do your ancestors very proud.

Also born on this date are: Dakota Fanning, actress; Emily Blunt, actress; Peter Fonda, actor; Kelly MacDonald, actress; George Frideric Handel, composer; Howard Jones, singer-songwriter; Victor Fleming, filmmaker.

PISCES
[Feb. 19-March 20]

You may be able to set yourself up in a position of greater authority, but what you do with that authority is really the issue.

ARIES
[March 21-APRIL 19]

You're ready to undertake something you've been planning for some time. Should you jump right in or start slowly, in a more thoughtful way?

TAURUS
[APRIL 20-MAY 20]

Your emotions may be quite near the surface. Focus on any issues brought to your attention by family members and other loved ones.

GEMINI
[MAY 21-JUNE 20]

You're working hard to make sense of things that don't seem to make much sense. Perhaps your efforts are being misplaced.

CANCER
[JUNE 21-JULY 22]

You may have to face several contradictory issues. In the end, you'll realise that confidence in your own beliefs wins the day.

LEO
[JULY 23-AUG. 22]

Avoid making impulsive decisions. Your actions must be the product of careful thought and planning, and thorough preparation.

VIRGO
[AUG. 23-SEPT. 22]

The more you let another speak, the more you will learn about his or her motives — and how you are affected. Be content to listen!

LIBRA
[SEPT. 23-OCT. 22]

You may have to weather a barrage of criticism after doing something that others had warned you against.

SCORPIO
[OCT. 23-NOV. 21]

You're very eager to be seen in the right light. Are you willing to put your beliefs on the line? Expedience is not the issue.

SAGITTARIUS
[NOV. 22-DEC. 21]

Avoid bragging, no matter how well things go for you. It's important to let others come to their own conclusions about you.

CAPRICORN
[DEC. 22-JAN 19]

You may find that someone who has been on the periphery of your professional affairs is ready and willing to play a more central role.

AQUARIUS
[JAN. 20-FEB. 18]

Money matters may have your head spinning as you realise that the rules you have followed for so long aren't applicable right now.

WEATHER

Hazy conditions with low horizontal visibility over most of the Sultanate and partly cloudy skies over Musandam, the coastal areas of Oman Sea and Al-Hajar mountains with chances of isolated rain and occasional thundershowers. Chances of low clouds at late night to early morning over governorates of south Al-Sharqiya, Al-Wusta and Dhofar.

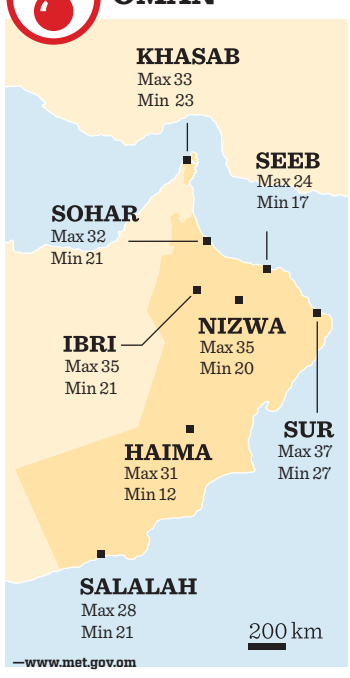
EXPECTED WIND: Over northern parts of the Sultanate wind will be northwesterly moderate to fresh and southwesterly light to moderate over the rest of the Sultanate.

SEA STATE: Rough along Musandam and Oman Sea coasts with maximum wave height of 3.5 metres and moderate along Arabian Sea coasts with a maximum wave height of 2.7 metres.

HORIZONTAL VISIBILITY: Moderate over most of the Sultanate becoming poor during rain and haze.

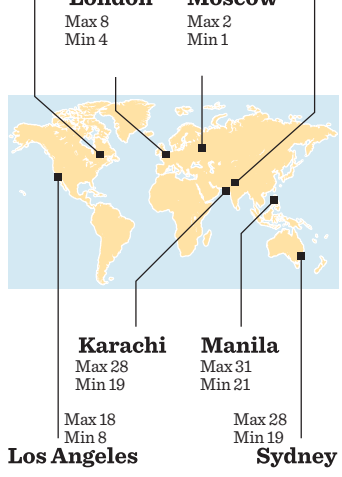
THE NEXT 48 HOURS OUTLOOK: Partly cloudy skies over Musandam, the coastal areas of Oman Sea and Al-Hajar mountains with chances of isolated rain and occasional thundershowers. Hazy conditions with low horizontal visibility over most of the Sultanate. Rough along Musandam and Oman Sea coasts with a maximum wave height of 3.5 metres.

OMAN



—www.met.gov.om

WORLD



	Max	Min
GULF		
Abu Dhabi	24	16
Doha	20	14
Dubai	20	17
Kuwait	19	7
Manama	19	15
Riyadh	18	9
WORLD		
Athens	14	11
Baghdad	18	8
Beijing	7	-7
Berlin	9	1
Boston	-6	-19
Cairo	22	14
Colombo	32	23
Frankfurt	4	1
Hong Kong	21	18
Istanbul	9	7
Johannesburg	28	16
Kuala Lumpur	33	24
Lisbon	16	11
Paris	11	4
Perth	33	23
Singapore	34	24
Tokyo	15	3
Toronto	-14	-19

LONG DISTANCE BUS TIMINGS (OMAN NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMPANY SAOC) *SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FROM MUSCAT (RUWI)

QURIYAT - SUR - JAALAN (Route 36)

Dept Time	Destination	Arrival Time	Operating Days
15:00	Quriyat	16:30	Daily
15:00	Sur	18:00	Daily
15:00	Jaalan	19:30	Daily

TO AL BURAIMI (Route 41)

06:30	Sohar	08:50	Daily
06:30	Buraimi	11:00	Daily
08:00	Buraimi	14:30	Daily via Ibri
13:00	Sohar	15:45	Daily
13:00	Buraimi	17:40	Daily
16.00	Sohar	18.35	Daily
16.00	Buraimi	20:20	Daily

TO SINAW (Route 52)

17:30	Sinaw	20:50	Daily

To Yanqul (Route 54)

14:30	Nizwa	16:50	Daily
14:30	Yanqul	19:30	Daily

TO IBRI (ARAQI) (Route 54)

08:00	Nizwa	10:20	Daily
08:00	Al Araqi	12:30	Daily

TO SUR (Route 55)

07:30	Sur	12:00	Daily
14:30	Sur	18:45	Daily

TO FAHUD - YIBAL (Route 62)

06:30	Fahud	10:30	Daily
06:30	Yibal	11:15	Daily

TO MARMUL-SALALAH (Route 100)

07:00	Salalah	20:00	Daily
10:00	Marmul	20:30	Daily
10:00	Salalah	23:30	Daily
19:00	Salalah	07:40	Daily

TO MARMUL (Route 101)

06:00	Marmul	16:50	Daily

SALALAH TO DUBAI (Route 102)

15:00	Dubai	07:00	Daily

TO DUBAI (Route 201)

06:00	Sohar	08:30	Daily
06:00	Dubai	11:30	Daily
13:00	Sohar	15:30	Wed,Thur
13:00	Dubai	18:30	Wed,Thur
15:00	Sohar	17:35	Daily
15:00	Dubai	20:55	Daily

TO DUBAI VIA FUJIRAH & SHARJAH (Route 204)

Dept Time	Destination	Arrival Time	Operating Days
07:00	Fujairah	11.45	Daily
07:00	Sharjah	13.30	Daily
07:00	Dubai	14.00	Daily

TO MUSCAT (RUWI)

FROM JAALAN-SUR-QURIYAT (Route 36)

Dept Time	Destination	Arrival Time	Operating Days
05:30	Sur	06:45	Daily
05:30	Quriyat	08:30	Daily
05:30	Ruwi	10:00	Daily

TO AL BURAIMI (Route 41)

07:00	Sohar	08:55	Daily
07:00	Ruwi	11:40	Daily
13:30	Ruwi	20:20	Daily via Ibri
13:00	Sohar	14:55	Daily
13:00	Ruwi	17:40	Daily
13:00	Sohar	19:20	Daily
17:00	Ruwi	22:15	Daily

TO SINAW (Route 52)

07:00	Ruwi	10:25	Daily

To Yanqul (Route 54)

06:00	Nizwa	08:40	Daily
06:00	Ruwi	11:00	Daily

TO IBRI (ARAQI) (Route 54)

15:40	Nizwa	17:55	Daily
15:40	Ruwi	20:20	Daily

TO SUR (Route 55)

06:00	Ruwi	10:45	Daily
14:30	Ruwi	19:00	Daily

TO YIBAL - FAHUD (Route 62)

12:30	Fahud	13:15	Daily
12:30	Ruwi	17:30	Daily

TO SALALAH -MARMUL (Route 100)

07:00	Ruwi	19:50	Daily
10:00	Marmul	13:15	Daily
10:00	Ruwi	22:30	Daily
19:00	Ruwi	07:30	Daily

TO MARMUL (Route 101)

06:00	Marmul	16:30	Daily

DUBAI TO SALALAH (Route 102)

15:00	Salalah	07:00	Daily

TO DUBAI (Route 201)

07:30	Sohar	10:50	Daily
07:30	Ruwi	13:40	Daily
13:00	Sohar	16:15	Thur-Fri
13:00	Ruwi	19:10	Thur-Fri
15:30	Sohar	18:45	Daily
15:30	Ruwi	21:35	Daily

FROM DUBAI VIA FUJIRAH & SHARJAH (Route 204)

Dept Time	Destination	Arrival Time	Operating Days
16:00	Sharjah	16:30	Daily
16.00	Fujairah	18.15	Daily
16.00	Ruwi	23.00	Daily

LISTINGS

PHARMACIES

Round the clock
Al Hashar Pharmacy, Ruwi: 24783334; Appolo Medical Centre, Hamriya: 24782666; Muscat Pharmacy, Ruwi: 24702542, Salalah: 23291635; Atlas Pharmacy, Ghubra: 24503585; Ruwi 24811715

Muscat Region
Apollo, Al Hamriya. Tel: 24787766
Muscat, A Seeb Market. Tel: 24421691
Muscat, Al Khuwair. Tel: 24485740
Muscat, Al Hail South. Tel: 24537080

Dhofar Region
Muscat, Al Nahdha Road, Salalah. Tel: 23291635

HOSPITALS
Al Amal Medical & Health Care Centre: 24485052
Atlas Hospital: Ruwi: 24811743/ Ghubra: 24504000
Al Musafir Specialised Medical Clinic: 24706453
Hatat Polyclinic LLC, Ruwi: 24563641, Azaiba: 24499269, Sohar: 2683006
Al Raffah Hospital: 24618900/1/2
Al Massaraat Clinic & Laboratory: 24566435
Al Makook Medical Coordinance Centre: 24499434
Apollo Medical Centre, Hamriya: 24787766, 24787780
Capital Polyclinic: 24707549
Badr Al Samaa Polyclinic, Ruwi: 24799760/1/2
Capital Clinic, Seeb: 24420740
Ceregem National Raak: 24485633
Dr Harub's Clinic: 24563217
Elixir Health Centre: 24565802
Emirates Medical Centre: 24604540
1st Chiropractic Centre: 24472274
Hamdan Hospital: 23212340
International Medical Centre LLC: 24794501/2/3/4/5
Kims Oman Hospital: 24760100
24 Hrs Emergency: 24760123
Lama Polyclinic, Sohar: 26751128, MBD: 24799077, Al Khuwair: 24478818
Magrabi Eye and Ear Hospital: 24568870
Muscat Private Hospital: 24583600
Welcare Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, Al Khuwair: 24477666
Al-Hayat Polyclinc LLC: 22004000

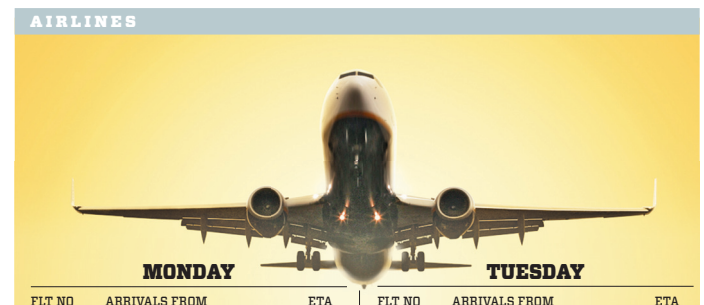
ROYAL OMAN POLICE
Emergencies and inquiries: 9999
General Directorate of Passport and Residence: 24569603
Directorate General of Customs: 24521109
Traffic violations inquiries: 24510228
Public Relations Admin: 24560099

ACCOMMODATION
Al Bahjah Hotel: 24424400
Al Bustan Palace: 24764000
Al Khuwair Hotel Apartments: 24478171
Al Madina Holiday Inn: 24596400
Al Maha International Hotel: 24494949
Al Fanar Hotel: 24712385
Al Falaj Hotel: 24702311
Al Qurum Resort: 24605945
Azaiba Hotel Apartments: 24490979
Beach Hotel: 24696601
Bowshar Hotel: 24491105
Coral Hotel Muscat: 24692121
Crowne Plaza Muscat: 24660660
Crystal Suites: 24826100
Golden Tulip Seeb: 24510300
Grand Hyatt Muscat: 24641234
Haffa House Hotel: 24707207
Hotel Muscat Holiday: 24487123
InterContinental Muscat: 24680000
Majan Continental Hotel: 24592900
Marina Hotel: 24711711
Midan Hotel Suites: 24499565
Mina Hotel: 24711828
Muttrah Hotel: 24798401
Nuzha Hotel Apartments: 24789199
Oman Dive Centre: 24824240
Park Inn: 24507888
Qurum Beach House Hotel: 24564070
Radisson Blu Hotel: 24487777
Ramee Dream Resort Seeb: 24453399
Ramee Guestline Hotel: 24564443
Ruwi Hotel: 24704244
Safeer Hotel Suites: 24691200
Sheraton Oman Hotel: 24772772
Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa: 24776666
The Chedi Muscat: 24524400
The Treasurebox Muscat Hotel: 24502570

AIRLINE OFFICES
Muscat Airport Flight information (24 hours): 24519456/24519223
Aeroflot: 24704455, Air Arabia: 24700828, Air France: 24562153, Air India: 24799801, Air New Zealand: 24700732, Biman Bangladesh Airlines: 24701128, British Airways: 24568777, Cathay Pacific: 24789818, Egypt Air: 24794113, Emirates Air: 24404400, Ethiopian Airlines: 24660313, Gulf Air: 80072424, Indian: 24791914, Iran Air: 24787423, Japan Airlines: 24704455, Jazeera Airways: 23294848, Jet Airways: 24787248, Kenya Airways: 24660300, KML Royal Dutch Airlines: 24566737, Kuwait Airways: 24701262, LOT Polish Airlines: 24796387, Lufthansa: 24796692, Malaysian Airlines: 24560796, Middle East Airlines: 24796680, Oman Air: 24531111, Pakistan International Airlines: 24792471, Qatar Airways: 24771900, Qantas: 24559941, Royal Jordanian: 24796693, Saudi Arabian Airlines: 24789485, Singapore Airlines: 24791233, Shaheen Air: 24816565, SriLankan Airlines: 24784545, Swiss International Airlines: 24796692, Thai Airways: 24705934, Turkish Airlines: 24703033

MUSEUMS
Bait Al Baranda: Corniche (seafront opp fish market), Open from Saturday to Thursday 9am to 1pm and 4 to 6pm
Natural History Museum: Al Khuwair, Tel: 24604957, Open from Saturday to Wednesday: 8am to 1:30pm; Thursday: 9am to 1pm
Museum of Omani Heritage: (former Omani Museum), Madinat Al Alam, Sat-Wed 8am to 1:30pm, Thursday - 9am to 1pm, Tel: 24600946
Armed Forces Museum: Bait Al Falaj, Tel: 24312651, Open from Sat to Wed: 8am to 1:30pm; Thurs 9-12pm and 3-6pm; Fri 9-11am and 3-6pm. Al Hoota Caves 24498258; Turtle Beach 96550606/96550707
Children's Science Museum: Shatti Al Qurum, Tel: 24605368, Open from Saturday to Wednesday: 8am to 1:30pm, Thursday: 9am to 1pm
Oman-French Museum: near Muscat Police Station, Tel: 24736613, Open from Sat to Wed: 8am to 1:30pm, Thurs: 9am to 1pm
Bait Al Zubair, Muscat: Tel: 24736688, Al Saidiya St., Muscat museum@baitalzubairmuseum.com Open from Sat to Thurs: 9:30am to 6pm.
National Museum Ruwi: Tel: 24701289, Open from Saturday to Wednesday: 8am to 1:30pm, Thursday: 9am to 1pm
Sohar Fort Museum: Tel: 26844758, Open from Saturday to Wed: 8 to 1:30pm Thurs: 9am to 1pm
Muscat Gate Museum: at Al Bahri Road, Muscat open from Sat to Wed 8am to 2pm

AIRLINES



MONDAY

FLT NO	ARRIVALS FROM	ETA
WY682	RIYADH	0005
WY406	CAIRO	0005
WY636	ABU DHABI	0005
WY648	KUWAIT	0010
WY816	BANGKOK	0015
WY910	SALALAH	0030
BG021	DACCA-CHITTAGONG	0100
4H583	DACCA	0145
WY3916	SALALAH	0205
PK229	LAHORE	0215
TK776	ISTANBUL-BAHRAIN	0255
QR1132	DOHA	0345
EK866	DUBAI	0355
EY384	ABU DHABI	0405
GF560	BAHRAIN	0405
FZ041	DUBAI	0415
WY114	FRANKFURT	0610
WY658	BAHRAIN	0640
WY638	ABU DHABI	0650
WY902	SALALAH	0655
WY154	ZURICH	0720
WY144	MALPENSA	0720
WY674	JEDDAH	0730
WY668	DOHA	0735
WY644	KUWAIT	0735
WY602	DUBAI	0805
WY202	BOMBAY	0815
WY102	LONDON HEATHROW	0820
FZ043	DUBAI	0850
WY272	JAIPUR	0855
G9114	SHARJAH	0915
WY342	LAHORE	0920
WY242	DELHI	0920
WY236	HYDERABAD	0920
WY346	ISLAM ABBAD	0930
WY226	COCHIN	0930
WY212	TRIVANDRUM	0940
EK862	DUBAI	0940
WY252	MADRAS	0940
WY282	BANGALORE	1000
QR1128	DOHA	1010
EY382	ABU DHABI	1015
9W530	TRIVANDRUM	1035
WY604	DUBAI	1110
WY844	MANILA	1110
WY918	KHASAB	1115
GF562	BAHRAIN	1130
WY372	COLOMBO	1140
FZ037	DUBAI	1200
WY384	MALE	1205
IX337	CALICUT	1210
WY902	SALALAH	1215
PA450	LAHORE	1215
WY716	ZANZIBAR	1225
WY3302	MUKHAIZNA	1230
WY324	KARACHI	1230
WY818	BANGKOK	1305
WY606	DUBAI	1330
WY906	SALALAH	1445
WY320	KHASAB	1445
WY632	ABU DHABI	1530
FZ045	DUBAI	1555
WY204	BOMBAY	1710
WY292	CALICUT	1720
WY3304	MUKHAIZNA	1730
WY610	DUBAI	1730
WY246	DELHI	1730
WY264	LUCKNOW	1735
WY284	BANGALORE	1740
WY232	HYDERABAD	1740
WY664	DOHA	1745
QR1126	DOHA	1745
EK864	DUBAI	1750
WY3922	DUQUM OMAN	1755
GF564	BAHRAIN	1810
WY822	KUALA LUMPUR	1910
EK864	DAMMAM	1910
WY684	RIYADH	1910
G9116	SHARJAH	1915
WY254	MADRAS	1920
WY646	KUWAIT	1925
WY434	TEHRAN	1940
FZ047	DUBAI	1945
WY338	KATHMANDU	2010
WY614	DUBAI	2030
WY948	JAKARTA	2055
WY124	MUNICH	2105
AI977	BANGALORE-HYDERABAD	2105
4H561	DACCA	2115
KL441	AMSTERDAM-DOHA	2120
WY624	DUBAI	2125
AI973	DELHI	2125
6.00E+81	BOMBAY	2130
WY312	CHITTAGONG	2140
WY914	SALALAH	2140
9W534	COCHIN	2140
FZ049	DUBAI	2145
AI907	MADRAS	2200
WY414	AMMAN	2205
QR1134	DOHA	2210
WY928	SALALAH	2220
GF566	BAHRAIN	2240
BA073	LONDON HEATHROW-ABU DHABI	2250
EY388	ABU DHABI	2250
WY326	KARACHI	2255
SG061	AHMEDABAD	2300
WY908	SALALAH	2305
AI985	AHMEDABAD-BOMBAY	2310
WY662	DOHA	2315
LX242	ZURICH-DUBAI	2320
9W540	BOMBAY	2325
LH618	FRANKFURT-ABU DHABI	2330
WY612	DUBAI	2335
WY654	BAHRAIN	2340
WY696	DAMMAM	2350

FLT NO	DEPARTURES TO	ETD
AI986	BOMBAY	0005
LX243	DUBAI-ZURICH	0020
9W539	BOMBAY	0025
BA072	ABU DHABI-LONDON HEATHROW	0025
WY715	ZANZIBAR	0040
LH619	ABU DHABI-FRANKFURT	0050
WY211	TRIVANDRUM	0110
WY251	MADRAS	0110
WY201	BOMBAY	0120
WY225	COCHIN	0125
WY235	HYDERABAD	0135
WY601	DUBAI	0150
WY281	BANGALORE	0150
WY345	ISLAM ABBAD	0150
WY341	LAHORE	0150
WY241	DELHI	0155
WY271	JAIPUR	0200
WY643	KUWAIT	0200
WY637	ABU DHABI	0205
WY657	BAHRAIN	0205
WY821	KUALA LUMPUR	0205
WY123	MUNICH	0210
WY371	COLOMBO	0210
WY667	DOHA	0225
WY383	MALE	0235
WY901	SALALAH	0240
WY847	JAKARTA	0245
4H584	DACCA	0245
BG022	CHITTAGONG-DACCA	0250
PK230	LAHORE	0315
TK777	BAHRAIN-ISTANBUL	0350
EK867	DUBAI	0455
FZ042	DUBAI	0510
QR1133	DOHA	0520
EY385	ABU DHABI	0525
GF561	BAHRAIN	0745
WY603	DUBAI	0800
WY3301	MUKHAIZNA	0800
WY903	SALALAH	0800
WY323	KARACHI	0800
WY917	KHASAB	0815
WY263	LUCKNOW	0920
WY291	CALICUT	0920
FZ044	DUBAI	0935
WY283	BANGALORE	0940
WY245	DELHI	0955
WY231	HYDERABAD	0955
G9115	SHARJAH	1005
WY815	BANGKOK	1010
WY203	BOMBAY	1030
WY905	SALALAH	1030
WY605	DUBAI	1030
WY337	KATHMANDU	1040
WY253	MADRAS	1040
EK863	DUBAI	1055
WY311	CHITTAGONG	1100
EY383	ABU DHABI	1105
QR1129	DOHA	1115
9W533	COCHIN	1135
WY919	KHASAB	1145
GF563	BAHRAIN	1215
WY631	ABU DHABI	1220
IX350	CALICUT	1310
FZ038	DUBAI	1315
PA451	LAHORE	1315
WY683	RIYADH	1320
WY3303	MUKHAIZNA	1330
WY433	TEHRAN	1330
WY663	DOHA	1330
WY113	FRANKFURT	1400
WY101	LONDON HEATHROW	1400
WY645	KUWAIT	1405
WY413	AMMAN	1405
WY153	ZURICH	1405
WY143	MALPENSA	1415
WY131	PARIS	1420
WY609	DUBAI	1420
WY405	CAIRO	1430
WY693	DAMMAM	1430
WY3921	DUQUM OMAN	1455
WY675	JEDDAH	1630
WY613	DUBAI	1700
FZ046	DUBAI	1700
WY913	SALALAH	1735
QR1127	DOHA	1845
WY681	RIYADH	1845
WY907	SALALAH	1850
GF565	BAHRAIN	1855
WY647	KUWAIT	1900
WY661	DOHA	1900
EK865	DUBAI	1905
WY695	DAMMAM	1910
WY653	BAHRAIN	1920
WY653	BAHRAIN	1920
G9117	SHARJAH	2005
WY909	SALALAH	2015
WY611	DUBAI	2025
FZ048	DUBAI	2040
WY635	ABU DHABI	2040
WY915	SALALAH	2110
AI978	HYDERABAD-BANGALORE	2200
4H561	JEDDAH	2215
FZ050	DUBAI	2225
KL442	DOHA-AMSTERDAM	2230
WY817	BANGKOK	2235
9W529	TRIVANDRUM	2240
WY411	AMMAN	2240
6.00E+82	BOMBAY	2245
AI908	MADRAS	2300
AI974	DELHI	2310
WY677	MEDINA	2310
QR1135	DOHA	2320
GF567	BAHRAIN	2325
WY673	JEDDAH	2350
EY381	ABU DHABI	2350

TUESDAY

FLT NO	ARRIVALS FROM	ETA
WY636	ABU DHABI	0005
WY406	CAIRO	0005
WY682	RIYADH	0005
WY676	JEDDAH	0005
WY648	KUWAIT	0010
WY816	BANGKOK	0015
WY910	SALALAH	0030
WY916	SALALAH	0125
NL768	LAHORE	0130
PK281	ISLAM ABBAD-SIALKOT	0200
PK225	KARACHI	0215
TK774	ISTANBUL	0215
QR1132	DOHA	0345
ET624	ADDIS ABABA	0350
EK866	DUBAI	0355
EY384	ABU DHABI	0405
GF560	BAHRAIN	0405
FZ041	DUBAI	0415
WY658	BAHRAIN	0640
4H562	JEDDAH	0645
WY638	ABU DHABI	0650
WY902	SALALAH	0655
WY678	MEDINA	0700
WY686	RIYADH	0700
WY412	AMMAN	0705
WY114	FRANKFURT	0715
WY144	MALPENSA	0720
WY154	ZURICH	0720
WY692	DAMMAM	0725
WY674	JEDDAH	0730
WY668	DOHA	0735
WY132	PARIS	0800
WY602	DUBAI	0805
WY202	BOMBAY	0815
WY432	TEHRAN	0815
WY102	LONDON HEATHROW	0820
FZ043	DUBAI	0850
WY272	JAIPUR	0855
G9114	SHARJAH	0915
WY236	HYDERABAD	0920
WY242	DELHI	0920
WY346	ISLAM ABBAD	0930
WY252	MADRAS	0940
EK862	DUBAI	0940
QR1128	DOHA	1010
EY382	ABU DHABI	1015
WY3302	MUKHAIZNA	1045
QR8550	DOHA	1050
WY604	DUBAI	1110
WY918	KHASAB	1115
G9841	RAS AL KHAIMA	1120
GF562	BAHRAIN	1130
WY424	BEIRUT	1130
WY372	COLOMBO	1140
FZ037	DUBAI	1200
IX337	CALICUT	1210
WY904	SALALAH	1215
WY818	BANGKOK	1305
PK191	GWADUR	1320
WY606	DUBAI	1330
BG023	CHITTAGONG	1345
WY324	KARACHI	1355
IX817	MANGALORE-ABU DHABI	1440
WY920	KHASAB	1445
WY906	SALALAH	1445
WY3304	MUKHAIZNA	1445
KU677	KUWAIT	1525
WY632	ABU DHABI	1530
FZ045	DUBAI	1555
G9119	SHARJAH	1555
WY328	LAHORE	1600
WY204	BOMBAY	1710
WY292	CALICUT	1720
WY246	DELHI	1730
WY264	LUCKNOW	1735
WY232	HYDERABAD	1740
WY216	TRIVANDRUM	1740
QR1126	DOHA	1745
WY664	DOHA	1745
EK864	DUBAI	1750
GF564	BAHRAIN	1810
WY3306	MUKHAIZNA	1845
SV534	RIYADH	1900
WY822	KUALA LUMPUR	1910
G9116	SHARJAH	1915
WY646	KUWAIT	1925
TG507	BANGKOK-KARACHI	1935
FZ047	DUBAI	1945
WY338	KATHMANDU	2010
WY614	DUBAI	2030
WY224	COCHIN	2045
WY124	MUNICH	2105
WY386	MALE	2110
4H561	DACCA	2115
AI973	DELHI	2125
WY624	DUBAI	2125
6.00E+81	BOMBAY	2130
WY974	COLOMBO	2140
WY312	CHITTAGONG	2140
WY914	SALALAH	2140
FZ049	DUBAI	2145
WY254	MADRAS	2155
AI907	MADRAS	2200
QR1134	DOHA	2210
WY928	SALALAH	2220
UL205	COLOMBO	2225
GF566	BAHRAIN	2240
BA073	LONDON HEATHROW-ABU DHABI	2240
EY388	ABU DHABI	2250
WY672	MEDINA	2250
WY908	SALALAH	2305
AI985	AHMEDABAD-BOMBAY	2310
WY662	DOHA	2315
LX242	ZURICH-DUBAI	2320
9W540	BOMBAY	2325
LH618	FRANKFURT-ABU DHABI	2330
WY612	DUBAI	2335
WY654	BAHRAIN	2340
WY717	ZANZIBAR-DARESSLAM	2355

FLT NO	DEPARTURES TO	ETD
AI986	BOMBAY	0005
LX243	DUBAI-ZURICH	0020
9W539	BOMBAY	0025
BA072	ABU DHABI-LONDON HEATHROW	0025
SG062	AHMEDABAD	0030
LH619	ABU DHABI-FRANKFURT	0050
WY685	RIYADH	0105
WY251	MADRAS	0110
WY423	BEIRUT	0115
WY201	BOMBAY	0120
WY235	HYDERABAD	0135
WY601	DUBAI	0150
WY345	ISLAM ABBAD	0150
WY241	DELHI	0155
WY431	TEHRAN	0155
WY271	JAIPUR	0200
WY657	BAHRAIN	0205
WY821	KUALA LUMPUR	0205
WY637	ABU DHABI	0205
WY123	MUNICH	0210
WY371	COLOMBO	0210
WY667	DOHA	0225
NL769	LAHORE	0230
WY691	DAMMAM	0235
WY901	SALALAH	0240
PK282	SIALKOT	0300
TK775	ISTANBUL	0315
PK226	KARACHI	0315
ET625	ADDIS ABABA	0450
EK867	DUBAI	0455
FZ042	DUBAI	0510
QR1133	DOHA	0520
EY385	ABU DHABI	0525
WY3301	MUKHAIZNA	0715
4H562	DACCA	0745
GF561	BAHRAIN	0745
WY903	SALALAH	0800
WY603	DUBAI	0800
WY917	KHASAB	0815
WY323	KARACHI	0820
WY263	LUCKNOW	0920
WY215	TRIVANDRUM	0920
WY291	CALICUT	0920
WY327	LAHORE	0930
FZ044	DUBAI	0935
WY385	MALE

ENTERTAINMENT

CINEMA SCHEDULE

CITY CINEMA سيتي سينما

RUWI | SHATTI | MGM | SOHAR | SUR | BURAIMI | SALALAH

• CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF 3 YEARS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CINEMA • BOX-OFFICE COUNTER OPENS 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE SCREENING OF THE FIRST SHOW

SHATTI

Dragon Bade (2D) (Act | Adv) (PG12)
Cast: John Cusack, Jackie Chan
2:45, 7:15 PM
The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2D) (Animation) (PG)
Cast: Tom Kenny, Antonio Banderas;
2:00, 3:45, 5:30 PM
Boys of Abu Ghraib (2D) (Dr) (15+)
Cast: Luke Moran, Sara Paxton
5:15, 9:45 PM
The Loft (2D) (Thriller) (15+)
Cast: Karl Urban, James Marsden
9:35, 11:30 PM
Whiplash (2D) (Drama) (PG)
Cast: Miles Teller, Melissa Benoist
7:15 PM
The Atticus Institute (2D) (Hor)
Cast: William Mapother, Julian Acosta;
11:45 PM (15+)
The Wedding Ringer (2D) (Co) (TBC)
Cast: Kevin Hart; 2:00, 7:45 PM
Housebound (2D) (Co/Horror) (15+)
Cast: Morgana O'Reilly, Glen-Paul Waru;
4:00, 11:45 PM
Plan B (2D) (Thriller) (12+)
Cast: Khaled El Nabawy; 6:00 PM
Kingsman: The Secret Service (2D)
(Action | Adventure) (15+)
Cast: Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson
9:15 PM

MUSCAT GRAND MALL
Gold Class

The Wedding Ringer (2D)(Co/Rom)
Cast: Kevin Hart, Josh Gad,
10:15 AM & 06:15 PM;
Gold Class: 07:00 PM
Whiplash (2D): (Drama/Music) ()
Cast: Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons
12:15 PM & 05:30 PM
Gold Class: 05:00 PM
The Loft (2D) (Act/Thriller) (15+)
Cast: Karl Urban, James Marsden
02:15 PM, 8:15 PM & 10:00 PM
Gold Class: 3:05 PM & 11:15 PM
Kingsman: The Secret Service (2D)
(Action/Comedy) (15+)
Cast: Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson
11:45 PM
Dragon Blade (2D) (Act/Adv) (PG12)
Cast: John Cusack, Jackie Chan
4:00 & 11:45 PM; Gold Class: 8:55 PM
Badlapur (Hindi) (2D) (Crime)
Cast: Varun Dhawan, Nawazuddin
Siddiqui, Huma Qureshi; 9:15 PM
The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water (2D)(Animation/C) (PG)
Cast: Tom Kenny, Antonio Banderas
10:30 AM, 02:00 PM & 3:45 PM
Gold Class: 1:15 PM
Song One (2D) (Drama) (PG)
Cast: Anne Hathaway, Johnny Flynn;
12:15 PM & 07:30 PM

RUWI

SCREEN 1

Badlapur – (Action | Drama) – 15+
Cast: Varun Dhawan, Huma Qureshi,
3.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

SCREEN 2

Shamitabh - Hindi (Drama) - (PG)
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Dhanush,
Akshara Haasan; 3.45, 9.45pm
Anegan (Tamil) (Ro/Dr/Act) - PG
Cast: Dhanush, Amyra Dastur
6.45pm

SCREEN 3

Dragon Blade – English (Act) PG12
3.45, 9.45 pm
Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge
(Romance) - PG
Cast: Shahrukh Khan , Kajol
6:30 pm

SOHAR

Dragon Blade – 2D (PG12) Act | Adv
Cast: John Cusack, Jackie Chan
03:15, 09:30, 11:45 PM
The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water – 2D (PG) Animation | Adv
Cast: Tom Kenny, Antonio Banderas,
03:45, 05:30 PM
Boys of Abu Ghraib – 2D (15+) Drama | Thriller | War
Cast: Luke Moran, Sara Paxton
03:15, 07:30 PM
The Loft – 2D (15+) Thriller
Cast: Karl Urban, James Marsden
5:30, 09:15, 11:45 PM
Kingsman: The Secret Service – 2D
(15+) Action | Adventure | Comedy
Cast:Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson
03:00, 09:00 PM
Whiplash– 2D (PG) Drama | Music
Cast: Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons
05:15 PM
The Wedding Ringer– 2D (15+)
Comedy | Romance
Cast: Kevin Hart, Josh Gad, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting
05:15, 07:15 PM
Housebound – 2D (15+) Com| Hor
Cast: Morgana O'Reilly, Rima Te Wiata,
07:15, 11:30 PM
Plan B – 2D (12+) Thriller
Cast: Khaled El Nabawi
07:15 PM
Badlapur – 2D (15+) Crime
Cast: Varun Dhawan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Huma Qureshi; 12:45, 9:15, 11:15 PM

BURAIMI

The Atticuse Institute (Hor) (15+)
Cast: William Mapother, Julian Acosta, Anne Betancourt
03:30, 06:15, 10:00 PM
The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water – 2D (PG) Animation | Adv
Cast: Tom Kenny, Antonio Banderas,
02:45, 05:15 PM
The Loft – 2D (15+) Thriller
Cast: Karl Urban, James Marsden
04:30, 08:00, 11:45 PM
Badlapur – 2D (15+) Neo-Noir / Cr
Cast: Varun Dhawan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Huma Qureshi'
6:30, 09:15, 11:15 PM
Dragon Blade – 2D (PG12) Act| Adv
Cast: John Cusack, Adrien Brody, Jackie Chan
04:00, 07:00, 09:00, 11:45 PM

SUR

Dragon Blade (Act / Adv /) (PG12)
Cast : John Cusack, Jackie Chan
7:15, 9:30, 11:45 PM
The Loft (Thriller) (15+)
Cast : Karl Urban, James Marsden
5:15, 6:45 PM
The Spongebob movie: Sponge Out of Water (2D)(Animation) (PG)
Cast : Tom Kenny, Antonio Banderas, Bill Fagerbakke
5:00 PM
Badlapur (Neo-Noir / Crime) (15+)
Cast : Varun Dhawan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Huma Qureshi
8:45, 11:15, PM

SALALAH

Loft (2D)(15+) (Thriller)
11:30AM, 7:15PM, 11:30PM
Dragon Blade (2D/PG12) (Act | Adv)
3:20PM, 9:15PM, 11:45PM
Boys of Abu Ghraib (2D/15+) (War)
Cast: Luke Moran, Sean Astin; 7:30PM
The Atticus Institute (2D/15+)
(Drama | Horror | Thriller) 9:30PM
Whiplash (2D/PG) (Drama | Music)
5:30PM
The Wedding Ringer (2D/15)
(Comedy | Rom); 1:30PM ,6:45 PM
Song One (2D/PG) (Drama)5:40PM
The Spongebob (2D/PG) (Animation)
Cast: Tom Kenny, Antonio Banderas,
12:30PM
The Spongebob (3D/PG) (Animation)
2:00, 3:45 PM
Housebound (2D/15+) (Co | Hor)
Cast: Morgana O'Reilly, Glen-Paul Waru; 10:30 AM, 4:45PM
Badlapur (2D/15+) (Neo-Noir / C)
Cast: Varun Dhawan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Huma Qureshi
2:15PM,8:45PM,11:15PM
Kingsman: The Secret Service
(2D/15+) (Act/Adv)
11:45AM

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BAHJA CINEMA

DRAGON BLADE (Action) (PG 12)
Cast : Jackie Chan, John Cusack
3.45, 9.45 & 11.55pm; CP No: 473
BOYS OF ABU GHRAIB (Dr)
Cats: Luke Moran, Sara Paxton
2.00, 7.45 & 10.00pm
CP No: 472(15+)
HOUSEBOUND (Horror / Thriller)
Cast: Morgane O Reilly, Rima Te Wiata, Glen Paul Waru
4.00 & 8.00pm; CP No: 471 (15+)
THE ATTICUS INSTITUTE : (Horror / Thriller)
Cast: William Mapother, Julian Acosta,
6.00 & 11.55 pm; CP No: 470 (15+)
THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER : (Animation)
Cast: Tom Kenny, Glancy Brown
2.00 & 6.00 pm; CP No: 474 (PG)

Film Information - 24540856 / Advance Booking - 24540855
Website: www.albahjacinemaoman.com

STARS CINEMA

Film information 24791641 / 24786776

Temper (Telugu) (Act/ Thriller)
Cast: Jr Ntr, Kajal Agarwal & Pakash Raj
3:30pm at Cinema Main; 6:45pm & 9:45 pm at Cinema- 3
Badlapur (Hindi) (Act)
Varun Dhawan & Yami Gauthami
3:30 & 9:30pm at Cinema -2
Yennai Arindhaal (Tamil/Act/ Thriller) Ajit Kumar, Anushka Shetty
6: 30pm at Cinema 2
Picket 43 (Mal) (Act/Thrill)
Prithviraj, Javed Jafry & Renji Panikker
3:45 at Cinema 3, 6:45pm at Cinema 4, 9.30pm at Cinema main
Anegan (Tamil) (Romance)
Cast: Dhanush, Karthik, Amyra Dastur
6: 30pm at Cinema Main, 3:45 & 9:45pm at Cinema 4 **NEXT CHANGE: Fireman on mission (Mal), Kakki Sattai (Tamil)**

For More Information 24789032, 24786776
Website: www.isurf.co.om

ACES ON BRIDGE

Even a two can have its day in the sun

North
♠ 10 9 7 6
♥ 6 2
♦ A J 10 8 3
♣ 5 4

West
♠ 5 4
♥ A J 9 8 7 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ 8 6

East
♠ A J 8
♥ K Q 10 5 4
♦ K 5 4
♣ 10 7

South
♠ K Q 3 2
♥ --
♦ 9 6
♣ A K Q J 9 3 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	2♦	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♥ A

ELVIS Presley said, "I have no use for bodyguards, but I have a very special use for two highly trained certified public accountants."

Wouldn't we all like to be in that position?

Today is 2/2, so it seems only fair if a two plays a key role in a deal. This one comes from "Right Through the Pack" by Robert Darvas and Norman de Villiers Hart, which is a fun book containing 52 chapters — one for each card in the deck.

How does the spade two become critical in this deal? South is in five spades doubled. West leads the heart ace, and South ruffs with his spade three. What happens after that?

The book was originally published in 1948, when bidding was much less refined. Today, West would make a two-heart weak jump overcall. And North, over one heart, would make a negative double (or perhaps pass). As it went, no doubt North should have doubled five hearts and collected the 500-point penalty. But the vulnerability and the necessity not to ruin the story required him to bid five spades. East understandably thought he could defeat that contract.

At the table, South led his spade queen at trick two. East won with his spade ace and returned a heart. South carefully ruffed with his spade king, not the two, then led that two to dummy's nine. Now the contract could not be defeated. Declarer lost only two trump tricks.

Of course, if East had been a spoilsport, he would not have won the second trick. Then South would have had to fail.

Phillip Alder

SUDOKU

	5	1		8	4			
		9				6	8	
			7		3	4	5	
	4		3	7			6	
9		8		4			2	7
						9	3	4
				6				
	1	3			2	7	9	
6	9		1		8		4	2

HOW TO PLAY

Fill the empty cells with the numbers 1 to 9, so that each number appears once in each row, column and area.

— Seven Galaxies

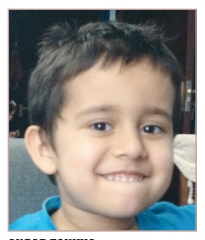
6	8	7	9	1	2	3	4	5
3	2	5	7	6	4	8	1	9
9	1	4	8	5	3	7	2	6
7	6	9	2	3	5	4	8	1
2	4	8	6	9	1	5	7	3
1	5	3	4	8	7	9	6	2
8	3	1	5	7	6	2	9	4
5	7	2	1	4	9	6	3	8
4	9	6	3	2	8	1	5	7

Previous puzzle Solution

WITH LOVE



TVISHA K. LATHGARA
February 23, 2011



ANGAD TANKHA
February 23



PRITHVI LAL
February 22, 2003



SHAHIRA
February 20

Send us a colour photograph of the child (below 16 years) whose birthday you are celebrating, along with his/her full name, date of birth, address, telephone number and parents'/your name to Times of Oman, With Love, PO Box 770, PC 112, Ruwi or through e-mail to extra@timesofoman.com

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
18					■	19		20		■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	■	■	23		24	25	26
27	28	29		■	30	31	32		■	33		
34				■	35			■	36			
37			■	38				■	39			
40			41		■	■	42	43		■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	46	■	47		48	49	50
51	52	53		■	54		55					
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60					61		

ACROSS
1 Prune off
4 Enterprise offerings
8 Kind of doctor12 FedEx rival
13 Castle, in chess
14 "El —" (Marty Robbins tune)
15 Impish
17 Party-tray cheese
18 John of "Crocodile Rock" fame
19 NFL broadcaster
21 Herbal infusion
23 Different
27 Remote button
30 Armour-crushing weapon
33 Prior to
34 Orchidlike blossom
35 Book jacket blurb
36 Put in an appearance
37 NNW opposite
38 Go belly up
39 Europe-Asia range
40 Golf gofer
42 Family mem.
44 Old masters
47 More helpful
51 Autumn
54 Predate
56 Donnybrook
57 Name in fashion
58 Brown the bandleader
59 Orbit segments
60 Locate
61 "Rizzoli & Isles" channel

DOWN
1 Bit of fishing gear
2 October gem
3 Furtive whisper
4 Swamp whooper
5 Internet service
6 Cameo, maybe
7 The — the limit!
8 Made purchases
9 Goalie's protection
10 My mind — — blank
11 — de guerre
16 Dove shelters
20 "The Bells" poet
22 Lectern
24 Listen in
25 "Cope Book" aunt
26 Film spool
27 Odds and ends, briefly
28 Pliny's bear
29 Attached
31 Catch cold
32 Ocean fishes
36 Block-shaped
38 Memo acronym
41 Knuckleheads
43 Like helium
45 Aberdeen kids
46 Cut
48 Roman foe
49 Jeannie portrayer
50 Lull
51 Brother's title
52 Oxygen source
53 Rapper Tone —
55 Overly

P	O	U	R	■	W	O	O	■	S	P	A	S
I	O	T	A	■	I	R	A	■	K	E	P	I
T	H	A	N	■	L	O	F	T	I	E	S	T
■	S	H	I	E	D	■	■	I	S	L	E	S
■	■	■	N	E	E	D	E	D	■	■	■	■
D	I	T	T	O	■	R	O	Y	■	R	O	N
A	F	R	O	■	V	I	N	■	B	E	L	A
P	S	I	■	R	A	E	■	T	E	D	D	Y
■	■	■	U	N	R	E	A	D	■	■	■	■
J	U	K	E	D	■	■	G	U	S	T	S	■
E	L	A	T	E	D	L	Y	■	I	O	N	S
E	N	Y	A	■	N	I	P	■	D	O	O	R
P	A	S	S	■	A	L	T	■	E	L	B	A

Answer to previous puzzle

MARMADUKE

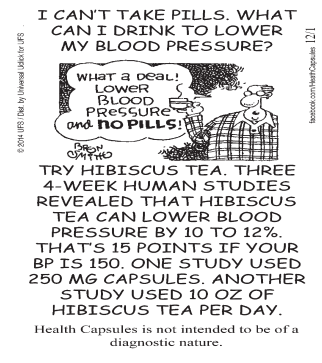


"Pit stop! Pit stop!"

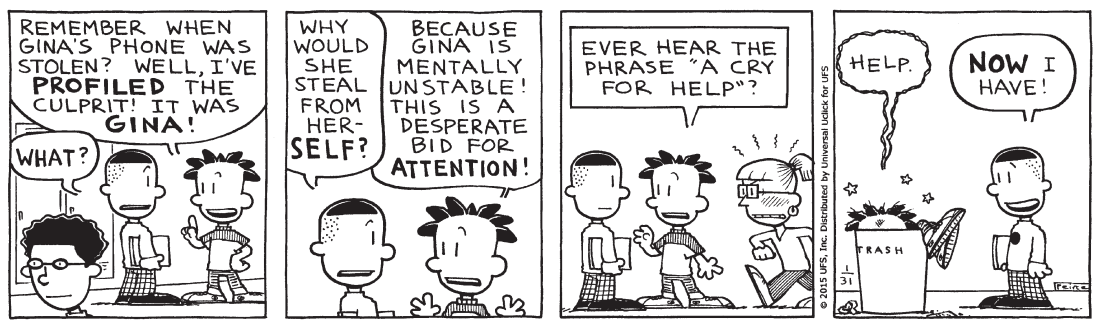
KIDSPOT



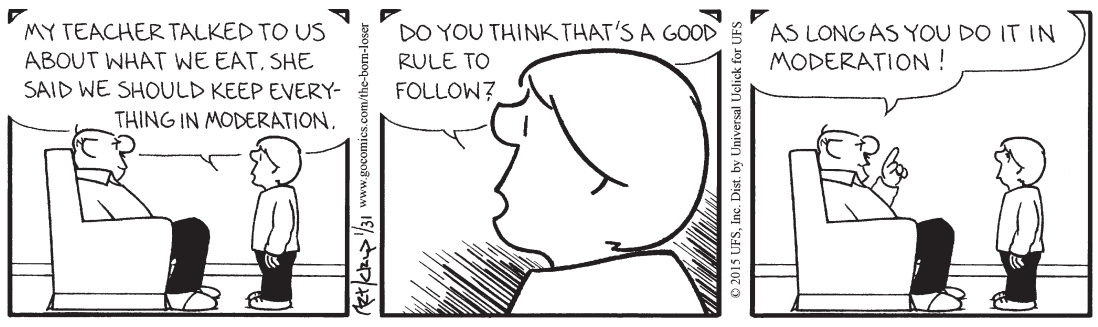
HEALTH CAPSULE



BIG NATE



BORN LOSER

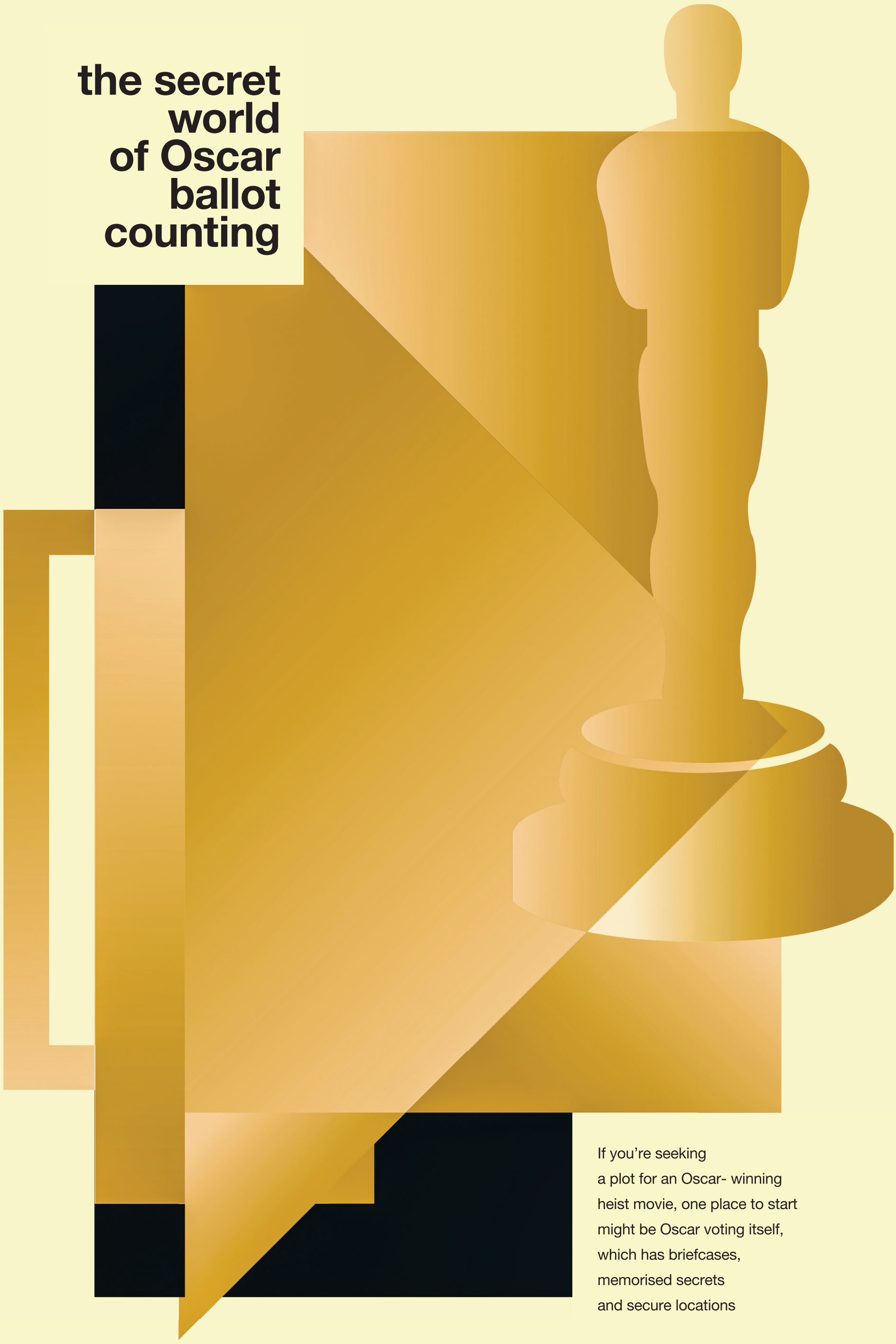




EXTRA

the oscars

the secret world of Oscar ballot counting



If you're seeking a plot for an Oscar- winning heist movie, one place to start might be Oscar voting itself, which has briefcases, memorised secrets and secure locations

This year, our two red-carpet-walking, briefcase-toting targets were Brian Cullinan and Martha Ruiz of PricewaterhouseCoopers. In its 81st year at the helm of the "Oscars balloting process." Cullinan and Ruiz were the "only two people in the world" to know who the winners were before the big show. "We take our roles very seriously," Cullinan told the *Hollywood Reporter.*

More than 6,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences were eligible to cast their ballots for which voting closed on Tuesday. "PwC tabulates the final results at a secure, undisclosed location, finishing just two days before the show," explains Variety. (Ruiz suggested to Fox News Latino that counting the votes which determined the winners took about three days.)

But this is oh so much more than a few days and a couple of people counting. There were according to Cullinan, it's a nearly year-long process. *The Los Angeles Times* indicated there's quite a crew:

"For the tallying last week, Cullinan and Ruiz supervised a team of nearly 30 members to come up with the final results. Accountants verified the votes and tabulated portions of the 23 other Oscar categories, all of which are determined by popular vote. (Cullinan and Ruiz personally handle the best picture vote counting.) The small-batch segments were then passed on to the two senior partners, who add the numbers and determine the winners. Only Cullinan and Ruiz knew the results until the moment each envelope was opened on Oscar night."

When the winners have been established, envelopes are stuffed, the number of required golden statuettes is relayed, and a whole lot is committed to memory. "The pair said that in order to ensure the names of the winners don't fall into the wrong hands they won't even make a list," according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. "Instead, they will memorised the names of the winning films in every category, then quiz each other to make sure they both have it down pat."

About those envelopes: "Two briefcases are prepared each with a complete set of envelopes bearing all the Oscar winners' names," PwC explains. Those briefcases were placed in the same safe, in a secret location, and were then taken separately by Cullinan and Ruiz, on Sunday to the Dolby Theatre in SUVs accompanied by armed guards, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. *Variety* said a slightly different story, suggesting that there are three sets of sealed envelopes, with Cullinan and Ruiz each getting a set and the third going to a secret location.

What would happen if PwC made a mistake? We'd probably never know. What would happen if Cullinan and Ruiz made a tweak or two? We'd also probably never know. What would happen if a presenter decided to read a different name than was on the little card? One hopes that our two PwC representatives, backstage and guarded, their memories serving them well, would rush to the mic and expose the farce. Or maybe just give Kanye the signal.

In the grand scheme of world events, none of this really matters. Those envelopes do not in fact contain nuclear launch codes. (Though aren't Ruiz and Cullinan the only ones in the world who actually know?) There are probably a lot more important things that our fearless leaders and their team of "tight-lipped, meticulous accountants" could be counting (see: Florida, 2000). But, if anything, the pomp and circumstance of the tallying is part and parcel of the whole evening — self- important, unimportant and utterly delightful to take very seriously.

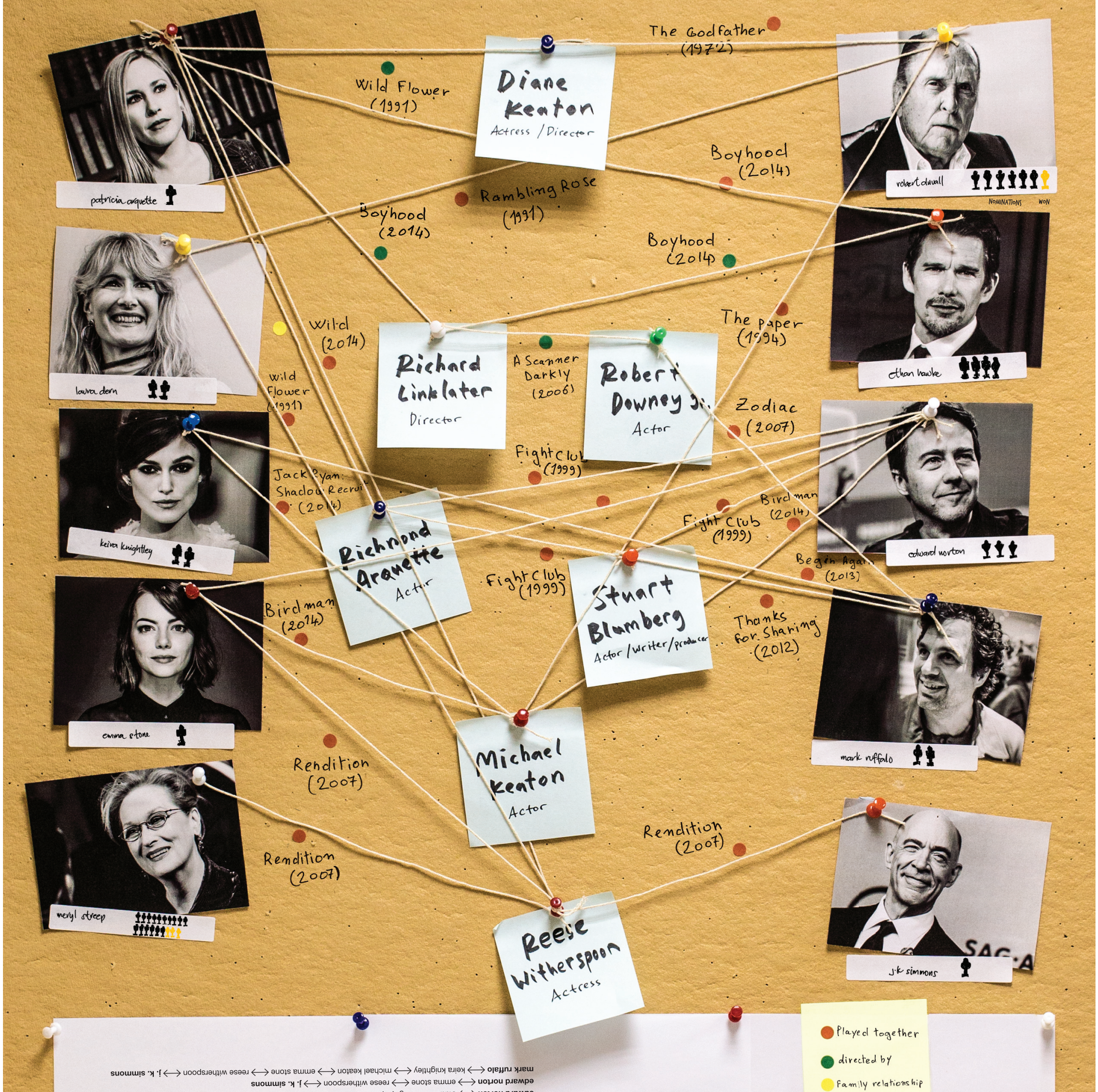
-Zara Kessler/The Washington Post

the oscars

EXTRA

the best supporting actor and actress

Six degrees separation is a theory that everyone is six steps away, by way of introduction, from any other person in the world. Here is how the nominees for best supporting actors and actress are related directly or through other persons from the film industry.



Played together
directed by
Family relationship

patricia arquette ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **laura dern**
patricia arquette ⟷ richard linklater ⟷ robert downey jr. ⟷ mark ruffalo ⟷ **keira knightley**
patricia arquette ⟷ richmond arquette ⟷ edward norton ⟷ **emma stone**
patricia arquette ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **meryl streep**
patricia arquette ⟷ Diane keaton ⟷ **robert duvall**
patricia arquette ⟷ **ethan hawke**
patricia arquette ⟷ richmond arquette ⟷ **edward norton**
patricia arquette ⟷ richmond arquette ⟷ edward norton ⟷ stuart blumberg ⟷ **mark ruffalo**
patricia arquette ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **j. k. simmons**
laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ michael keaton ⟷ **keira knightley**
laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **emma stone**
laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **meryl streep**
laura dern ⟷ **robert duvall**
laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ patricia arquette ⟷ **ethan hawke**
laura dern ⟷ robert duvall ⟷ michael keaton ⟷ **edward norton**
laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ emma stone ⟷ edward norton ⟷ stuart blumberg ⟷ **mark ruffalo**
laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **j. k. simmons**
keira knightley ⟷ michael keaton ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **emma stone**
keira knightley ⟷ michael keaton ⟷ emma stone ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **meryl streep**
keira knightley ⟷ laura dern ⟷ reese witherspoon ⟷ **robert duvall**
keira knightley ⟷ michael keaton ⟷ **robert duvall**

keira knightley ⟷ mark ruffalo ⟷ stuart blumberg ⟷ robert downey jr. ⟷ **ethan hawke**
keira knightley ⟷ mark ruffalo ⟷ stuart blumberg ⟷ **edward norton**
keira knightley ⟷ **mark ruffalo**
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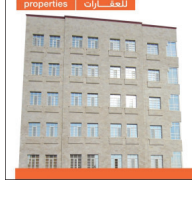
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Fully furnished at W. Kabir. Contact 99325387

Excellent 3 bedrooms flat in Al Hail Contact - 92817777

Big room attached toilet, sharing kitchen with Kerala family, looking small family or working ladies opposite Darsait Municipality. GSM: 95323562

Room available in Bousher opposite stadium. Contact 96256170

Furnished accommodation for Keralite couple in Ruwi. Contact 97385307

1BR /BT sharing kitchen for Indian family near Darsait. Contact 99746379

Furnished room with attached bathroom for non cooking bachelor in Ruwi. R.O 150/- . Contact 92478852

Family flat for sharing near Indian school Wadi Kabir. Contac 99335057

Sharing room at Ruwi main road. Contact 99385287

ACC. AVAILABLE

Furnished single /sharing room for Exe. Bachelor at Rex Road (Kannada, Telugu, Tamil) Contact 92873832

Room available near Muscat bakery, Rex Road Ruwi for Bachelor. Contact 99768952

Fully furnished room with attached bath for Executive bachelor behind Al Meera Hypermarket Azaiba. R.O 150/- . Contact 99455735

Separate 2 room bathroom, kitchen in Wadi Kabir, RO 150/-.Contact 99384640

Room with toilet & separate entrance, behind Oman House. Contact 97266345 / 94619456

Flats in Darsait of 1 room, hall, 2 toilets and kitchen. Contact 99357586 / 97500025

Furnished single room with attached bathroom near Mars Hypermarket, Al Ghubrah. Contact 97312111, RO 150/- per month

LOST

Passport Missing
A Filipino Passport bearing No. EB4373957 issued at Philippines belonging to Hubert Tangelon Perez has been lost. Anyone finding the said passport is requested to turn the passport over to the ROP.

NOTICE

Al Munjiz Trading & contracting L.L.C. It is informed that our administrative office is shifted from Hamariyah to Ruwi. New address is as follows: Sadik house, building No. 488, Mezzanine floor, Office No. 13, Ruwi. Our new telephone numbers are : 24705660/ 24705662. Our new fax number is – 24705661 Email id is: almunjiz@yahoo.com

Villa 3 BR, 2 sitting room, store, kitchen and 4 bathrooms with A/C in al Khoudh 3. Contact 94671441

2bedrooms flat, Majlis, hall and 2 bathrooms near Muscat Security Market behind Falcon Company . Contact 99412719

Single room at Walja, opposite MBD area available for Executive bachelors inclusive of electricity and water for OMR 100/- . Contact 93079877

One bedroom flats @Al Khuwair 33. Owner - 92800007

For rent flat and showroom in Al Khuwair, Ghala, Ghubrah and Darsait. Contact 24485240, 24485241, 93651633, 92109563

Office /shop near Oman house Muttrah. Contact 99233116

Villa OPP Grand Mall 2 living room, 2 hall + 3 rooms, kitchen & maid room with AC. Contact 99738881

Flat deluxe in Al Amerat Mahaj 4,3 rooms with 3 toilets. Contact 99672604

Industrial land for rent Misfa phase 2, 5400 sqm with boundary wall. Contact 99349311

2 BHK flat with A/C in Al Khuwair, RO 370/-. Contact 99358589, 95570288, 97079146

Flat in Wadi Al Kabir behind Mars Hypermarket. Contact 95099787

Commercial Building in Al Khodh, 35 Apartments and shops. Contact 95202340

Three bedroom flat for rent in Ruwi. Contact - 99336263

1) Rooms with bathroom for rent, 2) Flats with 1 room, living room and kitchen in Bausher. Contact 96961306

Offices space available min.120 upto max. 142 sqm, with data cable, pantry, cassette AC, parking, @ RO. 4/- per/sqm at Jibroo Muttrah. Contact 93221054, 99229263, 95215289

4 bedrooms Deluxe Villa available at Al Khoud-6. (2Nos.) for 450/- per month each. Contact: 93221054, 99229263, 95215289

Family flats and villas at Ansab. Contact 98458542

1B/R available for Bachelors in REX ROAD, Ruwi. Contact 99889590

Flat located in Al Muhaj Square Al Amerat on the main road. Contact 98895553

Industrial shops in Misfah RO 150/-, RO 350/-, RO 500/-. Contact 99876161

1000 SQ Mtrs industrial land for rent in Ghala suitable for warehouse workshop etc. Contact 24700120, 92584715

Industrial Land in Misfah. Contact 93009999

Single room with toilet & A/C, water, electricity in Wadi Kabir, RO 120/-. Contact 99376454

Fully furnished rooms for rent for family. Contact 99251975, Al Khuwair

For rent (flats), 2 bedrooms + hall +kitchen, location: South Al Mawaleh. Contact 99870020

Flats and shops. Contact 93009999

Flats/villas owned by ROP pension fund available for rent in Muscat. Contact 99349526

If require flats for rent in Wadi Kabir please send messages through Whatsapp or call – 99376454

BUYING/SELLING

Looking for purchase of Used Portable Compressor (350 CFM, 7 Bar Pressure) powered with Diesel run Generator. Kindly Contact 99014686 or operation@khancogroup.com

FOR SALE

Supermarket for immediate sale in Azaiba. Contact : 96 51 79 79 (Only serious buyers)

Commercial land 1100 m in Ghoubra North good for hyper market. Contact 99070093

Lands, villas & buildings. Contact 99070093

USED construction material for sale scaffolding tower hoist steel cutting & bending machine Contact 99209181

Building materials shop for sale no 20% discount items only or full shop or sale at Ruwi including jotun paint mixing machine. Contact 99421228

Show room for sale at Ghobra near Khalili Group of company's. . Contact 96569505

Clinic for sale in Rex - Ruwi area. Contact 99824232, modern. clinic1997@gmail.com

A well running coffee shop with 4 clearance for sale at Wadi Kabir Sanayya. Brokers also. Contact 94159356

Supermarket furniture for sale Contact 96296796

Office space (100sq.m) for sale on service road to exhibition centre Ghala. Contact 91277703

A well running restaurant for immediate sale in Al Ghubra. Contact 97464550

Coffee Shop for sale in North Al Ghubrah. Contact 95256009

Port cabins – New & refurnished Porta cabin for sale and rent. #96723468

Shop for sale at Ruwi. Contact 99103077

Fully furnished fine dining restaurant for sale near wave with 8 experienced staff. Call now- 94678813.

Master cutter for tailor shop. Contact 99359700

BUYING/SELLING

Looking for commercial lands for sale in Al Ghobrah North (urgent serious buyers, commercial lands in al Ghobrah North (corners prime location). Contact 91155779

AVAILABLE

Established Restaurant for rent with sponsorship. Contact 97628242

Party & Wedding equipment rentals. Full line, from Tables, Linen & Skirting, Chairs & Chair covers, Cutlery, Crockery, Glassware, Chafing Dishes, Ice Sculptures, to Large Sound Systems and spectacular lighting. Call Andrea 9606 2222 for Catering and Croyden 9623 5555 for Sound & Light. www.tunesoman.com, E-mail: info@tunesoman.com

ACC. WANTED

Wanted a 2 bedroom flat in around Ruwi area. Gsm 99761216

One bed room flat or Studio flat need below R.O 150. (Wadi Kabir,Rex Road, MBD or CBD)Cont. 99555026

Senior Executive Bachelor looking for a Single Room accommodation in Capital Area. Contact 99885499

Wanted a family sharing accommodation for Keralite family in Ruwi area. Please contact: 91677974

ACC. AVAILABLE

Room for rent, Located near City Seasons Hotel and Zawawi Mosque Al Khuwair, For Filipino Only Water/ Electricity/Wifi Included in the rental. Contact : 97728418

Room for rent for family & bachelor at Honda road. Contact 99040590

DAILY GUIDE

Email: dailyguide@timesofoman.com
classifieds@timesofoman.com
Tel.: 24726666
Ext: 413 / 430 /431 / 456 / 461

SITUATION VACANT

URGENTLY REQUIRED
For a reputed European MNC
Omani Accountant
Male Only
Diploma in Accounting with 0-2 years experience
Please Send Cv's to
Omanjobs@consultant.com
Fax: 25449253

Big Hospitality Restaurant & Catering Company
Requires Urgently
Marketing Sales Executive
Omani or Indian nationality with min of 3 to 5 yrs experience in the same field
Send CV to
osama@sidioman.com

REQUIRED URGENTLY
Full time driver
(with valid Oman driving license) & house maid for domestic purpose
Please contact : 95164139
between 8 am - 5 pm

ACCOUNT. & FINANCE

Urgently required a leading construction company required qualified male Accountant with experience between 10 – 15 years and possibility to join immediately. Email: alfayafy@outlook.com Fax: 24479675

One female Accounts assistant needed urgently, visa available. Send CV : cv.hrcharity@gmail.com

Required an experienced Accountant for a reputed supermarket chain, preference for the relevant arena, visa available. Contact +968- 99462429

Looking for an employee with has experience in AutoCad, basic Microsoft office and can handle **accounts** preference to who had worked in decoration field. # 95342240 Email CV at : venice.decoration@gmail.com

Accountant / Clerk – Commerce graduate with good experience in clerical job in accounts / finance related field. Please send your CV to inmaoman@inmaoman.com or Fax No.24552555

ADMIN/HR

Required male Admin under Senior Management with Min. 3 to 5 years exp. with excellent computer knowledge and good office co-ordination and capable to work independent. Basic Accounts knowledge will be preferable. Email: vacancyinoman123@gmail.com

Urgently required experienced Staff for a reputed hotel apartments in muscat Arabic Cook. e- mail : noronhagj27@gmail.com, tel # 97677211

BEAUTICIAN

Urgently required Indian experience Beautician in location Al Hail Junaibiya good salary + food & accommodation. Contact 00968 92139922 / 92284899

CATERING

At least (3) years experience, experience in cooking (Arab European and Indian). Please send your CV to email address: info@albatnapp.com, please call GSM: 99202531

Shawarma BBQ, Tandoor makers wanted. Contact 95529970

DESIGNER

Interior designer with knowledge of Autocad 3D required for wood company. Contact 94249047 Email: mfqazi@gmail.com

DRIVER

Required Heavy Duty Driver with Omani driving license, from locally or abroad clearance available. Please send azatllc@gmail.com, fax 24422458 or call 99344279

Required light driver, present in Oman for a mechanical company in Ghala 170+ accommodation no food. Contact 99454425

Required urgently full time Driver (with Omani driving license) & House maid for domestic purpose – please contact : 95164139

Required LIGHT DUTY DRIVER E- Mail - noronhagj27@gmail.com, TEL # 97677211

Wanted driver. Contact 95112461

Required a private driver from India. Contact 92345861

DOMESTIC HELPER

Required a Filipino Housemaid for two months work (March & April) in Ruwi for husband and wife, no children. Contact Vivian : 99130693

Head of Logistics Operation Requirement:

1. Experience in similar field is essential
2. Computer literate
3. Managing a fleet of vehicles and 100 plus employees
4. Good communication skills and inter personal relations
5. Knowledge in dealing with other agencies and ministries etc

Eligible candidates please forward the CV to the following with complete testimonials to - Email:
admin@arabsand.co.om cc to - lenny@arabsand.co.om

VACANCIES
A leading electrical equipment company from the United States of America is opening branches in Oman and the rest of the GCC countries.
We are looking for well experienced Senior staff for the following positions.
Country General Managers
Marketing Managers
Please forward CVs to hrelectric@hotmail.com

ENGI./ELECT./TECH..

A leading civil Engineering Consultancy Firm in Muscat requires experienced **Architects (3 nos.), Structural Engineers (3 nos.), Architectural and Structural Draftsmen (8 nos.)** to work on Part Time Basis. Interested candidates may send their CVs to the following email id: engineering374@yahoo.com

Senior Air Condition Technician The Applicant should have an Omani Driving License and 8-10 yrs Experience in Installing, Maintaining and Servicing of All type of AC including Split, Packaged, Reciprocating Chillers, FCU and AHU Systems. Send your CV to info@binhafidh.com

Junior AC Mechanic/Technician: The Applicant should have a Min 7 yrs Experience in Installing, Maintaining and Servicing of All type of AC including Split and Packaged. Send your CV to info@binhafidh.com

CCTV Technician, Electrician cum Plumber, Mason. Contact 99383044

Required Structural Engineer, graphic designer and accountant. Email: alasalaheng@gmail.com

IT

Software / Hardware Sale Executive is required for an IT company in Muscat. Candidate must have 4 to 5 years of sales experience in Oman and has valid Oman driving license. Please send your CV with updates photo to : itmuscatemploment@yahoo.com

Required IT Technician for computer shop. Send your CV at khalid@rayyancomputer.com

MEDICAL

Required for a reputed medical center in Al Khuwair, **General Practitioner Doctor, Gastroenterologist , Neurophysiology Technician (EEG, EMG), X- Ray Technician, Marketing Executive.** Please send CV: absmc2013@gmail.com Fax: 24488660

Urgently required experienced Pharmacist with MOH license and approval. Contact 97164554 or royalmedicalservice@gmail.com

Wanted female physiotherapist with MOH License. Send CV at Email : info@sagarpolyclinic.com

Dentist required to work urgently in dreams clinic at Al Khoud and must be resident in Sultanate of Oman. Please send your CV to the following email – towershr70@gmail.com / balushi70@gmail.com / info@towersinternationalgroups.com Mobile – 99882340 / 24545914

A running general and dental clinic in Salalah for lease, **doctors** preferred required license **pharmacist** for our pharmacy. Contact 96892732491 / 96893129219

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently required Omani National Technicians - 2 nos. in mechanical company, mob: 91195143 send CV to mechoman15@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Wanted Doctor with or without MOH license for a Polyclinic. Excellent salary with accommodation and commission. Contact: 97091664. Email: mmcmuscat@gmail.com

Urgently required following staffs for a reputed Polyclinic in Muscat **Radiologist, General practitioner (GP), Orthopedic Surgeon.** Cont : 95220350, Email : drtrish_29@yahoo.com

Required Staff Nurse and a helper immediately for a medical centre Mabela. Contact..95200180

SALES / MARKETING

An Electromechanical Trading Company is seeking for **Sales Executive** with minimum of 3 years working experience in Oil & Gas and Industrial sector. Kindly send your CV to hrmuscat@yahoo.com

Wanted young and energetic Sales Executive for a Muscat based companies sales operations in Dubai. Work experiences in Dubai preferred. Contact 92269674 Email: info@mwpoman.net

Sales Executive Industrial Products: 2-3 yrs of experience with good communication & computer skills. Driving is must. Send resume to salescvv@hotmail.com

Wanted Salesman with driving licence and car. Gsm : 98805474 or email id: jobssales2015@gmail.com

Urgently required an excellent grade construction firm based in Muscat has immediate vacancy for **Marketing Executive** minimum 5 years experience with D/L. Email your CV to info@omannc.com

Highly reputed Perfume Company requires Omani Sales girl promoters. Contact 95663682, 92956876

Looking for outdoor salesman for heavy equipments. Contact- 93292015, 99656542

Required an experienced person who has ideas to start a new business in electrical field or supply with minimum cost. Contact 99426421

TOURS

Wanted an experienced person in reservations and ticketing using airlines Sabre system for a new travel agency; please send your CV to sunairways1@gmail.com



Turn to
RECRUIT JOB POSTINGS
pages every
Monday & Wednesday
with
Times OF OMAN

SITUATION WANTED

ACCOUNT. & FINANCE

A Fresh ACCA Affiliate, Pakistani male, 24 yrs, open for positions of Accounts, Audit and finance.#94541539 email: wasiqnasir_3@yahoo.com

Indian female B.Com CA INTER, 3 years internship completed, 2 years Accounting experience currently on visit visa seeking for suitable job. Contact 94682798/ 95736496 Email: giby2605@gmail.com

MBA (Finance) 3 years experience as Accountant immediately available. Contact: hyd.mushu@gmail.com

Sudanese Accountant & Coordinator looking for suitable job. Contact 97325835

Indian male 26 yrs old (kerala) searching for a accounts job. 2 yrs experience in Oman same department. Total 5 yrs experience in Accounts. NOC available, fast availability. Cont no:91354849

Indian male 28 yrs, B.Com 5 yrs experience in Oman in finance & accounting, Tally ERP. NOC is available with valid D/L. Contact 95960600

Accountant B.Com CIMA finalist 8 yrs experience. Contact 95522109

Accountant with bachelor degree in Business Administration & Accounting from Majan College with 1 year experience in Oman. Contact 96132149

M. Com with Tally, 7 yrs exp in audit (sales tax conslt) and Accounting. Ph : 93213138

Pakistani male 29 years old qualified M. Com and ACMA with three years experience in accounts looking for a suitable job presently in Oman on express visa. Contact 95479061 Email: arshad_nawaz786@live.com

Indian female MBA (Finance) 2 years Gulf experience seeking job under admin, accounts & other. Contact 98998186

Indian male Accountant looking for a suitable placement in Salalah. More than 20 yrs experience in Accounting job (upto the finalization of accounts), 8 yrs working experience in Middle East in Dubai, Muscat & Salalah. Contact 91325029

Female accountant M.com completed, 10 years experience on Tally ERP9 seeking opportunities and on visit. Contact 95520927 / 95520886

Accounting up to finalization, auditing & contact for tally ERP software Contact– 91720465

Finance Manager, CPA, with more than 15 yrs. of experience in GCC. Fully knowledgeable in Finance, General & Management Accounting . NOC available. Contact 96209331

Indian male, 19 years exp. Accountant with Oman D/L looking for suitable placement release available. Contact 92308110 / 93209014

Accounts part time works finalization, monthly report, P& L report, and balance sheet by 10 year Oman exp. Contact 96247295

Indian male 26 years, with 4 years experience in accounts and administration looking for suitable placement. Contact 93008891

Chartered Accountant (ACA, ACCA) male with 4 years of big four experience in Pakistan and Middle east looking for suitable role in accounts & audit. Contac 99751774 Email: hasan2652@gmail.com

Indian male 26 yrs, B. Com, CA, Inter completed pursuing MBA and CA, 5 years experience currently working as Cost Accountant seeks placement. Contact 94390660 Email: arunram_88@yahoo.co.in

Accountant B.Com MBA, Indian male having 5 yrs GCC exp in similar field with valid Omani D/L & NOC available. Contact: 91719385 Email: shinuyesodharan@gmail.com,

Female with MBA finance, financial and tax professional four and half years of experience seeks suitable opportunities in reputed organizations. Contact- 99792457 Email: msparveen1@gmail.com

Indian male, B.Com, Accountant – 6yrs exp in Oman, NOC available-Ready to join.contact: 98162671 ; email: prasanths3@gmail.com

Indian Male, Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant, CISA from USA, 25 Years of experience, 9 Years in Dubai, Seeking Job in Accounts, Finance, Audit, Banking, Project IT etc. Contact Pawan Gupta on 00971504273221 , 0096896123649. E mail address is pawan.praind@gmail.com and website is www.pawanpraind.com

Indian female M. Com finance, DCA, 3 years experience in accounts / finance & knowledge in ERP & Tally seeking suitable position in corporate finance / banking / consulting. Contact prapullasuvarna@gmail.com Contact 96953705

Indian Male, 25 yrs currently in Oman on visit looking for suitable vacancies in accounts, B.Com completed 1 yr experience. Contact 92024380

Indian female 24 B.Com (C.A) M.B.A working as Accountant in private Company in India with an year experience seeking suitable job in Oman now on visit visa available from 06/02/2015 till 26/02/2015. Contact 95431383 Email: narmadha070191@gmail.com

Indian male 24 yrs M.B.A having 2 yrs of experience in financial accounting up to finalization having knowledge of tally ERP 9, focus, wings, peach tree, MS Excel, Pay roll currently on visit visa seeking suitable placement available immediately. Contact 91058205 Email: aslammohammed10@gmail.com

Accountant 25 years experience M.Com accounts up to finalization 14 years in Oman. NOC release available. Contac 99640490 Email: mathutb@gmail.com

Indian male- B.Com/B.Ed/15 years Exp – 5 in Oman, seeks job in Accts/Sales/Logistics have NOC and Oman D/L with car. Contact – 92919625/93511425/ 93424828; Email- seshadricpioman@gmail.com

Male, total 17 years experience in India & Oman - India - 9 years & Oman - 8 years In the field of procurement, material controller and accountancy - Local release available (Noc) Cont no. 91680124 , 98606546

SIT. WANTED

ACCOUNT. & FINANCE

India Accountant: Male, M com, 7 Yrs experience in Accounts up to finalization, having knowledge of ERP, Tally, seeks suitable placement. Contact:93950138 Email: lijinrajan123@gmail.com

Indian male, 32 years, M. Com. 7 out of 9 years experience in Oman in Accounts/finance. Having NOC and valid Oman D/L. Contact 98277143, Email: anzarks@gmail.com

B.com doing CA Accounts/ office job male now working in Oman Noc, release available. Contact 92715465 Email: alsabathehm@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA 2 yrs experience in Accounts, Admin & HR on visit visa. Contact 92045306

Pakistani male, 25 yrs, MBA Finance, 1.6 yrs exp in Accounts seeking placement in Accounts, Administration or Business Management. Contact 92651927 / 94250149

Accountant 8 yrs experience looking for part time job. Contact 99867456

ADMIN/HR

Indian male MBA 32 yrs having 10 yrs of exp seeking suitable placement in Admin/ HR/ Operations/ Coordination/ Logistics etc. Holding valid Oman D/L .Contact - 99054786

Smart personality, professional, qualification excellent English, 10+ years Oman exp – operations, admin, management, business development, commercial available immediately. NOC. Contact 91229392

Indian male 8 yrs exp in travel arrangements & 13 yrs exp in admin, purchase, import & export business available on visit. Contact # 96142830 / 94015234

Indian male MBA 35 years having 12 years of experience in Oman seeking placement in Admin /HR operations / accounts holding valid Oman D/L. Contact 96055815. NOC available can join immediately . Email: shaiks111@gmail.com

Indian male, 27 yrs, MBA(HR & Finance) having 3 yrs experience in advertising company and have through knowledge in office co-ordination & administration, good computer proficiency on visit visa looking for suitable placement Contact 91361534, sreejith.mv63@gmail.com

14 years of gulf experience in the field of HR / Admin / logistics fluent in Arabic /English, with D/L looking for suitable position. Contact 95824598

HR/ Admin 22 years, 2 years in Oman NOC/ release available. Contact 92981324/ 97241168 Email: sreekp7@gmail.com

Indian female with excellent communication skills, confident, dedicated to work and enthusiastic. Knowledge about ms office. Has 6 years of experience in customer service, telecommunication, HR.Looking for immediate placement. Contact # 97348819

Young Indian male with 5 years Muscat experience in admin, purchase & Masters from UK seeks placement. Possess driving license. Contact 94400671

ARCHI./ DRAUGHTSMAN

Autocad D/man freelancer / part time experienced in MEP, security systems. Contact 96741935

AutoCAD Operator : Indian male 3 yrs exp. in Auto CAD 2D & 3 D civil draughtsman 3Ds MAX and Photo shop, presently on visit visa seek suitable placement. #91764358 Email: mohdsiraj02@yahoo.com

AUTOCAD D/MAN, Exp in Airport Project , Architectural , Structural Security, NOC available Ph : 98225740

Auotcad knows 3D,REVIT, MAX Ph : 97103168

BEAUTICIAN

Beautician available Indian 33 yrs, female having 24 years experience in India now in Muscat looking for suitable position. Contact 92003136

CATERING

Indian cook, Tandoori cook, male, 32 yrs, having 4 yrs of experience in Muscat in India, looking for a cook job in Hotel. Contact 93753523 / 98744307 / 92175119.

DAILY GUIDE

SITUATION WANTED

CATERING

Restaurant Manager with 15 years experience in Muscat with valid D/L available for immediate placement. Contact 94125930

DESIGNER

Keralite Bachelor professional building designer with AutoCAD, 3D Max & Accounts.
Contact: 96535497,
email : bhaviwky90@gmail.com

Design Coordinator, B Tech , MBA (TQM), Exp in Major projects, Security systems, WLAN , Tetra ,IT systems, Autocad, Design Mgmt, NOC available , Ph: 99506977

Indian female, 25yrs Bsc-FASHION DESIGNING, 3yers experience in designing field and teaching. looking for a sutable placement. Contact: 98785310.
Email: vinaya.m.nair@gmail.com

DRIVER

Light Driver having own visa looking for job as driver.
Contact 92303692

Indian male 35 yrs Qatar GCC heavy equipment license knows Arabic, Hindi & English looking for a driver placement. Contact 98739710 now on visiting visa.

Light driver looking for job.
Contact 94035746

Driver light, Gulf exp, GCC license knows Arabic, Hindi, English.
Ph: 99505934

Light duty driver looking for job, 2 yrs exp. Contact 98356230

Light driver looking for a job
2 yrs Exp in Oman language Hindi & Arabic . NOC available.
Contact: 92108930 / 97002682

With car Driver available.
Contact 96771598

Light driver looking for job 15 yrs in SKA and 2 Qatar. Contact 95043437

Driver wanted job.
Contact 99845591

Light driver looking for job, exp one year. Contact 92787245

Light driver looking for job.
Contact 91376612

Light driver looking for job, 3 yrs exp. in Oman, 5 yrs exp in Saudi Arabia, English, Arabic. Contact 96088707

LV Driver- 2 yrs Exp-know English- Contact 95292064

Light driver looking for job.
Contact 92791678

DOMESTIC HELPER

Indian house maid looking for full time or part time job care taker, cooking, cleaning.
Contact- 98562066/ 97882204

ENGG. / TECHNICAL

Omani Citizen Mechanical Engineer with 1 yer exp looking for job .
Contact:95993315
email: eaz-s@hotmail.com

Civil Engineer B.Tech , MBA Indian male 7 years experience , Oman in project management and quantity survey and skilled with primavera 6 MS Project MS Office AutoCAD seeking suitable placement having Noc valid Oman driving license. Immediately joining. Contact 98145441 / 97647060

BE 2 yrs exp electrical projects AutoCAD design/ commission available attested. Contact 97835922
Email: anascadd11@gmail.com

BE/EEE Electrical Engineer Indian male 25 years having 2.5 years experience currently on visit visa looking for suitable placement. Contact 00968-96522624 / 92770316 contact India +91- 9994024477 / 9597539520

M. Sc Mechanical Engineer
5 years experience in crusher plants production manufacturing release visa CAD/CAM. Contact 92156387 / 97838220

B.Tech Electrical Engineer, Indian male with 1year experience and practical experience in Industrial Automation tools PLC,SCADA and VFD seeking suitable placement. presently in Oman on visit visa contact:+968 99420284
Email:sadiqtk1@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
With exp of 9 yrs in Finance & Accounts-finalization/consolidation of financials as PERIFRS, treasury & banking, investments, AR/AP, Oman taxation, presently working in Sr. Finance position in Oman. Immediate joining. NOC available.
Contact 95489269,
email : prds1406@gmail.com

MANAGER
Indian male Graduate with 7 yrs exp in Sales / Marketing in Indian automobile industry.
8 yrs Oman exp with contacts clientele base, can handle Senior Management roles, valid Oman D/L.
Email: mkp2855@rediffmail.com
Contact 93342565 / 99364437

B.Tech with MBA
Having 2 yrs of experience (HDFC Bank & KINFRA IT park) **as Asst Manager Trainee/ Operations,** currently on visit looking for a suitable placement.
Contact- 94659315 / 96293641

ENGG. / TECHNICAL

BTECH (ELECTRONICS), Automation Engineer,exp in control panels, test & commn ph : 93841820

Civil Engineer (Diploma) 7 yrs exp, 4 yrs work Oman, looking for job valid transferrable ID card.
Contact 98776073
Email: eng.naju@ymail.com

Sudanese Civil Engineer Diploma, 2 years experience in construction markets seeking suitable placement.
Contact 98972282

Project / Contracts Manager, 31 yrs (with 25 yrs Oman) experience, in Govt / private sector on Multimillion R.O .Projects, Post Graduate in Civil Structural Engineering with Structural & QS background.
Contact 91400599

Civil Engineer +10 years exp, 05 years in Oman driving license Noc available. Contact 91101892
fazalurrauf@gmail.com

Electronics & Communication Engineer with 4 years Oman experience in telecom field looking for a suitable opportunity. Interested in marketing also. Possess valid Oman driving license. Contact 94145460

Indian female 24 yrs Computer Engineering Diploma, 2 yrs exp data entry MS Office, admin now on visit visa. Contact 96314974

B. Tech Purchase Engineer 2 yrs experience in sales & purchasing currently on visit visa.
Contact 93629269
Email: amair4v@gmail.com

Project Manager BSC Civil Engineering with MBA have Oman experience with 9+ years.
Contact 97046565

Quality Assurance Design, BTech Elec, MBA (TQM) , IT Infrastructure(WLAN , TETRA) Security systems(CCTV AACS),Project control Engineering, Document Control / CAD Managing /Change management, Exp in Major projects, NOC available Ph : 99506977

Iraqi Civil Engineer 12 years experience with Omani driving license.
Contact 94695595

Polymer Engineer (B.Tech), Indian male having 3 Years of experience in Tyre/Rubber Industry seeking suitable placements. GSM: 95756655
bilinkinganamchira@gmail.com

BSC civil Engineer over 19 years experience in construction field with project management skills seeks suitable placement. Noc available & can join immediately.
Kindly contact 92198264
Email: mdrana1970@gmail.com

B.E Mechanical Engineer, Indian male, 4 yrs experience in sales, Seeking suitable job on visit visa.
Contact 96137079 , 93095565,
Email : elangovivek@yahoo.co.in

Civil Engineer (Diploma) Indian female, 2 yrs experience as Q.S in Oman. Contact 93911895

Manager project /construction management M.Tech in Civil Engineering, PMP trained total 18 yrs experience, 4 yrs experience in Dubai and 3 yrs in Oman profit centre head experience in handling multimillion projects, NOC available ready to join.
Contact 91158903 Email:
luminousmercury@gmail.com

Aeronautical Engineer 24 yrs, BE, Indian excellent knowledge in Auto-Cad, PRO - E. Contact 97847986

Indian Male, 5 yrs exp.
Hardware & net working Engineer on short visit requires suitable placement. Contact 92458622

Civil Engineer (diploma) 3 yrs exp looking for placement.
Contact 95200650

Sudanese Mechanical Engineer
11 years exp in oil & gas industry.
Contact - 95928035

Mechanical Engineer BE, 4 years experience in welding & inspection & erection in power oil & gas sector having CSWIP3.1 certificate seeking good placement.
Contact : 92803878
Email: vijayanand.kvp@gmail.com

Egyptian - B.Sc Architecture & Urban planning, faculty of Engineering - Ain Shams University 14 years of experience in several companies - Experience in:
- Fields of architecture design, Shop drawings, urban planning and landscape.
- Site management and executing projects.
- Wood works, Timber facilities and furniture manufacture
- Civil works, survey and site management
- 3D modeling, visualization and illustration.

Contacts: +201025056565 +96894072121
Email: hosam_mohammad@hotmail.com

ENGG. / TECHNICAL

24 years Indian female diploma in computer science and engineering now on visit visa seek suitable placement. Contact 96314974/99107369

Industrial Automation Engineer, 4 years experience, bachelor degree in control engineering, advanced diploma in industrial automation (Dublin accord, A class) valid driving license, having 2.5 years in BMS (HVAC) in Oman Sudanese nationality is searching for a good position . Email: mahmoudmutasim@hotmail.com
Contact No: 91345102

Sudanese Telecom Engineer working in Oman for two years, total experience 5 years experience on VSAT, installation and maintenance for towers also. Contact 93391008

Quantity Surveyor (Civil Building) looking for Part time job Contact no:-94391712 E-mail address-inayathhussain@yahoo.com

Indian B.Tech Mechanical Engineer, 26 yrs, 4 yrs experience in HVAC/ MEP. Contact 94669629,
rajeevhpd15@yahoo.com

Civil Engineer B Tech, Site Engineer Experienced, Drafting on Visit Visa Ph : 91642050

Quantity Surveyor, B.Tech & H.N.D with 4 yrs experience looking for suitable placement on visit visa.
Contact 96978752, 95751278,
email : hmirfan527@gmail.com

Electrical Eng. Degree (MEP) need suitable job of construction 12 yrs exp.
Email: mohd.ateeq.khan@gmail.com

Civil Engineer PMP, MBA 15 years diversified experience in construction projects Arabic & English proficiency Omani driving license Noc available. Contact 95702191

DAE (Civil) having 3.5 years Experience 2 years from Oman with driving licences, seeking for suitable position in Construction field NOC and release available . Contact 96968554 Email: mehranahmad26@yahoo.com

Mechanical Engineer, Gulf Exp in Design and Manufacturing
Ph: 97097688

B.E Electronics & telecommunication 26 yrs, currently on visit visa seeks suitable job 4 years exp in automation and service manager .
Contact 94672935
Email: ajeshov@gmail.com

Indian B.E Mechanical with one year experience seeking suitable placement. Contact 93988064
Email: akhil.krp@gmail.com

Generator maintenance in charge with 4 yrs experience with Cummins, caterpillar, kirloskar and voltas. Contact - email: shibinmundakkal@gmail.com

Aircraft Maintenance Technician with one year experience seeks suitable placement. Contact amaljohn2002@gmail.com

Electrical Engineer experience 2008-2015 in Oman and experience 2004- 2008 outside Oman, 34 years.
Contact 96968275 / 97445304
Email: alsada_1981@yahoo.com

Civil Engineer diploma 7 years experience 4 years of Oman market in building construction seeking suitable have D/L. Contact 95847567

Telecom Engineer with 4.5 years Oman experience looking for a suitable opportunity, interested even in Marketing also. Possess valid Oman driving license. Contact 94145460

Electrical Engineer (B.E) with 8 years experience looking for job.
Contact 93909951

B.Sc Electrical Engineer, more than 16 years experience, 3 years in Oman experience in EPC contract, power plant – grid station – primary substation – SCADA system – test and commissioning engineer – DCRP approval.
Contact 96964917 Muscat Arabic and English / Oman driving license

Telecom Engineer with 4 yrs experience in Engineering & Sales VOIP.
Contact 92577245

Diploma of Associate Civil Engineering, Diploma of AutoCad, having 3.5 yrs experience, 2 yrs experience of Oman in Building Construction, valid transferrable ID Card.
Contact 94378581

Looking Part time Job in HVAC-
Contact - 93198128

Experienced female Electrical Engineer. Contact 93800906

Civil Engineer with 12 years Experience Looking For Job.
Contact 98162295

Indian Male, IT Support Engineer, 2 yrs in Oman & 5 yrs Indian experience. Contact 97311847

Indian male, 26 yrs B-Tech (ECE) with MBA in Marketing / HR looking for a suitable placement. Currently on visit visa valid up to 30 January 2015. Contact 93754428,
email : shijosirius709@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Biology, bioinformatics Lecturer (BSc, BEd, MSc, MPhil), Indian Female having 6 Years of experience in college, seeking suitable placements. GSM: 98764832 benilshad@gmail.com benilshad@gmail.com

Indian Female (MBA/B.COM), 2 years Experience as Administrator with Education Consultancy Co. seeking immediate placement. Contact-95220924 / Email// n.jakkula@yahoo.com

Indian Female (M.Com, B.ED) 2Yrs Experience in teaching seeks suitable placement . Specialization in (Accounting, Business studies, Human resource management, Economics). Presently in Visit Visa Status. Contact:97342709, Email: sininair27@gmail.com

1 year experience in teaching all subject to KG classes, currently working as a teacher in Oman, seeking suitable placement, Family visa.
Contact 92178304 / 99036256

INFORMATION TECH

BSc. Computer Engineer having skills in IT Support, Networking and Technical Sales. Looking for a job opportunity. Mobile: 9127 9617, Email: Javaid_iqbal1@hotmail.com

Indian male IT prof, MCA, 2 yrs exp as System Administrator in Oman 3+ yrs exp in (hardware, networking, widows server, exchange server, SharePoint) and 1 yr exp in (PHP, CSS, HTML, JavaScript, Ajax, My SQL in India). NOC available.
Contact 97496998

MCITP Certified B. Sc Computer Science Indian male with 5 years experience in system administrator, active directory, hyper-v virtualization, SAN, storage and SCOM.
Contact 95540976,
91- 8425879797.
Email: is_tombe@hotmail.com

SAP BO/BODS consultant 6 years experience with EMBA (IT) B. Tech (IT) OCP, OCA, ITIL & AIX qualified seeks suitable posting.
Contact 92532996 / 95740250
Email: elango2840@gmail.com

INFORMATION TECH

MCA, MBA, CCNA, MCSE, Indian male with 10 years of experience, holding Oman driving license on visit visa seeks any suitable placement. Contact 92716116 / 91266535
Email: sijuayur@gmail.com

Indian female, B. Tech, Electronics & Communications Engg - 1 year experience as Engineer Trainee in ISRO. Looking for a suitable job in Technical or IT field. Available in Muscat on visit visa ; Contact: 99056351,
Email: anithasjay@gmail.com

Sudanese computer Information System (CIS) Bachelor The American University in London 2.5 years experience. Contact 98178276 Email: khalidsme@gmail.com

Indian male 25 B.Tech (IT) Engineer 2.5 yrs exp in hardware networking. Currently on visit visa looking for suitable job. Contact – 94359564

Hardware specialist B.Tech M.Tech electronics with 10 years experience seeks suitable opportunities in reputed organizations.
Contact 91289459
Email: shrn.shrf@gmail.com

B.Tech IT Professional, Indian Male with 3 yrs of Exp. In System Admin, IT Support, Networking, Installing Active Directory, DHCP, DNS,RAS, configuring maintaining and managing servers, configuring cisco routers, Exp in handling SQL database, With Valid Driving Licence. Contact - 968 98863507

IT Prof, MCA having 6+ yrs exp, seeks suitable position.
Contact 94543668

MISCELLANEOUS

15 years Gulf experience Indian male looking for tailoring job.
Contact 96616307

M.Tech (ECE). Lady looking for a suitable job, visa status: visit up to 26th Feb. Contact 91577985 /92877265/99360719

Indian male young & enrject exp marine seaman with Indian CDC holder .oil tanker exp & V.L.O.O.C. NOC available. Contact: 94179164,
Email: vivekkpushkaran@gmail.com

Logistics Officer, Experience in Store keeping. Contact : 99505934

MANAGER/ SUPERVISOR

Indian male Graduate with 20+ years of Administration, Operations & Management experience in IT, Oil & Gas & Hospitality Industry. 12 years in Oman with vast contacts, very strong management, operational, communication and interpersonal skills, can handle any size of business and projects whether it's in initial stage or established. Can join immediately. Local release available on request.
Contact: 9906 4589

11years Oman exp, diverse responsibilities in reputed companies, smart, highly qualified, results oriented. Immediate joining, NOC.
Contact 98179887

Indian male 27 B.E(C.S.E) M.B.A working as Business Development Manager in India on software sector seeking suitable job in Oman now in visit visa available from 06/02/2015 till 26/02/2015.
Contact 95431382 Email:
madhan.easwaran@gmail.com

Qualified Manager: (12+ yrs. Oman Exp.) Vast knowledge in A/c & Admin, Costing, Banking, Credit Control, Insurance, International Purchase/ Logistics & Finance, With D/L looking for suitable position. Gsm: 93826090
Email: jskanchan01@gmail.com

Indian female with nine years of experience in 5 Star hotels as Assistant Food & Beverage Manager looking for a suitable placement in a reputed Star hotel. Contact: 91219787

MEDICAL

Indian female 28 yrs (assistant pharmacist) 4 yrs experience and MOH license currently on Oman.
Contact 95705724 /95877884

Female pharmacist with 3 years experience and MOH license currently in Oman , CONTACT 92455124

Medical- Indian female, 27 yrs, masters in hospital administration, fellowship in HTA studied in a super specialty medical sciences and research center in India and done project in an established hospital in sultanate of Oman.
Contact 93200827, 91026506

MEDICAL

Lab Technician, Civil (8yrs Gulf experience) looking for a suitable job (NOC available) Contact-93344378

Indian male Pharmacist (B.Pharma) 5 1/2 years experience in Oman seeking suitable placement in Muscat. NOC from the present employer available.
Contact +968 98525100

Female Dentist Indian, 28 years Dental Surgeon, 3 years of experience, Oman prometric passed with 64%, looking for a suitable placement in Muscat region.
Contact 91377681
Email: hashmisarwat@gmail.com

SECRETARIAL/OFFICE

Indian male more than 10 years gulf experience in Office / Sales Coordinator, Admin (employees visa processes), Secretarial and purchase with good computer skills. Having Driving license and NOC available. Looking for suitable placement.
Contact 99709336

Tunisian women looking for job, khnows english, frensh, Italian and arabic. Contact: 91171838

Indian female with 10 yrs of experience in HR/Banking/Operations seeks a suitable placement. Can be contacted on 98919015 or sherianne.coelho@gmail.com

Indian female, well experienced in secretarial, administration, customer care & supervisory jobs. 5 years experience in Muscat. Immediately available for joining.
Contact: 92139298

SKILLED / UNSKILLED

WELDER, GULF EXP IN 6G 3G TIG, XRAY PH : 99506977

Welder, 3G, 6G, TIG, Exp in Fabrication , Gulf Exp Ph : 97103168

Care taker, Gulf Exp knows Hindi, Arabic Ph: 94238840

SALES / MARKETING

MBA Male Age 27 Vast Sales Experience looking for suitable position in sales/marketing
Contact 98306921

Young female, having experience of working in Oman with expertise in the field of Event Management, Advertising, Marketing and Hotel Management. Currently on a visit visa. Seeking for a suitable Job.
Contact 96153578

Indian male 23 years BMS qualified with 2 years experience in Marketing is looking for suitable job, presently on express visa in Oman.
Contact 96724358,
Email : asifrockz@yahoo.com

Indian male 29 yrs having two yrs exp in sales seeking suitable replacement in sales store keeper back office support, warehouse assistant admin. NOC available.
Contact 94142747
Email: oasis0987@outlook.com

33 yrs Indian male, 8 yrs exp in Oman, 2 yrs sales & marketing exp have Oman driving license seeks suitable placement.
Contact 99107369

Indian female 27 yrs BA English literature PG Mass communication basic computer knowledge looking for suitable position part-time full time. Contact 97497106 Email: namithashamjith@gmail.com

Van Salesman cum driver, 38 yrs, 10 yrs GCC exp. Contact 97265733

Indian male 3 years office work excel MS office 1.5 years exp in sales age 27 years. Contact 95612321
Email: jkadavil@gmail.com

12 years UAE experienced commerce graduate India FMCG middle management sales professional with UAE D/L & car on visit. Contact 93843164

Executive Post, MBA 14 years Experience in Multinational Groups in Marketing & Management.
M.Z. 98711890

Indian female 7 yrs experience in Admin /Sales Coordination in Oman with valid Oman driving license urgently seeks suitable placement.
Contact 94176308

Indian male, B.Com, 20 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing having UAE light D/L looking for suitable post. Contact +91 9946699062,
email : sajim40@gmail.com

DAILY GUIDE

Email: dailyguide@timesofoman.com
Tel. 24726666 Ext: 413 / 430
431 / 456 / 461
Fax: 24812624







SITUATION WANTED

SALES / MARKETING

18 yrs Oman experience in Building Materials seeking suitable placement, NOC available. Contact 93105775

Indian Male, 7 yrs experience in building materials trading having Oman D/L, immediate release available. Contact 98676713

Indian Male having 7 yrs in experience in Oman Sales & Marketing Office Automation Printer, Copier, MFP, IT products & Stationery. Looking for Suitable Placement NOC Available Contact :97384748

Indian Male, MBA in Marketing and Finance, 10 years' Sales & Business Development Experience with valid D/L of Oman & UAE looking for a suitable placement. NOC Available. #93969961
e-mail abhilash.pvrk@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian female, 25 yrs, bachelors of businesses management, having experience of 5 years as a fund/financial administration, on visit visa,looking for suitable placement. Contact 94662416 Apurwaverma@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.tech bio-technology graduate. Knowledgeable in food processing techniques, having 2 yrs experieince as associate research analyst(media monitoring)in Nasdaq Omx, seeking for growth oriented job. Contact 92044603, angeline.babithac@gmail.com.

Female, MSc Chemistry, BEd, with 1.5yrs of experience as research officer in a chemical manufacturing company in India. Ph: 95243584

Male 24, looking for job in Accounts/Finance or Internal Audit department. ACCA-UK. Experience: 2 years of experience from an audit firm, also worked on Oracle R12, Tally, Quick Books and PeachTree. Email: mr.shoaibaslam@gmail.com, Gsm: +968-95459488

Accountant , Indian Male,24 years , 3+ years experience in Finance and Accounts, M.com Finance , Exposure in SAP & Tally ERP 9 , Good communication skill, on visit Visa. Contact (95366407 ,96921443)

ACCA-UK, having 2.5 years of experience in accounts, Bookeeping and audit. Looking for job in Accounts/Finance or Internal Audit department, also worked on Oracle R12, Tally, Quick Books and PeachTree. Email: mr.shoaibaslam@gmail.com, Gsm: +968-95459488

MISCELLANEOUS

Experienced, male 25, hardworking, looking for permanent job in Accounting, Finance and Auditing field, ACCA UK and B.Sc in applied accounting (OBU-UK). 2-years of practical experience with an audit firm in Pakistan. Email: AliRiazMughal@Outlook.com, Gsm:+968-95459936

IT support 6 yrs experience, male, Filipino Desktop Support, Backup administrator, Wireless Networking, server admin, laptop support, DB admin. Contact +96896126502

Male 24, looking for permanent job in Computer, IT, or Communication field ,BSC in Computer and Communication Engineering. Have some experience in Telecom field. 4-month Practical training in Hayyat Communication company (subcontractor of ooredoo). Email:adilbutt102@gmail.com. Gsm:+968-92328726.

Young Indian with 8 years experience in Multi faceted exposure in various ITES domains is looking for job in IT client/sales/delivery relationship manager. Immediate availability 98885188, fahad079@gmail.com

Indian female, B.Com. knowledge of Ms .Office & Tally, 4yrs experience in A/Cing & admin dept .looking for good placement in any field. Contact.98928220

37 years Indian Male with 10 years PDO experience Store Keeper seeking suitable placement.#95849804

Indian male, 31 years of Rich Oman experience in Multifunctional Management, Administration, Business Development, Purchase & Operations seeking suitable Manager/ Supervisory Position. Visa transfer/ NOC Available. GSM: 95036410

Pakistani, Male 24, looking for job in Accounts, Finance or Internal Audit department. ACCA-UK. 2 years of experience from an audit firm, also worked on Oracle R12, Tally, Quick Books and PeachTree. Email: mr.shoaibaslam@gmail.com, Gsm: +968-95459488

Omani Citizen Mechanical Engineer with 1 yr exp looking for job. Contact:95993315 email:eaz-s@hotmail.com

Indian Male, 31 years of Rich Oman experience in Multifunctional Management, Admistration, Business Development, Purchase & Operations. Seeking suitable Manager/Supervisory Position. Visa transfer/NOC Available. GSM: 95036410





SITUATION WANTED

Male 24, looking for permanent job in Computer, IT, or Communication field ,BSC in Computer and Communication Engineering. Have some experience in Telecom field. 4-month Practical training in Hayyat Communication company (subcontractor of ooredoo). Email: adilbutt102@gmail.com. Gsm:+968-92328726.

Accountant, Indian male, 24 years. Presently working in Oman as Accountant. 2 years experience in Accounts with Oman Driving license. NOC available seeks suitable opportunity. GSM: 93409315

MBA graduate having more than 2 years of experience in event management company as event coordinator. Looking for a suitable job in your esteemed organization which will commensurate with my qualifications. Contact no:- +96894560161, Email id:- qaisebukhari@gmail.com

Indian Male, 31 years of Rich Oman experience in Multifunctional Management, Administration, Business Development, Purchase & Operations seeking suitable Manager/ Supervisory Position. Visa transfer/ NOC Available. GSM: 95036410

Indian male executive secretary having vast experience in admin, logistics & procurement well versed with computer .seek suitable placement. Contact: 99514286, email: azimmohd@yahoo.co.in

Indian male graduate with 9 years of experience in Procurement / Contract Management SAP/ARIBA on a visit visa seeking position. Contact: 98483858.

Young, hardworking, Male 24, looking for permanent job in Computer and Communication field, BSC in Computer and Communication Engineering. 4-month Practical training in Hayat Communication company (subcontractor of ooredoo).Email:adilbutt102@gmail.com. Gsm:+968-92328726.

Indian male 28 years, 4year exp in Oman .now on free visa looking for job as freelancer. Any field contact 95642297

Male 25, hardworking, looking for permanent job in Accounting, Finance and Auditing field, ACCA UK and B.Sc in applied accounting (OBU-UK). 2-years of practical experience with an audit firm in Pakistan. Gsm: 95459936 Email: AliRiazMughal@Outlook.com

Indian Female, B.Tech-IT, Fresher, currently in Visiting Visa, Having Computer Knowledge and Excellent Communication Skill, Seeking Suitable Position in IT also in other related fields. Contact 97232497, 99108857, EMAIL: psharan24@gmail.com, parthipan61@gmail.com

Pakistani, Male 24, looking for job in Accounts, Finance and Internal Audit department.Qualification: ACCA-UK. 2 years of audit and financial services experience from an audit firm. Also worked on Oracle R12, Tally, Quick Books and PeachTree. Gsm: +968-95459488 Email: mr.shoaibaslam@gmail.com

Indian female, 25 yrs, M.Sc Software Engg. on visit visa having 2 yrs experience in IT & Admin seeks suitable placement. Contact 96985150

ELECTRICIAN : Indian male, 24 years old, a well experienced, ITI qualified, holding wireman license, 4 years experience in India, presently working in India, looking for a job in Oman. Ready to join immediately. Contact :99087175

B.E. Electronics & Telecom, Having one year experience in Muscat in Electronic field of AV System Design and installation with good Pre-sales experience. Looking for more better opportunity on executive and managing level. Contact 97423932Email: mzeeshanshaikh89@gmail.com

Male 24, looking for permanent job in Computer and Communication field ,BSC in Computer and Communication Engineering. 4-month Practical training in Hayyat Communication company (subcontractor of ooredoo). Gsm: 92328726. Email: adilbutt102@gmail.com.

PLANNING ENGINEER, 7 years of Experience in project planning and control in oil and gas, PDO & QP Approved Planner,PRIMAVERA-6,B. Tech in Mechanical engineering from CUSAT. CONTACT- mail: ullasprabhakaran@yahoo.co.in, ph-00974 70230223

Indian Female, as an Accountant. having +5 years experience in Oman till Nov 2014. Seeking suitable placement.NOC available. Currently in family visa. Contact:98447045 email:anilavandika@gmail.com

Srilankan male, 23 yrs, CIMA part qualified (completed Management level), 3 yrs experience in an American Company as an Internal Auditor/ management Trainee seeks suitable placement in Oman, good command of English in written & spoken. Contact 94633968

Indian male having valid Oman D/L, exp. in Accounts work seeks suitable placement. Contact 95731665

Male 24, looking for permanent job in Accounts, Finance or Internal Audit department, Qualification: ACCA-UK. Having experience of 2 years from an audit firm. Worked on Oracle R12, Tally, Quick Books and PeachTree. Email: mr.shoaibaslam@gmail.com, Gsm: +968-95459488

Experienced, Male 24, looking for permanent job in Accounts, Finance or Internal Audit department, Qualification: ACCA-UK. Having experience of 2 years from an audit firm. Worked on Oracle R12, Tally, Quick Books and PeachTree. Gsm: 95459488 Email: mr.shoaibaslam@gmail.com

Indian female inter ca, strong in tally erp 9, ms office, 7 years experience in accounts upto finalization looking suitable position Contact 91759501

Software Engineer, 3+ years' experience in Software Development in Microsoft .Net C#, having Microsoft Certifications, looking for a job in reputed organization. Contact 93321551, Email: shyrazkhan@hotmail.com

50 years, Indian male with 14yrs of experience in Administration, factory manager, news editor is looking for a suitable placement. Kindly contact me on +91 9840943638, E-mail: sarojmishra7165@gmail.com

Female Candidate: Having experience(ISRO) in Administration seeking suitable opportunities & presently in Oman. Contact 97239854, Mail:asherlalitha@yahoo.com

Indian Male - 24, Accountant, 3+ years experience in Finance and Accounts, M.com Finance, Exposure in SAP & Tally ERP 9, Good communication skill, on visit Visa. Contact 95366407 , 96921443

Admin Virtual Assistant - Clerical, Data Entry, Social Media, Website Content Management, Project Management, Event Planning Assistance, Basic Designs, Document Management, Promotions and Marketing. Please call 95811820.

Male 24, looking for permanent job in Computer and Communication field ,BSC in Computer and Communication Engineering. 4-month Practical training in Hayyat communication company (subcontractor of ooredoo). Email:adilbutt102@gmail.com, Gsm:+968-92328726.

Male 25, hardworking, looking for permanent job in Accounting, Finance and Auditing field, ACCA UK and B.Sc in applied accounting (OBU-UK). 2-years of Practical experience with an audit firm in Pakistan. Email: AliRiazMughal@Outlook.com Gsm:+968-95459936

Indian Female / Graduate , excellent communication skills, experience in Marketing & Administration , with D/L . Looking for a suitable placement. Contact 98072970

Indian Female, as an Accountant. having +5 years experience in Oman till Nov 2014. Seeking suitable placement. NOC available. Currently in family visa. Contact 98447045 email:anilavandika&gmail.com

Indian male 22 years B.Com Graduate 1 year exp in Accounts. Currently on visit visa. Looking urgently for placement in the field of Accounts or in Sales. Contact 94341848 / mohdhaji7272@gmail.com

Indian, Female, Pharmacist available with NOC and MOH License, preferably in Muscat. Contact 9439 1355.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation. Contact 91310107

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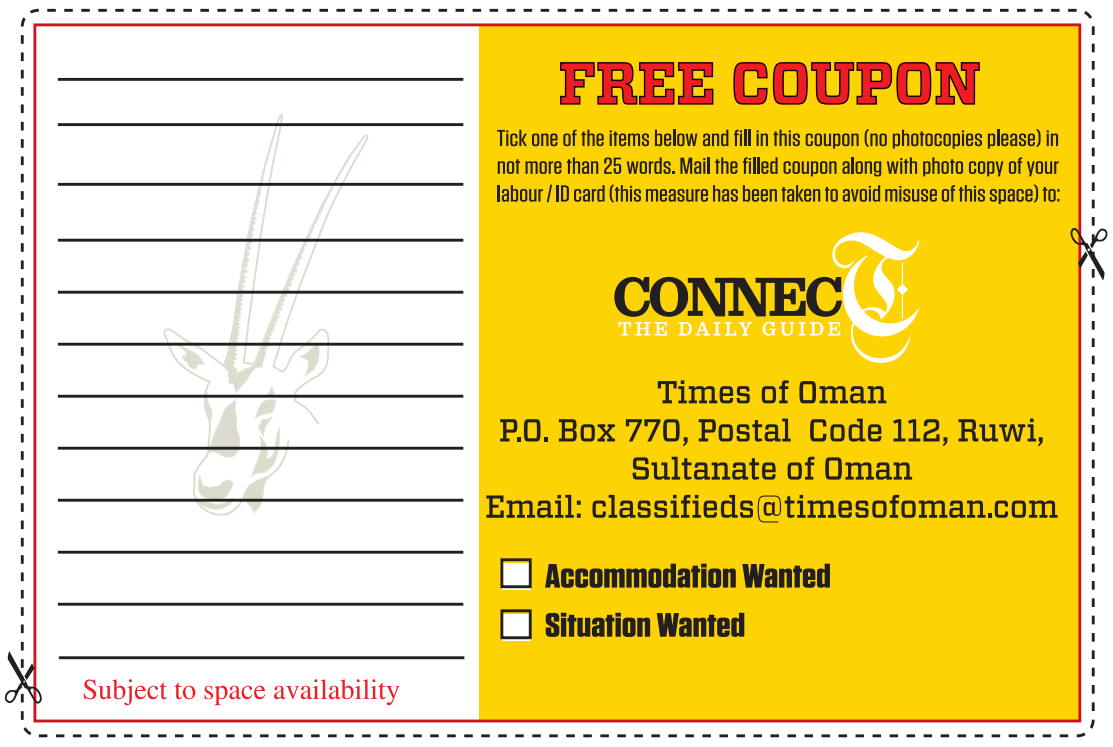
CONTD on pg 8



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We, Belim Shaukatali Sarvarkhan (name of father as per the passport holder of Indian passport No F4255259 and Belim Isratbanu Shaukatali (name of the mother, holder of Indian passport No. F2559664) having permanent address in plot No. 210, B/H Pattarwali Masjid, Shahpur, Ahmedabad-1 Gujarat complete postal address in India) and presently residing at the following address in Salalah, PB No 51 PC No. 211 , Sultanate of Oman , hereby solemnly affirm and declare to change the name of our child Miss Suzan (name as per present passport), holder of Indian passport No. J5365172 date of issue 9/3/2011 issued at Riyadh. The name of our child will be henceforth known as Belim Suzan Shaukatali (new name for all purposes). Any objection towards change of name of our minor child may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, PB No. 1727, PC 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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