

**OMAN, PAKISTAN EXPLORE
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) met with Imran Ismail, Governor of Sindh province and several other officials in the city of Karachi, Pakistan. **>A5**



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HM RECEIVES THANKS FROM KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of Sheikhha Moudhi Salem Ali Al Malek Al Sabah. In the cable, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his sincere appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and to protect His Majesty against all harm. **-ONA**



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FIVE-YEAR PLAN

HM's move to increase funds for governorates praised by ministry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The move to increase the funds available for development from OMR10 million to OMR20 million for each governorate in Oman, during the current five-year plan, has been welcomed by the Ministry of Economy.

The ministry welcomed the decision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to increase funding, which will help support the implementation of strategic programmes under the initiative to develop governorates and build sustainable cities. The effort is expected to be a catalyst to improve competitiveness within the governorates, and speed up the rate of development. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Agreement inked for SMEs in Oman

1 SMEs in Oman will be allocated space, provided electricity and water connections for free, in specific places. **>A3**

WORLD
Kazakh government quits over fuel prices

2 Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev accepted the resignation of the government after violent protests over fuel prices. **>A6**

MARKET
OMR16mn workforce township for Sur

3 The OMR16 million integrated workforce township will be set up by Bisham Real Estate Company in Sur Industrial City. **>B1**

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MUSCAT



HIS MAJESTY PRESIDES OVER ROYAL OMAN POLICE DAY CELEBRATIONS



The event took place at the parade grounds of the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in Nizwa

NIZWA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, presided over a celebration marking Police Day (5 January) and the passing out of new batches of officers.

The event took place at the parade grounds of the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in Nizwa on Wednesday.

As soon as His Majesty the Sultan arrived in the Wilayat of Ni-

zwa, he was accompanied by a fleet of Police motorcycles to the gate of the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences where a Guard of Honour performed the military salute to His Majesty the Sultan.

Then, the Royal motorcade headed to the celebration grounds, flanked by a cavalcade of senior horsemen of the Royal Oman Police (ROP). There, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Lt.Gen.

Hassan Mohsin Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs.

When His Majesty the Sultan mounted the Royal Dais, columns of the graduate officers gave the military salute to His Majesty the Sultan. Then, the ROP band played the Royal Anthem.

Then, the commandant of the graduates' column stepped forward, requesting His Majesty the Sultan to give the signal to start

the military parade in slow motion. Passing in front of the Royal Dais, the column performed the military salute to His Majesty the Sultan. Then, top graduates came forward to receive the Honorary Sabre from His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

Then, the graduating officers of the 44th batch passed over the colours to the 45th batch of cadet officers. **>A4**



Dhuhr	12:17pm
Asr	3:19pm
Maghrib	5:40pm
Isha	6:55pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5:30am

Pakistan Navy ships' goodwill visit to boost ties with Oman

The naval delegation held discussions on bilateral cooperation between the Pakistan Navy and RNO, as well as the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and Omani Coast Guard

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A group of Pakistan Navy ships including sail training ship PNS Rahnavard, PNS Madadgar and Pakistan Navy submarine Hamza visited Muscat from 2 January to 5 January, 2022 on a goodwill cruise.

The flotilla was led by Commodore Syed Sajid Hussain, serving as mission commander. Parallel to the Pakistan Navy ships and submarine visit to Muscat, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, commander of the Pakistan fleet, also visited Muscat from 2 to 4 January 2022.



During the visit, the commander of the fleet, along with the mission commander, and defence attaché of Pakistan, called on Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al

Raisi, COSSAF (Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces), Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nassir Al Rahbi, CRNO (Commander, Royal Navy of Oman), and Brigadier Ali Al

Maqbali, director general of the Coast Guard at the Royal Oman Police.

The naval delegation held discussions on bilateral cooperation

between the Pakistan Navy and RNO, as well as the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and Omani Coast Guard.

On 3 January 2022, a reception

was hosted on-board PNS Rahnavard (while abiding by the operating protocols and instructions issued by the Supreme Committee for dealing with COVID-19) which was attended by Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, members of the Majlis Al Shura, local dignitaries, diplomats including ambassadors and military attaches of various countries and officers from the Royal Navy of Oman.

Chief guest

Commodore Tariq bin Issa Al Raisi, PSO, Royal Navy of Oman graced the occasion as chief guest.

The visit by the Commander, Pakistan Fleet along with the Pakistani naval ships and submarine, was aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan in general and the Royal Navy of Oman and Pakistan Navy in particular, as well as exploring new vistas for future collaborative initiatives between the two brotherly countries.

Interoperability

The visit will surely contribute towards improving interoperability and learning from each other's experiences on maritime operations.

Upon departing Port Sultan Qaboos on 5 January 2022, the Rahnavard conducted a bilateral passage exercise with the Omani yacht Shabab Oman II.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

252 new COVID cases registered

Times News Service

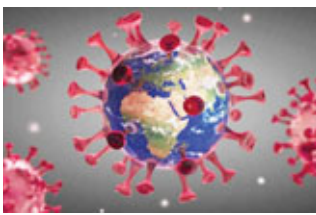
MUSCAT: As many as 252 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to zero new COVID-19-related deaths.

This brings the total number

of positive COVID-19 cases to 306,492 in the Sultanate, according to the Ministry of Health.

Deaths

The total number of COVID-19-related deaths reached 4,117, the Ministry of Health said.



FUND

< FROM
A1

More funding will boost regional development

"Increasing the financial allocations for the governorate development programme will help accelerate the development of their economies, expand the range of programmes and projects that they intend to implement, and accelerate the strategic transformation of the government's move towards decentralisation," said Dr Nasser bin Rashid Al Maawali, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, speaking to Oman News Agency.

Balanced development

The Governorates Development Programme was set up to achieve comprehensive and balanced regional development, and promote optimal utilisation of natural and human resources, in accordance with the relative advantages of each governorate.

The Ministry of Economy had

earlier set basic determinants and general guidelines related to the selection of projects, including those that support growth small and medium enterprises within each governorate, generate job opportunities for people of the governorate, and are compatible with the sectors and objectives of economic diversification specified in the Tenth Five Year Development Plan.

Furthermore, a Royal commission has been set up, to allow the concerned personnel in each governorate to submit plans to the concerned authorities, which explain how the funding provided to them will be used to raise the efficiency of spending on various projects.

This effort also helps achieve the principles of participatory planning, as governance frameworks stress the importance of implementing

those projects that generate additional local value for the governorates, leading to social satisfaction.

"The guidance provided by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to assign responsibility to the key personnel in these governorates, such as the governors, when it comes to follow-up involving government agencies concerned with implementing projects that include social and service components, is in line with the principles of decentralisation, on which the directives of the Tenth Five Year Development Plan are based," added Al Maawali.

He also stressed the government's interest in the participation of the local community in the planning and implementation processes to improve the services required to provide social and economic sustainability.





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Free space, electricity, and water for small, medium enterprises

Khedmah will also open marketing outlets for SMEs by promoting their wares on the company's media platforms, and enhance their capabilities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Small and medium enterprises in Oman will be allocated space, and will be provided electricity and water connections for free, in certain branches of Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC) Khedmah outlets, to help promote their wares and generate awareness about their activities.

BOOSTING SMES: An agreement for the purpose was signed by Abdulaziz bin Saeed Al Raisi, the vice president of the Authority for SME Development (ASMED), and Saud bin Ahmed Al Siyabi, chief operating officer at OIFC Khedmah.

The provision comes after the signing of an agreement between Abdulaziz bin Saeed Al Raisi, the vice president of the Authority for SME Development (ASMED), and Saud bin Ahmed Al Siyabi, chief operating officer at OIFC Khedmah. Furthermore, Khedmah will also open marketing outlets for

SMEs by promoting their wares on the company's media platforms, and enhance their capabilities by engaging them in technical and specialised development programmes in the financial and administrative field. ASMED will carry out field visits to follow up on the performance

of those who have benefited from this scheme, while offering support and assistance in the form of marketing and technical skills to entrepreneurs. "This cooperation comes as a translation of the authority's strategy to develop SMEs, and to enhance integration and effective partnership with public and private sector institutions," said Al Raisi. "It will enhance the authority's approach in providing facilities and support to SMEs by finding marketing outlets for them to expand their growth and reach different segments of society, along with various advantages and incentives." We will also assist in providing programmes to develop

ASMED will carry out field visits to follow up on the performances of those who have benefited from this scheme, while offering support and assistance in the form of marketing and technical skills

the skills needed for them to expand the growth of their enterprises and ensure their sustainability," he added. Adding to this, Al Siyabi said, "the company seeks to enhance efforts to advance the SME sector and support many entrepreneurs to develop their businesses and enhance their chances of success through Khedmah branches located in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman." Some 62,335 small and medium enterprises operate in Oman, as of November 2021, according to figures from the National Centre for Statistics and Information. Nearly 15,000 SMEs were founded in the last 12 months, representing a 30 percent increase in the number of SMEs in the country since November 2020. The vast majority of these are micro-enterprises in Oman. There are 50,133 micro-enterprises, 9,529 small businesses, and 2,673 medium-sized SMEs. Some 21,068 SMEs operate in Muscat Governorate, and there are nearly 10,000 based in North Al Batinah. Ad Dakhiliyah accounts for 12 percent of SMEs in the country, while the southern Dhofar region represents another eight percent.

DBBS

Appeal to people to donate blood at Central Blood Bank in Bausher

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Department of Blood Banks Services (DBBS) has appealed to the people with O+ blood type to donate blood at the Central Blood Bank in Bausher. A statement issued by DBBS said: "Due to the decrease in the

number of blood donors during the past days, which led to a decrease

in the level of stock of O+ type blood. We appeal to the donors to donate blood at Central Blood Bank in Bausher." The DBBS added that blood donation times are from Saturday to Thursday, between 8 am and 8 pm and on Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm.

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

17,588 REACH

Oman

The third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine will be given to expats.





Story on vaccination for expats in Oman

A story on vaccination for expats in Oman reached 17,588 people and had 2,736 engagements on Facebook.

 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

703 LIKES





Photo album of HM presiding over ROP annual day event

A photo album of His Majesty presiding over the ROP annual day celebrations had 703 likes on Instagram

 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

4,500 VIEWS





Morning Minute video on Covid-19 cases in India

The Morning Minute video on Covid-19 cases in India had 4,500 views and reached 18,400 people on Facebook.

اخبار

Eshhar

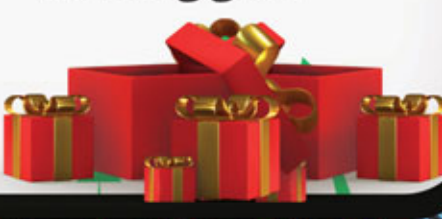
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POLICE DAY



< FROM A1 Passing out batch performs oath of allegiance

Then, the column of the passing out batch chanted the ROP Anthem “Humaat Al Haqq” and performed the oath of allegiance, proclaiming faith in the Almighty Allah and allegiance to the nation and the Sultan.

They pledged to diligently serve Oman and His Majesty the Sultan and to keep vigilance on the security of the country’s citizens and residents. Then, the graduates performed the military salute to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. The ROP band played the Royal Anthem signaling the conclusion of the parade.

After the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan accepted a commemorative gift from the ROP. Lt. Gen. Al Shraiqi had the honour of presenting the memento to His Majesty the Sultan.

Along with His Majesty the Sultan, the event was attended by members of the Royal Family, ministers, commanders of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF), military and security services, senior staff officers of the ROP and heads and commandants of GCC security colleges and institutions.

The ceremony was also attended by the members of the State Council, the Governor of A’Dakhiliyah, undersecretaries, members of the Shura Council from A’Dakhiliyah governorate, walis of the governorate’s wilayats, sheikhs, dignitaries, directors-general of government administrative establishments in A’Dakhiliyah and parents of graduating officers. The Royal patronage of the annual Police Day celebration takes place in the backdrop of a host of tangible accomplishments of police departments.

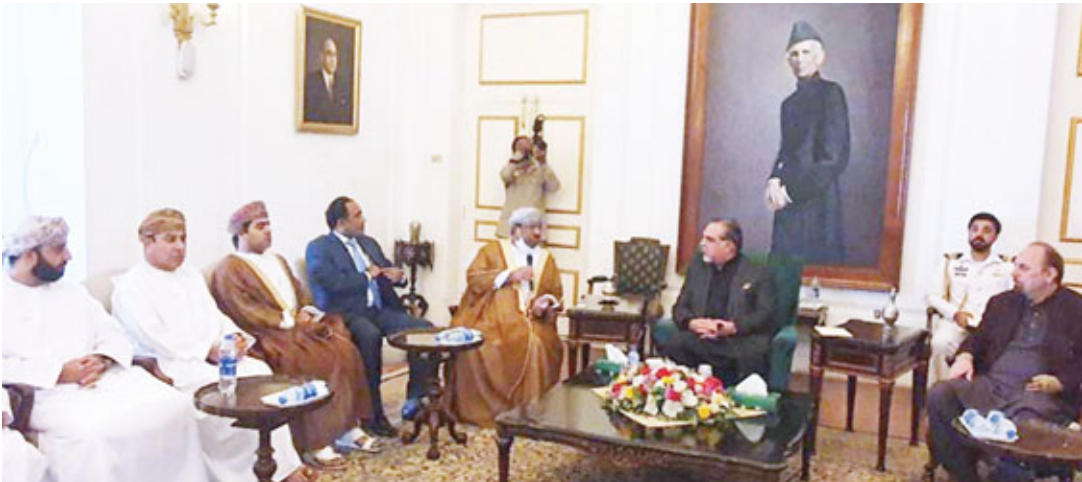
It also caps the ROP’s remarkable performance in the field of security and associated services rendered to citizens and residents whose transactions are finalized within an integrated electronic system.

This Royal attention demonstrates the advanced role undertaken by the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in providing training to police corps.

The Academy takes keen interest in developing the mechanisms of work in terms of developments and qualitative expansion of security tasks, in addition to maintaining a high level of readiness to deal with any new scenarios. -ONA/Thani Al Siyabi

Oman, Pakistan explore trade, investment opportunities

The meeting explored prospects of trade and investment cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, medicine, education,



DISCUSSION: Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) met with Imran Ismail, Governor of Sindh province. - **ONA**



KARACHI: Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) met with Imran Ismail, Governor of

Sindh province and several other officials in the city of Karachi, Pakistan. The meeting explored prospects of trade and investment coop-

eration between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, medicine, education, exports and imports. The meeting was held on

the sidelines of the Omani trade delegation's visit to Pakistan.

Moreover, businesspeople from the two countries held B2B meet-

ings to enhance trade and investment cooperation, as well as to increase trade exchange between Oman and Pakistan. The meetings

also touched on means of establishing partnerships between private establishments and companies from both sides. **-ONA**

GRADUATION



Anniversary marks opening of Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences

NIZWA: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) celebrated yesterday Annual Day, which falls on 5 January every year as it coincides with the anniversary of opening of the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences.

On the occasion, Brigadier Salim Rashid Al Alawi, Commander of Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences said that ROP Annual Day is celebrated to mark the opening of Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences on 5 January 1980, under the patronage of late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour.

The event and the celebration of the anniversary inspire ROP personnel to extend tremendous efforts for achieving further glory in various fields and for security and stability of the country, he said expressing his pride "We are all honoured by the Royal patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander".

Lt General Ghalia bint Masallam Al Hajri, who topped the officers cadet session expressed her pride over the occasion which she described as a source of pride to all personnel of Royal Oman Police.

Graduates of other brotherly countries expressed their delight over the graduation at Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences. It is worth mentioning that Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences comprises a number of specialised training institutes such as the Officers Institute, Non-commissioned Officers Institute, Police Recruits Institute besides the Research Centre and Royal Oman Police College among others. **-ONA**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We the family of late Mrs Milicent Doreen Wickramaratne would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Medical, Administrative & Security Departments of the KIMS Hospital, Darsait Oman for their remarkable services rendered towards us.

A special thanks goes to the Medical Superintendent Dr. Shashiraj Eswarappa for his dedicated care and service.

We also express our sincere appreciation towards the support we received from the Oman Authorities, the Embassy of Sri Lanka & the Sri Lankan Community Social Club in the Sultanate of Oman.

We will forever be grateful to all our relatives & friends who have helped us in many ways during this difficult time.

Finally, we would like to thank the funeral undertakers and the Management of the Hindu Temple for providing the facilities for us to pay last respects to our beloved Mother/Grandmother.

Chandani, Dammika & Akna Lamaheewa.
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2.	5/2022/OCC	UPGRADATION OF PACKING PLANT SILO #7 BUCKET ELEVATOR	R.O. 52.500/-	27 Jan 2022 5PM	1 Feb 2022 11 AM
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- The original bank guarantee should be submitted to the OCC's Tender Box located at the reception area of the Administration Building at Al Misfah West factory Site not later than the time and date of the submission of tenders.
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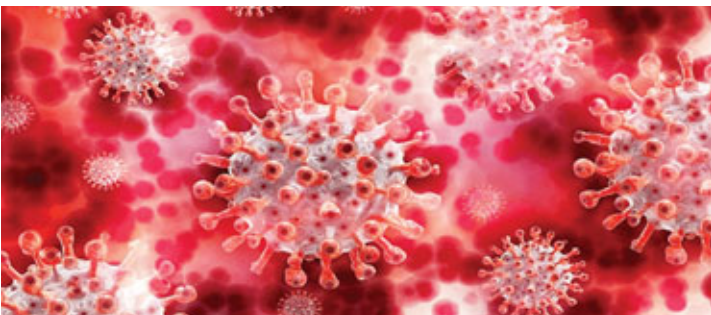




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SPIKE IN CASES

India logs 58,097 new COVID cases, positivity rate at 4.18%



NEW DELHI: India has logged 58,097 new COVID cases in the last 24 hours, and the daily positivity rate is at 4.18 per cent the Union Health Ministry informed on Wednesday.

The active caseload of COVID cases in the country now stands at 214,004. As per the Ministry, 2,135 cases of the Omicron variant have been detected in India, of which 828 have recovered.

Maharashtra and Delhi are among the worst-hit states with the highest number of recorded Omicron cases at 653 and 464 respectively. As many as 482,551 recoveries and 534 deaths from the virus in the last 24 hours were also reported by the Ministry. While the cumulative recoveries from the virus stand at 34,321,803, the total COVID deaths were reported to be 482,551. **ANI**



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Kazakhstan govt quits after protests over surging prices of fuel



The protests on Tuesday came after authorities lifted price caps on LPG, allowing fuel prices to rise significantly

NUR SULTAN: Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev accepted the resignation of his government on Wednesday following violent protests over surging fuel prices. Tokayev named Alikhan Smailov as acting prime minister, according to the president's office.

Earlier on Wednesday, Tokayev had declared a two-week state of emergency in the financial capital Almaty and the province of Mangystau after protests broke out in several locations.

The protests on Tuesday came after authorities lifted price caps on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), allowing fuel prices to rise significantly. The interior ministry said demonstrations continued on Wednesday when, "groups of citizens blocked roads and blocked traffic, disrupting public order."

More than 200 people had been detained and 95 police officers injured since the start of protests.

When announcing his government's resignation, Tokayev also said that the price cap would be re-



RESIGNATION: On Wednesday, Tokayev had declared a two-week state of emergency in the financial capital Almaty and the province of Mangystau after protests broke out in several locations.

introduced as a "temporary price regulation" for a period of 180 days. The state of emergency includes an 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew, movement restrictions, and a ban on mass gatherings, according to official documents.

How did the protests start?

After a surge in the price of fuel, protests with thousands of participants were held in the Mangystau oil hub of Zhanaozen.

Demonstrations spread to other parts of Mangystau and western Kazakhstan, including the provincial center Aktau and the Tengizchevroil worker camp.

Police used tear gas and stun grenades to eject protester's from Almaty's main square early on Wednesday. The AFP news agency reported that there were more than 5,000 protesters at the Almaty rally on Tuesday night.

"Calls to attack government and military offices are absolutely illegal," Tokayev said in an address.

AFP reported that protesters had been chanting "government resign" before police moved in and clashed with demonstrators.

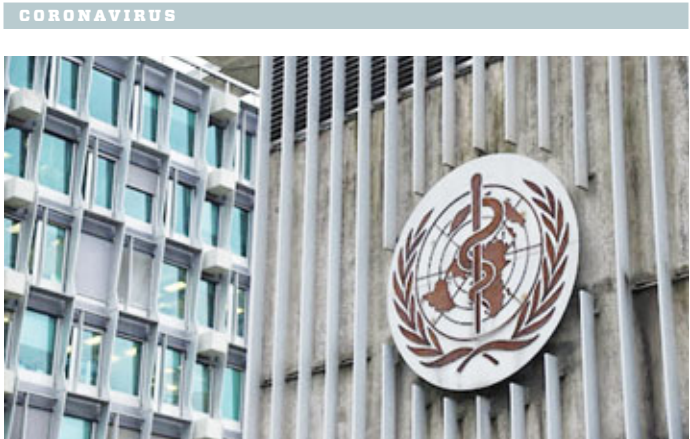
Why are people in Kazakhstan protesting?
The Mangystau region depends on

LPG as the main fuel for vehicles. Jumps in fuel prices also affect the price of food, which has increased substantially since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Many Kazakhs run their cars on LPG, which in Kazakhstan is cheaper than using gasoline due to price caps.

The government lifted the caps on January 1, arguing that the low price was unsustainable.

Tokayev said in a Tweet on Tuesday that the government would move to lower LPG prices in line with protesters' demands, but this failed to dampen the protests.



WHO still recommends 14-day quarantine for COVID-19 patients

GENEVA: Although most people recover from COVID-19 within five to seven days of the onset of symptoms, the World Health Organization (WHO) still recommends a 14-day quarantine, an official from the organization told a press briefing on Tuesday.

However, said Abdi Mahamud from WHO's COVID-19 Incident Management Support Team, states must make decisions about the duration of quarantine based on their individual situations. In countries with low infections, a longer quarantine time could help keep case numbers as low as possible, he explained. In places with runaway cases, however, shorter quarantines may be justified in order to keep countries running, he added.

The WHO official told journalists that it was possible to be infected by both influenza and COVID-19. However, since the two are separate viruses that attack the body in different ways, there is "little risk" of them combining into a new virus.

According to the WHO, as of December 29, 2021, some 128 countries had reported cases of the Omicron variant. In South Africa, which had seen a sharp increase in cases followed by a relatively rapid

drop-off, hospitalization and death rates have remained low.

However, the situation will not be the same in other countries, Mahamud said.

"While the latest studies all point to the fact that the Omicron variant affects the upper respiratory system rather than the lungs, which is good news, high-risk individuals and the unvaccinated could still get gravely ill from that variant," he added.

Mahamud said that the Omicron variant could overtake other strains in a matter of weeks, especially in areas with a large number of susceptible people - primarily those who are unvaccinated.

In Denmark, he said, it had taken two weeks for case numbers to double with the Alpha variant, whereas with the Omicron variant, it had taken just two days.

"The world has never seen such a transmissible virus," he said.

The WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization is set to meet on Jan. 19 to review the situation.

Topics on the agenda for discussion include the timing of boosters, the mixing of vaccines and the composition of future vaccines. **ANI**

PROJECTILE FIRED

North Korea fires projectile into sea off east coast

PYONGYANG: North Korea fired at least one unidentified projectile off its east coast on Wednesday, South Korea's military said.

The projectile was fired into the sea east of the Korean peninsula, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. They later added that it was suspected to be a ballistic missile.

What did Japanese, South Korean authorities say?

Japanese media reported that the suspected ballistic missile landed in the Sea of Japan, outside of Japanese territorial waters. Japan's defense minister, Nobuo Kishi, told reporters that the projectile flew about 500 kilometres (310 miles).

North Korea is forbidden by international sanctions from testing ballistic missiles, but frequently carries out tests.

"Since last year, North Korea has repeatedly launched missiles, which is very regrettable," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters.

"Our military is maintaining readiness posture in preparation for a possible additional launch while closely monitoring the situation in close cooperation with the United States," the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

South Korea's National Security Council convened an emergency meeting, and said that the launch "came at a time when internal and external stability is extremely important" and called



on North Korea to return to talks.

On Wednesday, Japan's foreign ministry said the country's foreign and defense ministers would hold talks with their US counterparts on Friday to discuss security issues.

North Korea vows to boost military capability

The launch would be the first of 2022 North Korea, and comes days after leader Kim Jong Un vowed to continue boosting military capability during a ruling party conference last week.

North Korea has been met with international sanctions as a reaction to its nuclear weapons development and ballistic

missile testing.

The United Nations Security Council first imposed sanctions on Pyongyang in 2006 after the country's first nuclear test, and sanctions have been made tougher after subsequent tests. Dialogue between North Korea and the US on reliving sanctions in exchange for denuclearization remains stalled.

The last known North Korean missile test was a submarine-launched ballistic missile fired in October 2021. That came after 4 tests of different missile types earlier in October and September, including a train-launched missile and what was described as a hypersonic warhead. **ANI**

DIVIDED NATION

US President Biden plans address on January 6 as Donald Trump cancels event

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is set to address a divided nation on the one-year anniversary of the deadly January 6 capitol insurrection, as Donald Trump cancelled a press conference addressing his grievances into a congressional committee investigating the riot.

On Tuesday, Trump abruptly cancelled the briefing at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida that had been slated for the evening of January 6.

In a statement, Trump once again reiterated his conspiracy theory that the November 2020 election was "stolen" and repeated his baseless claims that widespread voter fraud had put Biden in office. Trump said he would speak on many of the same issues at a rally scheduled for January 15.

On January 6, a mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol building in an effort to halt the confirmation of Biden's victory, fueled by Trump's claims of election fraud. Five people died, and over 130 police officers were injured.

Biden plans to 'speak the truth'

White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters on Tuesday that President Biden's address on Thursday would "speak to the truth of what happened, not the lies that some have spread since, and the peril it has posed to the rule of law and our system of democratic governance."



"He'll speak to the historical significance of January 6, what it means for the country one year later," Psaki said.

Democrats Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will speak from inside the Capitol's Statuary Hall on Thursday morning. Congress will hold a prayer vigil later on Thursday.

Trump and some Republicans and right-wing media personalities have played down the attack on the Capitol - the heart of the US democracy - characterizing the incident as a non-violent protest or blaming left-wing activists.

The Associated Press reported that Trump had faced pressure

from allies to cancel the press conference on the day of the riot, as the Republicans are hoping to win back control of the House and Senate in this fall's midterm elections, and are seeking to deflect attention from what Biden has called "one of the darkest days" in US history.

Psaki said Biden will also have a message to the many Republicans who think Biden stole the election from Trump - despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

"What he's going to continue to do is speak to everyone in the country. Those who didn't vote for him, those who may not believe he is the legitimate president." **ANI**

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BANGLADESH VS NEW ZEALAND

Bangladesh stun New Zealand in first Test, defeat WTC champions by eight wickets

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Ebadot Hossain picked up a six-wicket haul in the second innings as Bangladesh defeated New Zealand by eight wickets in the first Test of the two-match series here at the Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui on Wednesday.

With this win, Bangladesh has become the first team to defeat New Zealand in New Zealand in a Test match since March 2017. This is also Bangladesh's first Test vic-

tory over the BlackCaps. Needing 40 runs for the win, Bangladesh wrapped up the chase in overs with Mominul Haque (13*) and Mushfiqur Rahim (5*) remaining unbeaten at the crease. For New Zealand, Tim Southee and Kyle Jamieson picked up one wicket each in the second innings.

Earlier, resuming Day 5 at 147/5, hosts New Zealand managed to add just 22 more runs to the total, setting Bangladesh a target of just

40 runs for the win. Kyle Jamieson and Tim Southee were dismissed for a duck on the final day of the Test while Trent Boult scored eight runs. For Bangladesh, Ebadot Hossain picked up six wickets in the second innings while Taskin Ahmed scalped three.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 328 and 169; Bangladesh 458 and 42/2 (Najmul Hossain Shanto 17, Mominul Haque 13*; Kyle Jamieson 1-12). **ANI**



Elgar nudges hosts ahead as Proteas need 122 runs to win 2nd Test

In the second session, India added 78 runs after lunch to set South Africa a target of 240

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa need 122 runs to win the second Test against India with six sessions left in the match here at The Wanderers in Johannesburg.

South Africa folded India for 266 in the second innings and then got to a decent start as their score read 118/2 at the Stumps on Wednesday. South Africa started the chase cautiously as skipper Dean Elgar and Aiden Markram survived a tricky phase before Tea on Day Three. Starting the last session of Day 3 on 34/0, Shardul Thakur got the visitors their much-awaited breakthrough as in the last ball of 10th over, the pacer trapped dangerous-looking Markram in front of the wickets for LBW. SA opener scored quick 31 off 38.

Keegan Petersen then joined his captain on the crease and the duo continued frustrating the Indian bowlers. After trying different pace combinations, KL Rahul went with seasoned Ravichandran Ashwin and the spinner soon delivered the result as he removed Petersen. The Proteas batter scored 28 off 44 before Ashwin trapped him in front of wickets in the 28th over.

After that wicket, Elgar was joined by Rassie van der Dussen and the pair ensured to end the day with eight wickets in the bag for the hosts.



2ND TEST: Starting the last session of Day 3, Shardul Thakur got the visitors their much-awaited breakthrough as in the last ball of 10th over, the pacer trapped Markram in front of the wickets for LBW.

Earlier, in the second session, India added 78 runs after lunch to set South Africa a target of 240. Hanuma Vihari remained unbeaten at 40 while Shardul Thakur played a knock of 28 runs in 24 balls. For South Africa, Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen all picked three wickets to bundle India out for 266.

In the first session, South Africa fought back with four wickets late

on Wednesday morning. Resuming Day Three, Pujara and Rahane added 70 more runs to the overnight tally before Kagiso Rabada got the breakthrough for South Africa. Rabada got Rahane out caught behind for 58 before trapping Pujara in front of the stumps. The right-handed bowler didn't stop here and went onto dismiss Rishabh Pant as India lost the third wicket on Wednesday.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane had steadied the ship for India with their respective fifties but Rabada removed both batters to lead South Africa's fight back on Wednesday morning. Brief Scores: India 202/10 and 266/10 (Cheteshwar Pujara 53, Rahane 58; Kagiso Rabada 3-54) vs South Africa 229/10 and 118/2 (Dean Elgar 46*, Aiden Markram 31; Ravichandran Ashwin 1-14) **ANI**

FOOTBALL



Lukaku apologises to Tuchel days after suggesting he wants to join Inter Milan

LONDON: Chelsea striker Romelu Lukaku has apologised to the fans of the club, manager Thomas Tuchel and his teammates days after saying that he is unhappy with the club.

In an interview with Sky Sport Italia, Lukaku had said that he is unhappy with Tuchel's way of managing Chelsea adding that he hopes to link up with his old club Inter Milan. "To the fans, I'm sorry for the upset that I caused. You guys know the connection that I have had with this club since my teenage years, so I totally understand you guys being upset. Obviously, it's up to me now to restore your trust and I'll do my best to show commitment every day on the training ground and in the games to make sure we win games," Lukaku said in a video posted on the official Twitter handle of Chelsea.

"To the manager, I apologise and to my team-mates and the squad because I think it was not the right moment and I want to move forward from this make sure we start winning football games and that I perform for the team in the best manner," he added.

Lukaku was left out of the Chelsea squad for Sunday's Premier League clash against Liverpool.

Liverpool and Chelsea had played out a 2-2 draw on Sunday and Lukaku is now set to return to the team going forward.

Talking about Lukaku's, Tuchel in a press conference said: "First of all, we are happy that we took the time to look calmly on it, this is what we did. He apologised and is back in the squad for training today. The most important thing was to understand and believe it was not intentional. There was never the slightest behaviour against the team. These are very important points to understand that it is not that big as people or you want it to be. It is also not small but small enough to stay calm, to accept an apology, and to move on."

"He is aware of what happened and he created and feels the responsibility to clean the mess up but there may still be a smell of course. We are happy that he is our player and we will protect him. If someone strongly disagrees, this is about the team with everything we do," he added. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Arif, Shameer steer Earn Trust to big victory

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Splendid 100 by Arif Hussain and Shameer Mohamed's 5 for 7 powered Earn Trust CT to a massive 147-run win over OCT Al Nahdha in an T20 F Division game of Oman Cricket League at OAC 3 ground in Seeb.

Opener Arif's 58-ball century was the highlight of Earn Trust's total of 196 for 3 that also saw 43 off 26 from his opening partner Manas Kapoor.

OCT Al Nahdha was shot out for a meagre 49 in 13.1 overs as leg-spinner Shameer Mohammed was literally unplayable in his 3.1 overs, taking five wickets.



Lakshmi Narayan of OCA

Moazzam Shah and Manas bowled equally well, taking two wickets each.

Brief Scores (F Division): Earn Trust CT 196 for 3 in 20 overs (Arif Hussain 100 - 12x4, Maanas Kapoor 43 - 8x4) trounced Oct Al Nahdha 49 all out in 13.1 overs (Sharif Al Balushi 10 - 1x4, Shameer Mohamed 5-7, Moazzam Shah 2-16, Maanas Kapoor 2-12) by 147 runs.

Lakshmi stars in big win for OCA

Lakshmi Narayana's superb 105 laid the foundation for Oman Cricket Academy's (OCA) massive 308-run victory against Pakistan

School Muscat in a 50-over Junior League Under-19 match at OC Turf 2 in Amerat on Saturday.

Apart from Lakshmi's 83-ball ton, Rishabh Gupta struck 63 off 73 while Saumya Bhavin contributed 54 off 57 to lift OCA to a monumental 369 for 8 in a 48-over game due to late start. Muhammed Anas bagged 2 for 41.

PSM failed to make a match of I, folding up for a dismal 61 in 22.1 overs. Azam Ali picked up 3 for 22 while Saumya Bhavin and Amanpreet Singh took two wickets each.

Brief scores (Junior League Under-19): Oman Cricket Academy 369 for 8 in 48 overs (Lakshmi Narayana 105 - 12x4, Rishabh

Gupta 63 - 4x4, Soumya Bhavin 54. Muhammed Anas 2-41) thrashed PSM 61 all out in 22.1 overs (Abubaker Iftikhar 19 - 2x4, Azam Ali 3-22, Saumya Bhavin 2-01, Amanpreet Singh 2-13) by 308 runs.

Bhakti leads Muscat Women to victory

Bhakti Shetty's outstanding all-round show led Muscat Women to a 5-wicket win over Pakistan Women in a Women's League game at OC Turf 2 in Amerat on Monday.

Oman star Fiza Javed topscored with a fluent 52 off 45 whereas Sameera Khan contributed a run-a-

ball 27 as Pakistan Women posted 126 on the board. Bhakti's new ball spell was the major reason they could not compile a bigger total.

Bhakti excelled with the bat too, striking an elegant 40 off 46 while her opening partner Sai Sadhya scored 28 off 36 as Muscat sealed the win in the 19th over, scoring 127 for 5. Hira Javed claimed 2 for 15.

Brief Scores (Women's League): Pakistan Women 126 for 7 in 20 overs (Fiza 52 - 7x4, Sameera Khan 27 - 3x4, Bhakti Shetty 4-20) lost to Muscat Women 127 for 5 in 18.5 overs (Bhakti Shetty 40 - 3x4, Sai Sadhya 28, Hira Javed 2-15) by 5 wickets.



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MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,186.64 points, up 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48 per cent at 529.02 points. Madina Takaful, up 4.26 per cent, was the top gainer while, Voltamp Energy down 2.61 per cent, was the top loser.

Pact signed to set up OMR16mn integrated workforce township

This project in Sur Industrial City aims to provide the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of the current investors and attract new local and foreign investments

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), represented by Sur Industrial City, has signed a land development agreement (usufruct) with Bisham Real Estate Company to establish an OMR16 million integrated workforce township in Sur Industrial City.

The project, which will be developed on an area exceeding 180,000 square metres, will be divided into three categories, each with its distinctive standards and specifications. In addition, it will include a variety of accommodation options and it will also com-

prise other services such as gyms and a shopping centre.

Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed within 36 months and will accommodate 5,600 workers. Moreover, the project will provide 300 direct job opportunities.

Madayn is implementing several vital projects in Sur Industrial City as work is underway in executing an infrastructure development project at a total value of more than OMR12 million, which will be completed by the beginning of the second half of 2022. This project aims to provide the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of the current in-

vestors and attract new local and foreign investments.

The project includes the construction of a 17-km-long water network, 14 km of sewage network, 10.6 km of the road network, 6.8 km of water drainage channels, two wastewater storage tanks with a total capacity of 1,230 cubic metres, and water tanks.

Additionally, Madayn has floated a tender for pre-qualification of consulting companies, and offers have been received from 18 companies. The analysis and evaluation process of these offers is underway and it is hoped that the project will be completed during the second half of 2022.

The project aims to update the masterplan of the industrial city, including identifying suitable locations for heavy industries, service paths, and locations for infrastructure facilities, in addition to conducting a hydrological study for wadi paths, identifying their size and drainage and protection schemes, and creating additional leasable areas. -ONA



MASTERPLAN: The project aims to update the masterplan of the industrial city, including identifying suitable locations for heavy industries, service paths, and locations for infrastructure facilities, in addition to conducting a hydrological study for wadi paths, identifying their size and drainage and protection schemes, and creating additional leasable areas. -ONA

LUCRATIVE AVENUE

ahlibank launches mutual funds

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ahlibank has announced the launch of mutual funds, opening up lucrative avenues for customers to invest and seek a 'better tomorrow'.

The investment vehicle will provide access to a host of global mutual funds to invest in through a tie-up with Allfunds Bank, a leading platform for global fund investment technologies and corporate money distribution.

The mutual funds will be available for all its customers who are willing to invest. Customers will be able to choose their mutual fund portfolio as per their preference. The mutual funds' portfolios of the customers will be managed by highly experienced, specialised investment managers working with the respective firms. ahlibank's wealth management team will support clients in assessing risk factors and help make prudent investment choices, with the focus on a well-diversified portfolio to diversify investments. Investors will have access to different markets and sectors around the world in a single pool; enjoy high liquidity at the time of buying or selling; experience capital growth for long-term investment; as well as the opportunity to receive a monthly income.

Reiterating the merits of mutual funds for clients who are driven towards the investment market for a secure future, Najla Murtadha Al



Lawati, AGM- Private Banking & Wealth Management of ahlibank, described the funds as a 'beneficial channel' to invest. Explaining further, she said, "The mutual fund is a highly professionally managed investment fund that pools money from several investors to invest in bonds, shares and other securities. This contributes to diversifying the investment portfolio and achieving returns that exceed those which are non-professionally managed Investments. It will not only provide easy access to global markets, without any hitch but also ensure high liquidity with projected profits."

"Investors and analysts would be aware that the global markets have experienced exceptional returns over the past five years, with some funds making profits of more than 100 per cent (about 20 per cent per

annum). This bodes well for investors who want to explore new horizons to boost their money along with the changing investment landscape in the markets. ahlibank's wealth management team will help you figure out when to enter the market and make profits."

Mutual fund is not a new concept in Oman - long time investors in Oman have savoured the benefits of funds through the local stock exchange, which has listed mutual funds, including a fund from ahlibank. What is new, however, is that the bank has factored in ease and convenience to help investors access the global funds through ahlibank, assuring total commitment and assistance for its clients. In light of this, the bank has relied on market surveys to assess the potential for money to move to mutual funds and counted on customer feedback, which has demonstrated the need to provide alternative investment solutions to the bank's customers, including investment in global mutual funds.

ahlibank has strategically positioned its new investment platform to ensure a bright future for beneficiaries, as part of its approach of elevating customer experiences in banking services and keeping pace with steady growth in local and global markets. Clients interested to know more about the Mutual Fund can contact ahlibank's Wealth Management Team, for a personalised meeting to assess their potentials.

CBO DATA



Total outstanding credit extended by ODCs in Oman tops OMR27bn

MUSCAT: The total outstanding credit extended by other deposit corporations (ODCs) grew by 5.4 per cent to OMR27.8 billion as of the end of November 2021, according to the data of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

The credit granted to the private sector recorded a moderate growth of 2.3 per cent to reach OMR23.4 billion at the end of November 2021.

The non-financial corporate

sector received the highest share of the total private sector credit, over 46.5 per cent, followed by the household sector accounted for 45.2 per cent. The share of financial corporations was 4.7 per cent and other sectors received the remaining 3.6 per cent of the total private sector credit as of the end of November 2021.

Total deposits held with ODCs registered a Y-o-Y growth of 5.7 per cent to reach OMR25.4 bil-

lion as of the end of November 2021. Total private sector deposits increased by 5.3 per cent to OMR17.3 billion.

In terms of the sector-wise composition of private sector deposits, the biggest share was to households' deposits at 51.2 per cent, followed by non-financial corporations at 31.7 per cent, financial corporations at 14.2 per cent and the other sectors at 2.9 per cent. -ONA

AL MAZUNAH FREE ZONE

Meet highlights incentives and services offered to the investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Mazunah Free Zone, which is managed and operated by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, held a meeting with the business owners, officials of companies and customs clearance offices in the free zone, and ROP customs officials.

The meeting, which was chaired by Said bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director General of Al Mazunah Free Zone, briefed Madayn's plans for Al Mazunah Free Zone in the coming period to strengthen joint efforts to achieve an ideal business and investment environment.

Moreover, the meeting highlighted the incentives and services offered to the investors and companies in the free zone, as well as underlined the challenges facing the investors and ways to overcome them.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Madina Takaful, up 4.26 per cent, was the top gainer while, Voltamp Energy down 2.61 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,186.64 points, up 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48 per cent at 529.02 points. Madina Takaful, up 4.26 per cent, was the top gainer while, Voltamp Energy down 2.61 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 295 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.62 million, with more than 745 million shares changing hands. Out of 35 traded securities, 9 advanced, 9 declined and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR512,000 while Omani investors were net buyers for OMR506,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR6,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,674.29 points, up 0.22 per cent. Madina Takaful, Ahli Bank, Global Investment Holding, Bank Nizwa and Al Omaniya Financial Services were up 4.26 per cent, 1.72 per cent, 1.61 per cent, 1.03 per cent and 0.77 per cent respectively. HSBC Bank Oman, Muscat Finance and Al Anwar Investment were down 1.92 per cent, 1.72 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,033.91 points, down 0.23 per cent. Services Index was up by 0.20 per cent before closing at 1,635.58 points. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index.....	High.....	Low.....	Value	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,190.62	4,178.10	4,186.64	4,178.93	777.1	0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,686.94	6,656.42	6,674.29	6,659.63	14.66	0.22
Industry Index.....	6,052.43	6,033.91	6,033.91	6,047.53	-13.61	-0.23
Services Index.....	1,636.34	1,634.09	1,635.59	1,632.33	3.26	0.20
MSX Shariah Index.....	529.03	525.93	529.03	526.48	2.55	0.48
MSX TR INDEX.....	5,042.80	5,027.74	5,038.02	5,028.74	9.28	0.18

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
7,451,320	1,620,096	295	22,189,591,424	9	9	17	35

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

ISIN.....SECURITY NAME.....VOLUME.....TURNOVER.....TRADES.....OPEN PRICE.....HIGH.....LOW.....CLOSE PR.....PREV. CLOSE.....DIFF (RD).....DIFF %.....LAST PD.....LAST BD.....LAST OFFER.....PUR VALUE.....MARKET CAP.....

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	2,396,197	354,395	51	0.145	0.148	0.145	0.148	0.145	0.003	2.069	0.148	0.147	0.148	0.100	35,076,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	604,177	71,193	17	0.118	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.116	0.002	1.724	0.118	0.116	0.118	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	267,700	34,992	18	0.131	0.131	0.130	0.131	0.130	0.001	0.769	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.100	38,243,507
OM0000002026	OMAN TELECOM	18,180	14,011	9	0.772	0.772	0.760	0.772	0.768	0.004	0.521	0.772	0.760	0.772	0.100	579,000,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	3,000	2,280	2	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.784	0.784	0.000	0.000	0.780	0.760	0.780	0.100	123,480,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	416	153	1	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.000	0.000	0.368	0.368	0.374	0.100	45,962,449
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,196,214	598,107	47	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.498	0.500	0.100	1,787,237,396
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	141,500	16,414	3	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.113	0.116	0.100	346,847,226
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,708	663	3	0.388	0.390	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.000	0.000	0.388	0.380	0.388	0.100	252,566,361
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	95,105	22,525	8	0.240	0.240	0.236	0.237	0.238	-0.001	-0.420	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.100	47,400,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	411,601	179,472	23	0.440	0.440	0.436	0.436	0.438	-0.002	-0.457	0.436	0.432	0.436	0.100	23,980,000
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	320,000	157,900	10	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.432	-0.002	-0.463	0.430	0.418	0.440	0.100	24,600,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	50,000	21,940	7	0.422	0.430	0.422	0.426	0.428	-0.002	-0.467	0.426	0.426	0.430	0.100	100,710,660
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	66,700	6,203	7	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	9,000	513	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.100	17,507,341
Total	15	5,581,498	1,459,861	207												

Parallel Market

OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	5,500	539	2	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.094	0.004	4.255	0.098	0.093	0.103	0.100	17,150,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	55,000	3,465	2	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.063	0.060	0.063	0.100	12,600,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	15,000	1,410	3	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	12,220,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	759,064	74,164	26	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	62,500	12,313	2	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.196	0.001	0.510	0.197	0.189	0.197	0.100	320,311,432
OM0000001301	DHOOFAR CATTLE	14,140	1,004	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.100	5,740,350
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	121,000	6,897	5	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.056	0.059	0.100	7,123,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	102	48	1	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.000	0.000	0.470	0.424	0.470	1.000	5,181,772
OM0000002549	BANK DHOOFAR	122,000	15,616	5	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.121	0.128	0.100	383,532,984
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,000	888	1	0.888	0.888	0.888	0.904	0.904	0.000	0.000	0.888	0.900	0.900	0.100	55,392,600
OM0000002804	ASAFI FOODS	5,000	810	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.173	0.173	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.161	0.160	0.100	20,760,000
OM0000003265	NAT. DETERGENT	500	316	1	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.000	0.000	0.632	0.600	0.632	0.100	10,751,900
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	52,700	3,920	2	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	15,020,997
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	186,700	7,281	1	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.100	8,619,390
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	333,128	16,856	15	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	538	47	2	0.089	0.089	0.087	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	13,999,536
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	383	34	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.081	0.090	0.100	57,618,787
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	56,790	5,793	3	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.104	-0.002	-1.923	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	10,000	1,320	2	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.135	-0.003	-2.222	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	4,431,431
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	68,777	7,714	12	0.115	0.115	0.112	0.112	0.115	-0.003	-2.609	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	9,117,098
Total	20	1,869,822	160,235	88												

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Automobile retail sales in India drop despite December discounts

NEW DELHI:

December discounts failed to boost retail sales of automobiles. Sales of two wheelers, passenger vehicles and tractors fell by 20 per cent, 11 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, in December 2021 year-on-year, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations data released.

Passenger vehicle sales continue to face the brunt of semi-conductor shortage with consistent long waiting period. Two-wheelers sales show no sign of recovery as customers continue to remain cautious with rising third wave of COVID-19 pandemic and bad rural sentiments.

Medium and heavy commercial vehicle segments continue healthy growth with low base of last year and bring Commercial Vehicle sales at almost pre-COVID levels. India once again starts facing the heat of Delta/Omicron wave with many states now starting to put movement restrictions which will further impact sales. -ANI

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UAE highlights new investment incentives, opportunities in vital sectors

ABU DHABI:

Dr Ahmad Belhouli Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, representing the UAE, participated in the recently held UAE-US Innovation and Investment Summit.

Mutual investments

The summit was aimed to exploring more cooperation opportunities in the next phase to expand and develop UAE-US trade exchanges and mutual investments with greater participation of private sector companies from both sides. It was also aimed at facilitating fruitful partnerships in sectors that support the sustainability and innovation agenda of the two countries.

In his speech, Dr Al Falasi underlined the strength and durability of the UAE-US economic relations, which are reflected in the volume of mutual investments, as the UAE's investments make up the largest share in the total Arab investments in the US markets, at \$44.7 billion by the end of 2020. The UAE also ranks first in the Arab world and the 20th globally among the most important countries investing in American markets. -WAM

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Email: shamritharavi99@gmail.com

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Indian, 13 years Accounts experience in Oman seeks suitable position. Contact 96496435

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Email: shariffmunsk786@gmail.com

Accountant, MBA-Finance with more than 4 yrs Experience .Good working Knowledge in SAP software & Advanced Excel. Visa expires on 12 Jan 2022 seeking suitable position. Contact +968 92706965
Gmail: ranjuvettom@gmail.com

Senior Accountant, Indian male, 15 years experience in Oman with D/L & NOC. Contact : 9117 2545. Email poovathanickal@gmail.com

Accountant, with 10 years experience seeks placement. Presently in Oman. Contact 78075373

Young Indian Accountant, B.Com graduate having 3 years experience in Accounts looking for immediate placement. Contact 97092353

Graduate Senior accountant with 7 years' Oman experience looking for a suitable position. Contact 91420128

Indian 23 yrs, B.Com, fresher looking for suitable job in accounts, office assistant or sales. Contact 72872847. Email ruknuddintabish@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Indian Female (45) - B.Ed Graduate. Primary, middle school teacher. Have 6 years exp. in CBSC School, Kerala. Looking an opportunity in Muscat Indian School. Contact Nos: 968-98378518 / 91 9495442210. Email: vkalluvilayil@hotmail.com

Indian Female having Master Degree in Physics looking for suitable Job. Contact 95256323

Special Educator/Counsellor having 4 years experience in Special Education and 3 years experience in Counselling at cbse schools in Oman, looking for suitable positions. Contact 92592342.

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Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman driving license and 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. Contact 79256679

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Indian Male, MBA, B.Com having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Accounts looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian HR-professional 8.5yrs Oman Exp (HR/SAP/Payroll/Admin-overall 14year-Exp) with Oman DL & NOC. Seeking openings in Human Resource & Admin jobs. Contact: +91 9544984757 (Whats App +968-94129291) Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

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Indian Civil Engineer with total 8.5 yrs. In Oman (2.5 years) seeks placement. Contact & WhatsApp 79547717

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CONTACT 94619442

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Senior Accountant

Indian male M. Com with PG in computers, working as Senior Accountant in Oman with over 12 years with advanced knowledge in MS Dynamics, ODDO, Tally Erp/Prime (Tally customising with developer), looking for suitable position.

Contact on +96871551938

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Contact No: 95920740,
Email ID: alhameed1527@gmail.com

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Indian Male, MBA-Marketing, 6 years Oman experience as Sales & Marketing Executive. Seeking suitable position. D/L available. Contact 94883005

Sales operations coordinator B-com with E-commerce & Various other certifications, 5 years of Dubai and 2 years of Muscat experience, with refined skill set, Looking for new challenges. Contact +968 9676 6702
E-mail: ilyas3299@gmail.com

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257"

Indian Male PG in Biotech. with 4 years experience in Insurance sales total 8 year exp. Looking For Sales Job, available in Oman. Contact 79015490

Indian male 30 B.com Having 7yrs on field experience in Inventory, operation assistant & Sales Executive DL & NOC available. Contact 97855282
Email: natiquae.ahmed91@gmail.com



STUDY finds how PLANTS RESPOND to HEAT STRESS

A new study has found that to survive short periods of heat stress, plants activate a molecular pathway called the heat-shock response.

The research has been published in the 'EMBO Journal'. This heat-shock response (common to all organisms) protects cells from damage inflicted by proteotoxic stress, which damages proteins. Such stress is not only caused by heat but can also result from exposure to certain toxins, UV light, or soil salinity.

The heat shock response protects cells in various ways, one of them being the production of so-called heat-shock proteins, which serve as molecular shields that protect proteins by preventing misfolding.

Plants respond to heat stress by activating heat shock factors and also other molecular players. In particular, hormones as chemical messengers are involved. Among the hormones that plants produce are brassinosteroids, which primarily regulate their growth and development.

But, in addition to their growth-promoting properties, brassinosteroids have other interesting abilities, one of them being their ability to increase the heat stress resistance of plants, and researchers at TUM have recently discovered what contributes to this protective ability.

Using the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a research group led by Prof. Brigitte Poppenberger was able to elucidate how a specific transcription factor - a special protein responsible for switching certain sections of the DNA on or off - is regulated by brassinosteroids. This transcription factor, called BES1, can interact with heat shock factors thereby allowing genetic information to be targeted towards the increased synthesis of heat shock proteins.

When BES1 activity was increased, plants became more resistant to heat stress, and when it was decreased, they became more sensitive to it. Further-

more, the group demonstrated that BES1 was activated by heat stress and that this activation is stimulated by brassinosteroids.

"These results are not only of interest to biologists trying to expand our understanding of the heat shock response but also have the potential for practical application in agriculture and horticulture," said Prof. Poppenberger.

Bio-stimulants containing brassinosteroids are available and can be tested for their ability to increase heat stress resistance in plants. Such substances are natural products that are approved for organic farming and thus could be used without problems.

Alternatively, BES1 may be an interesting target for breeding approaches. This could be used to create varieties that are more resistant to heat stress and thus provide more stable yields in the event of future heat waves. - ANI

FEATURE

B.1.640.2

NEW CORONAVIRUS VARIANT IDENTIFIED IN FRANCE



Just when we thought things were looking up at least a little, because the omicron variant, while being more contagious, often takes a milder course than delta, a new variant has emerged. We do not yet know how dangerous it is, or even where it originated.

The new variant was detected in early December in a traveler who returned to France from Cameroon, the hospital IHU Mediterranee in Marseille announced. The returnee from Cameroon reportedly infected 12 people in southern France.

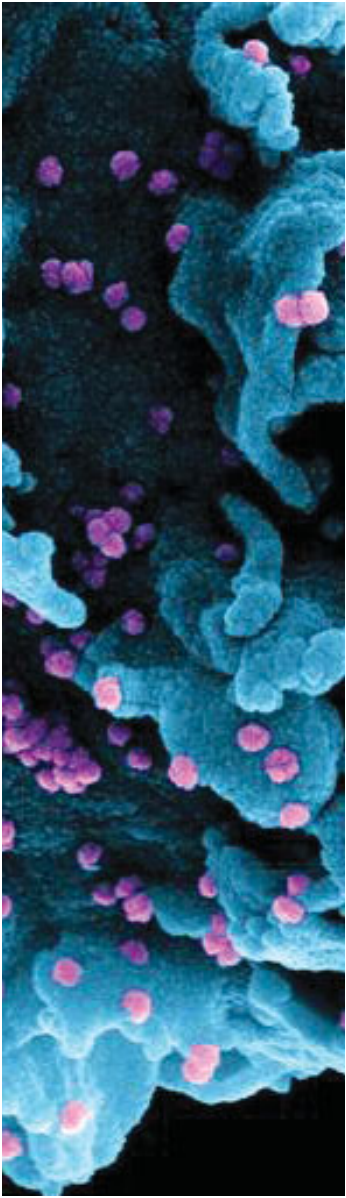
Even more mutations than Omicron

This new mutant, called B.1.640.2, has 46 mutations in an “atypical combination,” according to a pre-print study that has not yet been peer-reviewed.

According to this study, the two already known spike protein mutations N501Y and E484K are also found in the new coronavirus variant. The N501Y mutation, for example, was detected very early in the alpha variant. It causes the pathogen to bind more strongly to human cells and thus to spread more easily in the body.

E484K is one of the escape mutations located directly in the spike protein and thus possibly reduces the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

B.1.640.2 was discovered in a traveller returning from Cameroon and has a high number of mutations



Little known about danger and origin

But what these mutations mean and whether the new coronavirus variant B.1.640.2 is actually more contagious than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus cannot yet be said with any real confidence, due to the lack of available data and the small number of cases.

We do not yet know anything about the origin of this new variant, either. The fact that B.1.640.2 has now been detected for the first time in a returnee from Cameroon does not mean that the variant has also emerged in the Central African country.

However, very low vaccination rates generally favor the emergence of new coronavirus mutations. In Cameroon, only 2.4% of the population is fully vaccinated, according to data from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in the United States.

As long as the vaccination campaign isn't advanced globally, new variants will continue to develop. Sometimes they are more harmless, sometimes more dangerous. It remains to be seen how harmful this new variant will be.



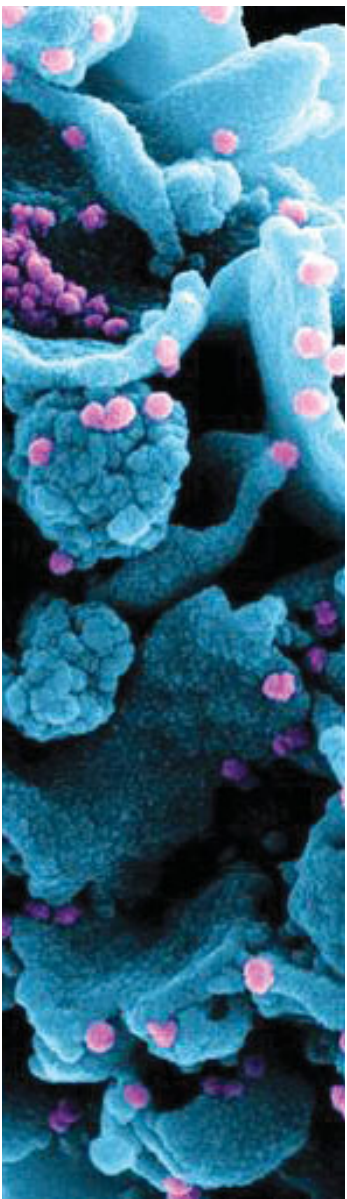
Possible reasons for milder omicron course

We already know that the omicron variant is much more contagious, and is spreading rapidly around the world. But at the same time, the courses are much milder in most patients, as ever more studies are confirming.

It is also gradually becoming clearer which factors are at work here. The T-cells of vaccinated and recovered persons react to omicron, thus protecting most infected persons from a severe course of COVID-19.

It is true that the mutations in omicron have altered the spike protein such that the antibodies generated by previous infection or vaccination are no longer as protective.

But the acquired immune response by T-cells still works in 70% to 80% of cases, similar to the older beta and delta variants, researchers from Cape Town, South Africa, found. The T-cells of vaccinated and recovered patients recognized omicron nearly as well as the original coronavirus variant, the group concluded.



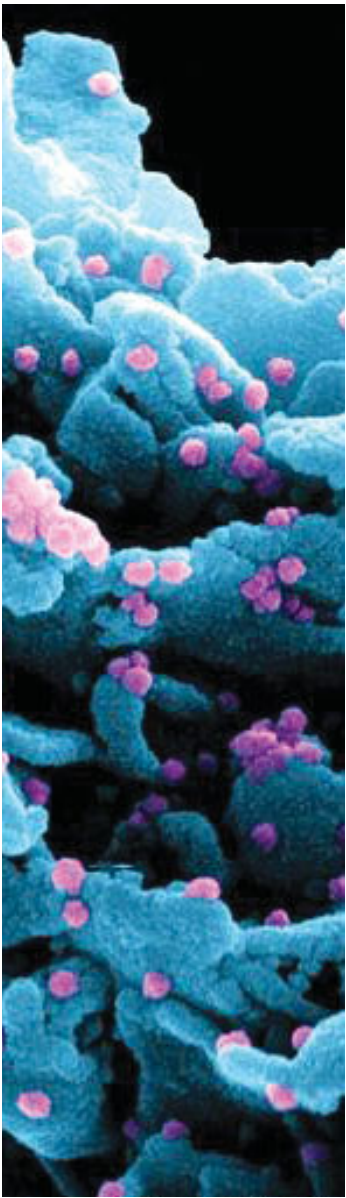
Omicron attacks the lungs less severely

In addition, the omicron variant attacks the lungs much less frequently, researchers from Japan and the US found in animal studies.

Instead, the omicron variant is more likely to attack the upper respiratory tract, such as the nose, throat and trachea, according to the study, which also has not yet been peer-reviewed.

The viral load in the noses of hamsters and mice infected with Omicron was just as high as with earlier mutations. But in the lungs, the viral load and thus the damage was significantly less.

In mid-December, researchers at the University of Hong Kong came to very similar conclusions. They found that although the omicron variant infects the bronchus up to 70 times faster than the delta variant and multiplies there, it spreads up to 10 times less in lung tissue.



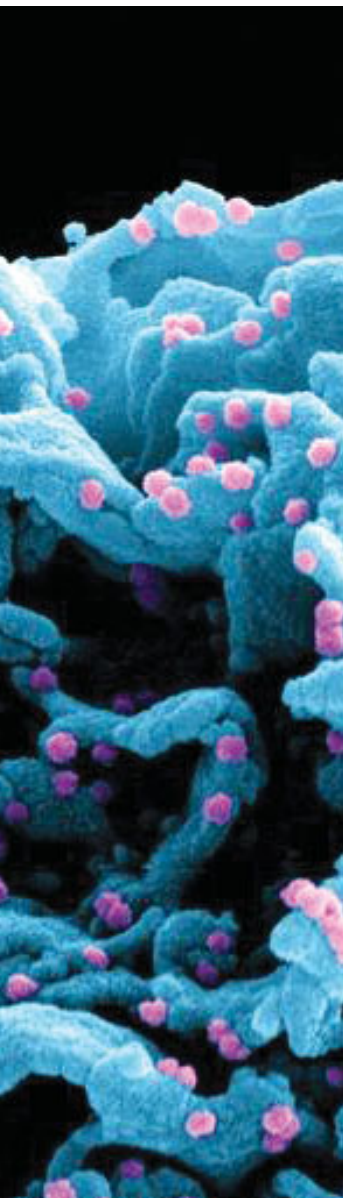
Fewer patients need artificial respiration

These research findings are in line with observations from Great Britain. There, too, the highly contagious Omicron variant is causing a sharp rise in the number of infections.

But at the same time, the statistical risk of having to be treated in a hospital is reduced by a third compared to the delta variant. The number of patients requiring artificial respiration is also largely unchanged, despite the significantly higher infection rate with omicron.

That's a reason for hope; however, concerns remain. The significantly higher case numbers are a major challenge for overburdened health care systems.

And those who have not yet been vaccinated, or recovered from a previous COVID-19 infection, can still fall seriously ill if they contract the omicron variant.



First 'flurona' case

Meanwhile, in a Middle East country, a 31-year-old pregnant woman has contracted COVID-19 and the seasonal influenza virus at the same time. It is the world's first registered “flurona” case, a neologism composed of flu and corona.

The pregnant woman, was not vaccinated against COVID-19 or the flu, was only mildly ill. Because the country has seen a sharp increase in flu infections in recent weeks, and its Health Ministry is investigating the case to see if “flurona” could be causing more severe illness. This has stoked fears of a “twinemic” of both COVID-19 and the flu.

Health authorities fear that with such a strong flu wave, there could be many more such cases of double infections coming.

ROUND-UP

Oman International Hospital’s grand official opening today

Conceived to be a healthcare destination that will be a new milestone in the development of the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman, the hospital will be offering world-class standards in its treatment, facilities, and services for the people of Oman and the region

MUSCAT: Oman International Hospital (OIH), Oman’s newest multi, the super-speciality hospital that soft-opened in May 2021, will be officially launched today under the auspicious of Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health in the presence of Abdul Salam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Executive President of Oman Investment Authority, Dr Mohammed Saif Al Hosni, Undersecretary of Ministry of Health, Asila Bint Salim Al Sam-sami, Undersecretary of Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotions, Her Highness Basma Al Said, Sheikha Amal Suhail Bahwan, Chairperson of Al

Afia Healthcare Development and Investment company and Vice Chairperson of Suhail Bahwan Group Holding, several ambassadors and distinguished guests. Oman International Hospital is a joint venture by Suhail Bahwan Group Holding, Oman Brunei Investment Company and IdealMed GHS, Portugal. Conceived to be a healthcare destination that will be a new milestone in the development of the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman, the hospital will be offering world-class standards in its treatment, facilities, and services for the people of Oman and the region. Sheikha Amal Suhail Bahwan,



Chairperson of Al Afia Healthcare Development and Investment company and Vice Chairperson of Suhail Bahwan Group Holding, commented, “Oman International Hospital project is a major milestone in the development of the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman to contribute to the achievement of visions and objectives of our contemporary renaissance under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said. With the hospital’s official launch, Oman now has more than just a hospital – a full-fledged

Healthcare destination offering specialised treatments and services at affordable rates. Suhail Bahwan Group, as a shareholder, is very proud to be a part of it.” The sprawling 42,000 sq meters hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge technological solutions from across the world and is the home to five Excellence Centers, a hybrid operation theatre and several other cutting-edge features and facilities. The expert doctors, nurses and para-medical staff of the hospital are drawn from Oman and across the

globe and are highly experienced. Strategically located in the centre of capital Muscat’s Al Ghubra area, just across the road from the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Oman International Hospital is easily accessible from any part of the city. Fathi Al Balushi, Vice Chairman, Board-member of Al Afia Healthcare Development and Investment Company and CEO of Oman Brunei Investment said, “Vision 2040 highlights the importance of the private sector’s participation in the economy and the potential opportunities for the

public and private sectors to work together to meet the developmental targets and needs of the country. This project is a prime example of a public-private partnership, and it also represents a landmark in the Omani healthcare sector”. The hospital is managed by IdealMed GHS, Portugal, which has decades of experience in managing hospitals across the globe. Dr José Alexandre Cunha, Board Member of Oman International Hospital and Chairman of IGHS Group said, “We are very proud to join hands with Suhail Bahwan Group Holding and Oman Brunei Investment Company. The opening of OIH in Muscat marks a major milestone as the pandemic has emphasised the necessity of strong healthcare systems and the vital role they play in ensuring the stability and future of the countries. We are focused on providing quality healthcare, the finest treatment at our state-of-the-art facilities and international medical expertise to the people of Oman. In other words, we aim to provide world-class services and treatments at affordable prices. In addition to that, the hospital has different partner entities from the academic world and will be implementing clinical and research activity, assuring that the most innovative services are offered.”

CSR PROGRAMME

Bank Muscat launches 2022 edition of landmark Green Sports Programme



MUSCAT: In line with its pioneering role in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Bank Muscat has launched the 2022 edition of its flagship CSR programme, Green Sports, on January 5, and invited all local sports teams who would like to apply for the programme to do so well before the deadline which will be on 2 February 2022. As part of improving the inclusivity and the reach of the programme, the bank will be accepting all applications digitally. For more information and to submit applications, teams should go to:

<https://www.bankmuscat.com/greensports/> and complete the application form electronically using a computer, a tablet or a mobile phone. Speaking about the launch of the 2022 edition, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Manager, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said: “As one of the pioneers of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Oman, Bank Muscat has always been committed to creating meaningful change for the good of society. Green Sports has been going from strength to strength over the years with the bank support-

ing the development of 143 Green Sports fields across different governorates in the Sultanate. We would like to encourage all teams who would like to apply for support to submit their applications through the specified link ahead of the deadline.” Bank Muscat is proud of the success and achievements of its CSR programs, which draws from the values of leadership and partnership so as to create a positive impact on Omani society. The Green Sports initiative, which was launched by Bank Muscat in 2012 has supported 143 sports teams

across Oman till date. The scope of Green Sports support for sports teams include greening of football fields with natural or synthetic turf, floodlights or water desalination equipment in areas facing problems of water salinity. Ensuring wider representation, the Green Sports programme extends to developing sustainable sports infrastructure in all parts of the Sultanate. The facilities developed as part of the programme are also often used as a venue for other social activities, leading to stronger community bonding and greater positive behaviour among young

people. In case of any queries or doubts, teams may email GreenSports@bankmuscat.com. It must be noted that the bank’s CSR and sustainability programmes have been well appreciated and received a number of accolades. The bank was recently honoured by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its efforts in supporting persons with disabilities. Earlier in 2021, the bank also won the Middle East Sustainability Award from EMEA Finance in recognition of its stellar efforts in the field of sustainability and CSR.



“

We would like to encourage all teams who would like to apply for support to submit their applications through the specified link ahead of the deadline

Talib Saif Al Makhmari
Manager, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat

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ROUND-UP

Go places on every journey in Toyota Land Cruiser

Standing tall for over 70 years, the Land Cruiser has been a symbol of reliability and dependability and has always successfully risen above challenges to fulfil every desire



MUSCAT: The Land Cruiser has been one of the most inspiring 4WD SUVs due to its leading stance in terms of power, performance and capability. Standing tall for over 70 years, the Land Cruiser has been a symbol of reliability and dependability and has always successfully risen above challenges to fulfil every desire. The 2022 Land Cruiser is equipped with a choice of three powertrain options, including two newly developed V6 twin-turbo engines. The V6 twin-turbo 3.5-litre petrol engine achieves class-leading performance that surpasses that of a conventional V8, producing 409 hp and up to 650 nm. Meanwhile, the V6 twin-turbo engine 3.3-litre diesel variant, which will be available to buy in the region soon, is capable of 302 hp and up to 700 nm. Both of these newly developed engines are mated to a 10-speed automatic transmission. The vehicle is also available with a natu-

rally aspirated 4.0-litre V6 petrol engine that produces 271 hp and up to 385 nm mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission. Additionally, the vehicle is available with Adaptive Variable Suspension System (AVS), the All-Wheel Drive Integrated Management (AIM) concept, which delivers integrated control of the vehicle's drive force, AWD, suspension, braking and steering systems according to driving conditions to enhance driving pleasure. The all-new Land Cruiser is equipped with the latest off-road driver assistance features, including the new 3D-Multi Terrain Monitor (3D-MTM) assists the driver in determining the road conditions around the vehicle, a first for Toyota that facilitates safer and more confident low-speed manoeuvring. A new AUTO mode enhances the capabilities of Multi-Terrain Select by adjusting according to road conditions such as sand, rock, dirt and mud. The vehicle also features crawl control and turn assist functions. The all-new interior cocoons passengers in a sophisticated and comfortable space unaffected by the external environment. The cabin offers a range of advanced features such as wireless charging for smartphones, Active Noise Control and a 4-zone automatic air conditioning system with rear control switches. The cluster gauge features a 7-inch colour Multi-information Display (MID) and a 12.3-inch Multimedia display. Additional features available include a 14-speaker JBL sound system, Rear Seat Entertainment (RSE) system with 11.6-inch touch-screen displays that are Wi-Fi and HDMI connection enabled, ventilation for the first and second-row seats, a multi-adjustable power driver seat, 40:20:40 split-folding second-row seats, fully flat-folding third-row seats, a kick-sensor operated power tailgate, and smart entry and start systems. Safety remains a top priority for the all-new Land Cruiser, which comes with an advanced safety

system. This is complemented by Toyota Safety Sense, an advanced safety technology package that includes a Pre-Collision System that introduces new features including Emergency Steering Assist and Intersection Turn Assistance to help prevent collisions with vehicles, and pedestrians. The package also includes Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC) with Full-Speed Range, Lane Tracing Assist (LTA), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), and Automatic High Beam (AHB). In addition, the car features a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as SRS airbags, including side-curtain airbags for all three rows, Blind Spot Monitor, Multi-terrain Monitor including Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), Drive Start Control (DSC) and a clearance sonar featuring eight sensors located in the front and rear bumpers. In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality.



Ministry awards NBO for efforts in supporting people with disabilities

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) was recently awarded by the Ministry of Social Development for its continuous work supporting people with disabilities in Oman. The award was announced during an event organised by the Ministry to celebrate the International Day of Disabled Persons, held under the patronage of Her Highness Sayyida Dr Mona Fahad Al Said, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), and in the presence of Dr Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, the Minister of Social Development. Through its active corporate social responsibility programme, NBO continues to fulfil its commitment to giving back to the community, while fostering partnerships between the private and public sectors. Its activities, which are carried out throughout the year, include a range of educational and youth-led programmes, donations and sponsorships, all aimed at supporting the government's vision for social and economic development.

ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS AUTO CARE

MHD ACERE Auto Expert showroom opens in Azaiba



MUSCAT: MHD ACERE's Auto Expert, an advanced diagnostics auto care and maintenance centre, has opened its first-ever showroom. Located in Azaiba, Muscat, the facility has been designed as a one-stop-shop for all kinds of repairs and maintenance, body and paint jobs, periodic services of all kinds of automobiles. It is a multi-franchise service centre that will also serve as an outlet for providing 4 x 4 accessories from Ironman such as rooftop tents, canopies, portable freezers, winches, recovery equipment, protective bars, lighting and electrical upgrades; car care treatment products from AutoGlym for complete restoration and many other global brands for Nano Ceramic and Graphene coating. Auto Expert facility will also provide and install world-class tyres and batteries under its roof. Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO, MHD ACERE, commented, "With the aim of improving esthetics and boosting car power, we will be offering a hand-picked array of global products while offering multi-franchise service for all makes and brands, trendy off-roading accessories, car detailing and protection, premium brand tires and batteries. Auto Expert's vehicle expertise extends to on-road performance as well as off-road." The complete car care services offered at Auto Expert are: Scheduled Maintenance Servicing including Engine oil and filter replacement, Standard Checkpoint



service, Auto-Air condition Service, AC performance test, System pressure check, Condenser check and checking of radiator cooling fan operation; Inspection of all AC components for wear, leaks and proper operation, evacuate and recharge system; Complete Cooling System Service including checking of all hoses, belts; pressure test system, heater, defroster and cooling fan operation, correct coolant mixture to a 50/50 mixture, checking for leaks and so on. The facility also provides Engine Diagnostic Service: Fuel pressure test, code retrieval and vacuum testing; Brake System (Front & Rear): Removal and replacement

of pads or shoes, resurface rotors or drums; inspect brake line and components and test parking brake; Engine Tune-Up: Replacement of plugs, fuel filter, minor adjustment and scope test if needed; Transmission Flush: Hook up flush machine adding flushing cleaner to transmission, completely flush all transmission components, replace all transmission fluid, add transmission conditioner, check for leaks, inspect the cable and all linkages; and Motor Value Added Services: Clean and de-carbon fuel injector; fuel rail, upper intake and intake valves and carbon in a combustion chamber; engine oil flushing, power steering flushing etc.

STRIKING LOOKS

Chevrolet Traverse: Most spacious and comfortable family SUV

MUSCAT: Offering the ultimate in space, convenience and style, the Chevrolet Traverse resonates with large families, drawn by its 3-row configuration that can accommodate eight passengers in plush comfort. Roominess aside, this popular offering from the renowned Chevy stable also comes with bold, refined looks, advanced connectivity technologies, high-class entertainments and top-of-the-line safety features – trapings that are unmatched for a mid-size SUV in its segment. With EMI starting as low as OMR 225 for SLT trim which has features like leather seats and panoramic sunroof standard, the Traverse offers great value for money. From its expansive size to its striking looks, every facet of the revamped Traverse is designed to impress. With an overall length of 204.3 in, a width of 78.6 in and a height of 70.7 in, the SUV exudes regal strength. These purposeful proportions are supplemented by the brand's

premium cues such as chrome accents, LED signature lighting and D-Optic LED headlamps. Standard with the Traverse is a 3.6L V6 engine with nine-speed automatic transmission, delivering 305 horsepower and 260 Nm of torque. A key feature is the new Traction Mode Select, which allows the driver to make real-time adjustments to the vehicle's driving mode to account for varying road conditions. If the exteriors are inspirational, the interiors are luxuriously comfortable and accommodating. With its longer wheelbase, the Traverse has few peers in its segment. The cabin is ergonomically optimised to enhance convenience and versatility, both in terms of passenger volume and cargo room. Third-row legroom is the most spacious in its segment. The Traverse is also designed and equipped to keep passengers connected and entertained on the road. Latest connectivity technologies include available 8-inch-diagonal MyLink infotainment systems designed to support Ap-

ple CarPlay. Passengers also have access to USB charging ports in all three seating rows, available wireless charging and steering-wheel-mounted phone and audio controls. As with all Chevrolet models, safety takes top priority. Traverse comes fitted with a comprehensive suite of safety technologies. Available features include Surround Vision, D-Optic LED headlamps, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Front Pedestrian Braking, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Side Blind Zone Alert and Rear Seat Reminder. "Ample space, comfort and safety combine to make the Chevrolet Traverse a favourite with families whose lifestyles include weekend getaways or extended trips into the countryside," says Mandeep Singh, General Manager, exclusive distributors of Chevrolet in the Sultanate. "Coupled with a very attractive pricing, it is great value for money." Customers can check out the stylish Traverse at any of OTE Group's Chevrolet showrooms around the Sultanate.





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