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Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 197 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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Oman, Saudi Arabia ties to get a major boost

The two countries share common dreams and aspirations aimed at promoting comprehensive development and economic diversification, which is reflected in Oman Vision 2040 and Saudi Vision 2030



His Majesty receives written message from King of KSA



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a written message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The message deals with the fraternal relations and cooperation between the two countries and their people. The message was delivered to Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign

Minister when he received here on Sunday Prince Faisal Farhan Al Saud, KSA Foreign Minister.

The meeting reviewed the advanced relations between the two countries and discussed several issues of common interest. It was attended by Abdullah Saud Al Anazi, KSA Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and a number of officials from both sides. — ONA

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the KSA, are set for a new stage of economic and investment cooperation in all fields.

Last July, the two countries reaffirmed plans to engage in joint investment in advanced technologies, innovation, renewable energy projects, industry health, real estate, tourism, petrochemical converting industries, supply chains, logistics partnership, information technology and financial technology.

The achievements made over the past five months and the active exchange of visits among officials reflect the keen desire of the two countries to work together.

This includes the establishment of the Omani-Saudi Investment Forum held last August in Muscat where a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed between business persons.

The Omani-Saudi Businessmen Council held a meeting here in August with a view to accelerating integration in commercial, investment and economic fields.

Eng. Ridha Jumaa Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (OCCI), said that the visit of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, KSA Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence to the Sultanate of Oman on Monday assumes great significance and will reflect positively at various levels.

In a statement to ONA, Al Saleh said that the visit consolidates the ties of affinity and serves the two countries interests and status in the regional and international arenas.

Oman and Saudi Arabia constitute basic pillars in the GCC and they carry strategic weight towards advancing joint Arab action, said Al Saleh, noting that the two

countries share identical views towards domestic development and that their visions are enshrined in Oman Vision 2040 and Saudi Vision 2030.

Statistics point to an upward rise in commercial exchange, which doubled from 2010 (OMR461 million) to 2020 (OMR960 million). Figures for the first quarter in 2021 show a 14.89 percent increase in commercial exchange, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Al Saleh explained that the private sector in both countries looks forward to better commercial exchange, a matter accorded the attention of the two countries'

leaderships. The overall aim is to reach a stage of economic integration, which will get a fillip through the opening of the Omani-Saudi desert highway.

Saudi Arabia occupies second place in list of importers of Omani non-oil products, fourth place in re-export and fifth place in the list of countries from which the Sultanate imports products, said Al Saleh, adding that Saudi Arabia occupies fourth place at the world level in terms of importers of Omani fisheries.

The KSA is one of Oman's topmost strategic partners and it played a major role in the establishment of Khazaen in 2018,

Ibri Energy Projects and Salalah Solar and Water Desalination Plants, he said.

In his statement, Al Saleh said that Saudi Arabia is a member of the G20, which groups the largest global economies. The KSA constitutes a pivotal state in the GCC region, being the largest exporter of oil in the world, said Al Saleh, who observed that the Saudi economy is witnessing steady growth, set to increase by 4.8 percent in 2022. Non-oil economy in Saudi Arabia is also set to grow by 2.9 percent in 2022 and that the kingdom's GDP is forecast to grow by 3.4 percent in 2022 and 3.5 percent in 2023, he added. — ONA

Oman’s State Budget deficit down by 63%

The Ministry of Finance showed that total general revenues as at the end of October 2021 posted an increase of 28.1 percent



REVENUE HIKE: The rise in revenues was due to the recovery of oil prices, coupled with a rise in demand for fuel.

MUSCAT: In a major change, the State Budget deficit dropped significantly by a hefty 62.9 percent to OMR1 billion and 6.5 million by the end of October 2021, compared to OMR2 billion and 713.7 million during the corresponding period in 2020.

The monthly bulletin issued by the Ministry of Finance showed that total general revenues as at the end of October 2021 posted an

increase of 28.1 percent and stood at OMR8 billion and 332.7 million, compared to OMR6 billion and 502.8 million during the corresponding period in 2020.

This was due to the recovery of oil prices, coupled with a rise in demand for fuel, with oil prices averaging \$58.89 by the end of October 2021 and leading to 35.4 percent increase in oil revenues to around OMR4 billion and 443.3 million. Meanwhile, gas revenues also soared by 50.6 percent and posted

OMR1 billion and 697.9 million.

The Ministry pointed out that current revenues also rose by 40.8 percent by the end of October 2021 to OMR2 billion and 128.9 million, compared to OMR1 billion and 512.5 million during the corresponding period in 2020.

The bulletin indicated that public spending maintained a moderate rate, standing at OMR9 billion and 339.2 million as against OMR9 billion and 216.5 million.

-ONA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Seminar highlights impacts of volunteering on community

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development in cooperation with the Arab Open University organised a seminar titled (Volunteering and its Impact on Society), under the patronage of Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

The seminar included several working papers on introducing volunteering and methods of developing its skills, identifying necessary information to establish voluntary projects, highlighting impacts of volunteering on the community, as well as the role of active associations in the community in the field of volunteering.



-ONA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Healthcare professionals to take part in pharmaceutical meet



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health represented by the Directorate General of Medical Supplies will organise on 12 December, the 10th Pharmaceutical Care Conference & Exhibition.

Activities of the conference, themed "Excellence in Pharmacy Practice", will be held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Center.

The event will experience wide local, regional and international participations, along with the participation of officials from various advanced international organisations in the field, including World Health Organization, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe

(PCNE), Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP Canada), as well as Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, and the pharmaceutical societies of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Moreover, the participation of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), which regulates the pharmacy

practice in the USA, in the conference this year will enrich the event with many international practices and experiences.

The three-day scientific program will include (61) local and international working papers on the latest developments in the pharmaceutical practice distributed over (13) scientific sessions.

As many as 1,000 healthcare professionals, including medical and assistant medical staff will take part in the conference in-person and virtually representing various MOH's health institutions and others, in addition to other participants from the GCC countries.

-ONA

NEW LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE

Mwasalat Training Institute gets New International Accreditation



MUSCAT: Mwasalat, a member of Asyad Group, has announced that Mwasalat Training Institute reached new levels of excellence and recognition by obtaining the prestigious City and Guilds international accreditation, adding it to the IVV and Diamond accreditations.

This proficient training institution has quickly become a leading regional training centre offering various training courses on public transportation processes and operations.

Badar Mohammed Al Nadabi, acting CEO of Mwasalat, hailed this major milestone as an "invaluable international recognition of the exceptional quality of Mwasalat Training Institute's programs offered in various vocational pathways in the public transportation sector. Our institute aims to supply both local and regional markets with the human resources and competencies needed to cover the full scope of public transport operations and comply with health and traffic safety requirements while creating the proper environment that ensures customer and driver safety and protects corporate assets.

This achievement was made possible by the outstanding efforts of our young professionals who proved themselves once again, as they worked tirelessly to meet all the relevant conditions and submitted a comprehensive application that allowed the institute to pass international accreditation requirements with flying colours, added Al Nadabi.

Mwasalat's Acting CEO explained that the training institute has been delivering numerous specialized training programmes since its establishment in 2019, bringing in experienced trainers of the highest caliber to build the competencies of Mwasalat employees and introduce international best practices in transport and safety. The institute's training programs not only cover

Mwasalat hones the skills of technicians and supports employees by providing them with training courses on regular maintenance, repairs and tackling challenges to improve customer and operator comfort and safety

operational capacity building, but extend to contingency planning and technical support.

On the operational side, it conducts training programs for new drivers and various courses on preventative driving, customer service, emergency response and evacuation.

Meanwhile, Mwasalat hones the skills of technicians and support employees by providing them with training courses on regular maintenance, repairs and tackling challenges to improve customer and operator comfort and safety.

Al Nadabi highlighted Mwasalat's plans to launch a proactive promotional strategy that involves reaching out to national and regional transport providers and offering them training and upskilling opportunities. Mwasalat Training Institute has the necessary expertise and know-how to provide specialised maintenance and professional development training for transport vehicles and school bus drivers.

Mwasalat Training Institute offers more than 26 training programs that covers various aspects of the public transport business, including driver skills, maintenance and vehicle repair training.

The institute has the facilities and competencies that enable it to deliver training inside and outside its premises all within Asyad's strategy to power Oman's logistics sector with a sustainable and competitive land transport system.

-ONA



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LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Meet reviews Oman Vision 2040 goals in light of pandemic

MUSCAT: *Oman Economic Review* (OER) magazine on Sunday organised its annual business conference entitled “Post-Pandemic Leadership” at Sheraton Oman Hotel, under the patronage of Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

The conference included working papers, presentations and discussion panels. It reviewed prospects for achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040

and challenges it faces, as well as the efforts made to enhance the capabilities of the major sectors targeted by the vision, such as tourism and logistics sectors, manufacturing industries, fisheries and agriculture.

National efforts
The participants in the conference reviewed the national efforts made to enhance investment and business. They also touched on diversifying the productive base

of the economy and creating a knowledge-based economy, besides providing a stimulating environment for innovation.

The conference discussed the partnership issues between private and public sectors and efforts exerted to provide job opportunities for youth.

The conference's agenda included two discussion panels on enhancing the Omani economy and digital transformation in managing human resources. -**ONA**

Budget blueprint review finalised

The Economic Committee review covered facts and assumptions of Budget 2022 draft

MUSCAT: The State Council's Economic Committee has rounded up its deliberations about Budget 2022 blueprint, as well as the report of Shura Council on the draft.

The review covered facts and assumptions on which Budget 2022 draft was based, including estimates of revenues and spending.

The Economic Committee studied an analysis related to Oman's financial position after one year since the endorsement of the me-

dium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2024).

Report
The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Harthi, Chairman of the Economic Committee. The committee decided to submit its report, along with comments, to the Chairman of the State Council in preparation for further discussion during the Council's upcoming session. -**ONA**

AVIATION

Oman Air resumes services between Muscat and Zurich

The route resumption coincides with Oman Air's 10th anniversary flying to Zurich from its base in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, has resumed with effect from December 1, 2021, direct service on its Muscat-Zurich-Muscat route.

The route resumption coincides with Oman Air's 10th anniversary flying to Zurich (ZRH) from its base in Muscat (MCT). Initially introduced on December

2, 2011, the route was paused temporarily due to the unprecedented pandemic and subsequent downturn in global aviation and travel.

Due to strong demand for the route, however, and with the re-issuance of its 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating from Skytrax, Oman Air will once again welcome its guests.

In a scaled-down, socially distanced ceremony held at Zurich Airport, Lina Samman, Oman

Air Country Manager for Switzerland, accompanied by several Zurich Airport officials, spoke to passengers, local press, and airline partners ahead of the departure of flight WY 154 from Zurich to Muscat.

“This evening's flight from Zurich to Muscat not only resumes scheduled passenger service, but also marks 10 years of exceptional service, connecting travellers to the Sultanate of Oman's natural beauty, its cultural richness, and the genuine kindness and openness of its people.”



ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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Oman

They collectively bought the tickets online.





MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

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MALL OF OMAN





MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,400 VIEWS

Saudi Arabia Prince Salman to visit Oman on Monday





Photo story on rising private jet sales
A photo story post on rising private jet sales had 407 likes on Instagram.



Morning Minute video
The Morning Minute video had 1,400 views and reached 5,200 people on Facebook.



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MAXIMISE BENEFITS

Royal visit caps 50 years of modern Omani-Saudi ties

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are pressing ahead with the development of their decades-old modern relations to maximise benefits for the peoples of the two countries under the wise leaderships of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the KSA.

The visit to Oman today by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, KSA Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence underpins the accomplishments of the state visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Saudi Arabia, which included the signing of agreements and the establishment of the Omani Saudi Coordination Council.

The Omani-Saudi Coordination Council will see to the sustainability and expansion of cooperation between the two countries, with great scopes for



more agreements and memoranda of understanding.

Over the past 50 years, Oman and Saudi Arabia signed a host of agreements, among them one on

border demarcation inked on 21 March 1990. Their relations are marked by mutual respect and co-operation about various regional and international issues.

Abdullah Saud Al Anzi, KSA Ambassador to Oman, said that the visit of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman comes in reaffirmation of the depth of historical

ties and that the visit will upgrade bilateral relations into wider horizons of cooperation.

Al Anzi told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with King Salman earlier this year constitute a major shift forward in developing Oman-Saudi relations, whose modern foundations were laid down by late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Bin Taimour upon his first visit to the Kingdom. "Today, that course of action is clear and pursued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham," Al Anzi added.

The visit of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman ushers in a new era of advanced relations, said Al Anzi, noting that the two countries will cement their ties of cooperation within the framework of their development strategies—Oman Vision 2040 and Saudi Vision 2030, Al Anzi affirmed, noting that emphasis will be laid

on investment and economic partnership, in addition to the fostering political relations, values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

Key objective

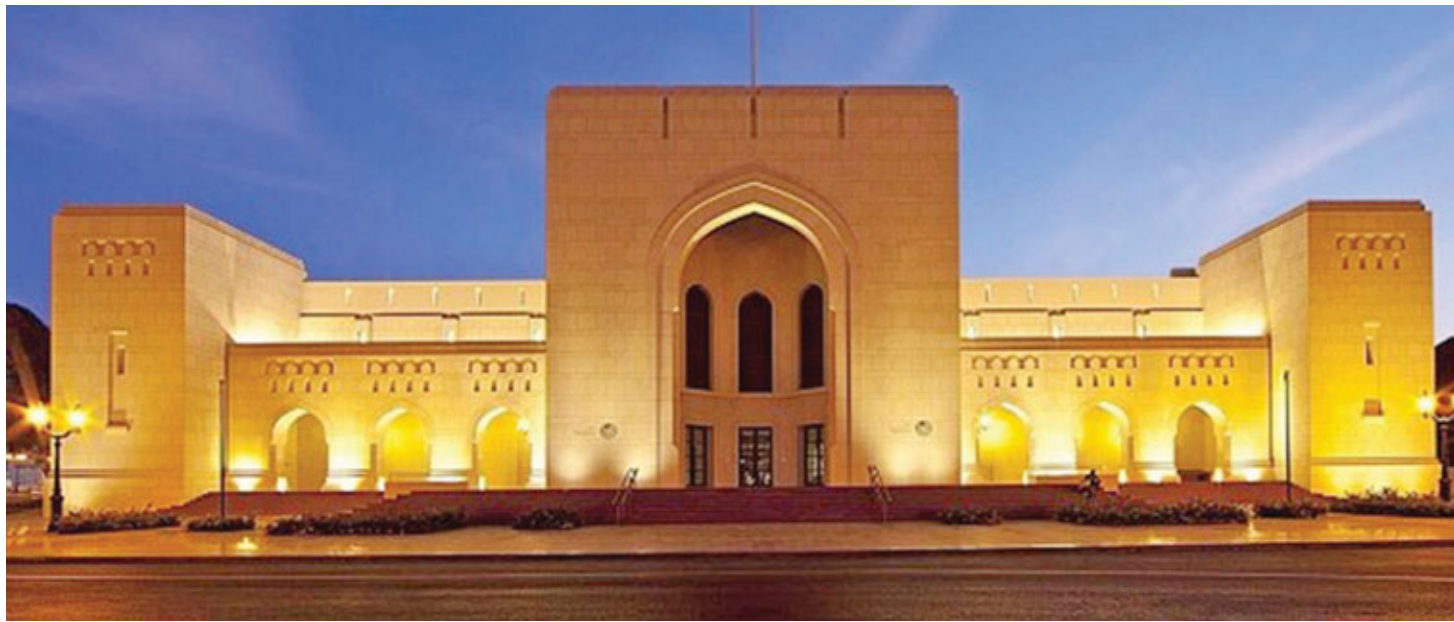
A key objective over the near future is the opening of the Rub-el-Khali desert highway, which will expand the rate of land travel between the two countries, said Al Anzi.

The Ambassador reiterated that the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia share common views on regional and global issues.

The two countries share the noble values of Islam, reject terrorism and boost international efforts to establish peace in Yemen, said Al Anzi, noting that Oman is a forerunner in peace and supports international and Saudi efforts for the realization of a peaceful settlement in Yemen. -ONA



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IS A TREASURE TROVE OF CULTURAL WEALTH



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM of Oman, located in the heart of old Muscat, is a treasure house of cultural wealth that focuses on promoting heritage, culture and science, and contains artefacts that date back thousands of years.

According to their official website "The Museum is located in a purpose-designed building in the heart of Muscat. Looking very much like a palace in its own right, the building is in keeping with the overall feel of the district, with the Museum facing the Qas Al Alam Palace at the opposite end of Muscat's ceremonial boulevard. The total area of the building is 13,700 sq m, including 4,000 square metres for 14 permanent galleries, each covering a different aspect of Oman's cultural heritage. A further 400sq m are allocated for temporary exhibitions.

"The Museum houses more than 7,000 objects and offers 33 digital immersive experiences, state-of-the-art conservation facilities, a UHD cinema, and discovery areas for children. It features an integrated infrastructure for special needs and is the first museum in the Middle East to adopt Arabic Braille script for the visually impaired. It also houses the region's first open-plan museum storage concept, where visitors can learn



about the various processes that artefacts go through before they are put on display."

The National Museum recently inaugurated a showcase of the original manuscript of a collection of proses in Marine sciences by the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid as-Sa'adi on loan from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in the Russian Federation. The showcase was in celebration of UNESCO's inclusion of the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid as-Saadi in the list of globally influential personalities.

The National Museum has also inaugurated an exhibition that includes Italian museum collections and Omani archaeological artefacts. The exhibition highlights the continuity of Omani-Italian relations through the ages, as embodied by trade caravans carrying precious frankincense and spices as popular consumer goods in the Western world.



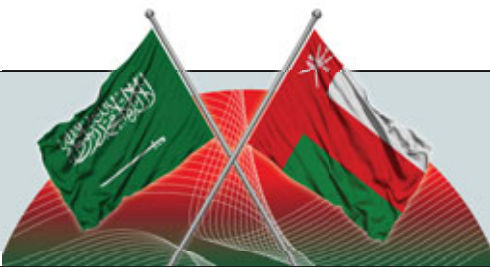


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ASSIGNED BY HIS MAJESTY

Dr. Rahma to preside over Sultan Qaboos University graduation

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Chairperson of Sultan Qaboos University Council will preside over today and on 8 December the graduation of the 31st batch of students of Sultan Qaboos University.

2,962 students

The total graduates of the 31st batch of students amounted to 2,962 at the bachelors degree, diploma and post-graduates (Masters and Ph.D degree).

The ceremony for students of the College of Arts and Social Science, College of Economics and Political Science and College of Engineering will be organised at the open stage of SQU and would see graduation of 1,498 students.

The graduation of 1,464 students of the College of Agricul-



tural and Marine Sciences, the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, College of Nursing, College of Science, College of Education and the College of Law would be held on Wednesday 8 December.

-ONA

REFEREEING ERRORS

OFA lodges complaint

DOHA: Oman Football Association (OFA) has addressed an official letter of objection to the FIFA against what it termed as "stark clear refereeing mistakes" made during the National Football Team's match with its Qatari counterpart as part of the 2021 FIFA Arab Cup.

The refereeing decision reflected negatively on the final score, OFA said.

OFA identified the refereeing mistakes as: Giving a wrong penalty against Oman team, granting a controversial goal to Qatar without resort to the VAR technology and ignoring the repeated foul play against the Omani team, said OFA.

Had their games ended without any additional time, or even as the clock struck 96 minutes, Oman would be sitting pretty on four points. The fact they had just one to show for their efforts is down to the concession of two truly heart-breaking goals, with 97th-minute winner for Qatar adding to the agony of Iraq's 98th-minute equaliser on match-day one. With ONA inputs

CABLE

HM sends greetings to Finland President

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Sauli Niinisto of the Republic of Finland on his country's Independence Anniversary.

In the cable, His Majesty ex-

pressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Niinisto. His Majesty also wished the people of Finland further progress and prosperity.

-ONA

IMPORT PRODUCTS VALIDITY

Minister issues decision on concurrence system

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, issued Decision No. 190/2021 promulgating the Technical Regulation of the Concurrence System governing imported products to ensure that they do not pose risks to human health, the environment or public safety.

The Technical Regulation will apply after six months from its date of publishing in the Official Gazette.

It will help streamline customs procedures and encourage small and medium enterprises to tally the specifications of their local products with international standards, so that they could compete locally and abroad. -ONA



DECISION Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, issued a decision.



Royal Oman Police

NOTICE

Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations - announces that no vehicles shall be allowed to park on both sides of the Sultan Qaboos Highway Road, beginning from Burj Al Sahwa Roundabout to the Wilayat of Muscat, starting from the morning of **Monday 06/12/2021 until 07:00 pm on Tuesday 07/12/2021.**

Royal Oman Police calls upon drivers to abide by the above instructions and to cooperate with policemen for the public interest.



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WORLD





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ANCHOR FIRED

CNN fires Chris Cuomo over involvement in brother's defence

NEW YORK: The US news network CNN announced on Saturday that it had fired news anchor Chris Cuomo “effective immediately.” The company said that new information had shown that the anchor had been involved in the defence of his brother and former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. The latter stepped down earlier in the year after a series of harassment allegations were



made against him. “Chris Cuomo was suspended earlier this week pending further evaluation of new information that came to light about his involvement with his brother’s defence,” CNN said in a statement. “We retained a respected law firm to conduct the review, and have terminated him, effective immediately,” the company added. Cuomo himself called the decision “disappointing” and said in a statement shared on social media that this was “not how I want my time at CNN to end but I have already told you why and how I helped my brother.” The move came after New York Attorney General Letitia James — who played a key role in building the case against the elder Cuomo brother — released a dump of documents on Monday. **ANI**

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Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112



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Rescuers search for survivors after volcano erupts in Indonesia

Hundreds fled to makeshift shelters on Saturday afternoon as molten lava and ash spewed down the tallest mountain



VOLCANIC ERUPTION: At least 14 people died after Mount Semeru's surprise eruption on Saturday covered nearby villages in volcanic ash.

JAKARTA: Emergency services on Sunday raced to find survivors a day after the Mount Semeru volcano erupted on the Indonesian island of Java, claiming the lives of at least 14 people. Hundreds fled to makeshift shelters on Saturday afternoon as molten lava and ash spewed down the tallest mountain on the island, leaving the ground searing hot on Sunday and complicating rescue efforts.

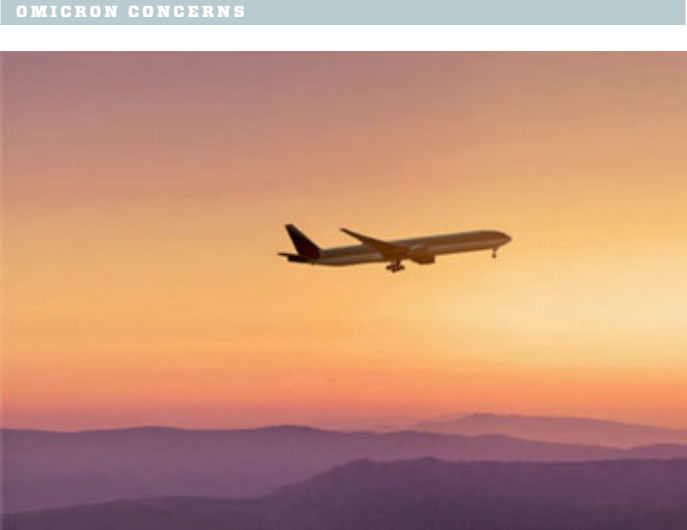
What is the latest?
At least 14 people died after Mount Semeru's surprise eruption on Saturday covered nearby villages in volcanic ash. Another 56 people are being treated in hospital for burns — including two pregnant women, said Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for the national disaster agency (BNPBB). At least seven people were still missing after the eruption, with two believed to still be alive.

“There were signs they are still alive as there were lights maybe from their cellphones,” Hendro said. “But we cannot go there as the ground is still very hot. We want to ensure our team’s safety too.” But Muhari told reporters that ten people trapped by the eruption had been rescued. Local broadcaster Kompas TV said the survivors were sandminers caught out close to their workplace. Rescue efforts have been hindered by the damage caused by the hot mud flow. The dangerous mixture has severed a key road and destroyed at least one bridge leading to the area from Lumajang. Indonesian meteorologists predicted heavy rainfall over the next

three days, further complicating rescue efforts. Emergency response crews used heavy loaders to remove debris and try to clear roads. Authorities evacuated about 1,300 people from at least 11 villages. Many mistook the hot mud flow from the volcano for rushing floodwaters — prompting them to seek shelter in their homes rather than fleeing their villages, local officials said. “They did not have time to run away,” Lumajang Public Order Agency spokesperson Adi Hendro told news agency AFP. After a harmless eruption in January, authorities believe residents who farm the fertile slopes of Mount Semeru underestimated

the size of the eruption and reach of the lava flow.

Emergency response launched
Indonesian President Jokowi Widodo tweeted a photo of the aftermath of the natural disaster on Sunday, showing a town caked in volcanic mud. He said he had ordered emergency services to the area. “Searching and finding victims, providing care to the injured, and handling disaster impacts,” he said of the work they were doing. “Health service assistance, logistical provision for refugees’ basic needs, as well as infrastructure improvements must be completed in a short time.” **BW**



Stringent quarantine rules in Japan for travellers from India, four US states

TOKYO: In an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 variant Omicron, Japan will add India, Greece, Romania and four US states under strict quarantine vigilance. Japanese nationals and foreign residents travelling to Japan from India, Greece, Romania and four US states will have to undergo stringent quarantine regulations Sunday onwards, in order to control the spread of the Omicron variant, reported Kyodo news. While, foreign residents, as well as Japanese nationals travelling from Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota and New York to Japan, will have to mandatorily spend three days of their two-week quarantine at government-designated facilities, reported Kyodo News. With emerging Omicron cases in the country and to curb the further spread, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno on

Friday announced the expansion of the list addressing a press conference. A government task force made the decision to control the increasing number of new variant cases in Japan. The list for three-day mandatory quarantine at government-designated facilities already includes countries such as Austria, Ecuador and France. While many are being subject to stringent quarantine requirements, such as staying in government-designated facilities for over 10 days, reported Kyodo News. The first Omicron case was reported on Tuesday in Japan, causing it to deny re-entry of all foreigners, including residents with long-term visas, who have recently been to any of 10 African countries likely to have widespread infections of the variant. The country has further banned new entries by foreigners from around the globe. **ANI**

ONLINE MEETING

US President Biden to speak with Russia's Putin on Tuesday

MOSCOW: US President Joe Biden will discuss Moscow's buildup of troops on the Ukrainian border with Russian President Vladimir Putin in an online meeting on Tuesday, sources on both sides have confirmed. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov and a US source told the Reuters news agency on Saturday that the video call between the two leaders will bring up Ukraine and progress on bilateral agreements made between the two countries at a Geneva summit in June.



What subjects are on the agenda?
Biden will reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine at the online meeting, the US source told Reuters. The White House has declined to comment on the scheduling of the video call. The Reuters source also said the online meeting will deal with strategic stability, cyberattacks and regional issues. “The conversation will indeed take place on Tuesday,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Reuters. “Bilateral relations, of course Ukraine and the realization of the agreements reached in Geneva are the main [items] on the agenda,” he said. If the talks go ahead, it would be the first conversation between Biden and Putin since July 9 after they met face-to-face in Geneva in June. Bilateral agreements to crack down on hackers could also be among the topics discussed in Tuesday's call. Russia hopes to pressure the US

into not allowing Ukraine into being part of the NATO alliance. But various US and NATO diplomats told The Associated Press that such demands would be a non-starter.

How serious is the Ukraine situation?
US media outlets including The Washington Post and AP have reported that Russia is planning a military offensive against Ukraine in early 2022. “We’re aware of Russia’s actions for a long time and my expectation is we’re going to have a long discussion with Putin,” Biden said on Friday. “I don’t accept anybody’s red lines,” he added. The US president said he and his advisers were trying to find ways to stop Putin from invading Ukraine. “What I am doing is putting together what I believe to be, will be, the most comprehensive and meaningful set of initiatives to make it very, very difficult for Mr.

Putin to go ahead and do what people are worried he may do,” Biden said. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov earlier this week that US and European allies would impose “severe costs and consequences on Russia if it takes further aggressive action against Ukraine.” While Ukraine has said that 94,300 Russian troops are at its border, Moscow has instead accused Kyiv of amassing its own troops. Relations between the US and Russia are at one of their lowest points in decades, worsening since Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine, Moscow's 2015 support for the Syrian government and accusations of meddling in US elections. In 2021, relations soured even further when Biden accused Russia of not cracking down on cyberattacks launched from Russia which have hurt US interests. **BW**

DEMONSTRATORS KILLED



Myanmar security forces ram car into anti-coup protest

NAYPYITAW: Myanmar security forces rammed a car into an anti-coup protest on Sunday morning in Yangon, killing at least five demonstrators and arresting 15 others, news portal Myanmar Now reported. The Southeast Asian nation has seen months of chaos and violence since February when the military seized power in a coup. Anti-coup protests have continued despite a crackdown by security forces, which has resulted in the killing of more than 1,300 people. The protests are often small and highly mobile, with people opposing the overthrow of an elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Sunday's “flash mob” protest in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, was violently dispersed when a large car rammed into it. “I got hit and fell down in front of a truck,” a protester at Sunday's demonstration told news agency Reuters.

“A soldier beat me with his rifle but I defended and pushed him back. Then he immediately shot at me as I ran away in a zig-zag pattern. Fortunately, I escaped,” the person said, declining to be identified for security reasons.

Chased and beaten
Photos and videos from the scene showed a vehicle that crashed through the protesters, some of whom were carrying large banners, as well as bodies lying on the road. The car then reportedly chased scattered protesters, with security forces arresting and beating them. The soldiers also beat three people knocked over by the vehicle. “They increased the speed when they got closer to the protesters — it was like they drove into them,” a journalist told news agency AFP. “Then the soldiers jumped out of the car and started shooting,” he said.

A second protest was held in Yangon later in the afternoon despite the violence.

Opposition condemns attack
The opposition shadow government said it was heartbroken to see peaceful protesters killed and attacked. “We will strongly respond to the terrorist military who brutally, inhumanly killed the unarmed peaceful protesters,” the National Unity Government's defense ministry said in a statement on social media after Sunday's attack. The military said that the protesters who died were the ones who instigated the violence. The junta has justified seizing power earlier this year by alleging electoral fraud in the 2019 election where Suu Kyi's party won by a landslide. Military leaders have vowed to hold a fresh election in 2023. **BW**



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جدول النقاط POINTS TABLE



Group A	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة أ
Qatar	2	2	0	0	3	1	6		قطر
Iraq	2	0	2	0	1	1	2		العراق
Oman	2	0	1	1	2	3	1		عمان
Bahrain	2	0	1	1	0	1	1		البحرين

Group B	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة ب
UAE	2	2	0	0	3	1	6		الإمارات
Tunisia	2	1	0	1	5	3	3		تونس
Syria	2	1	0	1	3	2	3		سوريا
Mauritania	2	0	0	2	1	6	0		موريتانيا

Group C	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة ج
Morocco	2	2	0	0	8	0	6		المغرب
Jordan	2	1	0	1	1	4	3		الأردن
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	1	2	1		السعودية
Palestine	2	0	1	1	1	5	1		فلسطين

Group D	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة د
Algeria	2	2	0	0	6	0	6		الجزائر
Egypt	2	2	0	0	6	0	6		مصر
Lebanon	2	0	0	2	0	3	0		لبنان
Sudan	2	0	0	2	0	9	0		السودان

Played, Draw, Won, Lost, Goals For, Goals Against, Points
لعب، فوز، تعادل، خسارة، أهداف لصالح، أهداف ضد، النقاط



ديسمبر 6
DECEMBER 6

مباريات يوم غد NEXT MATCHES

تونس TUNISIA	19:00	الإمارات UAE
سوريا SYRIA	19:00	موريتانيا MAURITANIA
قطر QATAR	23:00	العراق IRAQ
عمان OMAN	23:00	البحرين BAHRAIN



ALGERIA, EGYPT AND MOROCCO ENTER FIFA ARAB CUP 2021 QUARTERS

DOHA: The quarter-final jigsaw at the FIFA Arab Cup 2021 now has half of its pieces in place after Algeria, Egypt and Morocco followed hosts Qatar in securing a last-eight berth with a game to spare.

Each qualified in fine style, with the Atlas Lions and Pharaohs especially impressive in putting four and five unanswered goals past Jordan and Sudan respectively. And while Morocco's goal difference, the healthiest in the tournament, ensures that they will almost certainly go through as section winners, their fellow North African quarter-finalists face a fierce battle to determine top spot in Group D. When Ahmed Refaat sent a wonderful right-foot free-kick crashing back off the crossbar just four minutes into Egypt's 5-0 win over Sudan, it seemed we'd narrowly missed out on one of the goals of the tournament. But the Egypt star had other ideas. When the

panicked clearance that followed spun and looped in his direction, Refaat adjusted his body in an instant and - with his left foot this time, and from an even greater distance - smashed home an unstoppable volley. It was a display of pure, glorious, two-footed technique that will take some beating between now and the final on 18 December.

Moroccan eyes on the prize

Of all the bands of travelling supporters at this tournament, Morocco's have been among the most colourful and enthusiastic. They are unabashed, too, in loudly stating their lofty ambitions for the Atlas Lions in Qatar, chanting today: "The people want the Arab Cup title!" And while there is a long way to go, and more than a few strong sides with the same ambition, the Moroccans - as they have shown with two successive, highly impressive 4-0 wins - will take some stopping.

Cedars' sad salute

Lebanon's FIFA Arab Cup squad woke up this morning to the devastating news that COVID-19 had claimed the life of Mahmoud Hammoud, a towering figure in the country who had both played for and coached the national team. Several of the current players had worked under the 57-year-old, and all marked his passing by sporting black armbands in today's match against Algeria. They honoured him, too, with a determined and disciplined performance against the significantly higher-ranked Fennecs, holding out for three-quarters of the match before ultimate succumbing to their opponents' superior quality.

One first achieved, another thwarted

Palestine's Mohammed Rashid had never scored an international goal. The 26-year-old ended his wait in spectacular style, bursting forward from midfield to unleash

a right-foot rocket that flew high into the net from 30 yards. It was a stunning strike from a player who spent a season playing in Saudi Arabia's second tier, and who looked to have all but ended the Green Falcons' chances of making the quarter-finals. But just as Rashid's first-ever international goal looked to have secured Palestine's first-ever win in this fixture, Saudi Arabia substitutes Abdullah Al Hamdan and Haitham Asiri combined for a late equaliser that leaves three teams chasing second spot in Group C.

The stat

13 - This was the highest-scoring matchday of the FIFA Arab Cup thus far, with 13 goals - an average of 3.25 per game - bringing fans to their feet. It also set a less desirable record, with four red cards - spread evenly between just two matches - comfortably registering a new tournament benchmark for ill-discipline. **FIFA**



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TURKISH AIRLINES

SPORTS

India dominate Kiwis as they need five wickets for series win

At the end of Day 3, the Kiwis score was 140/5 with Nicholls and Rachin Ravindra standing unbeaten at the crease

MUMBAI: Team India dominated Day 3 of the second Test against New Zealand as the hosts now required five wickets for the series win here at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on Sunday.

New Zealand batters Daryl Mitchell and Henry Nicholls were the only positive for the visitors on Day 3 as Kiwis score read 140/5 at the end of Day 3 of the ongoing second Test against India. Resuming the third session at 13/1, Ravichandran Ashwin struck again as he scalped two wickets and sent back Will Young (20) and Ross Taylor (6) in the 15th and 17th over respectively.

Following two big dismissals, Mitchell (60) and Nicholls (36*) kept the scoreboard moving for the visitors but Indian bowlers had other plans in store and spinner Axar Patel showed Mitchell the way to the dugout. Later, Tom Blundell also departed without



SECOND TEST Resuming the third session at 13/1, Ravichandran Ashwin struck again as he scalped two wickets and sent back Will Young (20) and Ross Taylor (6) in the 15th and 17th over.

opening his account.

At the end of Day 3, the Kiwis score was 140/5 with Nicholls and Rachin Ravindra (2) standing unbeaten at the crease. The visitors still need to cross a huge mountain of 400 runs in order to win the game.

Earlier, India declared the innings at 276/7 setting New Zealand a target of 540 when Ajaz Patel dismissed Jayant Yadav out caught and bowled picking up his

4th wicket of the innings and 14th wicket of the match.

Richard Hadlee

The left-arm spinner finished with figures of 14-225 the best bowling figure in Test matches against India and the 2nd best bowling figure by a New Zealander after Sir Richard Hadlee who took 15 wickets conceding 123 runs against Australia in Brisbane in 1985.

Kiwis once again did not get a good start as Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed Tom Latham leg before wicket for just 6 with only 13 runs on the board.

Brief Scores: India 325 and 276/4 decl (Mayank Agarwal 62, Cheteshwar Pujara 47, Shubman Gill 47; Ajaz Patel 4-106); New Zealand 62 and 140/5 (Daryl Mitchell 60, Henry Nicholls 36*, Ravichandran Ashwin 3/27). -ANI

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Man City coach Pep Guardiola set for toughest part of season

MANCHESTER: Manchester City head coach Pep Guardiola believes the next period of the season will be the toughest.

With seven matches between Sunday and New Year's Day, starting with Tuesday's Champions League game in Germany against RB Leipzig, Guardiola says many things can happen at this crucial stage. "There are many games to come and it's the toughest part of the season. We'll try to continue at this level and this rhythm," he said as per the club's official website.

"Everyone is back, it doesn't matter who plays, we are consistent and winning games but in football, everything can go down

in one second. I'm more than pleased with what the guys have done in this tough period and now comes the toughest one for the number of games, weather, injuries. We keep going with this rhythm and try to play well," the City boss added.

On Saturday, Bernardo Silva scored twice as Manchester City beat Watford 3-1 for a fifth successive victory that moved them top of the Premier League table for the first time this season.

The City has leapfrog Chelsea and Liverpool on 35 points, one clear of the Reds. But a third straight defeat leaves Watford 17th on 13 points, three above the bottom three. -ANI

PAKISTAN VS BANGLADESH

Pakistan reach 188/2 against Bangladesh before rain washes out play

DHAKA: Azhar Ali reached his 34th career fifty as only 38 balls' play was possible on the second day of the second Test in which Pakistan added 27 runs to their overnight score to reach 188 for two against Bangladesh on Sunday. After there was no play in the

first session, play resumed following an early lunch and Pakistan began confidently and convincingly before rain halted play after 6.2 overs. Shortly before rain ended the second day's play, Azhar Ali hit back to back boundaries off Ebadot Hossain to complete

his 34th 50 in his 91st Test. When day's play was finally called off, Azhar was batting on 52 after beginning the day at 36.

Babar Azam, who was 60 overnight in Pakistan's 161 for two, started impressively with a boundary off the first ball of the

day and was still at the crease on 71 with eight fours and a six.

The two batters have so far added 118 runs for the unfinished third-wicket partnership. Brief Scores: Pakistan 188/2 (Babar Azam 71* Azhar Ali 52*; Tajul Islam 2-49) v Bangladesh -ANI



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MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



Insured business with Credit Oman surges 30% to OMR85mn



Total domestic insured sales against local buyers amounted to OMR24.32 million witnessing an increase of 48 per cent

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of Credit Oman's continuous efforts made to promote Oman's exports, recently recorded statistics released indicate that for the third quarter of the current year and increase in

the total value of insured sales for exports and domestic businesses reached OMR85.22 million, an increase of 30 per cent when compared to the same period in 2020 which stood at OMR65.20 million.

Total domestic insured sales against local buyers amounted to OMR24.32 million witnessing an increase of 48 per cent compared to the same period of the third quarter of the previous year which amounted to OMR16.41.

On the other hand, the total export insured sales for goods exported from Oman amounted to OMR44.75 million for the third quarter of the current year, while insured sales under the domestic multi-buyer policy amounted to OMR20.72 million.

The released statistics showed that the total sanctioned approved credit limits reached OMR108.99.

Various diversified sectors have been insured by Credit Oman constituting petro-chemical, FMCG, packaging and building materials.



STATISTICS: The total export insured sales for goods exported from Oman amounted to OMR44.75 million for the third quarter of the current year, while insured sales under the domestic multi-buyer policy amounted to OMR20.72 million. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Mercedes-Benz Oman appoints Ahmed Al Rahbi as sales manager

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Committed to empowering the national workforce in the private sector, Zawawi Trading Company, General Distributor for Mercedes-Benz in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the promotion of Ahmed Al Rahbi as its new Sales Manager of Commercial Vehicles, effective December 1.

Previously holding the role of a Senior Government Sales Consultant, Al Rahbi will be responsible for a team of eight, overseeing the sales of Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles across the Sultanate from ZTC's Dealerships in Muscat, Suhar, Haima and Salalah within the fleet, retail and governmental sectors.

Gary Brown, General Manager Commercial Vehicles said, "At Zawawi Trading Company, talent and hard work does not go unnoticed. Ahmed Al Rahbi joined us in 2012 and has been a valuable member of our team ever since. With his incredible track record and expertise on Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles, Al Rahbi quickly rose to his new managerial position and we are confident that he will uphold the company's values."

Al Rahbi holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Waljat College of Applied Sciences. His background provides him with the skills required



to improve customer satisfaction and build a strong rapport with our customers. With close to a decade of working as a Sales Consultant in the automotive sector, Al Rahbi has completed multiple tenders working closely with the government and the Ministry of Defense.

With a rigorous prioritisation of providing all customers with the very best experience, Mercedes-Benz Oman Commercial Vehicles offers an unrivalled range of tailor-made and reliable transport solutions, local service and parts supply throughout the wide national network of Mercedes-Benz branches, as well as expert technical and driver support.

Mercedes-Benz trucks stand not only for reliability and economic efficiency but also for first-class product and service quality and comprehensive expertise in the area of customer-oriented transport solutions. Whether long haul, construction site, off-road, or distribution transportation, the Mercedes-Benz brand offers the right solution for the light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty truck segments.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY



SAFE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT: The move comes to furnish a safe investment environment for the various economic sectors and to incentivise the productive sectors to achieve the Oman Vision 2040.. - Supplied picture

CMA prepares draft standard insurance policy for fishing boats

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has completed the preparation of the first draft of the standard insurance policy for fishing boats and vessels and will receive feedback and observations from all the stakeholders.

The move comes to furnish a safe investment environment for the various economic sectors and to incentivise the productive sectors to achieve the Oman Vision 2040.

The CMA has presented the

policy to specialised work team comprising members from the Central Bank of Oman, the Finance and Insurance Committee of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representatives of Oman Development Bank, Omani Fishermen Society, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and relevant government agencies to provide basic insurance coverage for the owners of fishing boats and vessels from the perils and to compensate them for the loss

or damage they incur in the fishing vessel and gear as well and personal accidents and death of owner or crew in addition to third party liability coverage.

The move aims to encourage the fishermen to continue practising the business which is one of the major sources of income in the Sultanate of Oman as the coverage will provide a safe environment and will create financing opportunities from the banks and other financing institutions besides mitigating the losses.

NEW STUDY

67% of Middle East consumers likely to switch to digital channels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new study reveals that 67 per cent of Middle East consumers are shifting to digital channels for engaging with brands. These statistics indicate that consumer brands in the Middle East have to prioritise digitalisation proactively to thrive in this hyper-competitive space.

MoEngage, an insights-led customer engagement platform, highlighted that personalisation and digitisation will become key to engaging with the rising wave of tech-savvy customers in the Middle East for consumer brands. "This became even more pertinent during the pandemic that transformed consumer behaviour, the company said in a statement.

A study conducted by MoEngage found that emails and push notifications have outperformed all other communication channels in the Middle East.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Jazeera Steel Product, was the top gainer, up 2.29 per cent, while Al Suwadi Power down 5.77 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,002.62 points, up 0.19 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.41 per cent at 533.11 points.

Jazeera Steel Product, was the top gainer 2.29 per cent while, Al Suwadi Power down 5.77 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 290 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR16 million, with more than 4.83 million shares changing hands.

Out of 38 traded securities, 8 advanced, 4 declined and 22 remained unchanged.

At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for

OMR256,000 while GCC and Arab investors were net buyers for OMR212,000 followed by domestic investors for OMR43,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,401.04 points, up 0.38 per cent. Ahli Bank, Sohar International Bank and Bank Muscat were up 1.82 per cent, 0.94 per cent and 0.83 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,029.72 points, up 0.29 per cent. Jazeera Steel Product, Raysut Cement and Al Maha Ceramics were up 2.29 per cent, 0.42 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.46 per cent before closing at 1,598.51 points.

Muscat Desalinate and OIFC were up 1.04 per cent and 0.73 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,005.21	3,994.98	4,002.62	3,994.98	7.64	0.19
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,401.04	6,376.79	6,401.04	6,376.79	24.25	0.38
Industry Index	6,052.23	6,016.07	6,029.72	6,012.97	16.75	0.28
Services Index	1,610.01	1,598.12	1,598.51	1,605.83	-7.32	-0.46
MSX Shariah Index	536.75	533.11	533.11	535.33	-2.21	-0.41
MSX TR INDEX	4,819.70	4,807.38	4,816.58	4,805.57	11.00	0.23

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
4,834,205	1,615,884	290	21,955,551,890	8	8	22	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	100,000	35,900	11	0.352	0.360	0.352	0.358	0.350	0.008	2.286	0.360	0.356	0.360	0.100	44,713,470
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	50,000	5,600	4	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.109	0.112	0.100	218,361,636
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT. BANK	677,537	72,474	7	0.104	0.107	0.104	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	318,938,665
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	850,158	411,416	51	0.480	0.486	0.480	0.484	0.480	0.004	0.833	0.480	0.480	0.486	0.100	1,730,045,799
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN.	178,186	24,727	10	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.001	0.730	0.138	0.138	0.144	0.100	32,706,000
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	25,100	5,974	3	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.237	0.001	0.422	0.238	0.237	0.238	0.100	47,600,000
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	160,000	79,070	6	0.504	0.504	0.490	0.494	0.492	0.002	0.407	0.500	0.490	0.518	0.100	27,170,000
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	20,489	6,352	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.310	0.320	0.100	250,409,422
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR.	2,500	2,400	1	0.960	0.960	0.960	1.040	1.040	0.000	0.000	0.960	0.000	0.960	0.100	93,288,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	50,000	11,900	2	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.000	0.000	0.238	0.236	0.239	0.100	78,747,705
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	186,965	70,897	7	0.390	0.390	0.376	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.388	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000002236 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	103,990	33,709	9	0.328	0.328	0.320	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.324	0.328	0.100	19,830,154
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV.	56,650	4,872	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.085	0.093	0.100	7,740,000
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	150,500	53,879	8	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.360	-0.002	-0.556	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.100	233,038,034
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	451,136	318,543	37	0.708	0.712	0.700	0.708	0.712	-0.004	-0.562	0.704	0.700	0.712	0.100	531,000,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.	241,000	101,560	12	0.440	0.440	0.410	0.422	0.430	-0.008	-1.860	0.410	0.410	0.450	0.100	99,765,020
Total	3,905,171	1,239,272	170												

Parallel Market

OM0000007084 MCT DESALINATE	20,580	1,096	6	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.094	0.097	0.100	15,088,389
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	150	21	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.136	0.145	0.100	4,666,432
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	2,000	184	2	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.091	0.093	0.100	184,028,777
OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	1,000	82	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.100	7,750,000
OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MRK	1,166	1,049	2	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.860	0.900	0.100	87,400,000
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	50,000	6,350	1	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.127	0.130	0.100	380,538,632
OM0000003125 GLOBAL INV. H.	16,750	1,039	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000003281 TAAGEER FINANCE	15,819	1,139	3	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	18,258,480
OM0000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	221	24	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.123	0.100	9,117,108
OM0000003711 SOHAR POWER	5,000	200	1	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.100	9,061,410
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	659,819	63,343	43	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	9,000	441	3	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.052	0.100	33,069,484
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	62,550	3,066	8	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.050	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	85,960	7,394	6	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	56,309,269
OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	20,830	3,412	4	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.164	0.164	-0.002	-0.606	0.162	0.162	0.165	0.100	4,600,000
OM0000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	53,650	8,266	2	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.158	-0.001	-0.633	0.157	0.157	0.160	0.100	14,130,000
OM0000002580 OMAN EDU TRAINING	6,600	1,511	1	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.238	-0.009	-3.782	0.229	0.229	0.228	0.100	16,030,000
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	253,023	12,398	27	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.052	-0.003	-5.769	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
Total	1,263,118	111,896	113												

STRATEGIC FACTS

Aramco signs five agreements with French firms, including Gaussin

JEDDAH: Saudi Aramco has signed five agreements with French companies, including an agreement to explore a hydrogen-powered vehicle business with Gaussin, the oil giant said in a statement.

Modern manufacturing facility

“The agreement between Ara-

mco and Gaussin aims to establish a modern manufacturing facility for on-road and off-road hydrogen-powered vehicles in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,” the statement added, Reuters reports.

Other agreements have covered the areas of carbon capture technology, artificial intelligence and local manufacturing. -BNA



CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Bitcoin falls by a fifth, cryptos see \$1 billion worth liquidated

HONG KONG: Bitcoin shed a fifth of its value on Saturday as a combination of profit-taking and macro-economic concerns triggered nearly a billion dollars worth of selling across cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin was 12 per cent down at 0920 GMT at \$47,495. It fell as low as \$41,967.5 during the session, taking total losses for the day to 22 per cent, Reuters reported.

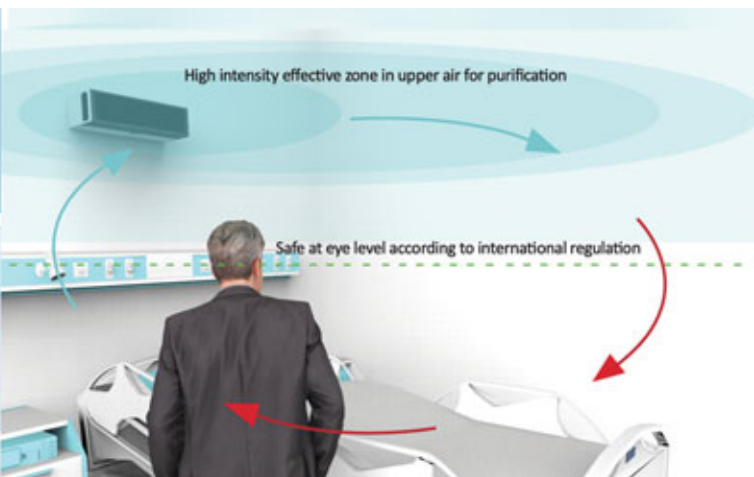
The broad selloff in cryptocurrencies also saw ether, the coin linked to the ethereum blockchain network, plunge more than 10 per cent.

Market capitalisation

Based on cryptocurrency data platform Coingecko, the market capitalisation of the 11,392 coins it tracks dropped nearly 15 per cent to \$2.34 trillion. That value had briefly crossed \$3 trillion last month, when bitcoin hit a record \$69,000.

The plunge follows a volatile week for financial markets. Global equities and benchmark US bond yields tumbled on Friday after data showed US job growth slowed in November and the Omicron variant of the coronavirus kept investors on edge. -BNA

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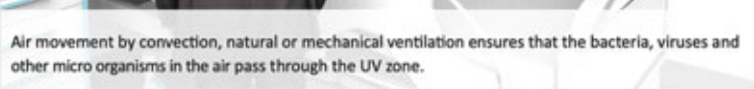
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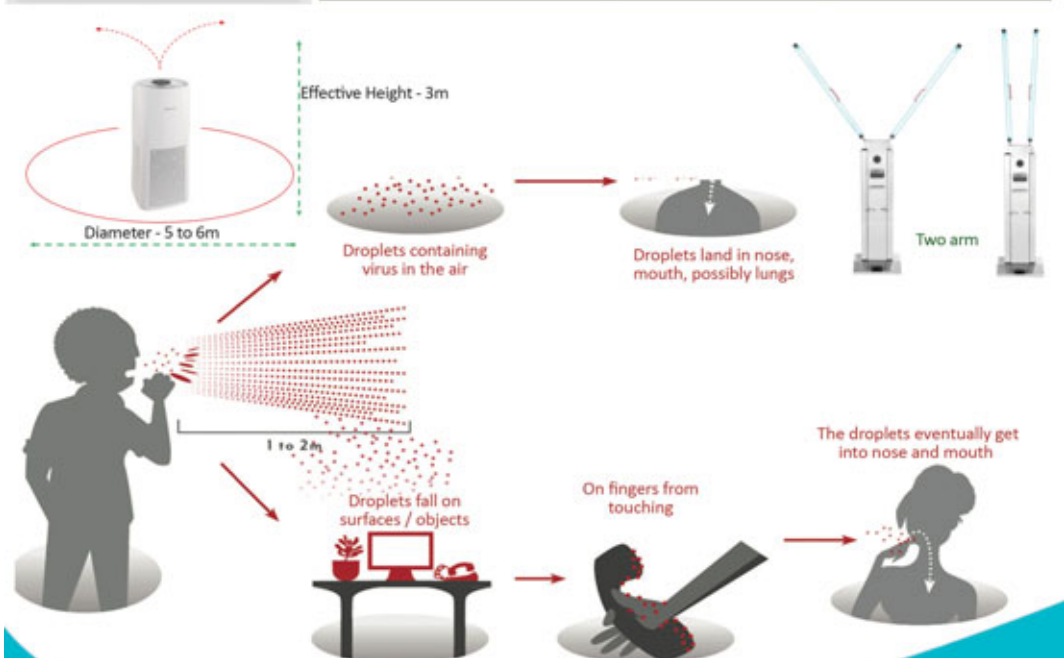
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Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer; Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
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Executive Camp Boss/Logistics/Store/Procurement
Graduate with 10 years experience in Oman as camp administration-in-charge with Oman D/L & 15 yrs experience in Logistics/store/inventory control/ procurement exp in oil and gas field is looking for suitable position. Fully vaccinated, valid Oman gama medical and ready to join immediately.
Whatsapp 0091 9656724161 Email - rajeshm117821@gmail.com

FINANCE
Senior Accountant, Indian Male MBA (Finance) with 9 + years of experience of which 6 years of experience in KSA in Financial Accounting including VAT. Currently in Oman. Contact: 78370670 Email: abid.khan.a@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
B.Tech graduate with 1+ years of experience working as a Site Engineer & Quantity Surveyor. Proficient in Quantity Survey, Quality Control, 2D Drafting, 3D Modelling & Project Management. Currently in Oman. Available to join shortly.
92408363 sawad.mohammed@outlook.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
1. 10 Years of Business Development Manager Experience for Medium to Large scale EPC Main Construction Companies.
2. Upto date Construction Market Intelligence.
3. Large Network in Private and Government Clientele in Civil, Industrial, Infrastructure, O&G and Solar.
4. Very Good relationship with Major to Small Local and International Engineering Consultants.
5. MBA (Int. Marketing) with Omani DL with NOC.
+968 79645179, bdomanconstruction@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Site Engineer (3 year) experience as a supervisor and site engineer in addition familiar with calculating quantities, BBS, managing sites and budgets. Presently in Oman seeking a job. Contact 72646903, 79566531 Email: mohammedal7p7@gmail.com

Indian Female Civil Engineer (M.Tech) on family visa actively looking for: Civil Qs/ Planning / Teaching Job. Experienced in above jobs. Contact: +968 93455363, +968 96038658

B.E Civil Engineer, 8 years of Oman Experience in building construction.Looking for suitable position, NOC & D/L Available. Contact 79083823.

Indian Male B.E Civil 3Y experience currently available in Oman with NOC. Ready for Immediate join Looking Job. Contact 72651777

Electrical eng 10 years experience in O&M and projects , PMP, D/L looking for job. Contact 71543379

Civil Engineer having 3 years Indian experience as a site engineer, presently in Oman.Looking for suitable job. Contact 94130276

M. Tech Structural Engineer with 14 years experience in Oman with ministries & consultants seeks suitable placement. NOC & D/L available. Contact 92497704 Email: fahadca@gmail.com

Indian male, diploma in polymer technology, 2 year experience. Looking for suitable jobs in plastic factory /oil & gas. Contact 78353615. Email: abdupklm@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 25 yrs with 3 years experience in Site supervision, Quantity Surveying, Billing Currently in Oman looking for suitable job. Contact 72078636 Email: arunrajendran911@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, Indian, B.E Civil, having 11+ yrs Exp. Looking for a suitable position, valid GCC D/L, Currently in Oman. Contact 95085270 Email: fasee.syed@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
An Indian, Graduate Civil Engineer having 22+ yrs Exp. in Construction Sector on Buildings, Infrastructure & Electro-Mechanical Projects with Project Management/Contracts Exp. looking for a Middle Management Position in the Consulting/Contracting Firm. Valid Engineer Visa & D / L, NOC available/Transferable Visa.
Contact No. 91996650

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

FINANCE MANAGER
Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies Contact Number # 78556829

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)
Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience with international exposure. Having GCC experience. Also having Experience in the Education Industry (India). Presently in Muscat. D/L Available. Contact: 94326527 Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER
MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.
Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

SALES / BDM / ADMIN
Indian Male, B.Sc. (Mathematics), PGD in Business Management. 16 Yrs. of Oman Experience, Worked with the leading Companies in Oman (MCT, SLL & Nizwa), Sales, Admin & Oilfield Services Companies & Key Accounts Handling. Good in MS Word, Excel, letter drafting. Fluency in Arabic, English, Hindi & Malayalam. Valid Oman D/L.
Contact: +968 9527 8838, anup24p@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

Mechanical Engineer
Sudanese mechanical engineering with 10 years experience, Firefighting & alarm system, Seeking a position as Mechanical engineer. WhatsApp and direct phone call +968 94044896

FINANCE
Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.
GSM: 92334161

ACCOUNTS ADMIN
Accountant with 10yrs experience in Trading & Contracting, Oil & Gas, Building Materials, Manufacturing, Constructions & IT sectors. Expertise in Accounting, Finalization, Auditing, Budgeting, Costing, Payroll & VAT. NOC / Local release & Driving licence available.
Contact: 91183601 E-mail: suneel.suneel@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO
Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.
Contact 97264447

SALES / PURCHASE
Indian Male(31), MBA-Finance, 7 years experience as Sales Procurement Specialist, specialized in electrical & lighting for residential and commercial projects, Seeking suitable position. D/L available.
Email: qaisebukhari@gmail.com Contact: 94560161

Mechanical Engineer
Indian,30, (B.E Mechanical) with 6 years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.
Contact 95434381 email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

BE Mech & MBA Marketing with (10 years Exp in Oman Sales) looking for suitable opportunity in manufacturing or trading industry. Contact 9432 4991

Indian male, 12 yrs Oman exp in sales & marketing, MBA, available immediately. Contact 98314180

Indian Male having 20+ years' experience in UAE seek suitable jobs in Sales & Management preferably in pharmaceutical industries. GCC Driving License available. Contact 94289301, 95217432

Indian, 7 years of experience as a FMCG Sales executive in Oman with Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 78642042

Indian, 12 years of experience as a Sales executive in Oman, FMCG & textiles. Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 91883131, 79871821

33 Yrs Male, 11+ Yrs Experience in sales, service, lead & Supervision (Automobiles & FMCG) With D/L. Contact 7862 2687

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

Indian holding MBA with 7 years of experience in Sales and Marketing in Oman with valid D/L. Looking for suitable job opportunity. Contact +968 7902 4220

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

Marketing & Business development manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs.Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately,, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact +968 79975463 nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com



RESOLVE TO MAKE YOUR HOUSEHOLD MORE EARTH-FRIENDLY

Resolving to green up your act in the New Year?
Here are just a few tweaks you can make right at home to substantially
reduce your environmental footprint.

MAKE APPLIANCE UPGRADES

Home appliances are improving all the time, with many newer models designed specifically with efficiency in mind. If your home appliances, such as your washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator and HVAC system, are on the older side, it may be time to replace one or more of these items. Over time, you'll offset the upfront cost with reduced energy bills. Plus, you'll be helping protect the climate.

OPTIMISE HEATING AND COOLING

Follow these energy-saving tips to help you keep your home comfort system running at peak performance:

- Change your air filters monthly, or as directed by the manufacturer.
- Add weatherstripping and caulk around windows and doors to improve your home's insulation. Improperly insulated walls, floors, attics, basements and crawlspaces waste energy and can also lead to moisture imbalance.
- Install a programmable thermostat to help regulate temperatures.
- Don't keep clutter near your HVACR units, and don't store anything next to them that could impede ventilation. Likewise, keep vents and returns free of obstructions. Don't lay carpet over vents, place furniture over or in front of them, or obstruct airflow.
- Dry air feels cooler than moist air. A simple humidifier may make your home feel five degrees warmer.
- Even the most efficient system can suffer if it's not properly maintained. For optimum comfort and sustainability, make sure all your HVACR installation, maintenance and other work is performed by a certified technician.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

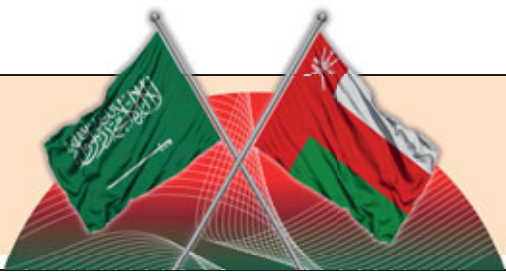
Unfortunately, up to 40% of all food ends up in landfills. Label food items in your pantry and fridge and organize them by date to help ensure you consume food before it spoils. If you see that you've prepared too much of a certain item, freeze it. Of course, many foods produce unavoidable scraps. Use them to create stock or compost them. Composting will reduce your home's contribution to landfills while enriching your garden. Bonus: it's also a great way to reduce yardwork waste.

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY

Want a quick project you can complete in an afternoon? Swap out incandescent lightbulbs for energy efficient LEDs.



FEATURE



MEDIA PREVIEW
OF CHRISTIE'S
LONDON CLASSIC
WEEK AUCTION

Christie's London Classic Week presents art from antiquity to the 21st century, spanning five live auctions and four online-only sales. -Xinhua/Li Ying



ROUND-UP

Meethaq’s exclusive National Day offers to continue till December end

Meethaq Islamic Banking currently has several offers for the benefit of its customers including a cash incentive of OMR51 when opening a Term Deposit of OMR5,000 or more for 3 years and above



MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to strong participation in national events and offering the best value proposition to its customers, Meethaq, the pioneer of Islamic banking in Oman from Bank Muscat, is continuing to

celebrate the Sultanate’s Glorious 51st National Day with several special deals and exclusive offers for its customers. The bank has announced that the special offers will continue till the end of December.

Meethaq Islamic Banking currently has several offers for the benefit of its customers including a cash incentive of OMR51 when opening a Term Deposit of OMR5,000 or more for 3 years and above. New Meethaq customers

can also get a gift voucher of OMR51 on starting a Hafawa Priority Banking relationship with a deposit of OMR30,000 during this period. Meethaq Credit card holders will also get a chance to

win OMR51 every month for three months if they are amongst the 100 highest spenders each month. An attractive profit rate of only 4.99% is currently available to all customers who apply for a home, auto and personal financing facilities during the National Day campaign. All new and existing Meethaq customers availing fresh financing from the bank can benefit from this offer, which is available for Omani nationals working in government institutions as well as semi-government and Tier 1 companies. Hafawa Private Banking Customers who book a safe deposit locker for a full year will be given free locker services, while a massive 75% special discount on annual rentals for lockers for the 1st year, is available to all customers

having a Meethaq account. Meethaq allocated total prize money worth RO 51,000, which was given away to 51 lucky winners during the special 51st National Day draw. Going ahead, the bank has invited its customers to win exciting cash prizes in upcoming draws by increasing their savings in the Meethaq Hibati Savings account, which is based on the unrestricted Mudarabah contract. The cash prizes offered under Hibati’s 2021 prize draw scheme are ‘Hiba’ (gift) from Meethaq to its customers and are paid out of the Mudarib’s /shareholders’ own sources. The cash prizes are over and above the profit share of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in the General Mudarabah Pool as per the declared profit-sharing weightages.

EMPOWERING OMANI TALENTS

‘HIMMA’ programme holds workshop for executive directors at Zubair Corporation

MUSCAT: The ‘HIMMA’ programme, which aims to develop and empower high-potential Omani talents within the corporation and its subsidiaries, recently conducted a workshop for executive directors.



This followed the completion of the programme’s first and second courses and looked to discuss the project proposals submitted by the participants. In addition, it was targeted to test the appropriate projects, as per its economic feasibility, to be implemented across various companies of the group.

Commenting on this workshop, Hilal Omar Al Siyabi, Chief Corporate Services Officer at The Zubair Corporation, said, “The projects discussed today are intended to improve the quality of performance and are aligned with the programme’s objectives of optimal investment in human capital. This is made possible by providing the appropriate environment for national competencies to enhance ‘creativity and continuous development in their career path.’”

“We are in the process of implementing these projects on ground across the different companies and institutions that are part of Corporation’s subsidiaries. The “HIMMA” programme was designed to be one of the main pillars of The Zubair Corporation’s strategy, in the field of developing and managing human resources within the group companies. This programme is integrated with the human resources development programmes and initiatives that were previously implemented by

the Corporation. The Zubair Corporation aims to enter into a new stage of excellence and sophistication by spreading the spirit of challenge and motivation amongst employees. By further enriching innovation at work, we can look forward to enhancing productivity,” he added.

Gerry Woods, Instructor of HIMMA Programme from Impact Management Services (IMS) said, “The importance of this workshop stems from the objective to ensure the success of “HIMMA” programme by surveying the opinions of executive directors. This play a vital role in the success of the institutional transformation process of The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries.”

For his part, Moussa Al Mousawi, one of the executive directors participating in the programme, said, “The workshop was very interactive, especially concerning the discussion of the projects proposed by the 15 employees, who were participating in the programme. These are in line with the objectives of the Oman 2040 vision as well as the future vision of The Zubair Corporation.”

GLOBAL NETWORK

Qatar Airways to launch flights to Tashkent from January 17, 2022

DOHA: Qatar Airways will add Tashkent, Uzbekistan to its global network with twice weekly flights. The first flight from Doha to Tashkent will take off on January 17, 2022, operated by an Airbus A320 aircraft, featuring 12 seats in Business Class and 120 seats in Economy Class.

The new service will enable passengers flying to and from Tashkent to enjoy seamless connectivity to over 140 destinations

The new service will enable passengers flying to and from Tashkent to enjoy seamless connectivity to over 140 destinations, including UAE, Saudi Arabia, India and the US, via Hamad International Airport in Doha.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: “We see tremendous growth potentials in Central Asia and this new service to Tashkent will serve to boost trade opportunities and attract tourists wanting to discover this beautiful destination. Passengers from Tashkent will now have access to more than 140 destinations when travelling with the World’s Best Airline via the World’s Best Airport, Hamad International Airport.”

Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan lying at the core of the ancient Silk Road, will become Qatar Airways’ newest destination in 2022.

NATIONAL DAY

ahlibank rewards 51 winners through Wafra prize scheme

MUSCAT: Celebrating the 51st National Day of Renaissance and reinstating its commitment to promote awareness on the significance of savings, ahlibank conducted its popular Wafra draws rewarding its customers with special prizes on this joyous occasion. Winners walked away with overall prizes totalling OMR 51,000.



During the event, which was streamed live on the bank’s social media pages, 51 customers were awarded a prize of OMR 1,000 each. The broadcast was widely watched by followers who expressed their appreciation for the Wafra prize scheme, through which the bank seeks to reach a large base of customer segments, rewarding them across a variety of draws.

a better future for themselves and their families. Wafra prize scheme is part of ahlibank’s several strategic initiatives that offer exceptional opportunities to customers to enjoy rewarding experiences throughout the year.”

“In line with our goal of helping people achieve their dreams, 2021 Wafra is designed to reward more than 1,600 customers with prizes totalling more than RO2 million, across various ahlibank’s branches in the Sultanate,” Al Balushi added.

Al Balushi confirmed that ahlibank will hold the fourth Quarter Wafra draws at the end of this year. The bank will reward the

winners with prizes in excess of OMR 300,000. One winner will receive the grand “Salary for Life” prize, with a total value of OMR 250,000 (OMR 1000 throughout 250 months).

The bank will also announce the winner of the OMR 25,000 quarterly prize for Al Nukhba and Exclusiv accounts, as well as the winner of the quarterly draw of Imtiyaz account with a prize of OMR 5,000. For customers who maintain an average quarterly balance of at least OMR 5,000 in their accounts, the Bank will offer a special quarterly prize of OMR 25,000 for five winners (OMR 5,000 each).

NATIONAL LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE

NLG wins two awards at AIWA

MUSCAT: National Life and General Insurance Company (NLG) scripted history by retaining the No. 1 spot as Best Performing Company in Large Cap Segment at the Alam Al-Iktisaad (AIWA) Awards 2021 for the 4th time in a row and the first company to do so since the award was instituted in 2009.



S. Venkatachalam, CEO also won the Best CEO of the Year award maintaining his top position for the 4th time in a row at this 13th edition of AIWA awards which is a much-deserved recognition of his astute business acumen and vision. Under his able leadership, the company has scaled great heights since the time he took charge of NLG in 2003.

2020 as well.

The awards are based on the survey of the financial performance of companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange in 2020.

The 13th edition of AIWA awards saw 63 companies contesting for the top spot and for NLG this is special as after being at the top position last year, the company has managed to register positive growth year on year across various financial parameters including revenue growth, EBIT and net profit growth in

ment systems coupled with all-round support from our regulators CMA, the dedication of our employees and most importantly the trust placed in us by our valuable customers. Even during the pandemic situation, we could very well provide insurance solutions through our digital channels without any hindrance which also played a significant role in bagging the Top position in the large-cap segment in Oman,” said Venkatachalam.

This is a clear reflection of the company’s vision and mission to be the leading insurer backed by a robust financial management system, use of insurtech and customer-centric approach.



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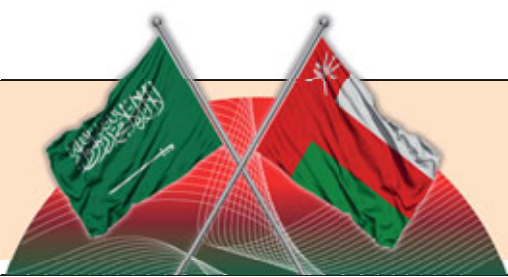
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ROUND-UP



Own Lexus LX with exclusive benefits

Powering the LX 570 is a 5.7-litre V8 engine with 362 horsepower and 54.04 kg.M of torque available at 3,200 rpm



MUSCAT: Lexus enthusiasts looking forward to owning the LX can benefit with free service 3 years / 30,000km (whichever is earlier) and 1-year free registration. The campaign is valid up to December 30. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details). Powering the LX 570 is a 5.7-litre V8 engine with 362 horsepower and 54.04 kg.M of torque available at 3,200 rpm.

Equipped with 8-speed automatic transmission, the LX 570 is capable of towing up to 2500kgs. When entering the cabin of the LX, you are greeted with quality and style. The leather-trimmed interior features the Lexus Memory System for the driver's seat, outside mirrors and steering wheel. Included for

comfort is a 10-way power-adjustable driver's seat and an 8-way adjustable front passenger seat. The LX 570 Sport Plus includes ventilated front and second-row seats. The Climate Concierge feature monitors the temperature of four separate climate zones and adjusts not only the speed of the

fans, but also the temperature. Whether getting away from it all or staying connected, the LX 570 is the ultimate vehicle. A 12.3-inch navigation display with Remote Touch Interface heads a list of multimedia and connectivity features that keep the LX on the cutting edge of user tech. The dashboard screen is split into three sections to show different functions, such as navigation, audio and climate control information. The LX 570 pleases rear passengers, too, with a host of features like. Rear Seat Entertainment System with dual 11.6-inch screens, controls for air conditioning and audio. Whatever musical taste suits the passengers, the LX 570 delivers powerful sound through the standard nine-speaker Lexus Premium Sound System. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

WORLD CULINARY AWARDS



Bukhara receives Best Hotel Restaurant award

MUSCAT: Kempinski Hotel Muscat announced Oman's prestigious Best Hotel Restaurant 2021 award for Bukhara restaurant. World Culinary Awards officially announced the winners on 30 November across their website and through their media partners. Bukhara being the only venue in the country to be exclusively selected as the best hotel restaurant is a true testament to the restaurant's quality and service. Bukhara is located on the Boulevard and is famous for its roots in the Northwestern Frontier. Each dish at Bukhara

is a regal experience, a feast that is notable for its delicious authenticity. On behalf of the team, General Manager Carsten Wiegandt said, "We are delighted to receive this acknowledgement from World Culinary Awards and would like to thank our team at Bukhara for their unwavering service and quality that is beyond excellent." Bukhara restaurant is synonymous with award-winning cuisine and features impeccable service with a design reflecting Indian heritage and culture with a contemporary twist.

ALILA HOTELS & RESORTS

Celebrate the cooler season ahead at Alila Hinu Bay

MUSCAT: The coolest season of the year has arrived and what better way to escape the city and soak up the serenity of Dhofar, Salalah, than with a stay at Alila Hinu Bay, the newest addition to Alila Hotels & Resorts. Positioned where the 'sea and mountain hug' travellers are invited to experience a haven of nature, discovery and tranquillity with an enticing offer inclusive of an overnight stay, daily breakfast for two, resort credit and complimentary resort and kid's activities. Playing tribute to the Sultanate's esteemed emblem, white sands, stunning green landscapes and warm red terrains mirror the magnificence of the Omani flag flying overhead. The property brings light to one of Salalah's hidden gems, allowing guests to embark on an experience that is 'surprisingly different'. Often described as an oasis of serenity, guests can expect to escape city



life and head to a harbour of undisturbed luxury. For those looking to widen their horizons, AlilaHinu Bay has created a menu of awe-inducing experiences that encourage discovery; to explore the region through traditions, cuisine, environment, and the roots of its people and daily rituals, with various excursions and activities available. Whether

romantic dining or family-friendly dinners, the 5-star resort offers locally-sourced menus with delectable dishes to savour whilst guests surrender to the crisp salty air and sounds of the shoreline. This winter season, embark on a harmonious journey of land, sea and sky in the heart of Dhofar, and reconnect with nature surrounded by mindful luxury.

RETAILME AWARD

Redtag wins 'Most Admired Brand Campaign of Year' award

DUBAI: Redtag, the Middle East's leading value fashion and homeware brand, has bagged the RetailME Award 2021 for the 'Most Admired Brand Campaign of the Year'. Presented by the Middle East Retail Forum, RetailME Awards recognises regional trailblazers, innovators, and trendsetters across over 25 categories. Held at the Conrad Dubai on 24th November, the RetailME Awards ceremony was preceded by an industry conclave on retail trends, transformations, and technology, attended by representatives of leading brands across the Gulf. The all-day event, which included round-table discussions, presentations and networking, culminated in the awards ceremony where Redtag was felicitated for its impactful 'WearASmile' brand campaign. Commenting on the win, Shehbaz Shaikh, Chief Retail Officer of Redtag, said: "It's an honour



"Conclaves and awards add to the overall competitiveness of the industry, by creating healthy competition and offering avenues for stakeholder engagement. The sense of togetherness that associations like the Middle East Retail Forum create will have an impact on the resilience and adaptability of the whole industry and individual brands alike. Redtag is proud to win the prestigious RetailME Award, and we hope to carry this momentum into next year," added Shehbaz Shaikh. Redtag has had an eventful year, marked by the continued success of its 'WearASmile' campaign and expansion into more locations across the region. Its motto of leading the value fashion and homeware segment saw the launch of new product lines and value-added services, including but not limited to 'Anytime-Anywhere Exchange', 'Find Your Size', 'Fashion Stylists', and 'Free Home Delivery'.

ONLINE SERVICES

Omani startup 'Monak' now available for download

MUSCAT: Monak e-services is an Omani company based in Muscat growing from strength to strength, with vision "Everything you wish for in app". Monak app is an one stop shop online services market place that aims to provide convenience at fingertips and getting all daily services in one application across Oman which includes most of the services like utility and gaming recharge, beauty salon booking, car wash and rental, tour and travel, home cleaning, cooking gas cylinder refill and more at the most competitive prices. Monak app, which is available for download on iOS and android platforms, helps in scaling the local Omani businesses by providing them the digital support that they require. The application which is hosted within Oman data centre and using secure and safe CBO approved Omani online payment gateway. According to Said Salim Al Shanfari, Chairman of Monak



e-services "Our main objective to start the company is to take part in the Oman 2040 vision by creating an advanced application with the experience that basically reaches every corner of the Sultanate of Oman." He also added, "Our vision is to become digital service providers for the local businesses (SMEs, SoHo & Home), mid enterprises and corporates in Oman and to connect the local Omani retailers via digital platform across the country."

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Ominvest holds session on environmental conservation

MUSCAT: In line with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest), one of the leading investment firms in the region, held a Knowledge Exchange session in partnership with 'Oman in Focus'. The session served as a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise by international and local environmental experts with members of the local community, university students, academics, and environmentalists. The dialogue focused on environmental conservation, local wildlife resources, and the development of the Sultanate of Oman as a destination for eco-tourism. Ominvest is the main partner of 'Oman in Focus' for the documentaries-production project titled 'Not Discovered Yet' that highlights the natural beauty of Oman. A team of international and local experts and filmmakers have been exploring 12 landmark destinations in Oman to be showcased in two documentaries. The documentaries will cover various aspects of the country's wildlife and



landscapes and will be broadcast on several well-known regional and international news networks and TV channels. The Knowledge Exchange session held by Ominvest hosted speakers from the documentary project's international team, in addition to local organisations that contributed to the project. The speakers included: Stefania Mul-

ler, Director and Producer, Oman in Focus; Dr Mansoor Al Jahdhani, Acting Director, General Office for Conservation of Environment, Diwan of Royal Court; Aziza Al Adhoobi, Wetland Management Head Section, Environment Authority; and Omar Al Riyami, Board Member, Environmental Society of Oman. Ominvest's Group CEO Ab-

dulAziz Al Balushi lauded the initiative and said, "Our partnership with Oman In Focus aligns with Ominvest's corporate purpose and its support of environmental conservation efforts and the development of eco-tourism in the Sultanate of Oman. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) best practices are highly regarded at Ominvest internally and through our community-based initiatives. Accordingly, promoting the natural beauty and resources of our country and encouraging dialogue around environmental protection would further contribute to the wider collective efforts in this area." Al Balushi added, "I would like to thank the participating speakers at the Knowledge Exchange session, the reputable organisations they represent, and the wider audience who took part in this enriching and enlightening dialogue. We are also grateful for the diligent efforts and dedication showcased by the Team at Oman In Focus. We look forward to a successful launch of the awaited documentaries in the near future."

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