



HM RECEIVES THANKS FROM QATAR

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable to him on the occasion of his country's National Day. In the cable, Sheikh Tamim expressed his utmost thanks and sincere appreciation for His Majesty's good feelings and best wishes. Sheikh Tamim wished His Majesty good health and wellbeing, and the Omani people permanent progress and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership. He also wished the strong fraternal relations between the two countries further development and growth. — **ONA**



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HM RECEIVES INVITATION FROM SAUDI KING

His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, yesterday received Dr. Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, GCC Secretary-General, who handed over a written message for His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, to attend the 41st Summit of GCC Leaders. **>A2**



HM receives thanks cable

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable to him on the occasion of his country's National Day. President Tokayev expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's

congratulations and sincere feelings. He expressed his confidence over the continuation of strong relations between the Sultanate and Kazakhstan for the interest of the two countries and their friendly people. President Tokayev also wished His Majesty the Sultan continuous health and happiness, and the Omani people permanent progress and prosperity. **-ONA**

HM sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Roch Marc Kabore of the Republic of Burkina Faso, on the occasion of him taking the oath of office as a president of his country for a new presidential term. In the cable, His Majesty the Sul-

tan expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes of success to President Kabore, and the people of Burkina Faso further progress and prosperity. He also wished the friendship relations between the two countries further development and growth. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Pottery-making: An ancient Omani craft

1 Pottery has been an intrinsic part of Oman's heritage and culture for more than 4,000 years. While today it is mainly used as decorative pieces, utensils made of clay items were a daily necessity in the Sultanate in ancient times. Bahla in Al Dhahirah Governorate has been one of the main producers of pottery in Oman. **>A4**

WORLD India COVID-19 cases at six-month low

2 India surpassed a crucial milestone in its fight against the global pandemic on Tuesday as the country recorded the lowest daily rise in over six months. Less than 16,500 daily new cases were added to the national tally in the last 24 hours after 187 days. The daily new cases were 16,922 on June 25, 2020. **>A7**

MARKET Treasury bills worth OMR119mn issued

3 Oman's central bank raised OMR119 million through treasury bills on Tuesday. The bills are for a maturity period 28 days, starting from December 30, until January 27, 2021. The average accepted price was 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price was at 99.950 per OMR100. **>B1**

Joint Omani team rescues sunken Iranian vessel

A2



NOC THE ROAD AHEAD

Once the No Objection Certificate is scrapped on January 1, 2021, preference will be given to Omanis in jobs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expats looking to switch jobs once the No Objection Certificate (NOC) system is scrapped next week can only do so once their existing employment contracts have expired.

In June 2020, the government had announced the removal of the NOC, enabling expats to switch jobs from January 1, 2021. However, absconding workers are not allowed to change their workplace. Explaining this, an official said, "Changing jobs is not linked to your visa, but rather the duration of the employment contract."

Some companies in Oman hand out contracts ranging between three to 12 months. Technically, expats are free to join another organisation

once this period has ended.

Expats, however, can't join a direct competitor, according to the documents shared by the Government Communications Centre with *Times of Oman*. The rules concerning the removal of the NOC hold good for both non-Omanis working in companies in the country, as well as domestic workers.

The documents also state that the expats are not allowed to divulge any confidential information on their old company to their new employers.

"This can also be done by signing a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) and a non-competition agreement," the Government Communications Centre said.

"Employment contracts can include a 'non-competi-

tion clause', as is the practice followed by many countries, across various sectors," it explained. "An example of this clause is one signed by lawyers in the US, which prevents them from working for a direct competitor for a certain duration." Once his/her current contract has expired, the expat worker has the choice to continue working for their current employers, should he be able to, or leave and move elsewhere.

"The rights of both parties can be included in the work contract between the worker and employer," added the Government Communications Centre.

In the matter of absconding workers it said: "If this is proven, then he is officially registered as a fugitive and legal measures are taken to deport him from the country and prevent him from entering the Sultanate."

Once the NOC has been scrapped, however, depending on the nature of work, Omani workers will be given priority, provided the salaries paid to both expats and locals for doing this job are of a roughly similar amount.

Additionally, work visas for expats will only be issued across sectors that require non-Omani workers.

"Professions cannot be changed once a work visa has been issued, except after securing approval from the Ministry of Labour," said the government body. "The number of work permits issued will be based on economic requirements."

To ensure the decision to do away with the NOC does not destabilise or strongly impact the way organisations employing foreign workers function, the Government Communications Centre said those affected by it were "given sufficient time from the date of the announcement to the actual date of its application, which comes with certain terms and conditions."

To prevent expats from leaving companies in large numbers, contracts will also have the "presence of a notification clause, or a condition for compensation, when the worker moves to another company, which must be mentioned in the employment agreement."

COVID-19

Over 1,700 vaccinated in two days



MUSCAT: More than 1,700 people have been vaccinated in Oman during the last two days.

According to statistics issued by the Health Ministry, 1,717 people were vaccinated over the past two days with Pfizer-BioNTech against coronavirus. The number constitutes 11 per cent of the target.

The largest number of COVID-19 vaccinations were registered in the North Al Batinah Governorate (509 or 19.5 percent of the target group), followed by Muscat (302 or 5.2 percent) and Al Buraimi (171 or 52 percent).

In Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, 84 people took the vaccine (8.4 percent), compared to 98 in Al Dhahirah Governorate and 81 in Musandam Governorate.

In North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, 89 people were vaccinated, while 166 took the vaccine in South Al Batinah, compared to 131 in South Al Sharqiyah, 66 in Dhofar Governorate and 20 in Al Wusta Governorate. **-ONA**





Dhuhr.....	12.14pm
Asr.....	3:15pm
Maghrib.....	5:35pm
Isha.....	6:51pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.28am



ANCIENT SITE: The session witnessed the participation of Ali Salem Al Kathiri, Director of the Land of Frankincense Sites Department at the General Directorate of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate. - **ONA**

Celebrations mark Land of Frankincense listing in UN List

Several topics, including the stages of rehabilitation and sustainable development of the sites were discussed



MUSCAT: The National Museum, represented by the Learning and Community Outreach Department, in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, organised a virtual session on Sunday to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the inscription of the

Land of Frankincense in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The session witnessed the participation of Ali Salem Al Kathiri, Director of the Land of Frankincense Sites Department at the General Directorate of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate. The session discussed several topics, including the outstanding universal value of the Land of

Frankincense in the World Heritage List, which are Al Baleed, Khor Rori (Sumhuram), Shasar (Ubar) and Wadi Dawka. Other topics included dealing with the stages of rehabilitation and development of the site, as well as its sustainable development, in addition to information about the frankincense tree, its types and uses. - **ONA**

Joint Omani team rescues sunken Iranian vessel

MUSCAT: The Marine Security Centre, acting in coordination with the Royal Air Force of Oman, the Royal Navy of Oman and Royal Oman Police Coast Guards, carried out a search and rescue operation to save the crew of a commercial Iranian vessel that sank in Omani regional waters off the Strait of Hormuz on December 25, 2020. The sunken vessel was later lifted from the seabed and towed away to open the waterway for safe traffic and, in particular, secure the passage of vessels using the Strait. - **ONA**



RESCUE: The Iranian merchant ship sank in the Omani territorial waters near the Strait of Hormuz, on December 25. - **ONA**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES



Ministry wins award for best environment project 2020

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) won the award of Arab Scientific Community Organisation (ASCO) for the best environment project 2020. The project develops artificial reefs and their uses in enhancing fish stocks. The project was selected among 90 projects submitted by individuals and institutions from 13 Arab countries. The Doha-based organisation

yesterday announced names of the winners of the award, which has been organised for the first time. The award aims at encouraging innovation in sustainable and successful projects. The award also aims at demonstrating the existence of practical solutions to many environmental problems in the Arab region, with a focus on creative projects and ingenious technologies.

The artificial reef projects are among the important development projects that are being implemented by MAFWR to improve the fisheries sector. The reefs provide an ideal fishing environment for fishermen. They contribute to reducing the cost, effort, fishing time, and the use of selective fishing equipment (such as lines) to get high-quality fish that would increase the fishermen's income. - **ONA**

SPARKLING NEW YEAR'S

New Year's Eve - 31 December 2020
From 19:30 - 01:00

The Kitchen Restaurant, OMR 35 inclusive of house beverages
Zale Lounge, OMR 55 inclusive of selected beverages and bites
The Countdown Sports Lounge, OMR 10 Entry fee with one complimentary beverage
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New Year's Day Brunch - 1 January 2021
The Kitchen Restaurant, OMR 35 inclusive of selected beverages

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MEETING < FROM A1 GCC summit agenda reviewed

Sayyid Fahd and Al Hajraf reviewed the topics of the GCC summit's agenda, as well as ways to foster GCC cooperation and real-

ise the aspirations of the region's people. The meeting also discussed several current issues and was

attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and the delegation accompanying the GCC Secretary-General. - **ONA**

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REF: OFMTD-20-057
Tender for Building a Children Garden at Demna Wa A'ttayeem

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites, civil contractors to participate in our tender for the "Building a Children Garden with Play Accessories" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-20-057
Tender subject	Building a Children Garden with Play Accessories
Tender fee	RO.25/- (non-refundable)
Start date for tender collection	30.12.2020
Last date for tender collection	03.01.2021
Site Visit (Mandatory)	04.01.2021
Last date for receiving the technical queries	10.01.2021
Closing date of the tender	17.01.2021
Mode of payment of tender fee	By cash
Email address for communication	tender-civil@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee and deposited in the tender box located at the reception of our Atyab Investment building on the 17 th January 2021.

- Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.
- Each bidder must leave a business card with contact details for required communication.
- All tender communication must be addressed to: tender-civil@omanflourmills.com.
- Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable.
- Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate sealed envelopes (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number (OFM/TD-20-057 (Children Garden at Demna Wa A'ttayeem)

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

Seminar organised

NIZWA: The State Audit Institution (SAI) yesterday conducted a seminar at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Nizwa CAS). The seminar comes in line with the SAI media and awareness plan to raise awareness on the protection of public money and preserving country's accomplishments. The seminar, organised through video conferencing, saw the participation of a number of academic and administrative staff as well as college students. It aimed to raise awareness on SAI's role and partnership with relevant entities to protect public properties and promote integrity in light of SAI's execution of its mandate. Specialists from SAI presented the seminar themes with the attendance of the Director of Financial and Administrative Audit Department in Nizwa. The seminar covered several themes, mainly; reviewing specific definitions relevant to audit work, audit types, objectives and importance. - **ONA**

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No place for illegal encroachments, says municipality

Muscat Municipality has confirmed that it will continue to take all steps to stop the phenomenon of illegal holdings



NOT ALLOWED: Encroachments pose a challenge to municipal work and the Muscat Municipality is making all efforts to stop it.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The issue of illegal encroachment and random possession has taken centre-stage in Muscat.

The Muscat Municipality has confirmed that it will continue to take all necessary measures in coordination with the concerned authorities to stop the phenomenon of illegal holdings, to preserve public property and prevent its seizure. It also affirmed the role of society in cooperating with the municipality's call for not allowing this phenomenon to persist.

The municipality has opened a file on this phenomenon at the level of the wilayats of Muscat Governorate to make the community aware of its dimensions and its societal impact in terms of health, security and safety.

Engineer Badr bin Ali Al-Bahri, Director General of the General Directorate of the Municipality of Muscat in Seeb, explained that this phenomenon, with its various types, is one of the challenges facing municipal work and among the common abuses of technical requirements for existing homes and buildings, and dealing with

them requires speed and firmness in taking the necessary measures in their regard.

Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Azri, Head of the Awareness Programmes Department of the Department of Community Partnership on the Forms of Holdings, said that illegal encroachments may take various forms including: building random annexes inside homes or farms, building caravans by illegal methods, fencing a range of lands to be used as sheep pens, laying brick pillars on paved lands, afforestation work outside their fences, additions to fixed or mobile materials in existing buildings, exploitation of old farms in order to accommodate expatriate workers, cutting mountains, leveling them, or fencing them with fixed materials, and digging wells on government land by illegal ways.

Al Azri added, "Muscat municipality has created a regulation to allow such work in accordance with the issuance of the necessary permits to limit the process of unauthorised additions and to avoid the technical risks resulting from leniency in the safety

standards that are required for construction as there are permits from the municipality dedicated to the establishment of annexes in residential homes."

Engineer Badr Al-Bahri explained that the number of random holdings registered in the Wilayat of Seeb reached 22 holdings until the end of November 2020 compared to 18 holdings during 2019.

Eng. Hilal bin Saeed Al Maamari, Head of Technical Inspection Department at the General Directorate of Muscat Municipality in Al Amerat said, "the municipality is making strenuous efforts to stop this phenomenon, whether in terms of meeting contractors or citizens alike, to make them aware of the laws and procedures in force in this regard. The Municipality is also working to urge society to abide by and reject such phenomena by reporting about them." Al Amerat Directorate recorded and dealt with about 28 cases of random possessions during the year.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

AGRICULTURE

Soil Research Lab analyses 1,085 samples

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of field visits during 2019-2020 by researchers and technicians at the Soil Research Laboratory reached 22, and the number of samples analysed in the Soil and Water Research Laboratory during 2019 reached 1,085.

"The Soil and Water Research Centre works to provide many services in the field of soil, water, plant and fertiliser analyses, and field surveys for various sectors in Oman, in addition to its main role in conducting agricultural research in the fields of soil and water," a statement said.

It is one of the research centres of the General Directorate of Agricultural and Animal Research in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and includes three research departments, namely the Soil Research Department, Water Research Department and Salinity Research Department.

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POTTERY has been an intrinsic part of Oman's heritage and culture for more than 4,000 years. While today it is mainly used as decorative pieces in most households, utensils made of clay items were a daily necessity in the Sultanate in ancient times. In Oman, apart from many traditional industries and handicrafts, the pottery industry is one of the most prominent industries. Bahla in A'Dhahirah Governorate has been one of the main producers of pottery items in Oman. The soil found there is rich in red clay that is used for making the utensils. Well crafted by the pottery artists, these are now mostly found in souqs and local markets as souvenir items. Jihal, Khuroos, and Brams are some of the clay utensils.

While Jihal has a pointed shape with a beak mostly used for water storage, Khuroos has a flat base meant for storing dates, dates syrup and honey. Brams are stronger than Jihal and Khuroos and are generally used for cooking.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Pottery-making in Oman is considered an ancient industry. The reason it has attracted much interest can be at-



tributed to the multitude of its uses in Omanis' daily lives. Pottery is of many kinds and shapes, and its uses and manufacturing materials vary."

Apart from Jihal, Khuroos and Brams, pottery is also used for making coffee pots and thermoses. Clay is the main component of pottery and is widely available in Bahla, where the soil is rich in clay.

Four types of soil are used in the pottery industry: "Al Mudhar" soil from the Wilayat of Bahla, "Al Sarbook" soil from the Wilayat of Al Hamra, "Al Hajarariya" soil from the Governorate of Muscat and the Wilayat of Al Hamra, and the white soil from the Wilayat of Mahout and Masirah Island.





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BEST PRACTICES

Omran Group organises workshop on corporate governance

Times News Service

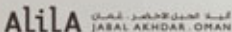
MUSCAT: Omran Group, the executive arm of the Sultanate for tourism development, conducted a workshop, titled, "Governance – Moral Compass, Concepts, Premises and Applications", in collaboration with Oman Centre for Governance

and Sustainability (OCGS). The workshop was organised as part of Omran's objectives to introduce tools, mechanisms and the necessary legal framework to implement principles of corporate governance. Omran's Chairman of Board of Directors, Eng. Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi, together with the

Chief Executive Officer of OCGS, Sayyid Hamid bin Sultan Al Busaidi, attended the workshop. Other attendees included the Board Members, CEOs of the Group's subsidiaries, senior executives from Omran's management and other representatives. "The Board of Directors of Omran recognises the importance of

governance as a modern concept of management, which aligns with the requirement of the current phase. Hence, this workshop was organised to discuss the best practices in applying principles of corporate governance, improving performance and governance mechanisms. The workshop further examined the administrative

readiness and identified practices, which serve the Group's goals and directions," commented Eng. Mohammed. "Omran's interest in hosting such a workshop reflects the Group's optimistic approach towards good corporate governance. Applying the concept of governance positively influences competitiveness and therefore, Omran is using best practices for implementing good governance," said Sayyid Hamed. "Promoting the culture of corporate governance is a necessary tool for business development and motivation. This is what OCGS seeks to achieve by conducting such workshops," said he added.



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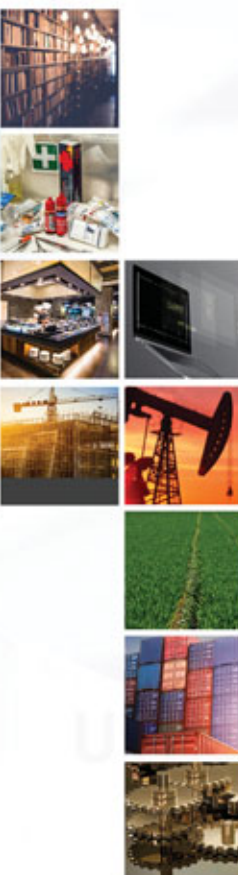


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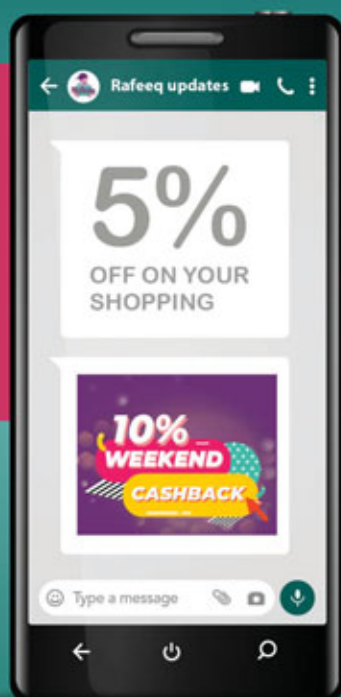


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PRIVATE LIST

Spain to create database for those refusing coronavirus vaccine

MADRID: Spain will create a database of those who refuse to be vaccinated against coronavirus and share it with the rest of the EU, the country's health minister has said. Salvador Illa told La Sexta television on Monday that the list would be private and would be complied in line with the law.

"It is not a document which will be made public and it will be done with the utmost respect for data protection," he said in the broadcast interview.

Illá added that the way to defeat the virus was "to vaccinate all of us — the more the better".

"What will be done is a registry, which will be shared with our European partners of those people who have been offered it and have simply rejected it," he said.

How open are people in Spain to the vaccine?

The proportion of Spaniards un-



willing to take a COVID-19 vaccine has plunged to 28% in December from 47% last month, according to a poll published last month.

The survey by the state-funded CIS research institute found 40.5% of respondents are willing to have the jab while 16.2% would do so if it is shown to be "reliable".

Regional authorities will contact people when it is their turn to be inoculated, the government said on Monday.

The government expects to have between 15 million and 20 million people out of its population of 47 million vaccinated against the virus by June.

What is the current situation in Spain?

As in other EU countries, Spain launched its vaccination drive on Sunday. Araceli Hidalgo, a 96-year-old woman from Guadalajara, was the first person in the country to get the jab.

Spain is one of the worst-affected countries in Europe. The government has bought doses of the German-developed BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine, although it is not mandatory. More than 50,000 people have died from COVID-19 in Spain, official figures show, with more than 1.8 million infections registered.

A nationwide curfew is in place on the Spanish mainland between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. that is set to expire in May. Non-essential businesses, such as restaurants and bars, have been closed, and incoming flights from the UK have been severely restricted. **DW**



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VACCINE ROLLOUT

Over 2.1 million in US receive first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

WASHINGTON DC: Over two million individuals in the United States have received the first of two coronavirus vaccine shots, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data revealed on Monday.

The CDC has reported that 2,127,143 individuals in the United States have received the first

shot of the coronavirus vaccine while 11,445,175 doses have been distributed throughout the US.

As per the Johns Hopkins University's data, more than 19.2 people tested positive for the coronavirus and over 334,000 died. The average daily cases per 100k in the last seven days are at 54.5. **ANI**



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India records lowest daily rise in COVID-19 cases over 6 months

Less than 16,500 daily new cases (16,432) were added to the national tally in the last 24 hours after 187 days

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday has surpassed a crucial milestone in its fight against the global pandemic as the country recorded the lowest daily rise in over six months.

Less than 16,500 daily new cases (16,432) were added to the national tally in the last 24 hours after 187 days. The daily new cases were 16,922 on June 25, 2020, according to a statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). India's active caseload has fallen to 268,581 on December 28. The share of active cases in the total positive cases has further compressed to 2.63 per cent of the cumulative caseload, it stated.

A net decline of 8,720 cases has been recorded in the total active cases in last 24 hours.

With the rising recoveries and decline in daily new cases, India's cumulative recoveries are inching closer to 1 crore, said the MoHFW.

The total recovered cases stands at 9,807,569 today, which translates to a recovery rate of



DECLINE IN CASES: A decline of 8,720 cases has been recorded in the last 24 hours.

95.92 per cent. The gap between recovered cases and active cases continues to grow and presently stands at 9,538,988, the statement further informed.

Around 77.66 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 states/UTs. According to the statement, Maharashtra has reported the maximum number of single day recoveries with 4,501 recoveries. Kerala follows with 4,172 new recoveries. Chhattisgarh recorded another 1,901 daily recoveries, it said. Around 78.16 per cent of the new cases are concentrated in 10

states and UTs.

Kerala reported the maximum daily new cases numbering 3,047 in the last 24 hours, the ministry said. Maharashtra recorded 2,498 new cases while Chhattisgarh reported 1,188 new cases yesterday, according to the statement.

Ten states/UTs account for 77.38 per cent of the 252 case fatalities reported in the past 24 hours.

Total of 19.84 per cent of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra, which reported 50 deaths while West Bengal and Chhattisgarh followed it with 27 and

26 new deaths respectively, the statement added.

India finds 6 cases of UK variant

Indian health authorities said on Tuesday that six people have tested positive for the new, more infectious variant of the coronavirus. Those infected had all returned from Britain in recent weeks where the new variant was first identified. All six patients have been kept in isolation, the health ministry said in a statement. "Their close contacts have also been put under quarantine,"



Republicans sue VP Pence in bid to overturn US election results

WASHINGTON: In a far-fetched bid to overturn the result of the US election, House Representative Louie Gohmert and other fellow Republicans on Monday sued Vice President Mike Pence, who will preside over the upcoming congressional meeting that will finalise Democratic President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

The lawsuit, which was joined by Arizona Republican Party chair Kelli Ward and others, focused on Pence's official capacity as vice president, who the 1887 Electoral Count Act dictates should preside over the largely ceremonial January 6 meeting of Congress to count the Electoral votes and finalise Biden's win over incumbent President Donald Trump.

The litigation asked Texas-based federal judge Jeremy Kennode to grant Pence the "exclusive authority and sole discretion" to decide which electoral votes from a given state should be counted.

It argued that the Electoral Count Act violated the 12th Amendment of the US Constitution, which stipulated that "the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted." In the United States, the vice president also serves as the president of the Senate. When electors across the states cast their Electoral College votes on December 14 to elect Biden for president, Republican "electors" in states like Arizona cast their own votes for Trump in a bid to disrupt the electoral process. The lawsuit urged Pence to recognize those pro-Trump votes rather than the actual Democratic votes. "That, with respect to competing slates of electors from the State of Arizona or other Contested States, the Twelfth Amendment contains the exclusive dispute resolution mechanisms, namely, that (i) Vice-President Pence determines which slate of electors' votes count, or neither, for that State," the lawsuit said.

Law experts by and large believed there's little chance for the lawsuit to achieve what it wanted, with Harvard Law School professor Laurence Tribe on Twitter calling it "the dumbest lawsuit of all."

Biden won the November 3 presidential election by more than 7 million votes and earned 306 Electoral College votes, compared to Trump's 232. **Xinhua**

NEW VARIANT

Japan suspends entry of non-resident foreigners amid concerns over new virus strain



ENTRY RESTRICTIONS: Business people and students from a few countries and regions including China and South Korea, however, are exempt from the latest restrictions.

TOKYO: Japan on Monday suspended entries of non-resident foreign nationals arriving from the majority of the world in a bid to prevent the spread of the new, highly transmissible coronavirus strain.

The entry restrictions will last through the end of January, while Japanese citizens and foreign residents entering Japan from regions where the new strain of the virus has been detected will be required to submit a negative virus test prior to and after arrival in Japan.

Business people and students from a few countries and regions including China and South Korea, however, are exempt from the latest restrictions. Japan and South Korea have a special scheme to ease travel restrictions.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters Monday that his government is responding quickly to deal with the new strains of the virus to protect the people of Japan.

Suga said the new entry restrictions were aimed at protecting "our citizens' lives and liveli-

The entry restrictions will last through the end of January, while Japanese citizens and foreign residents entering Japan from regions where the new strain of the virus has been detected will be required to submit a negative virus test

hoods, by taking measures in advance to forestall the spread of the new virus strain."

First detected in Britain, the new coronavirus variant has since been confirmed in a number of countries.

Suga added that the new strains are said to be more infectious, but the basic measures required

to prevent infection remain the same.

He reiterated his call for people to have a quiet New Year holiday and said the government aims to revise the law to ensure that businesses shorten operating hours to prevent the spread of the virus upon government request.

After hearing experts' views Suga said he wants to have a bill submitted to the Diet as soon as possible.

Japan has already banned new entries by non-resident foreign nationals who have recently been to Britain or South Africa.

So far in Japan, eight people have been confirmed to be infected with the variant detected in Britain.

Japan had slowly begun to open up its borders to international travelers in a bid to help bring badly needed revenue back to the recession-hit economy. But it has now been forced to take a step backwards and tighten its borders owing to the already heavy strain on the medical system amid a resurgence of COVID-19 cases since November. **Xinhua**

END OF THE YEAR

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Leader Rahane hits winning runs as India level series 1-1

The win not only brings India right back in the series, but also a step closer to the final of the World Test Championship



MELBOURNE: No Virat Kohli, no Rohit Sharma, no Ishant Sharma, no Mohammad Shami and the humiliation of getting bundled out for 36 in the second innings of the first Test notwithstanding, Team India under stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane scripted a majestic comeback in the Test series against Australia as they won the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground by eight wickets on Tuesday.

Chasing 70 for a win, it was only poetic justice that Rahane hit the winning run of Nathan Lyon as the series stands 1-1 with two Tests remaining. The win not only brings India right back in the series, but also a step closer to the final of the World Test Championship.

While no word is enough to describe the heroics of skipper Rahane, one man who deserves special praise is opener Shubman Gill. Brought into the team after first-choice opener Prithvi Shaw failed in the opening game, Gill showed application in both essays and was unbeaten with skipper Rahane

(27) when India crossed the line. His unbeaten 35 off 36 balls will stand India in good stead with Rohit set to start the third game.

Mayank Agarwal's poor show continued as he once again failed to grab the opportunity and was dismissed for just 5 as India chased 70 for a win on the fourth afternoon. Cheteshwar Pujara also failed to rise to the occasion and was dismissed for just 3 by Cummins. But that is a worry the team management will look into ahead of the next game. For now, it is one inspired show by the Indian boys when critics in Australia had called it a 4-0 series win after the loss in Adelaide.

Standing in, Rahane ensured he got counted and as Sunil Gavaskar rightly mentioned, his 12th Test century was one of the most important ones in the history of Indian cricket because a sizeable lead was must to ensure that In-

dian bowlers don't see their first-innings show go in vain.

While Rahane still feels his century at the Lord's is his best showing, the Indian bowlers who saw the team lose even after they bowled Australia out cheaply in the opening game would beg to differ.

Coming back to the fourth day's play, riding on the back of the confidence from day three, India first dismissed Australia for 200 and then came back to chase the target of 70 in just 15.5 overs. If one session had cost India the first Test, it was again a session -- which Rahane and Ravindra Jadeja weathered on day two - that saw India bag the second game.

However, the win wasn't as easy as it shows on paper. Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc gave Australia the early wickets to ensure the win won't be a cakewalk for the visitors.

Starc dismissed Mayank while Cummins sent Pujara back as a small target started looking a little bigger. However, some assured strokeplay from Gill and Rahane calmed the nerves of India's dressing room.

Earlier in the day, Mohammad Siraj struck twice while Jasprit Bumrah and Ravichandran Ashwin picked a wicket each in the first session as Australia folded for 200. Having weathered the storm in the first hour of play, it was Bumrah's bouncer that ended Cummins' stint at the crease after India took the new ball.

If Bumrah provided India the breakthrough, it was Siraj's twin strike with the bouncers which ensured India maintain the advantage in the game. The first session was extended after Australia lost their ninth wicket and Starc ensured India toiled hard for the final blood. **ANI**

FRENCH CHAMPIONS



PSG remove German coach Thomas Tuchel

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday confirmed the sacking of Thomas Tuchel.

The French champions relieved the German coach of his duties following a lacklustre start to the domestic campaign, where they have already lost four matches in Ligue 1, more than all of last season.

"After an in-depth analysis of its sporting situation, Paris Saint-Germain decided to terminate Thomas Tuchel's contract," the French giants announced in a statement. Germany's Bild newspaper and French sports daily L'Equipe reported last week that club bosses informed Tuchel of their decision on December 23, in the immediate aftermath of a 4-0 win against Strasbourg. He still had six months remaining on his three-year contract.

Pochettino the favorite

The club did not name a successor. However, former Tottenham Hotspur boss Mauricio Pochettino

has emerged as the front-runner to replace Tuchel. The Argentine spent two years at PSG during his playing career.

Home discomfort

PSG have qualified for the last-16 of the Champions League but it is their form domestically that has ultimately cost Tuchel his job.

The French club enter the winter break in third position in the table, a point behind Lyon and Lille. PSG suffered a 1-0 home defeat at the hands of table-topping Lyon on December 13 before a goalless draw at Lille on Sunday.

Tuchel arrived in the French capital in 2018 having previously coached Borussia Dortmund.

He won several domestic titles with PSG, including two successive league titles.

Tuchel led the French outfit to the Champions League final for the first time in the club's history in the summer of 2019, only to come up short against Bayern Munich. **DW**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Memorable week for MCCC teams in Junior League

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An all-round show by hugely talented Adeel Abbas powered Muscat Cricket Coaching Centre (MCCC) to a 4-wicket win over Indian School Wadi Kabir (ISWK) in a Junior League 50-over Under-19 match at OC turf 1 in Amerat on Monday, making it a memorable week for MCCC sides.

ISWK failed to put a fighting total on the board, folding up for a disappointing 89 in 30 overs.

MCCC captain Adeel picked up 3 for 13 while Nihaal Poojari and Jeel Tanna took two wickets each.

Leading from the front, Adeel excelled with the bat too, scoring a vital 39 off 25 as MCCC sealed victory in the 18 th over, scoring 92 for 6. Siddh Mehta and Amanpreet Singh Siraj claimed two wickets each.

Brief Scores (Junior League U-19): ISWK 89 all out in 30 overs (Joshin Vincent 10, Yash Rajesh Toprani 10, Adeel Abbas 3-13,

Nihaal Poojari 2-22, Jeel Tanna 2-23) lost to MCCC 92 for 6 in 17.5 overs by 4 wickets.

MCCC Blue beat BSC

Earlier, in another Under-19 match on Saturday, MCCC Blue defeated Boshier Sports Centre (BSC) by 2 runs at OC turf 2.

MCCC Blue was dismissed for 154 in 40.2 overs, opener Habib topscoring with a patient 52 off 98. Narayana Satish claimed 3 for 38 while Arafat Islam bagged 2 for 17.

BSC fought well but fell short by two runs, getting bowled out for 152 in 44.3 overs. Mohsin Varya was its main scorer with 43 off 33. Bilal and Uday bowled well, taking three wickets each.

Glenallexei bowls ISM to victory

In a Junior League 30-over Under-16 game on Saturday, Glenallexei Menezes' superb 5 for 32 helped Indian School Muscat (ISM) beat ISWK by 8 wickets at

Muscat Municipality ground 2.

Thanks to Glen's brilliant bowling ISM dismissed ISWK for 128 and chased the modest total down in 19.2 overs thanks to crucial knock by Gurumukhi Aditya (53) and Shanmugurajan Kuttiraja (38).

Prathiesh, Varshieth shine as MCCC Blue win

In another Under-16 match at Muscat Municipality ground 1 on Saturday, MCCC Blue thrashed

BSC by 8 wickets thanks to magnificent all-round performance by Prathiesh Ramesh and a splendid 97 by Varshieth Dinesh.

Prathiesh was the pick of Blue bowlers, taking 3 for 38 as BSC was dismissed for 183 in the 30 th over.

Sohan Khandekar and Siddharth topscored with 40 and 35 respectively. MCCC Blue raced to the target in just 19.2 overs, scoring 185 for 2 thanks to brilliant batting by Varshieth and Prathiesh.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2020 reaching \$51.10, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman declined 12 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$51.22. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,642.12 points, up 0.49 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.62 per cent at 520.16 points. Gulf Investment Services, up 6.59 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 9.48 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR119mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from December 30, Wednesday until January 27, 2021

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR119 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period 28 days, starting from December 30, Wednesday until January 27, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.65179 per cent and 0.65211 per cent, respectively.

It may be noted that the interest rate on the repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills



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

Discounting Facility with CBO is 1 per cent.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity

to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). Furthermore, treasury bills pro-

mote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures.

STABLE INVESTMENT

Economic stability and conducive policies to drive real estate in 2021

NEW DELHI: Developers are unanimous that real estate will bounce back in 2021 owing to prospects of economic stability and a conducive policy landscape.

According to them, the Unlock phases, the series of government initiatives and the recently-concluded festive season have set the momentum for growth that is expected to continue into 2021 as well. The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the significance of spacious homes and real estate as a stable investment during an unprecedented time.

"The demand for exclusive residential properties will likely continue well into 2021. Also, with home-loan rates being all-time low, the demand and inquiries have seen a steep jump, and we expect this to continue even in the next financial year. We see a number of NRIs either moving back to India or looking at investment options here. This will boost the demand for homes starting from mid-segment housing to luxury and super luxury homes," Karan Kumar, CMO, DLF Ltd., said.

Pankaj Bansal, Director, M3M opined, "We expect that 2021 will see a consolidation of the industry in favour of organised developers, leveraging technology to enhance customer experiences and customer-centricity as the key objective of developers. In the commercial segment, the high-street concept has gained momentum as compared to malls and this will continue in the coming year. The residential segment is already on the path to recovery owing to the pent-up demand and the need to invest in well planned, spacious homes amidst extended work from home."

The third quarter of 2020 has witnessed traction in commercial real estate as well. A JLL report points out that net absorption increased by 63% to 5.4 mn sq. ft in Q3 2020. In the retail segment, malls have re-opened, albeit, with safety measures, precautions and footfalls are gradually increasing towards pre-COVID level. Moreover, commercial real estate continues to be an attractive investment proposition owing to lucrative return potential. - **ANI**

AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY

Dhofar Poultry targets OMR12mn revenue by 2021

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dhofar Poultry Company, Oman's oldest and fastest-growing brand in the fresh and frozen chicken segment, aims to touch OMR12 million-plus in revenue, up from OMR10 million in 2019, with an increase in production from nearly 8,000 tonnes in 2019 to 10,000 tonnes in 2021.

This growth will be driven by diversified product offerings and an aggressive marketing-led strategy to drive enhanced distribution and supply chain network within and outside of Oman. The brand is also all set to foray into newer business segments in the upcoming fiscal.

Commenting on the business plans, Salim bin Taman Al Maashani, CEO of Dhofar Poultry Company, said, "With evolving consumer palettes, and growing awareness on consuming fresh food, we believe it is our duty to educate the consumer and satisfy their need for superior quality, fresh chicken. Concerted efforts are being put in this direction and we believe that we have tasted success to a great extent. Our natural farms for bird raising have high restrictions of health conditions, and



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To maximise growth opportunities, we are continuously analysing our range and sharpening our focus to accelerate investment

Salim Al Maashani
CEO of Dhofar Poultry Company

biosecurity standards, as we use feed made from natural grains that are free from any animal additives, to ensure the provision of high-quality products. This, in addition to shorter travel time for distribu-

tion within the country, ensure that our product is as fresh as in from the farm to table. Our focus is to bring nutritionally superior and relevant products to the market, and our growing product portfolio

has been a testimony to the same."

Riding on the success, Dhofar Poultry has great ambitions for its business operations in Oman and remains committed to invest and grow in the Sultanate through a

well-established product portfolio.

"Being an Omani company, it is our responsibility to grow the category. To maximise growth opportunities, we are continuously analysing our range and sharpening our focus to accelerate investments on the best-performing categories and products. This will be further done with the implementation of the company's third expansion phase, after which the total production volume will reach 100 million birds per year," he added.

Dhofar Poultry is betting big on the Oman market through its innovative product portfolio and understanding of the changing consumer profile. With its state-of-the-art processing facility and farms in Salalah, Dhofar Poultry is a leading supplier of superior quality natural chicken in Oman and other GCC countries.

According to statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Sultanate's production of broiler chickens in 2018 was estimated at 129,000 tonnes, of which 54 per cent were locally consumed. Oman's home-grown chicken brand has successfully established its presence in the organised market in this sector with over 100

products across various segments including fresh products from the whole and sliced chicken with different weights and types, in addition to products of additional value. The brand enjoys leadership in products such as a chicken lollipop, and chicken feet in Oman.

Interestingly, for Dhofar Poultry Company, Salalah offers an excellent climate, and its strategic location in Raysut, in Dhofar Governorate, against the backdrop of green mountains especially during Khareef, makes it most suitable for the poultry business. Furthermore, there is a growing demand for superior quality, slaughtered by hand as per Islamic Sharia (100 per cent Halal), naturally fed chicken in markets such as the UAE, Bahrain and Qatar. Dhofar Poultry is catering to the specific needs of these markets with customised sized packages and products.

Dhofar Poultry established in 1996, is the oldest Omani company that pioneered organised sale in poultry farming, processing & marketing of fresh & frozen whole chicken as well as portions, in Oman. It sells its products within the Sultanate and the GCC countries including UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain.

BRITISH THINK TANK WARNING

Post-Brexit trade deal risks erosion of UK workers' rights

LONDON: Britain's post-Brexit trade deal with the European Union (EU) leaves workers' rights and environmental protection at risk of erosion and will slow the country's economic recovery, which has already been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, a British think tank warned in the early analysis.

The agreement offers clear benefits to Britain and the EU, which would have been lost if no deal had been negotiated, however, its commitments on labour and environmental standards are considerably weaker than expected, said the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), a London-based think tank.

Published its assessment on Sunday, the IPPR said the bar for proof of breaches of the "level playing field", one of the sticking points in the long Britain-EU negotiations, to safeguard the issues is so high that it will be rarely enforced.

In aiming for an agreement which guarantees maximal sovereignty, the British government has watered down the "level playing field" requirements on areas such as labour and environmental protections and secured only limited benefits in market access, said the think tank.

"In the short-term, this is likely to lead to disruption to trade flows, including at the border. Over the longer term, the economy will adapt to the new arrangements, but barriers to UK-EU trade will likely lead to slower growth and a more prolonged economic recovery," the Institute for Public Policy Research added in assessment.

Given it is notoriously difficult to prove that any lowering of projection affects trade or investment, "the deal is unlikely to prevent the UK government from weakening EU-derived labour and environmental policies if it so chooses," said the IPPR. - **xinhua**

NEWEST PROPOSITION

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expanding its card portfolio to offer convenient payment solutions, Sohar International launched its new prepaid card in a bid to engage with a wider customer base.

The bank's newest proposition offers individuals everyday convenience, whether or not they are an account holder with the bank. Easily applied for through the bank's widespread branch network across Oman, the new prepaid card offers customers the flexibility to manage spends and make payments easily and securely, using its contactless tap and go feature. The prepaid cards have been designed to encourage online transactions, including those for booking cinema tickets, gaming, shopping and much more.

The cards can be topped up simply by using the bank's ATMs, or by transferring from a Sohar International account.

Sharing his views on the new card, Khalil Al Hedaifi, Chief Retail Banking Officer, Sohar International, said, "Sohar International is constantly striving to develop innovative solutions to suit the



CONTACTLESS TAP: The new prepaid card offers customers the flexibility to manage spends and make payments easily and securely, using its contactless tap and go feature. - **Supplied picture**

evolving needs of our customers. The new contactless prepaid card is an important milestone in Sohar International's digital transformation journey. It not only provides customers with a sense of safety and security due to their pre-loaded limit feature but also allows them to control spends online by controlling funds available in the prepaid card. This falls in line with our principles to provide more

value, more velocity, and more vision to our clients and the society at large."

Furthermore, the bank's prepaid card can be used for cash withdrawals at local ATMs/CDMs whilst managing the credentials of the card is easily done through any of the widespread Sohar International ATM/CDMs. The state-of-the-art mobile banking services can be utilised to top up the newly

launched prepaid card, transfer the balance from the main account to the prepaid card, or transfer between own prepaid cards, or transfer to other Sohar international prepaid cards as well.

"Sohar International is uniquely positioned to effectively cater to all customer segments within the Sultanate, with differentiating factors that accommodate individual needs and enable them to win. Being a service-oriented organization, we cater to the smallest of financial requirements of the consumer, thereby encouraging them to plan ahead and adopt prudent financial practices," added Khalil Al Hedaifi.

Sohar International is committed to providing new products, services, features and promotions that delight and simplify customer's banking experience. The bank continues to work hard so that clients can bank wherever, whenever and however that is most convenient for them. This will not only contribute towards the enrichment of our stakeholders but also towards developing the socio-economic scene within the country thus making banking more meaningful for the people of Oman.

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Gulf Investment Services, up 6.59 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 9.48 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,642.12 points, up 0.49 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.62 per cent at 520.16 points. Gulf Investment Services, up 6.59 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 9.48 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC was the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 576 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR141 million, with more than 10.58 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded stocks, 20 advanced, 5 declined and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR191,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR131,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR60,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,620.30 points, up by 0.31 per cent. Gulf Investment Services, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment Holding, Al Sharqiya Investment, and Al Madina Takaful were up by 6.59 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 1.43 per cent, and 1.35 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Holding and Sohar International Bank were down by 1.61 per cent and 1.08 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,240.57, points, up 0.68 per cent. Galfar Engineering, Oman Flour Mills, Raysut Cement, Gulf International Chemicals, and Al Maha Ceramics were up by 5.00 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 1.76 per cent, 0.99 per cent, and 0.92 per cent respectively. Dhofar Cattle feed and Oman Chlorine were down by 9.48 per cent and 1.45 per cent respectively.

Services index was up by 0.67 per cent before closing at 1,581.33 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,642.13	3,624.12	3,642.12	3,624.54	17.58	0.49
Financial Index	5,620.52	5,599.02	5,620.30	5,603.16	17.14	0.31
Industrial Index	4,244.14	4,213.94	4,240.57	4,212.05	28.52	0.68
Services Index	1,581.33	1,570.87	1,581.33	1,570.87	10.46	0.67
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	520.19	517.29	520.16	516.93	3.23	0.62
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,156.49	4,135.94	4,156.48	4,136.41	20.07	0.49

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,584,232	1,419,903	576	20,187,041,276	20	5	16	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	3,015,026	276,701	127	0.089	0.094	0.089	0.092	0.088	0.004	4.545	0.091	0.091	0.092	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	246,500	85,289	15	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.340	0.006	1.765	0.346	0.338	0.344	0.100	69,200,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HOLDING	57,100	4,059	5	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	6,590,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	186,331	73,521	19	0.392	0.398	0.392	0.394	0.390	0.004	1.026	0.394	0.394	0.396	0.100	128,031,880
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	67,650	14,887	12	0.220	0.221	0.220	0.220	0.218	0.002	0.917	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.100	12,100,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	96,063	68,397	16	0.712	0.712	0.712	0.712	0.708	0.004	0.565	0.712	0.712	0.716	0.100	534,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	123,980	48,401	25	0.380	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.388	0.002	0.515	0.390	0.390	0.392	0.100	253,868,250
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	193,300	47,015	5	0.243	0.244	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.000	0.000	0.244	0.243	0.244	0.100	80,402,069
OM0000002176	AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	132,006	18,234	15	0.138	0.139	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.139	0.100	17,235,918
OM0000003396	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	96,615	8,797	3	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.001	1.075	0.092	0.092	0.093	0.100	223,974,630
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	360,008	119,798	41	0.332	0.336	0.332	0.332	0.336	0.004	1.190	0.332	0.330	0.332	0.100	78,488,120
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	60,720	3,713	9	0.061	0.062	0.061	0.061	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.061	0.061	0.062	0.100	12,200,000
Total		12	4,634,298	768,812	291											

Parallel Market

OM0000002820	GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	1,257,844	121,790	69	0.099	0.099	0.095	0.097	0.091	0.006	6.593	0.095	0.093	0.095	0.100	1,899,634
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON	2,726,011	114,862	103	0.039	0.044	0.039	0.042	0.040	0.002	5.000	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.100	12,179,187
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	12,720	1,297	1	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.098	0.004	4.082	0.102	0.099	0.102	0.100	97,368,339
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	25,000	17,977	5	0.716	0.724	0.716	0.720	0.700	0.020	2.857	0.724	0.700	0.740	0.100	113,400,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	141,028	6,038	15	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	15,013,210
OM0000001681	OMAN AND EMIRATES INV. HOLDING	70,000	3,140	4	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.100	5,484,375
OM0000002176	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	58,406	4,389	6	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.351	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	13,125,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	99,472	9,549	4	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	287,649,738
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	10,000	960	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	10,000	1,018	2	0.101	0.103	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.103	0.101	0.108	0.100	2,142,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	23,024	4,766	5	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.205	0.002	0.978	0.207	0.000	0.207	0.100	6,210,000
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	98,718	23,015	5	0.238	0.238	0.231	0.233	0.231	0.002	0.866	0.233	0.230	0.233	0.100	14,260,596
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	398,000	100,296	16	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.250	0.002	0.800	0.282	0.282	0.284	0.100	74,645,848
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	40,200	6,326	5	0.197	0.198	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.000	0.000	0.197	0.197	0.198	0.100	255,273,578
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	290,644	26,449	2	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.092	0.100	182,028,464
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	2,184	677	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.314	0.314	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.300	0.000	0.100	10,184,860
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	24,184	10,109	4	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.000	0.000	0.418	0.418	0.430	0.100	37,494,600
OM0000001822	UNITED POWER	100	90	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.992	0.992	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.992	1.000	793,600
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	350,000	43,750	8	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.114	0.125	0.100	206,207,183
OM0000003083	AL KAMIL POWER	1,000	292	1	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.292	0.292	0.320	0.100	31,195,000
OM0000004925	AL BATINAH POWER	60,000	3,000	7	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	27,078	1,375	3	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	3,611	188	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.054	0.100	76,055,276
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS.	3,800	1,300	1	0.342	0.342	0.342	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	0.342	0.344	0.350	0.100	91,160,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING COMPANY	20,000	3,740	2	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.187	0.190	0.100	41,558,880
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	62,344	16,958	3	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.276	0.004	1.449	0.272	0.000	0.274	0.100	18,524,195
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE FEED	7,610	801	3	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.116	0.011	9.483	0.105	0.000	0.105	0.100	8,489,250
Total		27	5,822,984	524,143	278											

FINANCIAL AID

US stocks hit record highs after Trump signs COVID-19 relief bill

NEW YORK: US stocks hit record highs after President Donald Trump signed the latest COVID-19 relief bill into law, ending the stand-off on the issue that had held up financial aid for Americans affected by the pandemic.

The S&P 500, a barometer for

the top 500 US stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, increased 0.9 per cent to close at 3,735, after setting an all-time high at 3,741.

The Nasdaq Composite Index, which counts on the performance of US tech stock giants such as Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix

and Google, gained 0.7 per cent to settle at 12,899, after a record peak at 12,930.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, Wall Street's broadest stocks gauge, edged up 0.7 per cent to close at 30,404, after reaching a historic high at 30,526. — **ANI**

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Export credit agencies of UAE, India join hands to enhance trade

DUBAI: Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI), the UAE Federal export credit company, has partnered with ECGC Limited (ECGC), the premier export credit agency of India, to explore and bolster the trade and economic cooperation between the UAE and India.

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Massimo Falcioni, CEO of ECI and M Senthilnathan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of ECGC, the two agencies are set to collaborate and create prospects for mutual strategic projects, as well as offer a platform to identify new business opportunities and develop new partnerships in the UAE and India.

With accessibility to a range of export credit, financing and investment insurance products, businesses and exporters in both countries stand to gain from this partnership.

As part of the MoU, both institutions will work towards



PARTNERSHIP: With accessibility to a range of export credit, financing and investment insurance products, businesses and exporters in both countries stand to gain from this partnership. - Supplied picture

boosting their cooperation and communication in the following fields: enhancement of trade and business relations between the two countries; exploration of mutual opportunities for insurance, reinsurance, co-insurance services for export of goods in a

third country, investments and services to assist and support insured exporters; facilitation of access for SMEs; mutual exchange of good practices; organisation of joint events; and identification of specific solutions in the export insurance field, among others.

VIRTUAL CES

LG to unveil company's first QNED Mini LED TV

DUBAI: LG Electronics (LG) will introduce its first-ever QNED Mini LED TVs at the all virtual CES 2021 as its top-of-the-line offering among LG's 2021 premium LCD TV lineup.

LG's newest TVs represent a giant leap forward in LCD TV picture quality thanks to quantum dot and NanoCell technologies with Mini LEDs as the light source, brightness and contrast are far superior to that of conventional LCD televisions. The 2021 lineup includes 10 new 4K and 8K models covering a wide range of large screen size up to 86 inches.

With OLED at the pinnacle of LG's TV offerings with its self-lit pixels and independent dimming control, the arrival of LG's QNED Mini LED TVs to offer a compelling option for consumers. Thanks to a new panel structure enhanced by LG's advanced Mini LED backlighting, these TVs deliver a truly immersive viewing experience in the LCD space. As the first TVs to combine quantum dot and NanoCell in one product, LG QNED TVs produce incredibly accurate colours while the advanced LED backlight offers better contrast and deeper blacks for images of exceptional vibrancy and realism.

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Indian male accountant with 5 years of accounting experience in Oman up to finalisation MIS, excel.seeks suitable positions. Contact: 93964920 Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

MBA Finance 16+ Exp of Oman in Accounts up to finalization,looking for suitable senior position Contact: 92383882

Sr.Accountant, Male, Semi qualified CMA US, MBA-Fin, 17 years exp on finance & accounts with Oman DL seeks suitable placement. Contact 78392239

Indian Male, Bcom, MBA 19 years experience in Budget,Banking,Audit, MIS,Payroll,ERP(Epicor,Sage,Tally, Oracle). NOC available. ready to join immediately. GSM 91190552.

M.Com/CA, 10+yrs of experience in accounts, finance, banking, taxation, MIS seeking suitable opening. DL, NOC available. Contact 92930407, 79202015

Assistant Accountant, Indian male, B Com 12 years experience in Oman with D/L and NOC seeks suitable placement. Contact 96395258

Looking for Senior Accountant Position .Having 10 Years Experience, and driving license also . Mob - 79202007

Sudanese 32 yrs,6 yrs experience in Oman in Accounting & Administrative assistant.contact 94050251. email danygalaxy184@gmail.com

Accountant, office administration, back office.Contact 93403636.Email munafshaikh22@gmail.com

Indian male senior accountant with 20 yrs experience of accounting upto finalisation on SAP, tally, excel, Noc & DL available seeks suitable position. Contact 97887472, 71206125 Email asifkoman786@gmail.com

Accountant Indian Male, M.com 13 years experience in Oman with good knowledge in Focus ERP seeks placement. NOC available # 99757409

Indian female, M.com (Finance) & MBA (HR), 6 years experience seeking an opening in Muscat. Contact 95340104; sunilasunil30@gmail.com

Part time accountant with more than 12 yrs experience in different financial sectors.Good working knowledge of ERP softwares & advanced excel.Can do audit & certification & consultancy work. Contact 94197499. Email ma.abdul1988@gmail.com

Indian, Male working as Senior Accountant over 16 years of experience in Accounts looking for a Job Contact: 95851920,78258270

Available 31 years Oman experienced Data Entry Operator in English/Hindi/Marathi & knowledge of Accounting. Contact +968 92720543

Part time accountant having 13 yrs experience upto finalization seeking job. Contact 79102100

Pakistani diploma holder looking for part time or cashier job with valid DL. Contact 94110965

CONNECT

JOB WANTED

QUALITY MANAGER

Indian, Quality Manager, 18 years exp.4.3 years at Abu Dhabi, looking for top/senior management position in quality, Coordinating RFQ to Mass production, Time, Resource & Quality planning, Process design, Project execution, etc. Available to join shortly.

Contact: 91-9952022345, venkatavaradu@rediffmail.com

SENIOR CORPORATE AND RETAIL BANKER

With over 30 years experience in **Credit Management, Relationship Management, Credit Administration, Operations Management and Recoveries/IFRS9 Provisioning Methodologies** seeks suitable placement.

Email: DolphinOcean367@gmail.com

SR. Manager/GM/VP (Plant)

Indian Male,with more than 23 years exp. in repair/ maint/deployment/logistic/procurement of Vehicles/Heavy construction equipment in a large reputed construction industry seeks suitable placement in senior management level. NOC available.

Contact: 79198709

Moroccan Sales Engineer with over 6 years of industrial experience in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.

GSM: 93823132
Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.com

Project Manager/Engineer Structural/Civil Engineer

with 14 years of experience (8 years in USA and 4 years in Oman) in PEB, RCC, Pipeline, Offshore, and Marine structures and have Master degree from USA. Seeking for placement as Project Engineer or Manager.

Please contact me on +968-93368626
lrfan.sanjari.syed@gmail.com

ELECTRICAL MANAGER

Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.

Contact: 968-94029112
Email: sakthiveljothi@gmail.com

SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR – CIVIL ENGINEERING

Very widely experienced both in Consultancy and Construction looking for a placement at top management level or on partnership.

Contact: winnerdandd@gmail.com
Mobile/WhatsApp 95150850, 79163390

HSE Eng/Advisor, Msc Env & NEBOSH IGC with 10 years extensive construction, safety exp. Immediately available with NOC.

Contact 95193937

Execution Architect/ Finishing Manager

36, Male in design/ execution at consultancy & contracting with 13 Work experience in Hotel/Office/ Airport/ retail in Construction/Interior fit-out Space seeking Suitable placement. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/ Tendering/ Estimation. D/L and NOC available immediately.

Contact: 78371040; architdesign2020@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting, Income tax, VAT etc. Qualified CPA, CMA, CIA. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608 / soji_ansu@yahoo.com

OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

Chief Accountant MBA

Indian Male With 16 Years' Experience in all aspects of Accounting. NOC & Oman DL Available, seeks Suitable placement.

Contact: 97741485
Email: stm.crg@gmail.com

Smart Indian, excellent English, Research & Technical Writing Skills, Double Masters (Finance, Journalism & Mass Communication), Arabic Speaker, 17years Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC seeks role in Admin/HR/Projects/Corporate & Marketing Communications/Operations/Customer Relations/Role in Chairman/CEO Office. Immediate joining. NOC.

99283938 / rajansampath@hotmail.com

ENGINEER

BTECH IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING *(EEE)*WITH 3 YEARS EXPERIENCES DIPLOMA IN PLC & SCADA. NOC, Oman Valid Driving License Looking for a suitable Job. **Contact 78227500**
Email: muhdfahiz007@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree looking for position in Office Administration/ Document Control, total 22 years of experience, 19 years in Oman with Oman driving licence. NOC available.

Contact No. 99757759

MicroMasters in Supply Chain Management, B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering 3 years industry experience as a Sales Engineer, Valid Oman DL.

Contact: 99137115
Email: adimurali7@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER

16+ Years Experience In Site Supervision, Structural Engineering, ETABS, STAAD, ROADS, BRIDGES, Project manager, INDUSTRIAL. WORKED WITH SOHAR ALUMINUM AND OCC. WITH ALL SAFETY Training & KNOWLEDGE. Available Noc & Valid Driving License.

Call or Wts app 98333185

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman (Currently available in Oman). Experience in Engineering / Construction, Manufacturing, Trading Concern & Structural Steel Projects. Materials Management with administrative skills. Looking for suitable placement and ready to join immediately with D/L & NOC.

Contact: 78235621/bsda@ymail.com

CIVIL MANAGER

Indian with 23 years experience in construction and project management with reputed companies and government organisations. D/L and local release available.

CONTACT: 97236220

FINANCE

Indian, Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' world class experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting etc. Multiple Professional qualifications in Accounting and audit. Looking for Top/Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 99455353

EXPERIENCED IN MATERIAL MANAGEMENT (MATERIAL COORDINATION, CONTROL PRO-CUREMENT, LOGISTICS, INVENTORY CONTROL) PLUS , MARKETING, NEED PLACEMENT D/L, NOC AVAILABLE. (MBA - International Business + Diploma in Materials Management).

GSM: 95491377, psjanesh@gmail.com

GM / NSM / Head Of Sales

Male 49 – Proven Business Manager with exceptional sales management skills. Chartered Institute of Marketing - UK, MBA in Marketing,15+ years of FMCG sales & business management experience in GCC & OMAN. NOC/DL available.

Email: sljobseeker72@gmail.com
Contact: 96223114

I T

BCA Graduate looking for placement in suitable IT company, having Oman Driving License. Presently on family joining visa.

Contact on 93339660 for further details

Omani DL holder Indian from Kerala looking for a job in F M C G sector. 12 year experience in Oman. Speak Arabic, English, Hindi and Malayalam. Work experience in all over Oman.

Interested please Contact 94022634

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male 43.y.o seeking a suitable opportunity in Admin/Mktg/Ops Noc & D/L available. PH. 98274545

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for HR/Admin. D/L.Immediate joining.

Contact 95425764

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience in Stores, Purchase, Operation, Admin. D/L.Immediate joining.

78363835

Looking for HR & Admin Manager / Executive or Secretarial postions. Knows custom clearance and costing also. Over 15 years of experience, please call 91732334

Office manager / Business coordination / project administration Indian Graduate Male Experienced in Engineering Consultancy & Construction Contacting Companies looking for a suitable placement. Ready to join immediately with Oman DL & NOC. Contact: 79705674
Email: pramoda.online@gmail.com

Indian Male seeking Admin/HR Job having 23 years of experience in Oman with Valid DL and NOC available - Contact: 99578192

Indian female with 10 yrs experience in payroll, executive secretarial,general admin/HR with valid D/L,looking for suitable placement. Contact 96441865. Email reeteequ1779@gmail.com

Omani Male 35 yrs old, looking for a PRO job. Has experience 14 yrs in the same field. Contact 92049106, 95422144

Indian Female 10 years' experience in Muscat, for the post of Sales Coordinator, Secretary or Office cum Commercial Assistant. Contact 94048550, 95431427. E-mail: bmnair27@yahoo.com

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 6 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & Purchase looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 92369044. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian female 29. Experience in telemarketing/secretarial/office admin work. On family visa. Ready to join ASAP. Muscat. 93605361

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience including Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate. Contact 99283938

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Autocad Draughtsman, 16 years of experience in Oman(Structural & Architectural) looking for a suitable placement with valid Visa. Contact: 95289504
Email kvvinodk@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. Contact 96312087

Driver with Car. Contact 94087980

Looking for driving job with Car. 6 yrs experience. Contact 96176918

Looking for job in driving, with 5 yrs experience. Contact 96189448

Driver need job with own Car. Contact 94087980

Driver, Electrician, plumber looking for job. Contact 96750080

Looking Heavy driver job. Contact 91703829

Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience. Contact 79352646

IT

Indian Post Graduate with 21 years experience in Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, Forms, Reports, DBA, IT Manager, Orion ERP, Sage ERP with Accounts Knowledge and NOC. Contact 95398567 / 78141598 / anasd2k@gmail.com

IT sales and support. 5 years experience with IT network and hardware, BSc. Networking, Oman D/L. Contact 97060076

Mobile app developer - MCA graduate with 5 years exp in Mobile App development.Interested can contact below. Contact 96879202545

MANAGER

Indian, Finance Manager 20Yrs Experience, TradeFinance - MIS - Budget - Planning - Auditing - Finalisation - Banking: 90473368, devan801@gmail.com

Smart Indian Manager, Excellent English, Arabic Speaker, 17years Oman experience, seeks Corporate Communication/Operations/Management/Administration/HR/Suitable Role. Immediate. 99283938.

Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experience, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact: 98803439

MEDICAL

Indian Male 43.y.o seeking a suitable opportunity in medical centers for Admin/Mktg/Ops.Noc & D/L available. Contact 98274545

Indian 30yrs, MSW [Medical & psychiatry] MSC Psychology,6 yrs experience seeks job.Contact 79308281,91 9207258008.

General practitioner 25+ years in Oman. Seeks employment in CLINIC. Contact 78356337

ENGINEER

Quantity Surveying, preparation of documents like BOQ. 23 years in Oman searching a job from contractor or consultant has experience in Civil, MEP, landscaping and interior decorations. Contact 93072517

Senior Civil Engineer with 8 years' experience in government and private construction projects with NOC/DL looking for a suitable job , GSM : 93352004

Electrical Engineer B.Tech, 15 years exp in Oman seeks job. NOC and Release available. Contact 92254336
Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E Civil engr with 14 years of Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

Project engineer experienced in aluminium Industry with valid Oman DL,seeks job. Contact 79500069

Indian 22/Male, B.Tech (Comp. Science) from SRM University, Chennai, Interned at Uniq Technology, Chennai as an Android App developer is looking for an immediate placement. # 95495877

HVAC engineer with 1 year Experience seeks job. Contact 79027224

Mechanical engineer of Car diagnostic and maintenance with experience three years. Contact 93521100

Civil Engineer with 17 years experience in construction field and site supervision for bridges, infrastructure-projects and buildings with overseas consulting companies. Contact 96292267

Site and Planning Coordinator -12+ years Oman exp - Oil and Gas sector-knowledge of PDO rules and specifications, - work experience with large projects, multi-cultural teams, and MS Office. Contact - moinduddins18@yahoo.com / 0091-7032030093.

Indian Female Structural Engineer (B-Tech Civil), 18 Years Gulf Experience is seeking for suitable placement. Having valid visa and driving license. Ready to join Immediately with necessary documents. Contact: 79858363.

Indian Civil QA/QC Engineer, Inspector (BE Civil, PDO approved, QMS Auditor, Oman Driving licence, NOC) with 10 years of experience looking for new job. 96359447, +919901059827

Facility engineer. (BE) 12 years exper. in electrical or maint.engineer field, valid Oman DL. Seeking facility or maint.engineer job. Contact 94493654 or syamsk2255@gmail.com

Senior Planner for Infra projects highway and buildings (B.Tech.Civil with 17 yrs Exp) Immediate join. local transfer -NOC. Contact : 91170802. Email: vvrtammu@gmail.com

Sri Lanka male QS Having 6 years Experience and looking for a suitable job in Oman and ready to join Immediately contact 79473123

M/48, PM Civil Engineer, Indian 28 yrs exp (18 yrs in Oman) with consultants/client seeks placement. contact 92370274

Electrical engineer, experience 12 year in Oman. Contact 98148034

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 10+ yrs experience valid Oman DL, looking for suitable position. Available for immediate join. Noc available. Contact 79023001

Project/Civil engineer with 8 yrs experience in construction projects, gulf experience & DL available. Contact 97906770

Looking for a job for the post of Electrical Engineer with B.Tech and 15 years exp in Oman. NOC and Release available. Contact 92254336. Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E civil engineer having 12 plus years of Oman experience in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having more than 12 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD,ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 92180869. E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com.

SALES / MARKETING

Experienced and academically qualified retail professional available in Oman with more than 20 years experience in multinational brands. Looking for a challenging opening in the top management role. Contact +968 926639013

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with Driving License looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

MBA,7 yrs experience in Marketing seeks job with Oman DL. Contact 97200806. Email haleemkply@gmail.com

Indian Sales/Marketing manager selling of Constructional,building material products with 14 yrs experience in Oman with DL,looking job. Contact 95952066

Indian male, bachelor's degree seeks job in Sales, customer service,administration.12 yrs experience in Oman with Oman DL.Contact 97268429.Email dinojthomas@gmail.com

23 yrs old indian male experience in sales & logistics seeking for suitable job opportunities. #79964123. Email raheelrahman123@gmail.com

Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) & Digital Marketing. Valid Oman DL. Looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79748272 Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing,painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837,98937266

Electrician, plumber & A/C Service, L.Driver (D/L) Contact 95308363

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Finance Manager, 28 years Oman experienced worked with reputed groups, Managing Cashflow, MIS, Budget, Forecast etc. Contact 968-98803439 (Call/Whatsapp)

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Diploma civil Indian male 26 yrs 5 yrs oman exp, NOC ready, sales/procurement/stores. E.mail vijju.asp7777@gmail.com, GSM/WA 00918712330030

Senior Procurement Engineer, M.tech-Civil, Looking for a job, NOC Available, Immediate Joining, Indian Male, 38yrs, have over 16+ years UAE& Oman experience. E. syed-kamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Watsapp +96871144578, GSM +917766019519

Indian/Male(29)/MBA/6 years' experience in procurement and sales coordination with valid Oman D/L. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194



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Ministry honours Bank Muscat for supporting people with disabilities

The bank’s honour comes to reaffirm the prominent and significant role that Bank Muscat plays in implementing social responsibility programmes, activities and events

MUSCAT: In recognition of its prominent role in supporting persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Development honoured Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, for its efforts in supporting the ministry’s services and programmes in the field of supporting people with disability. This was part of the celebration that was recently organised by the



Ministry of Social Development on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the patronage of Dr Mahad bin Saeed Baouin, Minister of Labour, and in the pres-

ence of several excellencies and a number of invitees, where Said Salim Al Aufi, Group Deputy General Manager - Human Resources, Bank Muscat, received the honour from Saeed Baouin.

Bank Muscat has set up a special playground for children with special needs in line with the bank’s commitment to CSR and sustainability. The playground is being set up at the Al Aman Centre for

Rehabilitation in Al Khoudh. The bank’s honour comes to reaffirm the prominent and significant role that Bank Muscat plays in implementing social responsibility programmes, activities and events. On this occasion, Said Salim Al Aufi, Group Deputy General Manager - Human Resources, Bank Muscat, said, “We are proud with this honour, which confirms the bank’s leadership in implementing important and sustainable projects in the field of social responsibility.” Al Aufi pointed out that Bank Muscat cooperates greatly with the Ministry of Social Development in implementing many different programmes and initiatives. As a result, cooperation contributes to achieving successes and achievements that serve the society in general and social security groups and people with special needs in particular. The Group Deputy General Manager - Human Resources, Bank Muscat, stated that the bank pays great attention to activities, events and social responsibility programmes in general, especially those targeting special needs. Bank Muscat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Development, has recently started working on inau-

gurating the new playground with special tools. Al Aufi extended his appreciation to the officials in The Ministry of Social Development for their cooperation. As the nation’s leading financial institution, Bank Muscat has been a pioneer in sustainability in the Sultanate and has worked steadfastly to the community in different initiatives. Tadamun programme has supported a number of Omani social welfare families since its launch by providing them with basic household appliances. Green Sports initiative has further strengthened the sports infrastructure across the nation. The Little Investor financial awareness programme has benefited more than 31,000 students in the Sultanate over the past three years. The Irshad programme, the Al Wathbah Academy, the Maliyat programme along with community-driven initiatives such as the Fak Kurba initiative organised by the Omani Lawyer’s Association in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development are some of the bank’s other initiatives. The Bank’s sustainability programmes have been well appreciated by society and it has received a number of awards in the past.

ONE-STOP-SHOP

BankDhofar corporate centre provides best services and solutions for businesses

MUSCAT: In line with its strategic vision and core values to deliver service excellence to its customers, BankDhofar provides comprehensive products, services and financial solutions, through its full-fledged corporate centre serving corporates, government entities, small and medium enterprises customers all under one umbrella. Hussain Ali Al Lawati, Acting Chief Corporate Banking Officer at BankDhofar, said, “The inauguration of corporate centre comes within our aim to expand our presence in the Sultanate through our one-stop-shop for our customers. At the corporate centre, we focus on a leaner approach by emerging digital technologies into our channels, thus, enhancing the services provided and ensuring the best customer experience.” “We at BankDhofar keep the latest technology and innovation at the core of our strategy to improve the experience of our corporate customers as they can monitor their accounts on a real-time basis and lots more. Our team provides our customers with custom-built solutions based on their business requirements. BankDhofar is proud to be the first bank in Oman to launch a self-service Multifunction Kiosk, conveniently located at our Corporate Centre,” Hussain



Ali Al Lawati added. The Multifunction Kiosk provides 24/7 services. The goal of the Multifunction Kiosk is to enable customers to carry out essential requests and transactions at their convenience at any time of the day and any day of the week. Through the Corporate Internet Banking service, with a click of

button customers can benefit from key features such as fund transfers, managing credit cards, bulk payments, recurring transfers of all types, account management, and trade finance-related services. Corporate Centre was designed using unique layouts and customer experience principles with a blend of Omani traditional culture of hos-

pitality. It is situated at a central location in Al-Azaiba near Muscat International Airport, in proximity to most ministries, government entities and major companies operating in Muscat. This favourable location was selected for its ease of access, enabling our customers to conduct all of their banking transactions smoothly and seamlessly.

PROMOTION



Nissan Altima offers 0% interest up to three years

MUSCAT: Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), is extending a wide range of benefits for the patrons of the on Nissan Altima which offers an outstanding drive, enhanced handling, fuel efficiency and thoughtful technology solutions. As part of the offer, Nissan Oman is extending 0 per cent interest up to three years on Nissan Altima. Other interest slabs on Nissan Altima include 1.99 per cent for 4 years or 2.49 per cent for 5 years or 2.99 per cent for 6 years. As part of the special offer, Nissan Oman is also offering free fuel card, periodic maintenance service, cash gift, free registration, and free insurance on the model. The special promotion is available till January 16 on Nissan Altima purchased for personal use. A senior official of Nissan Oman said, “We are delighted to extend a special offer on Nissan Altima which offers those who drive it an effortless power while furthering remarkable fuel economy. Nissan Altima is also cherished by owners in Oman for its classy design, fuel economy, driving performance, technology, and comfortability. Its good looks, a striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior have brought the car a lifetime of fans. Its powerful high-performance engine and a range of other options add to its appeal.”

companies only. Customers purchasing in cash, LPO, a credit will not be eligible for special interest rate benefit. Terms and conditions apply. Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan Altima starting EMI is OMR 156. These EMIs are calculated basis 2.99 per cent rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure and the special interest rates are applicable on select stocks of these models. Nissan Altima customers can enjoy free insurance in Oman and UAE for the first year for private registration. Customers can enjoy free periodic maintenance service package for 3 years/ 60,000km on Nissan Altima. This offer is valid for 10,000km service intervals. Under the special promotion, customers can avail assured cash gift ranging from OMR2,200 to OMR2,600 on Nissan Altima. Nissan Altima patrons can enjoy free registration for the first year.

Pleasure to drive Nissan Altima has advanced safety features for those seeking a more focused driving experience. Owners vouch that with its advanced technology and in-built design, Nissan Altima is a pleasure to drive. The Nissan Altima 2.0L Turbo, which has a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology has been creating waves within the mid-size sedan segment since its launch. The sedan’s advanced VC-Turbo engine – the company’s first production-ready variable compression ratio engine – is one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created. The Nissan Altima 2.0 has the world’s first variable compression turbo engine. The engine is so smart that it anticipates what the driver wants. The Altima’s shape-shifting VC-turbo engine lets the driver enjoy a lot. Nissan Altima 2.5 L unlocks the pure joy of driving through its innovative latest technology and Nissan Intelligent Mobility feature that responds to the world around in real-time.

PREMIUM AUTOMOTIVE BRAND

Changan CS35 Plus: Sporty new-gen crossover equipped with state-of-the-art technologies

MUSCAT: The premium automotive brand Changan recently launched by Bahwan international Group in Oman has received overwhelming response among the customers. Changan Automobile boasts of a comprehensive portfolio of a range of products including Sedan, Crossovers and SUVs like EADO - Family Sedan, CS35 PLUS Crossover, CS75 4WD Crossover, CS85 Coupe & CS957 Seater 4WD. Changan’s CS35 Plus, a sporty new-gen crossover equipped with state-of-the-art technologies is popular for its unparalleled driving experience. Energetic like the youth, it is packed with a 1.4-litre turbo charged engine which produces 156hp and 260 nm of torque and fitted with a seven-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) to always keep you ahead of the segment competition. CS35 Plus possesses fashionable appearance, strong power and good entertaining features. Developed by the global research and development team of Changan Automobile, it integrates all comprehensive functions: high-quality performance, comfortable driving experience, large internal space and abundant configura-



tions of entertainments. Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, recently announced a partnership with leading international automotive group Changan Automobile Co. Ltd to bring its range of passenger vehicles to Oman including Changan CS35 Plus. A spokesperson for AGAE said, “Vibrant in style and sporty in design, the All-new CS35 Plus gives a robust presence on the outside

while the beautifully crafted interiors give the first-class feel inside. It’s vibrant and energy-filled design appeals to the youth and tech-savvy. It is a youthful SUV for the younger generation who are spirited, passionate, social and want to become the influencers of their time.” It has amazing features including Adaptive Cruise Control, 360° Camera, electrically folding and adjustable ORVMs, 18”Alloy wheels, LED headlamps, Pano-

ramic Sunroof, 3D designed LED Taillamps, Leather Seats, 10inch touch info screen, automatic AC control, 6-way power-adjustable driver seat. With cutting edge technology and advanced features, the CS35 Plus will not only surprise you but also enhance your driving experience. Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides owners with a highly efficient and energy-saving performance. Safety and security features include airbags, Hill Descent Control (HDC), Brake Assist, Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Electronic Parking Brake, and Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD). Other complementary equipment includes parking sensors, a reversing camera and speed-sensing door locks. CS35 Plus’s vehicle specifications include length x width x height of 4335mm x 1825mm x 1660mm, 1.4L Turbo GDI Turbocharged Gasoline Direct Injection engine, wheelbase of 2600mm, power of 156 HP, a torque of 260 Nm and a fuel tank capacity of 53 litres.

ROUND-UP



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OAB launches 2021 calendar with talented Omani photographers

Developed with 12 talented Omani photographers, the new calendar features a stunning photograph for each month of the year and is made entirely from recycled paper and vegetable-based inks

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) launched its first eco-friendly desk calendar for 2021.

Developed with 12 talented Omani photographers, the new calendar features a stunning photograph for each month of the year and is made entirely from recycled paper and vegetable-based inks.

Commenting on this initiative, Feras Al-Farsi, Sustainability and CSR Specialist at OAB, said, "This calendar is aligned with our sustainability strategy to establish partnerships within our com-

munities, as well as preserving the environment. With the help of these amazing local talents, we were able to produce one of our most beautiful calendars to date. I encourage all our customers and partners to show their support for these exceptionally talented photographers by following their accounts on social media, which are also featured in the new calendar."

The calendar includes 12 photos, covering everything from natural landscapes to wildlife and traditional scenes within different wilayats



of the Sultanate. Each photo has the name of the photographer, their account on social media and the wilayat in which the photo was taken.

"In 2019, Oman Arab Bank

launched its new sustainability strategy, which is centred around three main pillars: community partnerships, financial inclusion and environmental responsibil-

ity. This strategy has reinforced the bank's commitment to social responsibility and environmental preservation. Through this initiative, the bank will focus on

limiting the use of environmentally harmful products while also showcasing the exceptional local talents we have in the Sultanate," Feras added.

DESIGN-SAVVY STAYCATION

W Muscat staycation provides most design-forward you will ever have

MUSCAT: Defying expectations with provocative and playful décor, a staycation at W Muscat is a journey through Oman's history of culture and adventure.

Telling the magical tales of Oman's past and present, the hotel's architectural aesthetics and interior furnishings are an ode to the country that sits at the crossroads of the world.

Starting from OMR 65 for two adults, the staycation offer includes breakfast at HARVEST - dotted with mandus patterns and a fresh menu, it's a nod to Oman's nomadic history.

Sitting snugly at the end of the hotel's winding, cave-like corridors, Harvest is perched next to W Muscat's 1,800sqm WET pool. With its refreshingly-blue water only a few seconds walk from the Shatti Al Qurum beachfront, nothing epitomises Oman more than the sun, the palms and a day of pure relaxation and hospitality.



From arrival at W Muscat where guests are greeted by a handmade, 10-metre tall frankincense tree sculpture, it's no wonder the hotel has won numerous awards and praise for its interior design. The guestrooms are an urban escape brought to life through kumma patterns, desert inspiration and metallic artwork that ripples with the colours of sand and sea. A

stroll through the hotel is marked by quirky, animal-themed furniture, star-speckled ceilings and mashrabiya patterns that celebrate Oman's rich traditions and rugged landscape.

With six different B&F venues, guests have access to CHAR-grilled meats surrounded by rich, dhow-like wooden interiors; Asian-Mediterranean sharing plates in the vibrant, Majlis-inspired Siddharta Lounge by Buddha-Bar, (finished with a rooftop infinity pool, of course!); authentic Chinese flavours in the moody and sophisticated '1920's Shanghai' Ba Ban restaurant; and the list goes on.

Including an early check-in and late check-out, W Muscat's design interprets Oman in an edgy and unexpected way bringing you the most design-savvy staycation you'll ever have.

BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN



Radisson Hotel holds blood donation drive in partnership with Bank Blood Oman

MUSCAT: The Radisson Hotel Group in Oman is expanding its responsible business activities to host a blood drive during the COVID-19 in partnership with Bank Blood Oman.

Employees from Hormuz Grand Muscat, A Radisson Collection Hotel, Radisson Blu Hotel Muscat, Radisson Blu Hotel Sohar, Park Inn by Radisson Muscat and Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Residence Duqm took part in blood donation campaign held on December 27 from 9am - 1pm. This activity was conducted as the number of donors has decreased during this year due to the current pandemic and blood components are still needed for a number of purposes.

With the advancement in health care services, they need for blood is ever increasing. Additionally, with reference to the convalescent plasma therapy (from people who have recovered from COVID-19), there is still a need for blood plasma donors.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Radisson Hotel Group and Bank blood Oman have taken all

the necessary measures to protect the donors as well as maintaining a social distance between each donor and determining the number of donors each time with SGS safety protocol in place.

RHG is at the front lines when answering the needs of their communities during times of crisis-whether donating space to host blood drives, food donations or volunteering in local charity groups. RHG believes in conducting business ethically and aims to be a thriving, sustainable and responsible business for people, communities and the planet. RHG employees live responsible business every day - at home, together with hotel colleagues, in local communities where the team works on creating a brighter future and a better planet for all.

Donating blood may take just a few minutes but is one of those simple actions that could end up saving someone's life. Many blood donation camps are organised in Oman by companies, encouraging employees to donate blood and increasing awareness of the importance of the exercise.

WEAR MASK PROMOTION

Al Ariq launches promotional materials

MUSCAT: Al Ariq, the leading distributors for cleaning equipment, waste handling systems and agriculture in Oman launched promotional materials keeping COVID-19 pandemic situation in mind.

The launch of its promotional materials reflects the commitment Al Ariq has towards the health and environment.

An event to mark the launch of its new promotional materials Al Ariq has always been lauded for its commitment towards care and responsibility for a safer living.

The launch was witnessed by its staff members and environment experts. Speaking on the newly launched promotion materials Nikson Mathew, Divisional Manager mentioned that the 2021 launch of these promotional materials is fully in focus with the current pandemic situation.

"We have put a strong thought process on how to reflect the awareness of being safe during this crisis time. One of our staff members Afrah Al Musallami came up with a theme on the proper wearing of a mask. We are happy the design came up well."



Yahya Al-Badawi, lead member public relations mentioned that the T-Shirts themed with "Be Smart, Stay Safe" graphic of

proper wearing of face masks is one of the best that Al Ariq could do for public awareness on the importance of how to wear a mask

when you are in public. He also mentioned the theme reflected the continued support of Al Ariq for social causes.

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