



HM SENDS CONDOLENCES CABLE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Dr Arif Alvi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the death of the Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Zafarullah Khan Jamali. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace and grant his family patience. — **ONA**



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CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS

His Majesty receives phone call from Emir of Qatar

MUSCAT His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik yesterday received a phone call from Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the sisterly State of Qatar.

The two leaders exchanged cordial conversations and reviewed aspects of the existing cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

During the telephonic conversation, the Emir of Qatar expressed his sincere wishes of good health, wellbeing and a long life to His Majesty the Sultan, and the Omani people progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his thanks and appreciation for Sheikh Tamim's good gesture and noble feelings, wishing the Emir of Qatar good health, happiness and success in leading the brotherly Qatari people towards further progress and growth under the Emir's wise leadership. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Free emergency travel certificates for Indians

1 Indians leaving Oman for good but needing an emergency travel paper can get it free. **>A3**

WORLD

Global COVID-19 count surpasses 67 million

2 The number of COVID-19 cases all over the world has surpassed 67 million. **>A6**

MARKET

GCC recorded 55mn cyberattacks in 2020

3 56,873,271 cyberattacks were recorded in the GCC in first half of 2020. **>B1**

OMANI STUDY REVEALS COVID-19 IMPACT ON HEART AND ARTERIES

Dr Fahad Al Kindi

Dr Khalid Al Sa'adi

Dr Adel Al Ghafri

Hospitals can now give the required attention to patients on the basis of their heart conditions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new scientific study conducted by a team of researchers in Oman has revealed that COVID-19 patients with existing cardiovascular troubles are four times more likely to die of the disease than those without.

Furthermore, it was discovered that COVID-19 patients with elevated heart enzyme levels – one of the most common characteristics of those with heart-related issues – are six times more likely to die from complications from the virus.

The study – conducted by a team of 13 doctors and three medi-

cal research students – examined Omani and expat patients aged between 18 and 80 years, admitted with severe COVID-19 symptoms to ICUs in three hospitals in the country: Al Nahdha Hospital, The Royal Hospital, and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.

These patients were observed from the time they entered the ICU, until they were released or died because of complications from the virus.

“For this research, we chose clinicians from three areas of specialisation – cardiovascular health, infectious diseases, and intensive care,” revealed Dr Fahad Al Kindi, a senior consultant doctor at Sultan Qaboos University

HOW DIABETES AFFECTS COVID-19 PATIENTS

Read tomorrow

Hospital. “Among the results, we found that COVID-19 patients with a high heart enzyme rate of more than 100 nanograms per litre in their blood had a death rate six times higher than someone with lower enzyme values.”

Most important result

“This is among the most important results we have arrived at, because

now when hospitals measure the heart enzyme rates of their patients with COVID-19, we know the medical conditions their patients are likely to face, and can therefore provide them the required attention,” he added.

“We also found that the death rate among those suffering from heart and arterial complications is four times greater than those who don't have a history of such issues.”

“Doctors have warned, since the beginning of the pandemic, that cardiovascular patients must take caution and make sure they follow the preventive measures associated with COVID-19,” he explained. “We found that the rate of acute

infection is far higher among men – 83 per cent – than it is among women, at 17 per cent.”

Three possibilities

The reason for the higher infection rate among men is owing to three possibilities: a larger proportion of men in the country's population, the average age among men being greater than women, and increased occurrence of cardiovascular conditions among men.

During the course of his research, Dr Fahad Al Kindi also issued clarification over rumours of patients in intensive care experiencing oxygen loss after being put on ventilators to help them breathe. **>A3**



Al Wusta wildlife breeding centre welcomes new guests

A5

NCSI DATA

Drop in airport passengers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total number of arrivals through the Sultanate's airports has decreased by more than 70 per cent till the end of September 2020, compared to the same period in 2019, according to new official data.

“A 71.9 per cent decrease has

been recorded in the total number of arrivals coming through airports in Oman until the end of September 2020, compared to the same period in the previous year,” the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) said yesterday.

The data also revealed that more than three million passengers had travelled through the Sultanate's

Airports of Muscat, Salalah, Suhar and Duqm by the end of September 2020.

Flight operations

For the same time period, however, the international airports of Muscat, Salalah and Sohar dealt with 28,455 flight operations (arrivals and departures) this year.

ENVIRONMENT

Oman taking steps to conserve raptors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's diverse environment has seen it become a nesting ground for 39 raptor species, and steps are being taken to conserve the birds and encourage them to thrive.

Birds of prey found in the country include the Egyptian vulture, steppe eagle, lappet-faced vulture, golden eagle, sooty falcon, eastern imperial eagle and greater spotted eagle. Several of these are listed as endangered or vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, with vultures being among the most critical.

The reasons vultures are so widely threatened are numerous and include intentional and unintentional poisoning and electrocution on energy infrastructure, among others.

Unintentional poisoning can happen through poisoned baits, which aim to kill some invasive species and carnivores, or through secondary poisoning by veterinary drugs. Some veterinary drugs that are poisonous to raptors are known as non-steroidal anti-in-



flammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Among those NSAIDs in use in Oman is diclofenac, whose use was recently banned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, a move welcomed by the Environmental Society of Oman. Diclofenac is an NSAID used on domestic livestock.

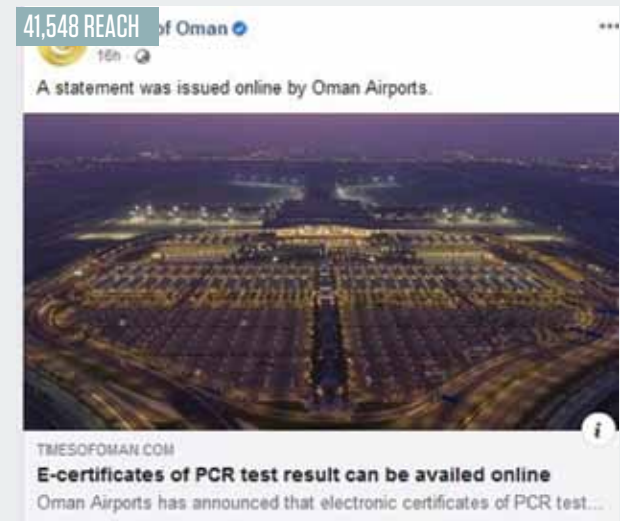
The drug is extremely poisonous to many species of raptor, particularly vultures and eagles. Issued by Ministerial Decision No. 81/2020 to show the country's commitment to the conservation of endangered animals like vultures and other birds of prey. **>A5**



Dhuhr.....	12.04pm
Asr.....	3.05pm
Maghrib.....	5.26pm
Isha.....	6.41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.17am

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BOOK MOST READ ON FACEBOOK



e-certificates of PCR test result can be availed online
A story on e-certificates for PCR tests got 5,123 engagements and reached 41,548 people on Facebook.

TV MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK



📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM



CABLES

HM sends condolences, receives thanks

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on the death of the former president of Uruguay Tabare Vazquez. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to President Pou, the bereaved's family and the

Uruguayan friendly people.

Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty the Sultan has received a cable of thanks from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of his son Prince Haji Abdul Azim. In the cable, Sultan Bolkiah ex-

pressed his thanks and appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's condolences, good feelings and sincere prayers, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace and protect His Majesty against all harms.

Cambodia

His Majesty the Sultan has received a cable of thanks from King

Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable to him on the occasion of his country's National Day. King Sihamoni expressed his deep gratitude for His Majesty the Sultan's congratulations and best wishes. He wished His Majesty the Sultan continuous health and the Sultanate further progress and prosperity. -ONA

SAUDI AND PALESTINE

Sayyid Khalid discusses return of sporting activities with ambassadors



REVIEW MEETING: Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Oman Olympic Committee Chairman with Eid bin Muhammad Al Thaqafi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate, and Dr. Tayseer Farhat, the Ambassador of Palestine to the Sultanate.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) Chairman, received separately in his office

yesterday Eid bin Muhammad Al Thaqafi, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate, and Dr. Tayseer Farhat, the Ambassador of Palestine to the Sultanate. During the meetings, cordial

conversations were exchanged and the bilateral relations in the sports field between the Sultanate and both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Palestine were reviewed. They discussed ways to develop sports,

especially the return of sporting activities and events after the suspension because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The two meetings were attended by Taha bin Sulaiman Al-Koshari, OOC Secretary General.

CONVEYED GREETINGS

German President receives Oman's envoy credentials

MUSCAT: President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany received at the Presidential Palace in Berlin credentials of Yousef Said Al Amri as the Sultanate's extraordinary, plenipotentiary ambassador to Germany.

The ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and wishes of permanent progress and prosperity to the German people.

He also affirmed the keenness of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan to enhance the distinguished relations between the two friendly countries towards broader avenues of cooperation in all spheres to serve the joint interests of the two countries.

On his turn, the German President asked the ambassador to convey his sincere greetings to His Majesty the Sultan, wishing



MEETING: The Omani ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and wishes of permanent progress and prosperity to the German people. -ONA

the Omani people further progress, welfare and prosperity. He also welcomed the ambassador, wishing him success in his mis-

sion, and the bilateral relations between the two countries development and growth.

-ONA

MEETING

Oman, UAE to boost economic ties

MUSCAT: Dr. Said Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, and Dr. Nasser Al Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry, met yesterday via video-conferencing with the ministers at the Ministry of Economy in the United Arab Emirates.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries, and ways to enhance and support cooperation in the economic field.

The meeting was attended from the UAE side by Abdullah

Al Marri, Minister of Economy, Dr. Ahmed Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade. -ONA

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Indians to get emergency travel papers free of cost

The Indian embassy has done away with the fees for those community members seeking to benefit from the Ministry of Labour's repatriation scheme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian nationals leaving Oman for good under the Ministry of Labour's repatriation scheme will be provided free emergency certificates to travel, if they don't have valid passports.

Speaking to Times TV, Munu Mahawar, the Ambassador of India to Oman, urged expats who wished to leave under this measure to register soon, owing to the time taken to process applications. The scheme, which allows foreign workers to leave the country without paying any labour-related fines, is open until 31 December.

"An emergency certificate is required for those who do not have valid travel documents: if their passport has expired, they have lost their passport, or they are not in a position to reclaim their passport, as well as if they were issued some travel documents in the past that are no longer valid," he said. "The embassy normally charges a fee of OMR6 as well as some additional charges, but we have done away with this."

"If a person goes to the embassy, the Ministry of Labour website or the Sanad offices, it takes about



MANY TAKERS: About 2,000 Indian expatriates have so far registered for the scheme, according to Munu Mahawar, the Ambassador of India to Oman.

five to seven working days for the ministry to give its clearance," the ambassador added. "Once given, we ask Indian nationals to approach any of the visa collection centres, where we are able to issue them emergency certificates within one or two days."

"They then have to get a COVID test done and buy an air ticket so they can travel," he went on to say. "I would say all in all, it should be possible for a person to complete all the formalities in about two weeks. There is no prior appointment required – you can walk in, and emergency certificates can be provided free of charge."

"When I refer to this two week period, I refer to those who don't have valid documents," said Mahawar. "If you have a valid passport with you, you can register and then simultaneously proceed with other things such as getting a COVID test done or buying an air ticket."

According to the ambassador, about 2,000 Indian expatriates have so far registered for the scheme. Travel documents have been issued for 250 people, and a similar number of people are being processed. "We still have a full month to go, so I am sure many more people will take advantage of

this policy," he said. "We have been working very closely with the government of Oman during the entire COVID period, and remain engaged to further develop our cooperation in the post COVID era as well."

"Our foreign ministers spoke only recently, so I want to thank the government of Oman, and reassure them of our full support and cooperation in the days ahead," explained the ambassador. "As far as this scheme is concerned, we welcome this gesture, this initiative of the government, which will really help a large number of expat community members who are most vulnerable."

"In general, the Indian community has been extremely appreciative of the cooperation and support we've been receiving from the Omani authorities," Mahawar revealed. "We have been operating flights regularly, first under the Vande Bharat mission, and then under the air bubble in place. There were a number of people who could not travel because their visas expired, they were facing some fines, from which they have now been exempted."

"These people who were not in a position to pay these fines were waiting for some opportunity to

travel back: they are really happy that they can return home without paying these fines, given the limited income they earn, so these people are really welcoming of this initiative and making use of this opportunity to return home," he went on to say. The ambassador admitted it was difficult to put an exact figure on the number of Indians and other expats expected to register for the repatriation scheme, since many would have travelled to their home countries after paying their existing fines.

"I cannot say whether we will see a surge in the number of people who apply – in the first few days, they were waiting for more clarity to emerge – but in the last few days, we have been registering people at an average of 120 to 130 people per day," he explained. "I expect this pace to continue. We are encouraging people to come forward and register and travel back to India before 31 December. Our suggestion to all Indian nationals would be to register as soon as possible, if they wish to travel back home through this policy."

Registration services are provided for free to those who arrive for this process at the Indian Embassy.

Oman's innovation system wins Best Arab Government Project Award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Best Arab Government Project for development of education, in the first edition of the Arab Government Excellence Award, was won by Oman's innovation system aimed at students of higher education institutions.

This award is instituted under the supervision of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development in the League of Arab States, and Oman was selected out of five thousand government applications from various Arab countries.

The innovation system aims to support innovation through an integrated environment that will support competitions among innovators, provide incentive benefits in order to protect intellectual property rights, encourage the use of technology, find supportive bodies, and establish new start-up companies based on innovations with added value to the national economy.

The innovation system, which was launched by the Ministry of Manpower, aimed to support the higher education sector represented by the technical and vocational colleges through an open data portal linked to the Sultanate's digital transformation strategies and the National Innovation Strategy.

48 start-up units benefit

An online portal has been designed to provide services to beneficiaries, bringing the number of beneficiaries to 174,000 beneficiaries. The portal includes an open data hackathon, an innovation acceleration programme, an innovation lab and an innovation registration service, which includes 104 ideas aimed at enhancing



جائزة التميز الحكومي العربي
ARAB GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

ing students' participation with their entrepreneurial ideas and registering innovation requests that reached 63 applications.

The innovation system has also ensured the sustainability of innovation by training more than 3000 innovation specialists and holding 100 workshops. There are also innovation units that have been established in technical colleges with the provision of the required resources, the use of big data, and the spread of the culture of innovation for 15 colleges and 45,000 students.

The innovation system has achieved a registration of 670 innovative ideas and the protection of 63 innovative projects, including the transformation of some of these innovations into 48 start-up companies as well as funding eight start-up projects.

During the past period, the Ministry of Manpower (formerly) made great efforts in developing the innovation system in order to diversify sources of income, create new job opportunities, and contribute to building a knowledge-based economy based on innovation, by preparing students of technical and vocational colleges and the Ministry's employees and encouraging them to highlight their talents and ideas through a specific mechanism that has its own controls.

COVID-19 RESEARCH

<FROM A1> Two-phase study



"This is not true: rather their use is necessary because in such patients, the disease has reached a very critical stage, owing to a lack of oxygen due to acute pneumonia, leading to a high chance of death," he explained.

"65 per cent of people who recovered from COVID-19 were put on ventilators... this indicates that rumours of increased chances of people dying when put on ventilators that have been posted on social media are false. The artificial respirator is used to help them breathe so that their lungs can rest, and rebuild their tissues."

"Some COVID patients suffer from a lack of oxygen without realising it," said Al Kindi. "The level of oxygen in the blood depends on how much is carried by the red blood cells from the lungs to the rest of the body. This is a good indicator of the standard of his health. Oxygen levels can be measured through arterial blood gases (ABG) tests, which is the most effective way of doing so."

The study was conducted in two phases: the first from the beginning of March to the end of May, and the second phase

ran from June to August. "During the first phase of the study, we saw that the percentage of non-Omanis with severe cases of COVID-19 stood at 60 per cent, compared to 40 per cent for Omanis, but in the second phase, these numbers changed, and the percentage of Omanis admitted to the ICU rose to 54 per cent, compared to 46 per cent for non-Omanis," said Al Kindi.

"We studied the severity of COVID-19 for patients who had a history of heart disease, and conditions such as the hardening of the arteries of the heart, which is also known as cardiomyopathy," he added. "We studied whether COVID-19 disease is more severe to cardiovascular patients, compared to those who haven't had cardio issues previously. We also looked at the death rate between those who have a medical history of cardiovascular disease and those who don't," he explained. "We have also conducted a study to see whether the coronavirus affects the heart and the arteries, or whether it impacts only the lung, throat and trachea, which leads to breathing problems."



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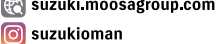
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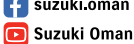
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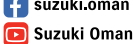
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DOLPHIN WATCHING is a well-known leisure activity in the Sultanate and there are several places in Oman that are known for their dolphin habitats. While Muscat is the most popular one, Daymaniyat Islands and Masirah Islands are also known for dolphins.

In Muscat one can watch these dolphins from Marina Bandar Al Rowdah and Bandar Al Khiran. There are many local tour operators who specialise in taking the visitors on a dolphin-watching tour.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Dolphin shoals visit the shores of Oman in large numbers. Muscat and Musandam are famous for dolphin watching, although this pastime is also widespread in A'Sharqiyah South Governorate and Al Wasta Governorate, in addition to Dhofar Governorate. The types of dolphins that visit Oman are: Indian Ocean dolphins, the Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphins, Risso's dolphins, Common Bottlenose dolphins, Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphins, Rough-toothed dolphins, Pantropical Spotted dolphins, Striped dolphins, Spinner dolphins, and Long-Beaked Common dolphins".



Apart from watching the dolphins you also have the chance to view the scenic beauty of Oman's coastline and experience the breathtaking views of some of its landmarks.

The best time for dolphin watching is between the months of September and April when the weather is pleasant.

Though sighting dolphins in huge numbers can never be guaranteed but the best time to go for dolphin watching is when the weather is bright and sunny.

On cloudy days, they are less likely to show up. Also make sure to carry your field glasses with you for dolphin spotting.

As you start your journey, the serenity of the sea will mesmerise you and once you go a little further you are sure to catch a glimpse of the distinctive dolphin tails in the distance and later might be lucky to even see their majestic leaps.



THE LEGENDS OF LUXURY



Signature, Oman's luxury lifestyle magazine, presents 'Signature Luxury 100', a special publication and awards ceremony that commemorates the top 100 luxury brands that stood out this year for lasting qualities like craftsmanship, innovation and exclusivity.

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FOR EFFECTIVE SYSTEM

Sport clubs activities to be streamlined

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has issued a circular to heads of the directorates of the ministry in the various governorates of Oman on a number of aspects related to governance of sports clubs.

This is with the aim to establish an effective system for governance and to ensure administrative, financial and technical sustainability of sports clubs as well as their ability to meet their financial liabilities and obligations.

FOREIGN MINISTER

Credentials of Bangladesh, Portugal envoys received

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Monday at the Foreign Ministry copies of credentials of Mizanur Rahman, appointed-ambassador of the Republic of Bangladesh to the Sultanate and Luis Manuel Fernandez de Almeida Ferra, appointed-ambassador of the Portuguese Republic to the Sultanate.

Sayyid Badr welcomed the two ambassadors, wishing them success in performing their duties in the Sultanate, and for the bilateral relations between their countries and the Sultanate further progress and development.

The meeting was attended by a number of officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICE

Al Wusta wildlife breeding centre welcomes new guests

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Environmental Conservation Office at the Diwan of Royal Court announced the addition of new species of wild animals and rare birds to the Breeding Centre of the Living and Fungal Organisms Reserve in Al Wusta Governorate.

This step is in line with the relentless national efforts to increase specialised environmental research and the experience gained in the management of protected areas, environmental projects and wildlife. It has been undertaken in close cooperation with the Royal Gardens and Farms of the Royal Court Affairs, and showcases the continuous support of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik in the preservation of nature and wildlife.

Various animals and birds

Speaking of the various animals and birds added to the reserve this year, the Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Arabian Oryx, Dr Qais bin



Abdullah Al Rawahi said, "At the beginning of this year, the Environmental Conservation Office diversified the organisms at the breeding centre by introducing rare animal species from the Arabian Peninsula, such as: the striped hyena, the baboon, the mongoose, and the honey badger. Today, the animals that have been introduced to the reserve consist of: antelopes, Indian gazelles, wild sheep, ostriches, grey-

hounds, and kangaroos."

The reserve has been consistently working towards resettlement and conservation of wildlife over the past many years. "In the past, the Sultanate of Oman successfully resettled the Arabian Oryx in the reserve. In order to continue and also preserve the gains from our diligent environmental work, the office launched another project for the breeding of reem gazelles, sand gazelles, and



Arabian gazelles in 2013," Dr Al Rawahi added.

Commenting on the broader implications of the conservation work, Dr Al Rawahi said, "This work is a continuation of national efforts to add new species of endangered animals of high value that ensure their adaptation to the environment and their reproduction, creating a kind of ecological balance in the region."

"These processes preserve and

enrich the biological diversity of the Living and Fungal Organisms Reserve in Al Wusta Governorate, and open horizons for specialised environmental research that supports information-gathering and experiences gained in the local and global environmental field. Adding new types of rare wildlife to the reserve supports the Sultanate's plans of increasing specialised research, environmental tourism and environmental edu-



cation," he added.

The transfers were carried out as planned, ensuring safe transport by approved methods. Upon their arrival, the animals were subject to a quarantine under veterinary supervision and intensive medical care. Once they had adapted and were ensured to be free of any infectious diseases, they were introduced into the pens designated for them in the wildlife breeding centre of the reserve.

ENVIRONMENT SAFETY

< FROM A1 'Diclofenac is fatally poisonous to birds of prey'

Dr. Yahyah Al Mawali, Assistant Director General of Animal Wealth at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, said, "Based on the overwhelming evidence that diclofenac is fatally poisonous to birds of prey, and the availability of safe alternatives, we decided to prohibit its use in veterinary care."

Drug banned

"We join a number of other countries, including Pakistan, India, Iran and Bangladesh, who have banned the import and uses of the drug due to its toxicity to vultures and eagles. By moving fast, it means that Oman has not had to face the consequences as other countries have," he further added.

"This drug is the main cause of the collapse of at least three species of vulture in South Asia (over 90 percent of the population), particularly in India, over the last 25 years, where vultures that have fed on carcasses of animals treated with diclofenac have died," he

added. "Diclofenac causes kidney failure in vultures, and has resulted in the collapse of populations. It, and other NSAIDs are also poisonous to other raptors, including globally endangered steppe eagles that winter in Oman in large numbers."

Dr Andrew Spalton, ESO Board Member, said, "As we continue to focus on ensuring their survival, the support of the government is crucial and we are extremely grateful to them for this decision."

Avian Research

Dr Michael McGrady, Director of International Avian Research, also commented, "We commend the decision by Oman's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, whose action could interrupt the potential damage such contaminants could cause in Oman's raptor populations. As nature's waste managers, avian scavengers provide no-cost disposal of biological waste, which can be a vector for diseases and

can encourage the population expansion of other scavengers that can carry rabies."

Valuable ecosystem

"Scavenging birds benefit humans by providing this valuable ecosystem service, so conserving them is in our own best interest," he added.

"Until now scavenging birds have enjoyed a relatively healthy conservation status in Oman, but efforts like this are crucial to keeping it this way. This is a great conservation success story."

ESO has been active in the research and conservation of Oman's raptors since 2012, including conducting field surveys, tagging, satellite tracking and initiating outreach activities. Most recently it released 'Raptors of Oman', a free online information booklet that engages the public and bolsters Oman's conservation commitment to the important raptors that live here seasonally or year-round.

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CORONAVIRUS

Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani tests positive for coronavirus

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said Sunday his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani has tested positive for COVID-19. The president tweeted: "Rudy Giuliani has tested positive. Get better soon Rudy, we will carry on!!!" Giuliani has traveled extensively to battleground states in recent weeks in an effort to help Trump subvert his election loss via a flurry of lawsuits.

Unsubstantiated claims

However, both state and federal officials have repeatedly said there is little or no evidence of electoral fraud.

Former New York Mayor Giuliani, 76, made an appearance earlier on Sunday on broadcaster Fox News to speak about his legal challenges on behalf of the outgoing US president.

Giuliani attended a hearing at the Georgia Capitol on Thursday



where he did not wear a mask for several hours. Many state senators also did not use masks during the court session.

On November 7, Trump's lawyer kicked off the legal campaign to

change the result of the election in somewhat unusual circumstances – at the Four Seasons Total Landscaping parking lot. It was widely believed the press conference was meant to take place at the Four

Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia but Trump's team booked the gardening center by mistake.

Widespread positive tests among Trump's team

Numerous members of Trump's inner circle have tested positive for the virus since the president himself contracted it at the beginning of October. They include his wife Melania, his son Donald Jr., his son Barron, his press secretary, some of his aides, and several Republican members of Congress.

Giuliani served as New York City mayor for two terms from 1994. He gained global recognition in 2001 for his leadership in the wake of the September 11 terror attacks on the city. He was named Time magazine's Person of the Year a few months later and in 2002 he was given an honorary knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II. **OW**



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COVID-19 UPDATE

Global COVID-19 count surpasses 67 million

MARYLAND: The number of coronavirus cases confirmed all over the world has surpassed 67 million, according to the latest data from the Johns Hopkins University's Coronavirus Resource Centre.

As of 04:30 Moscow time on Monday (01:30 GMT), there are 67,004,543 confirmed corona-

virus cases in the world. The global death toll from COVID-19 stands at 1,535,038. The number of recovered individuals stands at 43,032,444. The United States, India and Brazil remain the top three countries in terms of the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases. Russia comes fourth with over 2.4 million cases. **ANI**

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Brexit trade deal hangs ‘on a knife-edge’: Irish PM

Von der Leyen and Johnson are due to talk again on Monday to assess whether the negotiations are worth continuing

LONDON: After expressing tentative hope for a post-Brexit trade deal, Irish Prime Minister Michael Martin struck a more pessimistic tone on Sunday, saying the chances of an agreement were not great.

“My gut instinct is that it’s 50-50 right now and I don’t think one can be overly optimistic about a resolution emerging,” he told broadcaster RTE.

“My sense having spoken to some of the key principals here is that it is a very challenging issue to resolve, particularly around the level playing field [...]. Things are on a knife-edge here and it is serious,” Michael said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Ursula von der



BREXIT TALKS: Difficult hurdles remain in three key areas: achieving a “level playing field” in terms of competition, as well as governance and fisheries

Leyen spoke on the phone on Saturday, but said that “significant differences” remain following the call.

Difficult hurdles remain in three key areas: achieving a “level playing field” in terms of competition, as well as governance and fisheries.

Last-minute push
EU and British negotiators resumed talks in a last-ditch bid to hammer out an agreement before

the transition period ends at the end of December.

The UK’s chief negotiator David Frost traveled to Brussels to meet with his EU counterpart, Michel Barnier — although no concessions have been made on either side in recent weeks.

The UK formally left the EU in January this year, but remains in the bloc’s single market and customs union until the end of 2020.

Should no deal be reached by

the New Year deadline, the two sides face tariffs and trade quotas as well as tighter customs controls — wreaking economic havoc.

Von der Leyen and Johnson are due to talk again on Monday to assess whether the negotiations are worth continuing.

Speed is key, as the new deal must be unanimously backed by the EU’s remaining 27 member-states. Leaders are due to arrive in Brussels on Thursday for a two-day EU summit. **bw**

Mysterious illness strikes Indian state, hundreds hospitalised

HYDERABAD: Hundreds of people were hospitalised with complaints of multiple symptoms since Saturday night in Andhra Pradesh’s Eluru town. The cause of the sickness is yet to be ascertained. A report released by the district collector said that as many as 340 people fell sick out of which 157 are still undergoing treatment. As per the report, one person has died while 168 have been discharged. 56 doctors including specialists are providing treatment to the patients. Besides, a household health survey has been conducted in 57,863 houses to shed light on the matter.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday visited Eluru Government Hospital. The Chief Minister met the patients and assured them of all help

According to a press release by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister’s Office (CMO), the Chief Minister held a review meeting with district authorities at Zila Parishat conference hall.

The Chief Minister enquired about the medical aid and other measures taken regarding the en masse sicknesses.

“The officials said that they have conducted tests for drinking water from various parts of the town, all



reports are normal. Tests for the presence of heavy metals in water, they are also at the normal level. Tests for viruses are also conducted, they are also in normal condition,” the release said.

According to the CMO, the officials said that cases are identified not only in Eluru urban area but also traced in Eluru rural and nearby Denduluru areas also. People of all age groups are there in the patients. Those who drink boiled water and mineral water also fell sick, CMO said.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister ordered for providing good food and quality medicines at the hospital. **ANI**

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Maduro wins total control of Venezuela legislature after vote

CARACAS: President Nicolas Maduro won total control over the country’s legislature, the National Assembly (AN), and fully consolidated his regime’s grip on power in the country following Sunday’s parliamentary election.

Maduro’s party claimed almost 68% of the vote, in an election

which was mostly boycotted by the opposition. The National Assembly was the last institution in the country not yet headed by Maduro. The opposition, parts of which participated in the election despite the opposition’s call for a boycott, received 18% of the vote.

Maduro’s United Socialist Party

of Venezuela (PSUV) and allied parties captured 67 seats in the National Assembly, said Indira Alfonzo, president of Venezuela’s National Electoral Council.

International observers like the EU and the Organization of American States (OAS) refused to send observers to Sunday’s election and

said the conditions for a democratic process in Venezuela do not currently exist.

The country’s opposition, led by the current AN president and Maduro foe Juan Guaido, said the vote represents “a fraud.”

“The truth cannot be hidden,” Guaido said in a videotaped mes-

sage, noting the low voter turnout of just 31%. “The majority of Venezuela turned its back on the fraud that began months ago.”

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slammed the legislative elections, calling the process a “sham” designed by Maduro.

“What’s happening today is a

fraud and a sham, not an election,” Pompeo said on Twitter.

The White House National Security Council also called Sunday’s vote fraudulent. “This election only serves to keep Maduro in power and does nothing to build a better future for the people of Venezuela,” the council tweeted. **bw**

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OMAN OIL PRICE DECLINES

The price of Oman oil has declined, with prices for delivery by February 2020 reaching \$48.62, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman declined 79 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$49.41. - ONA

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MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,654.43 points, up 0.10 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.16 per cent at 509.27 points. Oman & Emirates Investment, up 10.0 per cent was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 1.89 per cent, was the top loser.

Over 55mn cyberattacks blocked in GCC during first half of 2020

In the GCC, Trend Micro Incorporated, the leader in cloud security, detected 41,236,550 email threats, 13,181,016 URL victims, and 61,314 URL hosted attacks

Times News Service

DUBAI: A combined 56,873,271 email, URL, malware, and banking malware attacks were recorded in the GCC region during the first half of 2020, data by Trend Micro has found.

During Gitex 2020, Trend Micro



MID-YEAR REPORT: During Gitex 2020, Trend Micro Incorporated, the leader in cloud security, released the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) results for its annual mid-year roundup report. - Supplied picture

Incorporated, the leader in cloud security, released the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) results for its annual mid-year roundup report.

In the GCC, Trend Micro detected 41,236,550 email threats, 13,181,016 URL victims, and 61,314 URL hosted attacks. Malware continues to surge, with Trend Micro recording 2,392,097

malware detections, and another 2,294 banking malware detections in the region.

Worldwide, COVID-19 related threats have been the single largest type of threat faced by organisations in the first half of the year. In just six months, Trend Micro blocked 8.8 million COVID-19 related threats, nearly 92 per cent

of which were spam delivered via emails. In the GCC, Trend Micro blocked 163,774 COVID-19 threats: 127,415 URL attacks, 36,312 email spam attacks, and 47 malware attacks.

Supporting Middle East organisations in their secure digital transformation, Trend Micro is exhibiting at Gitex under the

theme of "The Art of Cybersecurity." The theme combines Trend Micro's proven foresight, its XGen security strategy of cross-generational threat defence solutions, and passionate people to make cybersecurity a work of art.

"The GCC's high rates of cyberattacks across email, URL, and malware show that cybercriminals are ramping up their exploits of the weak points in organizations' endpoints, network, and cloud — especially with COVID-19-related threats," said Dr Moataz Bin Ali, Vice President, Middle East & North Africa, Trend Micro.

At Gitex, Trend Micro is showcasing cybersecurity solutions across cloud (Cloud One Hybrid Cloud Security), user protection for endpoints (Apex One), email and web, detection and response (XDR), Operational Technology (OT) and Industrial Control security (TXOne Networks), and network protection from known, unknown, and undisclosed threats (Network Defence).

"As the region's only in-person technology event in 2020, Gitex is a key event for Trend Micro to

spread the importance of cybersecurity in the shift to digital transformation," added Dr Moataz Bin Ali. "We are returning to Gitex to show how Middle East organisations can reinvent their cybersecurity posture and processes."

Encouragingly, since the lockdown, more than four-fifths (82 per cent) of the UAE's remote workers say they are more conscious of their organisation's cybersecurity policies, according to Trend Micro's recent study "Head in the Clouds."

However, many employees are still breaking the rules anyway due to limited understanding of resource constraints. During Gitex, Trend Micro will also educate organisations about the importance of not having a one-size-fits-all cybersecurity strategy, but rather tailoring their cybersecurity strategies to the most common employee attitudes and behaviours on risk awareness, risk management, and risk avoidance, and personal accountability.

During Gitex, Trend Micro aims to once again meet customers and channel partners and to exchange best practices in cybersecurity.

GLOBAL AIR CARGO DEMAND



RECOVERY PACE: The pace of recovery in October was slower than in September with month-on-month demand growing 4.1 per cent (1.1 per cent for international). - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

Air cargo recovery continues at a slower pace in October: IATA

GENEVA: Global air cargo demand continued to improve but at a slower pace than the previous month and remains below previous year levels, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Monday while releasing October data for freight markets.

Global demand measured in cargo tonne kilometres was 6.2 per cent below previous year levels in October (minus 7.5 per cent for international operations). That is an improvement from the 7.8 per cent year-on-year drop recorded in September.

However, the pace of recovery in October was slower than in September with month-on-month de-

mand growing 4.1 per cent (1.1 per cent for international).

Global capacity measured in available cargo tonne kilometres shrank by 22.6 per cent in October (24.8 per cent for international operations) compared to the previous year. That is nearly four times larger than the contraction in demand, indicating the continuing and severe capacity crunch.

Strong regional variations continue with North American and African carriers reporting year-on-year gains in demand (plus 6.2 per cent and plus 2.2 per cent respectively) while all other regions remained in negative territory compared to a year earlier.

Asia Pacific airlines saw demand for international air cargo fall 11.6 per cent in October compared to the same month a year earlier. This was an improvement from the 14.6 per cent fall in September and the second consecutive month of improvement.

International capacity remained constrained in the region, down 28.7 per cent. However, this was an improvement over the 31.8 per cent fall in capacity the previous month. The region's airlines reported the highest international load factor, indicating a solid appetite for air cargo services.

"Demand for air cargo is coming back - a trend we see continuing

into the fourth quarter. The biggest problem for air cargo is the lack of capacity as much of the passenger fleet remains grounded," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO. "The end of the year is always peak season for air cargo. That will likely be exaggerated with shoppers relying on e-commerce - 80 per cent of which is delivered by air," he added.

So the capacity crunch from the grounded aircraft will hit particularly hard in the closing months of 2020. "And the situation will become even more critical as we search for capacity for the impending vaccine deliveries," said de Juniac. - ANI

PANDEMIC EFFECT

Global eCommerce marketplaces help boost exports for Indian manufacturers

MUMBAI: Textile and apparel exporters have had to deal with the worst mass layoffs and factory closures during the crisis caused and subsequently exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

But finally, after all these months, exports have witnessed a positive shift. India's apparel exports rose by 10.22 per cent in September 2020 to \$1,190 million from \$1,079 million a year ago. Similarly, India's neighbour Bangladesh, with its exports to Japan valued at \$96.23 million saw a 3.95 per cent growth in September over the previous month. These numbers paint a positive picture of the textiles and apparel industry, which is slowly and gradually moving towards recovery.

The recovery from the huge fall of April this year to a 10 per cent rise in September corroborates industry's belief that the apparel sector is already on its path to a V-shaped recovery, said Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) chairman A Sakthivel.

Going the B2B way

A survey of business buyers conducted by Digital Commerce 360 found that 22 per cent purchasing managers spent significantly more on B2B marketplaces during the pandemic. Textiles and apparel vertical marketplaces like Fibre2Fashion are leading the way in presenting ways industry players that are suitably tailored to the complex and nuanced world of B2B e-commerce.

Amid the pandemic, one platform that has been thoroughly dedicated to fuelling the advancement of its partners and helping exporters offset infrastructural inefficiencies is the F2FMart. This new initiative by Fibre2Fashion is a one-stop B2B digital fashion marketplace and has been helping its partners maximise their exports through innovative digital connectivity solutions.

"The pandemic has imposed challenges of sustainability and growth on the entire supply chain, F2FMart can help businesses gather momentum through its personalised buying, innovative features and marketing tools to enable exporters to capture the international lost ground in the current - more complex - landscape," said Adi Kapadia, Head E-commerce at Fibre2Fashion.

Market leader

"Moreover, what makes F2FMart a clear market leader in service to boost B2B trade - Bulk discounts, Online Sampling, Trusted payments and many more, coupled with its expertise and role in successfully closing deals between buyers and suppliers," Adi Kapadia added.

Although overcoming the hurdles will not be easy, businesses that seek strategic partnerships to meet demand and reduce lead times will be able to recover quicker than others. And this is where F2FMart comes into the picture. - ANI

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

ICAI Muscat Chapter to organise international conference

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) - Muscat Chapter is organising its 11th annual international conference virtually on December 11 and 12 on the theme 'CA for Change Adapters', addressing practical issues like technological transformation, the digital revolution, corporate governance, IFRS and transparency and assessing how we should adapt to the changes taking place around us.

The conference will be inaugurated by the Omani dignitaries, and the event will be attended by guests of honour such as Munu Mahawar,

Indian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman as well as CA Atul Kumar Gupta, the President of ICAI and CA Nihar Niranjana Jambusaria, Vice-President of ICAI.

Bouquet of solutions

"This conference is designed to bring out modern thought process and a possible bouquet of solutions to the challenges and changes of the current time and future of making things. The conference will be addressed by eminent and erudite speakers drawn from various parts of the globe including the President of ICAI who will share their wealth of knowledge under the chosen theme," said CA Ra-

mananda Prabhu, Chairperson of ICAI Muscat Chapter.

Change adaptors

"Our annual international conference endeavours to connect government policy-makers, industry experts, academic leaders and professionals in Oman and elsewhere. The discussions will focus on the theme of being change adaptors and will pave way for various leaders to help attendees to upskill themselves and ensure capacity building and future-proofing themselves in this fast-changing and challenging time of COVID pandemic across the globe," said CA Ashwini Sawrikar, immediate past Chairperson of

ICAI Muscat Chapter. The annual international conference being held on a virtual basis will mark a new milestone in the glorious journey of Muscat Chapter of ICAI and will be attended by over 500 finance professionals and chartered accountants representing the GCC Chapters from Oman, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and across the ICAI global network.

This conference will be attended by distinguished Omani guests, businessmen and finance professionals from across the Mena region and the members of ICAI around the world.

The ICAI Muscat Chapter has

been holding an international conference on an annual basis and has the objective of bringing the chartered accountants and other finance professionals across the globe together and providing a platform for sharing professional experiences and increasing the knowledge base generally and specifically on topics that interest the accounting and finance professionals in the world. This is in line with the ICAI's initiative of promoting international seminars in various parts of the world.

ICAI Muscat Chapter is sponsored by the College of Banking and Financial Studies and is set up under the Memorandum of Un-

derstanding between The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi and The College of Banking and Financial Studies, Sultanate of Oman and has the objective of providing Continuing Professional Education to the members of the ICAI and this process of professional development is extended to the accountants and finance professionals of all nationalities.

The Chapter was established in 2008 and has over 300 members working in practice and industry across Oman, some occupying senior positions and playing a vital role in nation-building for its host country, the Sultanate of Oman.

— United Securities

29.04 trillion yuan (about 4.44 trillion US dollars), up 1.8 per cent year on year, accelerating from an increase of 1.1-per cent in the first 10 months, the administration said in a statement.

Largest trading partner
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations remained China's

domestic bank funding. The pace of job recovery to pre-COVID growth level will determine consumer sentiment and demand.

"We assume that Asia Pacific banks' COVID-related credit losses will rise by about 500 billion dollars by year-end 2021. The state of banks' asset quality will become clearer when lenders end their moratoriums on loan repayments and governments reduce fiscal support.

"Assuming the wide availability of COVID-19 vaccines by mid-2021, there should be a rebound in economic activity. Yet the timing would differ by geography based on each country's success in containing the pandemic," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Eunice Tan. "The rate of ratings change has become much milder in recent months as much of the recovery has been factored into our views on sovereigns, banks, and corporations." -ANI

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According to Akaba, the government eyes to continue the campaign beyond its original end date in late January. "We will review the system in stages and respond based on the situation of infections," Akaba told a press conference, adding that the extension plan will be mentioned in an economic stimulus package to be approved by the government next week.

Amid the recent resurgence of infections across the country, some doctors have requested the government to suspend the travel campaign. Recently, trips to the northern city of Sapporo and Osaka in the west have been excluded and residents of the two cities are asked to refrain from taking part in the campaign, while the Tokyo local government has asked people aged 65 and older and those with underlying health conditions to refrain from making trips to or from the capital by using the campaign. - Xinhua

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Contact 97264447

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.

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

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Contact 99455353

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

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

FINANCE

Indian Female (MBA Finance) worked as Asst. Finance Manager having more than 15 years of experience in Oman seeks suitable placement. NOC available.

Contact 94953826 / 92824146

Pharmacy / Sales

Looking for a job in pharmacy, store, or in sales by 44 years old male. Did diploma in pharmacy have more than 18 years of experience, worked in MOH oman for 14 +years. Available in Oman. Good communication skill in English and Arabic. Valid Oman driving license is available.

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Qualified female candidate with B.E, MBA seeking a position in administration/back office/ management/healthcare/marketing having 6 years of experience.

Contact 91481401

Internal Audit Professional MBA from a reputed Indian University and over 10 years of Audit experience with one of Oman's largest organizations and knowledge across various business verticals and operations. Also with experience in Financial and Banking Sectors. Seeking suitable placement. Willing to join immediately.

Contact 96740556 or divyaroop.prakash@gmail.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

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior account, Indian male with 20 yrs experience upto finalisation of account on SAP,Excel,Tally. NOC & Oman DL available seeks suitable placement. Contact 97887472/71206125. Email as-ifkoman786@gmail.com

Accountant (CA Inter) - Indian (male) with 13 years' experience in all aspects of accounting field. Oman DL. NOC available. GSM 94450401

10+ Experience in Finance upto Finalisation, Bank Facilities, LC, Credit Recoveries. Contact 96239126

Indian male 18+ yrs experience in Debt collection, credit, trade finance, audit operation available for immediate joining. Contact 95500941, 78159940. Email tatabrezaziz@gmail.com

Indian Bcom graduate Looking for part time accountant job. Contact 91019796

Indian male B.Com with 13 yrs Oman experience in accounts & finance, having valid Oman DL seeks suitable placement. Having good experience in focus ERP. Contact 95946853

Indian Male Bcom, MBA, 19 years experience in Finance and ERP, seeks suitable placement in Senior position. Contact 91190552/92243552.

Indian, Keralite male working as Senior Accountant over 16 years Oman experience looking for a job. Contact: 95851920, 78258270

Male 43 yrs , 20 yrs exp, part time accountant until finalisation. Contact 95701595(including Data Entry)

A Sri Lankan with CPA is looking for an opening. D/L and NOC are available. Contact 96083913

Indian Male, B.com with 12 years experience in accounts & finance with NOC and D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 95689281

Accountant Indian Male, Mcom 13 years experience in accounts with D/L and NOC seeks suitable placement contact 79506513

Sr.Accountant looking for part time accounts job after 5 pm upto finalization of accounts, location prefer Qurum to Mabela. #90935099

Part Time Accountant: Indian male looking for part time Accounts Job. Up to finalisation. Cont: 92574937

CATERING

Cook seeks job, 6 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 79508817

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IT professional, MBA (IT), 22yrs experience, software, hardware, network, ERP. NOC available. Contact 99638010

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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. Contact 95425764

Indian Male having 17 yrs+ experience in real Estate, sales & marketing, management & ability to set new Business. Contact 99368876, 98720178. Email connecthasin@gmail.com

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Indian Male, 12 years working experience in Oman, Job seeking for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post Holding Oman Driving License and NOC also available. Contact No. 79734085, vinrai99@gmail.com

Indian Female, 22 years Holding a Bachelors in Management. Fresher, Looking for suitable placement. Contact: +96893214644. Email hibaparry@gmail.com

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience in Admin, Purchase, Stores, Operations. NOC, D/L. #78363835

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Driver with 7 yrs experience. Contact 96317701

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10 yrs experience in driving. Looking for job. Contact 78286278/96517640

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Indian Male, CAD Draftsman / Designer, 12yrs experience (4 yrs in Oman) Experienced Infrastructure Roads & Utilities (Civil) seeks job NOC Available. Contact 79614786. Email faizullahasai@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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Diploma (AEI) Electronic & Instrumentation. 2 years experience in Electronic system calibration service engineering looking for a job in Cement industry or Oil field structured any electronic system and equipment industry. Contact 99325186 / 91 9052738238. Email gundupavan32@gmail.com

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Civil engineer Quantity surveyor, 14+ years experience in infrastructure, Road & Building Projects, Oman DL, Gulf experience 12 years NOC available. Contact 97552659

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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.

MEDICAL

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

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Hospital Experience, seeking Admin/Operations/Purchase/Stores, etc. NOC,D/L. # 78363835

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Having 19 yrs experience in Oman air conditioning technician with DL seeking suitable placement. Contact 99637155

Building maintenance forman, (all rounder). 15 years gulf experience with oman Driving Licence. Contact 79200548

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Purchaser, procurement, logistics & stores professional, more than 25 yrs experience having very good knowledge in construction, mechanical & commercial field, looking for immediate openings. NOC & DL available. Contact 99276414. Email: tulsishetty19398@hotmail.com

Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman DL. available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194 Email: suhailbs@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING

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

Indian male looking for the post of Sr.Sales Executive. 17 yrs experience with valid Oman licence. Contact 79285701

Indian male, Sales executive with 3 years experience in Oman having Oman driving license looking for good placement. Contact 93828811

Indian male, having 5 years Oman experience, looking for Senior sales opportunities. Currently in Oman with NOC & DL. Contact 95263262. Email arunts1689@gmail.com

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

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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat hosts Najahi Talk on strengthening micro, small businesses

The sessions are an important part of Bank Muscat’s strategy to support local MSMEs and strengthen the national economy

MUSCAT: In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’, and commitment to supporting and developing the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) sector, Bank Muscat’s Retail Enterprises Unit (Najahi) recently hosted the well-known entrepreneurial adviser and CEO of Eghnaa Centre, Ishaq Hilal Al Shariyani.

He has been a member of the National Youth Committee as well as a member of the Committee for SMEs at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Eghnaa Centre specialises in training and qualifying entrepreneurs so that they can build their skills and business capabilities.

Ishaq Hilal Al Shariyani discussed a number of factors affecting entrepreneurs at present, including exceptional circumstances that have affected businesses globally. He spoke at length about how entrepreneurs need to focus on their business plans and budgets before the beginning of every year, while also analysing their past performance. He discussed the importance of identifying factors that could affect a pro-

ject and stressed the importance of having alternate plans to face possible headwinds.

Ishaq Al Shariyani answered a number of questions that came up during the session. He spoke about the likely challenges that entrepreneurs could face in the coming year as well as how they could prepare for it. He stressed on the necessity of modifying risk-taking behaviour and enhancing the chances of one’s success.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Al Jufaili, Head, Retail Enterprises Unit (Najahi), Bank Muscat, said, “We are very pleased with the great success of Najahi Talk sessions in reaching out to the entrepreneurial community in Oman. It is very encouraging to know that Bank Muscat is making a huge difference to MSMEs in Oman through our numerous financial and non-financial initiatives. I would like to remind all our valued customers and entrepreneurs that they can view the recorded sessions of Najahi Talks at our Instagram account in case they were unable to participate in the live event. We encourage all our customers and



“

We are very pleased with the great success of Najahi Talk sessions in reaching out to the entrepreneurial community in Oman. It is very encouraging to know that Bank Muscat is making a huge difference to MSMEs in Oman through our numerous financial and non-financial initiatives

Abdullah Al Jufaili
Head, Retail Enterprises Unit (Najahi), Bank Muscat



the general public to make the best use of these free, knowledge-sharing sessions and earnestly hope that it will help build the MSME sector in Oman.”

Najahi Talks sessions are usually held in the first week of every month and details are updated on the bank’s social media accounts for the benefit of those who are interested in participating in these knowledge-sharing sessions.

The sessions are an important part of Bank Muscat’s strategy to support local MSMEs and strengthen the national economy.

A vibrant SME sector can play an important role in tackling economic challenges and is an excellent facilitator of higher and more inclusive growth as well as the creation of a well-diversified economy. According to a 2019 IMF report, while small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a cornerstone of Arab economies, accounting for over 90 per cent of businesses and creating jobs, a more enabling environment is needed to allow this sector to reach its full potential.

Addressing gaps in access to finance, the creation of an enabling business environment, and up-gradation of human capital and infrastructure can foster a climate of vibrant and competitive SMEs that boost employment opportunities and create high value-added output. It is a matter of pride that the Public-Private partnership in Oman has been making steady progress in attaining these goals.

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Hyundai's UAM vision concept named Best Innovations in 2020

Urban Air Mobility (UAM) is expected to become a critically important component of integrated mobility solutions as cities worldwide continue to grow

DUBAI: Hyundai Motor Group's Urban Air Mobility (UAM) vision concept, S-A1, will be on display at Gitex Technology Week, December 6-10, at Dubai World Trade Centre.

Etisalat, a leading telecommunications company in Africa and the Middle East, and Gitex host, recently named the S-A1 to its "Best Innovations in 2020" list and invited Hyundai Motor Group to showcase its game-changing technology.

The full scale, all-electric S-A1 is on display at Etisalat's booth, along with a virtual reality zone that illustrates how Hyundai Motor Group's UAM vision will help reduce passenger commute times and relieve congested ground transportation.

"Hyundai is developing core

technologies that will establish it as the driving force behind Urban Air Mobility, offering a new and affordable transportation paradigm," said Jaiwon Shin, Executive Vice President and Head of Urban Air Mobility Division of Hyundai Motor Group.

UAM is expected to become a critically important component of integrated mobility solutions as cities worldwide continue to grow, with the world population projected to reach 9.7 billion in 2050 - two-thirds of which will live in urban areas.

The Gitex display reflects Hyundai Motor Group's vision, first announced at CES 2020, to usher in the era of seamless mobility, which includes three mobility solutions:

1) An air vehicle designed to address the urban mobility needs of



tomorrow's cities. The full-scale model of the SA-1 aircraft demonstrates this solution;

2) A PBV that links people to people on the road; and

3) The Hub, which serves as a venue for mobility transfer and community activities.

Gitex offers the latest in telecommunication networks, mobile

communications and applications, next-generation networks, augmented reality, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, wearable, connected cars, unmanned aerial

vehicles, etc. Presenting over 4,700 exhibitors from more than 97 countries, Gitex Technology Week is the event to attend to meet influential business decision-makers.

ONE-OF-A-KIND STAYCATION

Explore a world of culinary artistry with W Muscat's staycation offer

MUSCAT: Explore a world of culinary artistry and magic mixology with W Muscat's staycation offer, bringing Muscat's top restaurants and lounges to your front door.

Starting from just OMR 65 for two adults including breakfast, the staycation offer is W Muscat's finest yet and opens up the hotel's bold and vibrant lifestyle.

Take a break from the routine and experience the extraordinary as the beachfront hotel sets the tone for a one-of-a-kind staycation, punctuated by creative menus of fusion delights.

Starting the day right, breakfast at al fresco restaurant Harvest is most notable for its fresh, organic and local produce that sets you up for a day soaking it all in by the pool. With design inspiration taken from Oman's nomadic origins,



Harvest invites you to take it easy and help yourself.

If the poolside menu from WET hasn't tempted you too much,

lunchtime creates a tough choice for the venue. Signature grillhouse CHAR is a deserving leader, with truffle-infused Macaroni and

Cheese, flame-grilled meats and fresh, local lobster just some of the drool-inducing options available. But rooftop hotspot, Siddharta Lounge, and Shanghai glam, Ba Ban, don't make the choice an easy one. With Asian-Mediterranean favourites such as crispy octopus and mini sushi burgers coming out of Siddharta Lounge, and endless dumplings stealing the show at Ba Ban, W Muscat is a food-lovers playground.

Either way, what's missed at lunch can be made up for at dinner following some Happy Hour mixology in the contemporary and unexpected living room.

With a rooftop infinity pool and every room offering a sea view, a staycation at W Muscat is a culinary escape with a whatever/whenever service.

OCTOBER DRAW



OAB picks 131 winners of Hasaad savings draw

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) has announced the names of the 131 winners of its monthly Hasaad Savings Scheme for October. This included 94 winners of the monthly branch draws of OMR1,000 each, 10 winners of the Children's Account draw (OMR100 each), 20 winners of the Youth Account draw (OMR100 each), five winners of OMR500 of the bank's Salary Transfer draw and two winners of OMR10,000 of the Elite draw from the Al Dhahira and Muscat branches.

Commenting on the draw, Rashad Al Shaikh, Acting Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "We are delighted to note the continuously increasing number of savings, especially as we enter into the last quarter of the year. We will continue to offer several exciting prizes for all the remaining draws until the end of 2020."

The Hasaad scheme sees 95 lucky winners, with a minimum of one winner per month per branch, receiving a prize of OMR 500 and OMR 1,000 at the quarterly draws. In addition, 10 winners are selected from the Children's Account holders (aged 18 and below) and receive OMR 100 each. Twenty winners are selected from the Youth Account holders (aged between 18 and 27), each receiving a prize of OMR 100. There are also two Elite winners of OMR 10,000 each per month.

The monthly Elite draw is replaced by a Grand Prize draw of OMR 50,000 for one lucky Elite customer, and occurs twice a year, in June and December. Oman Arab Bank also conducts a special 'Big Prize' draw of OMR 25,000 for one winner across its expansive branch network at the end of every quarter.

The Salary Transfer draw was introduced in 2020, which sees 5 winners per month receiving a prize of OMR 500 each, as well as a guaranteed gift to both children and youth (up to 27 years old) once a year. Oman Arab Bank is the only bank providing a guaranteed gift to its youth customers.

"On behalf of OAB, I warmly congratulate all of the winners of our October draw. I encourage each and every one of our customers to continue in their efforts to save, to further increase their chances of winning in the upcoming draws. I wish everyone the best of luck," Rashad added.

Oman Arab Bank has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in the Sultanate. Today, the bank operates a nationwide network of 55 branches and representative offices with 160 ATMs spread across Oman. OAB provides a complete range of financial products and services for personal banking, corporate banking and investment clients.

'QITAF' SPECIAL DRAW

50 Ahli Islamic customers get OMR2,000 each in 50th National Day special draw

MUSCAT: Oman's 50th National Day celebrations proved to be a special one for 50 customers of Ahli Islamic, as they walked away with OMR2000 each in Qitaf's National Day special draw conducted recently. The bank hosted a virtual session to celebrate the 'Qitaf' special draw for total prize money of OMR100,000.

Yousuf Al Rawahi, DGM and Head of Ahli Islamic, provided an overview of the 'Qitaf' prize scheme and welcomed the audience to the virtual session of the celebratory event held at Ghubra branch.

Qitaf Savings Account, which is primarily based on the Mudaraba principle, instils savings habit among its customers and provides them with a chance to be eligible for cash prizes. Qitaf's weekly prize draws offer cash prizes for two winners from each branch of



Ahli Islamic, with each winner being rewarded with OMR250. The monthly draws offer a cash prize of OMR20,000 to one lucky winner each month across the branch network. The quarterly draws offer prize money of OMR 100,000 each

quarter, to one winner across the bank's branch network. Additionally, a special prize draw is held to mark the 50th National Day, rewarding 50 winners with OMR 2,000 each. Ahli Islamic caters to all customer segments, including institutional, corporate, SME and retail, through its dedicated branches across the length and breadth of the Sultanate.

Commenting on the special draw to mark the 50th National Day celebrations, Yousuf Al Rawahi, DGM and Head of Ahli Islamic said, "As Oman continues its celebrations to mark the 50th National Day of the Renaissance, we have made it very special for our customers to celebrate the occasion with a total prize money of OMR100,000 rewarding 50 customers with OMR 2000 each in the Qitaf draw."

"Ahli Islamic's Qitaf prize scheme has transformed the lives of several account holders. The prize scheme has encouraged many people to imbibe the savings culture. We are confident that the various prize schemes will continue to serve as an inspiration for many more customers to save for the future," he added.

In addition to the special draw, there were special cash prizes totalling OMR 500 for social media followers, which was broadcasted live from Ahli Islamic's Instagram account. All the winners appreciated the gesture of the bank to reward them with cash prizes.

Offering unique savings opportunities with customer convenience, Qitaf's prime objective is to instil a culture of savings among its customers and reward them for their prudence.

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