

HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF LAOS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Thongloun Sisoulith of the Laos People's Democratic Republic on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Sisoulith and the friendly people of his country. **-ONA**



HM GREETES UAE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on his country's 50th National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to Sheikh Khalifa, praying to the Almighty Allah to grant him good health and long life to achieve further progress and prosperity for the UAE people. **-ONA**



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59TH BIENNALE ARTE



Oman to take part in Venice art exhibition

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, through its national pavilion, will take part for the first time in the 59th Biennale Arte 2022 exhibition, due to be held in Venice, Italy, from 22 April 2022 till 27 November 2022.

The participation in this event aims to introduce the Omani culture locally and internationally. The opening exhibition displays works of three generations of Omani artists, whose activities span 50 years in visual and contemporary arts. The exhibition provides a model for the broad global range of Oman's cultural history and unique traditions in visual arts.

The participating artists represent a continuous stream of influence in Omani art and they

include Anwar Sonya, Hassan Meer, Budoor Al Riyami, Radhika Khimji and the late Raya Al Rawahi.

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth said, "It is a great pleasure for the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, to participate for the first time in the 59th Biennale Arte 2022 Exhibition, which is one of the most prestigious international art fairs.

This participation reflects the importance of arts in forming cultural awareness. It also promotes cultural and intellectual exchange between peoples and communities." **>A2**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SAI submits annual report to His Majesty

MUSCAT: The State Audit Institution (SAI) has submitted its annual report to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

The report outlines the outcome of the SAI tasks and activities.

Sheikh Nasser Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of SAI also sent copies of the report to the Council of Ministers, the State Council and the Shura Council in implementation of Article (66) of the Basic Law of the State and Article (29) of

the State's Financial and Administrative Audit Law, promulgated under Royal Decree No. 111/2011, which stipulates that SAI shall issue an annual report of its tasks and submit it directly to His Majesty the Sultan, besides sending copies of the same to the Council of Ministers, the State Council and the Shura Council before the end of the subsequent year.

The annual report covered a number of observations and find-

ings of SAI as part of its enforcement of auditing procedures in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, public companies and public authorities that come under the monitoring authority of SAI whose units are widespread in the Sultanate of Oman's governorates. As many as 156 inspection cases were carried out by SAI.

Moreover, despite the extraordinary circumstances in 2020 of low oil prices and the repercussions

of the COVID-19 pandemic which affected most financial, economic and service sectors, SAI still managed to utilise its human resources in implementing its annual plan and achieving desired outcomes. This contributes to realising Oman Vision 2040 and boosting the march of the comprehensive and renewed development under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

— ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Pandemic prevention

1 Oman has called for a new global instrument for managing pandemics. **>A3**

WORLD

Merck COVID-19 pill

2 A panel of the US health advisers backed a new COVID-19 pill. **>A6**

MARKET

Air transport deal

3 Oman's Civil Aviation Authority has signed an air transport pact. **>B1**

OMAN KEEPING AN EYE ON NEW COVID VARIANT

Omicron mutant has been classified as high-risk according to the WHO, based on preliminary information received about the genetic sequence of the mutant

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As the situation with respect to the new COVID-19 mutant variant (Omicron) continues to evolve, the Sultanate of Oman may introduce additional measures to contain the spread of the virus.

An official from the Ministry of Health confirmed to *Times of*



Oman that the Sultanate may take some strict measures to confront the new mutant of COVID-19, including obligating all passengers coming to the Sultanate to undergo a RT-PCR examination inside the country on their arrival to ensure that they are free from infection.

The Director of the Department of Infection Prevention and Control at the Ministry of Health has said that the Omicron mutation is concerned with the structure and properties of its spinal protein.

Dr. Amal bint Saif Al Maani, Director of the Department of Infection Prevention and Control at the Ministry of Health, has

said to Oman TV that the concern about Omicron is with the structure and characteristics of the spinal protein of this mutant, which may evade natural immunity and vaccines, but this is yet to be confirmed.

Al Maani confirmed that the Omicron mutant was classified as high-risk according to the last meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO), based on preliminary information received about the genetic sequence of the mutant and the gaps that it can cause to a patient who has immunity from a previous infection or taking the vaccine.

"In addition to the high number of inpatients in the countries in which it has spread, it is also not certain that all of these cases are linked to the new mutant," she added.

She continued, "In order to know the effectiveness of vaccines against the new mutation, we need to know the percentage of inpatients who received the vaccine."

Meanwhile, Oman banned entry of arrivals from seven African countries to confront the Omicron virus.

WEATHER

Heavy rains across several governorates of Oman



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A number of the Sultanate of Oman's governorates witnessed heavy rains from Monday, November 29, 2021 to Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

Some governorates witnessed rain of varying intensity, accompanied by downward winds and hail, which led to the overflow of wadis.

Heavy rains associated with downward winds and hail fell in the wilayats of Shinas, Saham, Liwa, Sohar, Suwaiq and Al Khaboura in the North Al Batinah governorate.

In Musandam, the wilayat of

Khasab witnessed heavy rainfall, which led to the overflowing of wadis. In Al Dakhiliyah governorate, the wilayat of Bahla, Samail, Nizwa, Izki and Al Hamra witnessed rains of varying intensity.

Heavy thunderstorms were witnessed in the wilayats of Al Awabi, Rustaq, Barka and Musannah in the South Al Batinah governorate.

The wilayats of Al Mudhaibi, Dima Wattayeen, Ibra and Al Qabil of North Al Sharqiyah, as well as the wilayat Sur of South Al Sharqiyah witnessed heavy rains of varying intensity.

Some of the wilayats of the governorate of Muscat, namely Qurai-

yat, Muttrah and Seeb, witnessed rain. According to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR), the amount of rain recorded in a number of wilayats during November 30 to December 1, 2021 were as follows: 105 mm in the wilayat of Saham in North Al Batinah governorate which was the highest, followed by the wilayat of Izki in Al Dakhiliyah governorate with 63 mm and the wilayat of Rustaq in South Al Batinah governorate with 35 mm.

The wilayat of Al Mudhaibi in North Al Sharqiyah governorate and the wilayat of Al Awabi in South Al Batinah governorate have recorded 32 mm each, the wilayat of Samail in Al Dakhiliyah governorate 30 mm, and the wilayat of Nizwa in Al Dakhiliyah governorate 21 mm.

Weather alerts

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued three weather alerts regarding the heavy rain, urging people to take precautions and caution during thunderstorms, not to cross valleys, avoid low places and not go to the sea.

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Dhuhr.....	12:01pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:14am



‘INCĒNSUM’ EXHIBITION OPENS

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Federica Fafi, the Italian Ambassador to Oman, along with Dr. Nora Ourabah Haddad, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Oman, and a number of people from the field of culture and museums

MUSCAT: The National Museum on Wednesday inaugurated the ‘Incensum’ exhibition under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Kamil bin Fahd Al Said, Assistant Secretary General for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers.

The exhibition is organised in cooperation with the Italian Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman and the (Perfumme) Foundation in Turin. It was established in 2017, intending to promote the culture of scent by organising high-level cultural events.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Federica Fafi, the Italian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, along with Dr. Nora Ourabah Haddad, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of people interested in the field of culture and museums.

Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, said: The exhibition “Incensum” embodies the his-



torical value of the frankincense tree, as it represents a bridge to communicate with the civilisations of the ancient world, where the trade convoys moved on different paths.

Long-distance trade in frankincense was ongoing by the 3rd millennium BCE and included links

The exhibition illustrates artefacts loaned from the Italian Republic and Omani antiquities that bear witness to ancient traditions dating back thousands of years, and highlights the continuity of Omani-Italian relations through ages, embodied by trade caravans carrying precious frankincense and spices as popular consumer goods in the Western world.

On her turn, Federica Fafi, Italian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, confirmed that the “Incensum” coincided with the sixth Italian Kitchen Week to highlight the relationship between delicious taste and pleasant aromas, as frankincense is a major component of delicious meals.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nora Araba Haddad, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the Sultanate of Oman commented: “We pay respect to this tree, whose species is found only in this region, and because of which trade and cultural exchange flourished throughout history which shows us the importance of preserving the biodiversity”. She added,

“The exhibition is in line with this year’s World Food Day theme, which highlights how a good environment provides a better life.”

For her part, Roberta Sonzato, curator of the exhibition “Incensum” from the Italian side, said: “The exhibition was inspired by the deepest meanings of incense, as frankincense enjoyed a high status in Roman society in the Tsarist court and aristocratic families. It was as precious as gold, and it became a sacred religious symbol for Christianity.”

It is worth noting that the National Museum participated in the “Incensum” exhibition in the Italian version, which was hosted by the Archeology Museum in Turin during 2020. The National Museum participated with 9 artefacts related to the Omani scent culture, including the oldest incense burner discovered in the Sultanate of Oman and estimated to be about 4500 years old, discovered in the Ras Al-Jinz area, and ceremonial and ritual incense burners, and a frankincense scraping tool, in addition to an incense case. — ONA



59TH VENICE BIENNALE 2022 ART EXHIBITION

FROM A1 Training programmes for the Biennale to be unveiled

Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, Commissioner-General of Oman’s pavilion in the exhibition said, “The Sultanate of Oman’s participation in the 59th Venice Biennale 2022 art exhibition is a testimony to Oman’s prominent position in the world cultural map and the role it plays in supporting artistic works, as well as boosting cultural initiatives and promoting the exchange of expertise in this field.

By participating in the exhibition, we strive to achieve the ministry’s vision to map Oman as a leading cultural destination on the

global cultural arena. We also aim to affirm the existing balance between local culture, assimilation and cultural exposure to enable and enhance cultural production on the basis of innovation and creativity.

On the sidelines of Oman’s participation, training programmes for the Biennale will be unveiled.

The programmes will be available for Omani youth who are interested in partnering with educational institutes. The event provides an opportunity for dialogue with artists and international trainees, as well as exchanging expertise and developing the trainees’ information to gain a deep understanding of Omani art’s

history. The selected elite learners will work side by side with artists in Oman’s pavilion.”

The participation comes within the framework of the strategic programmes set to enhance the external presence of the Sultanate of Oman.

The move also serves Oman Vision 2040’s cultural strategy represented in the axis of exchanging experiences at the external level in the cultural field, as well as enhancing communication and cultural dialogue with other countries.

Oman’s participation aims to invest in cultural diversity as a means of promoting and introducing the Sultanate of Oman to the world, and achieving partnerships and integration with local and international institutions in the cultural fields, as well as highlighting Oman’s role in the global cultural map.

The participation of the Sultanate of Oman in Biennale Arte 2022 in Italy is a great opportunity to highlight Omani history, as the festival is expected to allure high media coverage around the world.

The number of visitors to the festival annually ranges between 600,000 to one million from all over the world, and the number of views of the festival’s website reaches 10 million.

This international event provides a unique global platform





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‘Profound focus on preventing any pandemic needed’

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health expressed Oman’s views at the World Health Assembly



Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has called for a new international instrument or convention under Article 19 of the Constitution of WHO and said that it would complement international efforts aimed at managing pandemics more effectively.

This came at the World Health Assembly held a second special session from 29 November - 1 December to consider an international agreement on pandemic preparedness and response.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health (MOH) took part in the event virtually with a delegation headed by Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, with the presence of MOH’s Undersecretary of Health Affairs and senior officials, in addition to in-person attendance of Ambassador Idris Abdulrahman Al Khanjari, Oman’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations and international organizations in Geneva.

Dr. Ahmed stressed in his speech during the event that the special session of the World Health Assembly bears testi-

mony to the commitment of global community to strengthening global health management, praising at the same time the dedication of Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to keeping the member states updated throughout the process along with its role in analysing the current situation and examining possible options for moving forward.

Required

The Health Minister confirmed that the International Health Regulations require strengthening; thus, a new international instrument or convention under Article 19 of the Constitution of WHO would complement international efforts

aimed at managing pandemics more effectively.

He pointed out that the process of developing the new instrument or convention and amending the International Health Regulations must address the need for better response and follow-up mechanisms; the Convention should focus profoundly on prevention.

Shared resources

He added that shared resources should also be allocated to strengthening national public health systems, in line with universal health coverage and bridging the gaps between the international governance of the health sector and other sectors.

The session considered the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response with a view towards the establishment of an intergovernmental process to draft and negotiate such instrument, taking into account the report of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies.

It is worth noting that the Sultanate of Oman, in cooperation with the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, hosted a regional meeting to consider the options available to member states on the international instrument and its link to the International Health Regulations, as well the difference between international regulations and agreements in the field of health, based on decision adopted by the Member States at the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly (WHA74). -ONA

Pact to make processing of Austria’s visa in Oman easier

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of Austria in Oman, and VFS Global, the world’s largest visa outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide, have signed a contract for the latter to provide visa services in the country on behalf of the Embassy.

The Austria Visa Application Centre in Muscat was inaugurated by Christian Brunmayr, Ambassador, Austrian Embassy in Muscat, on Wednesday.

This is the first time that the Embassy of Austria in Oman has outsourced its visa services in the country. Prior to this, Omani nationals needed to submit their visa applications at the Spain Visa Application Centre in the capital city. VFS Global is represented in Oman by Khimji’s House of Travel.

Atul Marwah, Head-Middle East & North Africa, VFS Global, said, “We are excited to extend our long-standing partnership with Austria to the country of Oman, bringing our best-in-class visa services to the residents in Oman. VFS Global appreciates the constant support and faith the Embassy of Austria has placed in us in various countries where we



GRAND OPENING: The Austria Visa Application Centre in Muscat was inaugurated by Christian Brunmayr, Ambassador, Austrian Embassy in Muscat, on Wednesday.

offer services on their behalf, and we look forward to welcoming the enthusiastic travellers from Oman to our Visa Application Centre.”

Customers submitting their visa applications through VFS Global can also select from a range of optional services to further ease their visa application process, including end-to-end personalised assistance in a Premium Lounge, form filling assistance, photocopy, and photograph services on-site, SMS updates on the progress of the visa application at every stage, and courier return of processed passports to the customers’ doorstep.

To ensure a safe environment for employees and customers, VFS Global has established standardised protective measures to be followed across the centres, including specific social distancing and sanitation mandates. All customers are subjected to body temperature checks at the entrance to assess their health conditions. Any customer exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, and breathing difficulties will not be permitted to enter the centre and will be requested to return once the health condition improves. Additionally, all customers and VFS Global employees are required to wear a face mask within the centre.

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

14,994 REACH

7h

OMAN

The legal procedures are being completed against them.



242 VIEWS



Singapore tightens border measures amid spread of new COVID-19 variant

3,100 VIEWS



Royal Opera House tickets go on sale

Story on 10 expats arrested in Oman

A story on 10 expats arrested in Oman reached 14,994 people and had 1,153 engagements on Facebook.



Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video had 242 views and 17 likes on Instagram.



Maghrib Minute video

The Maghrib Minute video had 3,100 views and reached 15,200 people on Facebook.



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HAVE A LONG WALK along the Muttrah Corniche from the Fish Roundabout to Riyam Park. The busy walkway is crowded with tourists, expats, and locals enjoying the oceanic views and the proximity to the historic Muttrah Souq. After your walk, you can linger at one of the numerous restaurants and cafes.

Al Ghubra Corniche is a lush green stretch situated at Al Izdihar Street, near Al Ghubra lake garden, which is fast becoming a popular destination for family picnics because of its safe, quite ambiance. If you stop in the garden after your stroll, be ready to pack up your stuff before 11pm to avoid getting showered by the water sprinklers.

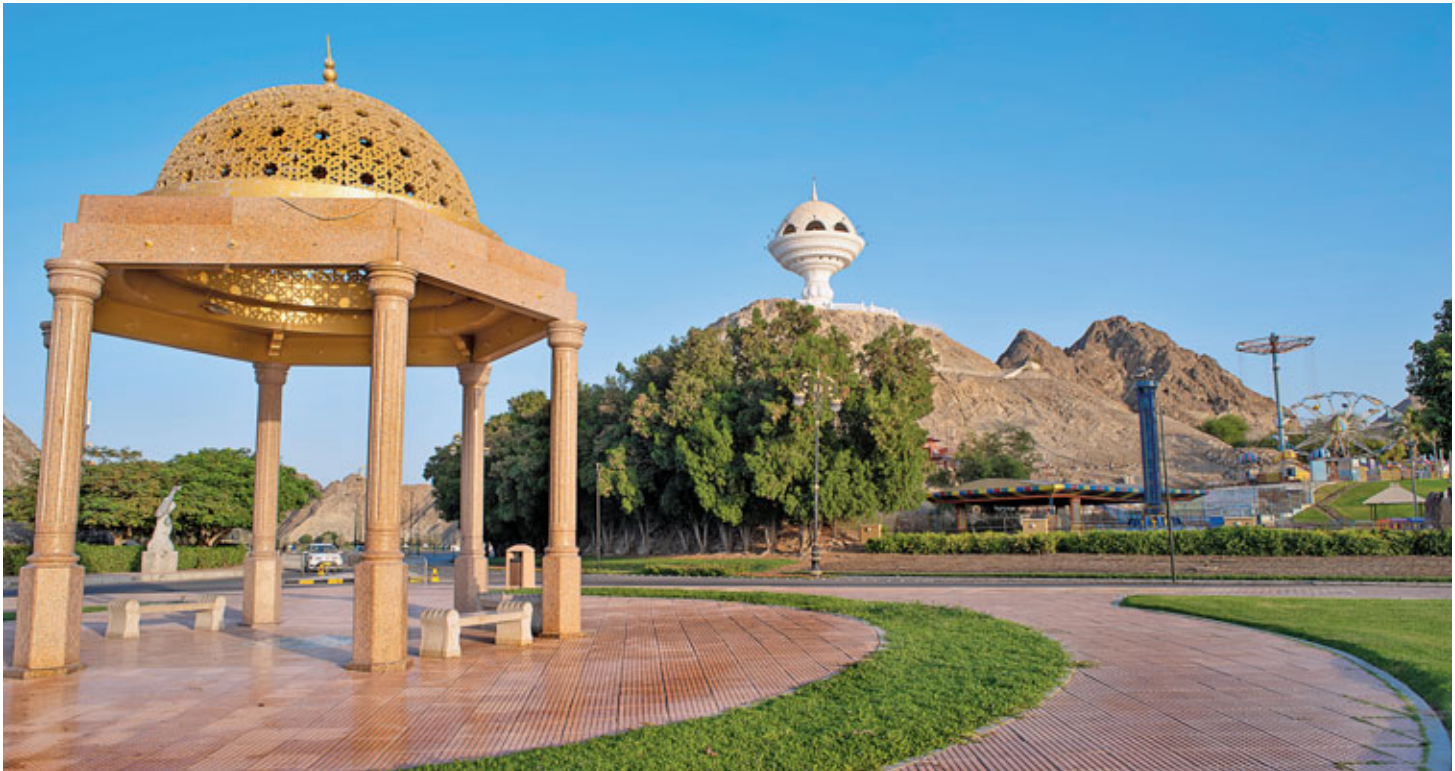
Shatti Corniche is located on Shatti Street, locally known as 'love street,' this walkway is in a very happening area. With its beautiful palms, BBQ areas, and plenty of restaurants and cafes, it is perfect for an afternoon chill or for a lively evening watching all



the sporty cars in Muscat cruising up and down the lane.

Seeb Corniche is a beautifully developed 8-kilometre corniche located between Mabela and the Seeb fish market. It's been renovated and adorned with trees and flowers along the interlocked walkway which also features a kids' playground. This quiet place is a must-visit in the cool evenings.

Al Hail Corniche is vibrant and packed with youngsters playing football in the sand, families grilling meat and corn, and people exercising. It is a wonderful place for a bonfire with friends.



Corniches in Muscat



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COVID PILL

US health panel backs Merck COVID-19 pill

WASHINGTON: A panel of US health advisers backed a new COVID-19 pill in a 13-10 vote on Tuesday. If the drug is authorised, this will be the first treatment for the virus Americans can use at home.

The panel's recommendation is not binding and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is expected to make

its own decision by the end of the year.

The Molnupiravir drug is already authorized for use in the UK. The FDA panel voted that the antiviral drug's benefits outweigh the risks, including potential birth defects if used during pregnancy.

The recommendation came after hours of debate about the

drug's modest benefits and potential safety issues. Experts backing the treatment called on the FDA to recommend extra precautions before using the drug, including pregnancy tests for women of child-bearing age.

The vote specifically backed use of the drug by adults with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms and who face the greatest risks.

This includes older people and people with conditions like obesity and asthma.

Merck's drug molnupiravir, developed with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, inserts tiny errors into the virus's genetic code to stop it from reducing. This has sparked concerns that the drug could spur the virus to mutate into more virulent strains. **bw**



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BOOSTER SHOTS

Japan begins administering COVID-19 booster shots amid Omicron concerns

TOKYO: Japan began on Wednesday to administer COVID-19 booster injections to people who finished the full two shots at least eight months ago amid increasing concerns over the new Omicron variant of the COVID-19, the government said.

The third dose of the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech SE were provided to health care professionals across the country. The elderly and others are expected to receive booster injections from January. Although the effectiveness of the booster shots remains unknown against the new Omicron variant, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has decided that Japan will administer the booster shots as scheduled, as vaccine-induced immunity against infection was confirmed to weaken over time. Individuals aged 18 or above will be eligible for the third injection, under Japan's current policy, and especially those who are at higher risk of severe symptoms such as the elderly or those engaged in high-risk occupations will be especially encouraged to get a booster shot. **ANI**

US SCHOOL SHOOTING

Student kills three in Michigan school shooting

MICHIGAN: A student shot dead three people at a high school in the US state of Michigan on Tuesday, authorities said.

The victims were a 16-year-old boy, a 17-year-old girl and a 14-year-old girl.

Eight other people, including one teacher, were wounded, police said. Two of the eight wounded were undergoing surgery as of 5pm local time (2200 GMT) on Tuesday, while the six other wounded were in stable condition.

Later on Tuesday, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said a teacher who received a graze wound to the shoulder was discharged from the hospital. Seven students ranging from age 14 to 17 remained hospitalized, including a 14-year-old girl who was on a ventilator after surgery.

The shooting occurred at Oxford High School in Oxford Township, a town located 48 kilometers (30 miles) north of Detroit and with around 22,000 inhabitants.

What was the motive for the shooting?

Oakland County Undersheriff Mike McCabe said at a news conference that investigators were still trying to determine a motive for the shooting. He said that



he was aware of allegations on social media that there had been threats of a shooting prior to the attack, but he cautioned against believing this before investigators have looked into it.

Police arrested the shooter without incident within minutes after arriving at the school after receiving a flood of calls about the attack. The police also recovered the semi-automatic handgun and several clips the suspect used in the attack.

Bouchard added that police had arrested the shooter after he emerged from a bathroom with the gun, which still had seven rounds of ammunition in it.

"He fired multiple shots," McCabe said. "Somewhere in the area of 15 to 20."

The suspect's father had bought the 9mm Sig Sauer used in the shooting on Friday, according to Bouchard. **bw**

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University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Local Tenders Announcement

The University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tenders shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board	Document's Price	Place to purchase and submit tender documents	Last date for bid submission
02/2021	Providing operation and maintenance services to the buildings of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology)	Second Grade	RO 25/-	Office of the Presidency of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, First Floor	Wednesday 15/12/2021 At 10 am
03/2021	Providing cleaning services to the building of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology)	-	RO 25/-	Office of the Presidency of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, First Floor	Monday 20/12/2021 At 10 am
01/2021	Providing and preparation of equipment for the networks and computer laboratories at the buildings of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Salalah College of Technology)	-	RO 65/-	Office of the Presidency of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, First Floor	Sunday 09/01/2022 At 10 am
02/2021	Providing cleaning services to the building of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Shinas College of Technology)	-	RO 25/-	Office of the Presidency of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, First Floor	Sunday 09/01/2022 At 10 am
03/2021	Providing operation and maintenance services to the building of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Shinas College of Technology)	First Grade	RO 25/-	Office of the Presidency of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, First Floor	Sunday 09/01/2022 At 10 am

- Establishments specialized in the above-mentioned works can obtain tender documents starting from Thursday 02/12/2021.
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered.
- Bids shall be submitted, signed and stamped on the form prepared for this purpose and on the accompanying category table, in closed envelopes sealed with red wax, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, bearing the tender number and subject with no indication to the name of the bidder.
- Bids must be placed in the sub-tender box in the department referred to above before 10 am of the day specified in the table above. Bids submitted after this date will not be considered, regardless of the reasons for the delay. Preference will be given to companies or institutions whose bids include the biggest Omanisation and biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.

The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

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CHIEF GUEST



His Excellency Abdulsalam bin Mohammed al Murshidi
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His Excellency Redha bin Juma al Saleh
Chairman, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Workshop Timing: 2:30 - 3:30pm

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Panel Discussion:

'Rebooting Oman's economy in a post-pandemic environment'



Dr. Hatim Al Shanfari
Faculty member - Department of Economics & Finance, SQU



Pankaj Khimji
Director, Khimji Ramdas Group



Yasser A Barami,
CEO, Mubadrah Investments



Sir Charles Shaw
CEO, Bondoni



Eddy Abboud
CEO, GBM Oman



Tariq Mustafa Salman
Head of Investment, United Securities

Panel Discussion:

'Tiding over uncertain times - HR's role in managing the transition'



Dr. Khalid Al Hamadani
Acting Chief Human Resource Officer, Bank Dhofar



R. Chandrashekar
Group Chief Operating Officer, Al Naba Holding



Mohammed Al Balushi
Chief Human Resource Officer, Alizz Islamic



Murali Santhanam
CEO, Matram One Advisory



Abdul Basit Al Rawahi
Former Head of HR, Salam Air

Speakers:



Khalid Ansari
CEO, KMA Business Solutions



Nibras Al Hadhrami
Economic Researcher



Venkatesh Palakkad
Principal Consultant and Business Head, RAB HR



Steven Atkins
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**FIFA ARAB CUP
QATAR 2021**

ARAB CUP







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جدول النقاط POINTS TABLE



Group A	ل	ف	ت	ج	ص	ض	ن	المجموعة أ
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	
Qatar	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	قطر
Oman	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	عمان
Iraq	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	العراق
Bahrain	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	البحرين

Group B	ل	ف	ت	ج	ص	ض	ن	المجموعة ب
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	
Tunisia	1	1	0	0	5	1	3	تونس
UAE	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	الإمارات
Syria	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	سوريا
Mauritania	1	0	0	1	1	5	0	موريتانيا

Group C	ل	ف	ت	ج	ص	ض	ن	المجموعة ج
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	المغرب
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	السعودية
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	الأردن
Palestine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	فلسطين

Group D	ل	ف	ت	ج	ص	ض	ن	المجموعة د
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	
Algeria	1	1	0	0	4	0	3	الجزائر
Egypt	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	مصر
Lebanon	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	لبنان
Sudan	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	السودان

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

ديسمبر ٣
مباريات يوم غد
NEXT MATCHES

البحرين
BAHRAIN

14:00

العراق
IRAQ

عمان
OMAN

17:00

قطر
QATAR

موريتانيا
MAURITANIA

20:00

الإمارات
UAE

سوريا
SYRIA

23:00

تونس
TUNISIA

ALGERIA CRUSH SUDAN 5-0 IN FIFA ARAB CUP MATCH



DOHA: Algeria defeated Sudan 4-0 in the Group D match of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021 at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium on Wednesday. Baghdad Bounedjah opened the scoring for Algeria in the 11th minute. Bounedjah added the second in the 37th minute. Djamel Benlamri netted the third goal for the Algerian team in the 43rd minute. El Arabi Soudani scored the fourth goal in the 46th minute. Algeria secured their first three points to top Group D. In Group D, Egypt will take on Lebanon at Al Thumama Stadium. -GNA

PRIDE Egypt pip Lebanon 1-0

Times News Service

DOHA: A second-half penalty from Magdi Afsha of Egypt helped them cruise past Lebanon 1-0 in their Group D game of the FIFA Arab Cup 2021 at Al-Thumama Stadium on Wednesday. The Egyptian playmaker converted a penalty in 71 minutes after left-back Ahmed Fattouh was brought down by Lebanon's George Melki. Egypt on second place with three points, are behind Algeria on the goal difference after the latter crushed Sudan 4-0 earlier in the day. Egyptian players struggled to break down Lebanon's defence. The Portuguese coach fielded forward Mohamed Sherif as a left winger, who failed to make an impact. Sherif had Egypt's best chance in the first half, but headed wide when well-positioned to score following a flick from Afsha three minutes before the break. The breakthrough finally came when Afsha's powerful effort struck the fingertips of Matar and went in. Egypt face Sudan in their second Group D match on Saturday.

STADIUM 974 Secretary-General happy all stadiums ready before Qatar World Cup 2022

DOHA: Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy Hassan Al Thawadi expressed his pride that all stadiums are ready one year ahead of the FIFA world Cup 2022, after Stadium 974 hosted two matches on the first day of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021. He also expressed happiness with Al Bayt stadium for paying tribute to Qatari and Arab culture, and Stadium 974 as a beacon of innovation and sustainability. "We are sure fans from all over the world will enjoy visiting these state-of-the-art venues during both the Arab Cup and next year's World Cup," he added. FIFA President Gianni Infantino, said: "Al Bayt is the house where everyone is uniting, where everyone is coming together. It is a symbol for what the World Cup represents. The Arab Cup represents what the World Cup will represent next year of people coming together, of people being united from all over the world. So, to have games in such a beautiful stadium, in such a



symbolic stadium, is something that we have to cherish and that will be crucial for the success of the World Cup." Chairman of the SCs Operations Office and Vice Chairman of the Technical Delivery Office Yasir Al Jamal said: "Seeing both Al Bayt and Stadium 974 host matches on the opening day of the FIFA Arab Cup is exciting for football fans and everybody involved in FIFA World Cup preparations. All eight of our tournament venues for next year's World Cup have been completed and we look forward to hosting many more matches to fine-tune our planning for next year's tournament. I would like to thank everybody involved in bringing these stadiums to life including the various project teams and our trusted stakeholders." For his part, CEO of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC, Nasser Al Khater said that "the atmosphere at Al Bayt was incredible for the inauguration ceremony and throughout the match. It was wonderful to see so much passion for football during this momentous occasion, which offered a glimpse of the World Cup we will host in 2022. The FIFA Arab Cup is off to a great start and we look forward to more exciting matches between now and the final on 18 December." -GNA



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MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,007.53 points, up 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.22 per cent at 538.44 points. Voltamp Energy, down 9.57 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman, EU member states sign more liberalised air traffic pact

The agreement strengthens both parties' commitment to fair access to markets for Oman and all EU Member States and is an important first step in a planned 5-year implementation leading up to a fully formalised open skies accord

BRUSSELS: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) formally initiated a Comprehensive Air Transport agreement with the European Union (EU) and its Member States signalling Oman's ambitions for a more liberalised air traffic accord with the European Union.

The initialled agreement strengthens both parties' commitment to fair access to markets for Oman and all EU Member States and is an important first step in a planned 5-year implementation leading up to a fully formalised open skies accord.

The initialling was witnessed by Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, CAA Chairman, Najem Sulaiman Al Abri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Belgium, Head of the Omani Mission to the European Union, and Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Trans-

port of the European Commission.

Oman holds bilateral third and fourth air freedom rights with the several EU Member States, including France, Germany and Italy. The Comprehensive Air Transport agreement paves the way for Oman to increase flight frequencies on existing European routes and add other European destinations for the national carrier Oman Air (WY) and Salam Air (OV).

Reciprocally, the agreement will allow EU airlines to fly to all Omani airports from their home country or any other EU Member State. Currently, Air France and KLM are the only EU airlines that fly direct to Muscat International airport (MCT) — the Agreement effectively aims to ease market access to Oman for more EU airlines. Besides market access, the Agreement also contains provisions on a number of other important aspects of aviation including



AIR TRAFFIC ACCORD: The pact was witnessed by Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, CAA Chairman, Najem Sulaiman Al Abri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Belgium, Head of the Omani Mission to the European Union, and Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission. - OMA

commercial opportunities, doing business, safety, security, air traffic management, environment, fair competition and social aspects.

Eng. Naif said, "We are delighted to initial today's Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement with the European Union and its Member States which further strengthens the mutual cooperation and air connectivity between the Sultanate of Oman and European Union. Greater economic development through increased air traffic is just one of many benefits of an open skies agreement, and we are extremely confident that the inherent opportunities for tourism and an entire ecosystem of interconnected industries will flourish."

In his turn, the Director-General for Mobility and Transport of

the European Commission said: "Today's initialling illustrates the successful collaboration of both negotiating teams and further reinforces the close aviation ties between the EU and Oman. Once signed, this agreement will bring new opportunities, more choices and higher standards for passengers, industry and aviation workers. I look forward to taking our aviation partnership to the next level!"

Meanwhile, Oman Air Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Abdulaziz Al Raisi, said, "Today's Agreement signifies a tremendous achievement and defining moment for aviation and tourism in Oman as well as in the European Union. For Oman Air, it means more choice of destinations and travel options for both our business and leisure

guests across an enhanced route network. It also gives European travellers easier access to Oman's diverse offering of beaches, mountains, wadis, deserts and UNESCO world heritage sites, allowing them to fully experience one of the Middle East's most sought-after destinations."

For his part, Salam Air Chief Executive Officer, Captain Mohamed Ahmed said, "We are delighted at the advancement of this agreement. This partnership facilitates diversification of air travel in line with the Oman vision 2040 and will very much be beneficial for Salam Air. As we have taken delivery of our new A321neo long-range aircraft, it is a timely opportunity for its operation on European routes. There is great potential for

growth in travel between the Sultanate of Oman and Europe. This partnership will not only provide us with a platform to expand our network, but it will also aid us in providing a more affordable, convenient, and efficient service to passengers."

Oman Airports Chief Executive Officer, Aimen Al Hosni, said, "We are extremely delighted that this agreement has been initialled between the Sultanate of Oman and the EU and we sincerely appreciate the efforts of CAA of Oman and the European Commission for achieving this very important milestone in our aviation history. The agreement will no doubt enhance connectivity between Oman and the EU destinations-especially providing a great opportunity for our home carriers — Oman Air and Salam Air — and for the European airlines to enhance their networks between Oman and the EU countries resulting in increased and more efficient utilization of airspace, more competitive fares and more choices for the travelling public. As we are trying to mobilize and stabilise from the pandemic and as Oman's Aviation sector is embarking on an exciting phase in its development, the agreement indeed would maximise mutual aviation benefits and extend well beyond the aviation industry and passengers, it contributes to greater trade and tourism, inward investment, productivity growth, increased employment and economic development." - OMA

OMICRON SCORE

OECD cuts global economic outlook

PARIS: The global recovery has lost momentum and is becoming increasingly uneven, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its latest economic outlook on Wednesday, adding that the emergence of the omicron variant could threaten recovery.

The 38-member body now expects global output to grow by 5.6 per cent this year, down 0.1 percentage point from its September outlook. It maintained its forecast of 4.5 per cent growth in 2022, however.

"We are concerned that the new variant of the virus, the omicron strain, is further adding to the already high levels of uncertainty and risks, and that could be a threat to the recovery," OECD Chief Economist Laurence Boone told reporters.

Boone called on policymakers to ensure that COVID vaccines are produced and deployed swiftly throughout the world, including booster doses, while stressing that logistics remained the biggest



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: The OECD said the momentum from the strong rebound after reopening was now easing in many countries. - DW

roadblock in the global vaccination drive.

Omicron risks

The emergence of the omicron variant coincides with global economic recovery losing some of its steam thanks to global supply

chain disruptions, soaring consumer prices and rising COVID cases, especially in Europe.

While experts have mostly refrained from judging the economic implications of the new variant, governments have been swiftly reimposing travel restrictions in

an effort to keep the virus at bay, threatening global recovery.

"In terms of forecasting, this [omicron] aggravates the risks we have already identified, whether it be tensions in supply chains, closed borders, health checks being reinforced," Boone said.

"There could be two scenarios: One is that this is a variant like we have seen since the beginning of the pandemic. It's going to be a tough winter. It pushes back the recovery but does not disrupt it. We will see more supply tensions and worsening global imbalances," she said.

"Then there is another scenario that it's worse and we will have to protect ourselves much better. In that case, demand could be hurt, but that could also bring down price pressure."

Analysts at Oxford Economics said earlier this week if omicron became the dominant strain, it could shave off more than 2 per cent points from global output growth next year. - DW

FACTORY ACTIVITY

Asian factories shake off supply headaches but Omicron presents new risks

TOKYO: Asian factory activity grew in November as crippling supply bottlenecks eased, but rising input costs and renewed weakness in China dampened the region's prospects for an early, sustained recovery from pandemic paralysis.

The newly detected Omicron coronavirus variant has also emerged as a fresh worry for the region's policymakers, who are already grappling with the challenge of steering their economies out of the doldrums while trying to tame inflation amid rising commodity costs and parts shortages, Reuters reported.

China's factory activity fell back into contraction in November, the private Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) showed on Wednesday, as soft demand and elevated prices hurt manufacturers.

The findings from the private-sector survey, which focuses more on small firms in coastal regions, stood in contrast with those in China's official PMI on Tuesday that showed manufacturing activity unexpectedly rose in November, albeit at a very modest pace.

"Relaxing constraints on the supply side, especially the easing of the power crunch, quickened the pace of production recovery," said Wang Zhe, senior economist at Caixin Insight Group, in a statement accompanying the data release. "But demand was relatively weak, suppressed by the COVID-19 epidemic and rising product prices."

Beyond China, however, factory activity seemed to be on the mend with PMIs showing expansion in countries ranging from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam and the Philippines. - BNA

NEW POLICY CHANGES

People can't share Twitter photos of others without consent

WASHINGTON: With Parag Agrawal becoming the new CEO of Twitter, the company seems to be making new policy changes. According to TechCrunch, Twitter has updated its private information safety policy to ban sharing images or videos of private individuals without their consent. The update was announced on the official account of Twitter Safety.

"Sharing images is an important part of folks' experience on Twitter. People should have a choice in determining whether or not a photo is shared publicly. To that end we are expanding the scope of our Private Information Policy. Beginning today, we will not allow the sharing of private media, such as images or videos of private individuals without their consent. Publishing people's private info is also prohibited under the policy, as is threatening or incentivising others to do so," the post read. - ANI

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,007.53 points, up 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.22 per cent at 538.44 points. Voltamp Energy, down 9.57 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 334 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.10 million, with more than 5.94 million shares changing hands. Out of 36 traded securities, 15 advanced, 4 declined and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers

for OMR189,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR174,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR15,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,386.66 points, up 0.23 per cent. Al Anwar Investment, Sohar International Bank, Muscat Finance, Oman & Emirates Holding and Oman United Insurance were up 2.13 per cent, 1.90 per cent and 1.18 per cent respectively. Al Sharqia Investment and Bank Dhofar 4.49 per cent and 2.31 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,049.38 points, up 0.39 per cent. Services Index was up by 0.01 per cent before closing at 1,615.04 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,020.01	4,000.35	4,007.53	4,000.35	7.18	0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,405.11	6,374.40	6,386.66	6,371.89	14.78	0.23
Industry Index	6,056.41	6,029.89	6,049.38	6,025.70	23.69	0.39
Services Index	1,615.04	1,613.79	1,615.04	1,614.83	0.22	0.01
MSX Shariah Index	539.60	539.04	539.60	538.44	1.16	0.22
MSX TR INDEX	4,834.13	4,810.48	4,819.12	4,810.48	8.64	0.18

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,954,123	1,102,481	334	21,965,194,186	15	4	17	36

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	142,216	13,630	11	0.094	0.097	0.094	0.096	0.094	0.002	2.128	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	191,000	20,435	10	0.105	0.107	0.105	0.107	0.105	0.002	1.905	0.107	0.105	0.108	0.100	319,936,665
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	12,000	684	3	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.100	17,507,341
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	22,500	7740	1	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.340	0.004	1.176	0.344	0.000	0.340	0.100	34,400,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	86,476	417,888	56	0.480	0.486	0.480	0.484	0.480	0.004	0.833	0.480	0.480	0.482	0.100	1,730,045,799
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	46,775	16,774	8	0.368	0.368	0.356	0.358	0.356	0.002	0.562	0.356	0.358	0.356	0.100	44,713,470
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	26,000	3,406	6	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.000	0.000	0.131	0.130	0.131	0.100	11,135,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	4,500	3,510	1	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.788	0.788	0.000	0.000	0.780	0.712	0.780	0.100	124,110,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	155	49	1	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.314	0.310	0.314	0.100	250,409,422
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	95,485	87,990	29	0.712	0.716	0.708	0.712	0.712	0.000	0.000	0.712	0.712	0.720	0.100	534,000,000
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SER.	50,000	21,900	4	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.438	0.448	0.100	103,547,580
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	9,080	3,254	6	0.358	0.360	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.360	0.358	0.100	233,038,034
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	286,503	26,614	15	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	9,300,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	530,000	72,700	11	0.138	0.138	0.137	0.137	0.138	-0.001	-0.725	0.137	0.137	0.139	0.100	32,469,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	114,730	43,697	8	0.386	0.386	0.380	0.380	0.380	-0.010	-2.564	0.382	0.370	0.382	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	31,206	2,653	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.089	-0.004	-4.494	0.085	0.083	0.087	0.100	7,650,000
Total	16	2,426,914	722,923	173												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	85,000	5,270	12	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.057	0.005	8.772	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	7750,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	7,500	840	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.104	0.008	7.692	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	9,117,108
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENGINEER	208,309	15,565	7	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.073	0.002	2.740	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	15,223,983
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	27,000	3,790	4	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.140	0.137	0.003	2.196	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	4,700,000
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	157,925	8,206	7	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.053	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	171,000	11,629	7	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.001	1.493	0.069	0.067	0.073	0.100	8,287,500
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	10,000	1,650	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.163	0.002	1.227	0.165	0.162	0.165	0.100	4,950,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	129,000	12,255	8	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	16,625,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,333,400	127,637	58	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000001198	GALFAR ENGINEER	199	788	1	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	0.000	0.000	3.960	3.960	3.960	1.000	3,960,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	62,150	5,656	4	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.095	0.100	182,028,464
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	300	268	1	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.904	0.904	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.840	0.892	0.100	55,392,600
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	2,625	163	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.062	0.063	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	2,370	95	3	0.041	0.041	0.040	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.040	0.042	0.100	9,061,410
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	170	20	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.108	0.117	0.100	11,442,853
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	377,880	19,644	23	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	35,094,146
OM0000005983	PHIC BANK POWER	276,052	13,522	10	0.049	0.050	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	600,000	76,230	3	0.127	0.128	0.127	0.127	0.130	-0.003	-2.308	0.128	0.128	0.130	0.100	380,536,632
Total	18	3,450,878	303,227	152												

SHARE MARKET

Indian equity market closes in green; banking, auto sector shares gain

MUMBAI: Indian equity market closed in the green on Wednesday as the banking and auto sector shares gained. At the closing bell, the BSE S&P Sensex was up by 619.92 points or 1.09 per cent, while the Nifty 50 gained by 183.70 points or 1.08 per cent. In BSE Sensex the sectors that saw maximum gain were the banking sector that was up by 1.76 per cent, the auto sector that was up by 1.47 per cent, the finance sector that was up by 1.43.

The healthcare sector plummeted by 1.43 per cent. Among stocks, the top gainer was IndusInd Bank, which surged 5.73 per cent to Rs 934.25, followed by Axis Bank up by 3.46 per cent to Rs 679.80 per share. State Bank of India, Tech Mahindra, and Maruti Suzuki also traded with a positive bias on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Dr Reddys Labs cracked by 1.58 per cent, UltraTechCement was down by 1.48 per cent. —**ANI**

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SOHAR CEMENT

Factory honours its partners

MUSCAT: Sohar Cement Factory honoured its partners in a ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Sohar under the patronage of Salem bin Ahmed Al Ibrahim, Acting Executive Vice President. The ceremony began with a welcome speech, directed to the customers for their efforts and positive contribution, represented in the continuous cooperation and the distinguished partnership between Sohar Cement Factory and its partners.

Salem Al Ibrahim said, “We welcome you today to the Customer Forum, which comes in appreciation of the efforts and to strengthen the partnership between us and on this day, we express our thanks and appreciation to all our valued customers. And here to say thank you for your belief in supporting the Omani product at first, and your trust in the products of Sohar Cement Factory, one of Raysut Cement Company factories.”

Later, Salem Al Ibrahim honoured the partners.

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Diploma Civil engineer having 10yrs Oman experience mainly in architectural/structural drafting. looking for a suitable position.
Contact 79112971.

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Looking for driving jobs, 3 year experience in Oman. Contact 94447012

Driver need job with own car. Contact 94722609

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Procurement Manager, Indian male with 14 years of Middle East experience in the field of Construction in all kinds of Buildings & Infrastructure works. Handled various roles like QC Manager, Construction Manager and Certified Lead Auditor for ISO 9001:2015 & OHSMS 45001:2018 seeks suitable placement. Can join immediately. Contact 9410 7414 / sreejups.sreejith@gmail.com

Indian male graduate with D/L, have 15 years experience in Oman seeks mid-management job in Sales, Marketing, procurement, admin. Contact 95454929

Accounts, finance manager 29 years experienced, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & budgeting, auditing etc. Contact 98803439

Social Media Editor & Manager, Indian male with 3 yrs experience in every media platform with SEO proficiency for channel growth. also affiliated with the cryptoverse. Currently in Oman looking for a suitable job and visa. Contact 94786582
Email: abdulrahil310@gmail.com

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Procurement engineer with five years Oxy experience looking for new opportunity. Kindly contact +968 7827 7656. hushbilhumsath@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

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MANAGER (Accounts / Finance / Real Estate /Admin & HR), MBA (Finance), PG Diploma in HRM, Bcom, 20yrs experience in Muscat. Can join immediately. NOC/RELEASE available. Please contact: 91245950

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Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman driving license and 20 years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining.
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Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Purchaser looking for suitable placement.
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Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman D/L & 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. CTC 79256679

Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years Oman experience. Immediate. Contact 99283938.

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Email: Mufidrahiman@gmail.com

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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



SAVE YOUR PLANET BY CUTTING BACK ON PROCESSED FOODS

If you want to do your bit for the environment and yourself, according to a new study, you need to cut back on sweets, pastries, fried foods and processed meat. It will not only help you to stay fit but also save the planet.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Current Nutrition Reports'. Australia and New Zealand households eat more discretionary and junk foods than recommended by dietary guidelines, contributing to food-related greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe) and other environmental impacts.

University of South Australia (UniSA) dietitian Sara Forbes, who led a review examining 20 studies on the environmental impacts of food consumption in both countries, said the findings highlighted the need for more sustainable dietary choices.

According to a Federal Government report released in 2020, Australia emitted an estimated 510 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide, with food-related emissions accounting for 14.2 percent of this total. The report found that the average Australian produces the equivalent of 19.7kg of carbon dioxide each day via their diets.

Another report from 2017 found that food waste comprised approximately six per cent of Australia's GHGe, considering the water, energy and pesticides used in food production and packaging that ended up in landfills, where it released even more methane as it decomposed.

Unlike New Zealand, current Australian Dietary Guidelines (ADG) do not consider environmental impacts of food and need to be updated, researchers said. The existing ADG recommended daily servings of 'core' foods every day: fruit and vegetables, grains, lean meats, fish, eggs, nuts, seeds, legumes, milk, cheese, yoghurt and alternatives.

These core foods are estimated to contribute between 67-73 per cent of total food-related GHGe in Australia, with meat, grains and dairy contributing the most emissions. Fruit and vegetables are two of the lowest contributors.

Non-core or 'discretionary' foods include sugar-sweetened drinks, alcohol, confectionery and processed meats, accounting for between 27-33 per cent of food-related GHGe. While the percentage is lower than core food emissions, the fact that Australians are consuming large amounts of avoidable energy-rich,

nutrient-poor foods is not helping the environment.

In New Zealand, the highest greenhouse gas emitters are meat, seafood and eggs (35 per cent), followed by highly processed foods such as pastries and ice cream (34 per cent).

Other studies examined the environmental impacts of water use in food production. Australian irrigators soaked up eight million megalitres of water each year to grow crops,

“Discretionary foods have higher cropland, water scarcity and ecological footprint. Meat also emits greenhouse gases, although its water scarcity footprint is lower compared to dairy products, cereals, grains, fruit and vegetables,

but the majority are exported, making it difficult to accurately reflect the nation's water footprint.

The researchers assessed 20 articles in their study, published in the past decade, with varying findings. Despite the differences, clear trends emerged.

“Discretionary foods have higher cropland, water scarcity and ecological footprint. Meat also emits greenhouse gases, although its water scarcity footprint is lower compared to dairy products, cereals, grains, fruit and vegetables,” Forbes said.

“It is time we better acknowledge the environmental impacts of the type and amount of food we eat, considering the planet as well as our health. By 2050, the world's population is projected to reach 10 billion people. There is no way we can feed that amount of people unless we change the way we eat and produce food,” Forbes added.

Worldwide, food consumption and production account for one-quarter of total global emissions. Half of the world's habitable land is used for agriculture which has led to a 60 per cent biodiversity loss. Furthermore, an estimated two-thirds of the world's freshwater is used for irrigation. - ANI

SPORTS



OMAN RALLY SOHAR INTERNATIONAL GETS UNDERWAY TODAY



MUSCAT: Oman Rally Sohar International 2021 gets underway with a ceremonial start at Al-Qurum from 6pm on Thursday evening.

Organised by the Oman Automobile Association, the 12-stage event is the final round of the 2021 FIA Middle East Rally Championship has attracted a dozen crews in the international section and a further 11, who will tackle the second and third rounds of the Oman Rally Championship.

Slight revisions to the route mean that competitors will now tackle 214.38 competitive kilometres in a route of 685.97km.

Repeat runs through three gravel special stages make up the route for Friday's action with the 22.04km of the Al-Khoud stage getting the on-stage drama underway at 09.33hrs. A first run through the Misfah and Saal specials precedes a lunchtime return to service before the three tests are repeated in the afternoon.

Run through Abyad (13.09km), Qalqal (17.17km) and Nakhal (19.26km) are on the agenda for Saturday morning, before another regroup and service stop. The three specials are repeated in the afternoon before the prizegiving and podium finish take place at Al-Qurum from 16.52hrs onwards.

While 17-time regional rally champion Nasser Saleh Al-Attiyah is the firm favourite for overall honours in the main FIA event, there are numerous contenders for honours in the Oman Rally Championship section that runs behind.

Four Mitsubishi Lancers, a pair of Toyota Yaris, a Kia Rio, two Can-ams and as many Yamahas grace the national entry.

Seeded at 20 and topping the list is Hamid Al-Qasbi in his Mitsubishi. He faces competition in the N4 group from Haitham Al-Soomar, Hamood Al-Touqi and Ghaith Al-Qasbi.

The Toyotas of Waheeb Al-Kharusi and Yaqdhan Al-Rashdi are categorised in Group A, while Musab Al-Soomar's Kia is the sole entrant in the RC3 class.

With the FIA T4 and T3 sections becoming increasingly popular around the world in cross-country events, it is no surprise that four vehicles are entered in Oman. Rally veteran Nizar Al-Shanfari wheels out his Can-Am alongside the similar car of Khalid Al-Shanfari and a pair of Yamaha YXZs, driven by Lebanon's Alan Nawfel and local driver Mohammed Al-Shanfari.



ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat launches another new feature in its mobile banking app

Customers can now easily apply for a Bank Muscat Prepaid card by logging into Internet Banking or the Mobile Banking application on their smartphones

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has launched another new feature in its Mobile Banking application and Internet Banking for the benefit of its customers in line with its vision 'To serve you better, everyday' and commitment to innovation reflecting the latest technological trends.

Customers can now easily apply for a Bank Muscat Prepaid card by logging into Internet Banking or the Mobile Banking application on their smartphones. The bank will receive and process the application, and customers can pick up their personalised prepaid card later from their chosen delivery branch. The latest fea-

ture is a new addition to several other features, which were added in the recent past, including the availability of QR code payments through mBanking and BM Wallet, Speed Transfer service to Egypt, bill payments to Awasr and instant Debit Card linkage to one's account through Internet banking and mBanking app and visibility of linked Floosi and Children's accounts within parents' accounts. Speaking about the addition of new features in Internet Banking and the mBanking app, Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat, said: "As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, the bank has been continuously implementing state-of-the-art technology and we are happy to launch this new service

which once again enhances ease of banking and customer convenience. The bank aims to be future-ready to serve its tech-savvy customers in the best possible manner and is encouraged by the rapid shift to digital and contactless payments. The new application process continues the bank's customer-centric strategy of launching new services and products that improves financial inclusion and offers new, convenient and highly secure e-payment options for the benefit of our valued customers." The bank added that its contactless "Just Tap" debit, credit and prepaid cards as well as its contactless wearables have become very popular as they allow customers to complete their low-value point-of-sale (POS) transactions at groceries and supermarkets with a simple

tap of the POS terminal without the need to enter their personal identification number (PIN) for transactions up to RO 40. Customers can conduct multiple transactions totalling up to RO60 or up to 10 transactions every day using the 'Just Tap' feature of their card or their Shababi wearable band. For Bank Muscat, distinguished customer service has always been and remains paramount. The commitment to customers is the key to achieving strategic objectives, thereby establishing sustainable, long-term business relationships in the communities where the bank operates. As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat has the largest banking network in Oman with 174 branches and over 800 ATMs and CDMs.



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Oman Arab Bank participates in national initiative to plant 10mn trees

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently announced its contribution to the Environmental Authority's national initiative to plant 10 million trees. This initiative is in line with the bank's sustainability strategy and its focus on environmental responsibility. The objectives of this project are aligned with Oman Vision 2040, specifically its goal to develop sustainable governorates and cities that balance environmental, economic and social factors. The focus is on the optimal use and investment of natural resources to ensure high returns for both society and the environment. Since the start of the initiative the Environment Authority along with several other private and government institutions, planted over 190 thousand trees. The bank will aim to plant an additional 2,800 trees throughout 2022. Moreover, the initiative aims to sustainably increase vegetation coverage and restore biodiversity



across The Sultanate. It will also contribute towards the rehabilitation of degraded sites and reduce desertification, while simultaneously raising the level of awareness around the importance of increasing green spaces and its benefits to the environment and the community. Since 2020, OAB has made a concerted effort to ensure sustainable practices throughout its

network of stakeholders. This initiative by the Environment Authority aligns with this goal and raises awareness about environmental responsibility to society at large. The Bank's contribution to this initiative is an ideal opportunity to implement its strategy on the ground and encourage its employees to follow a similar approach in their daily lives. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in

the overall green spaces and reduce carbon emissions across the Sultanate, reinforcing the Bank's ultimate goal of working together with the community to provide a sustainable future. Oman Arab Bank's sustainability strategy includes three main pillars: Community Partnerships, Environmental Responsibility and Financial Inclusion. Taking part in the 10 Million Tree initiative is an example of its activities aimed at supporting the environment. The initiative includes planting different types of native flora such as Tapiscia, Acacia and ZiziphusSpina-Christi (Sider) trees, known for their role in producing Omani honey, in addition to MoringaPeregrina, Pteropyrum, Frankincense and many others. The campaign will target a group of vital sites such as parks, educational institutions, parking lots, streets, government institutions, valleys and environmentally degraded areas.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ATHLETES



KR Eshraqa sponsors Muscat Blind Football Challenge

MUSCAT: With a keen focus on enhancing the quality of living for the local communities and encouraging aspiring talents to achieve their ambitions, Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas' Social Development Arm, recently extended its sponsorship to the Oman Paralympic Committee for organising the Muscat Blind Football Challenge. As the main sponsor of the event, KR Eshraqa showed its unfaltering commitment to support local athletes with disabilities while positioning Oman as a country that promotes such sporting activities. Organised in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth and the International Football Blind Foundation, the event was held under the patronage of Rashid Al-Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development. Commenting on the event, NaileshKhimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas said, "The Muscat Blind Football Challenge is the first-of-its-kind event in the Gulf region, and KR Eshraqa is truly honoured to support such a unique game that gives an opportunity to those with visual impairments to shine in the field of sports. Through initiatives like these, we remain committed to empowering people, nurturing their talents, and helping those with impairments to lead a more self-reliant life." The launch of the Muscat Blind Football Challenge was held on 25th November 2021 at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium and the first match between the Indian National Team and Oman National Team took place on the same day which was won by Oman National Team 1:0. The second tw-legged match was played on 27th November and Oman National Team won the match 2:0. "In the past, only two other Arab countries, namely Egypt

and Morocco, have hosted such an event. Apart from being the first Gulf country to feature this game, Oman has also taken a strong stance to highlight the importance of integrating the visually impaired into various social and sports activities in the society," said Dr Mansoor Bin Sultan Al-Tauqi, President of Oman Paralympic Committee. "We extend our sincere gratitude to KR Eshraqa for their continued support towards social causes. We are certain that this unique game will be a milestone event and go a long way to inspire others to follow their passion and practice their hobbies." The Muscat Blind Football Challenge was also initiated with a vision to create awareness about the game and promote its popularity in the region. Unlike traditional football, the game involves no throws or bounces. A five-sided game, it is played with four players being completely blindfolded to ensure fairness and one sighted goalkeeper to organise the defence. With dedicated coaches guiding those on the field and balls with bells to help players trace the movements, this game is designed based on touch, voice, and close control. "The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) has been developing blind football since 2013 and has been successful in showcasing the talents of those with visual impairments in the field of sports. Our players have demonstrated utmost spirit on the field and the journey of each individual is an inspirational story in itself," said Sunil J Mathew, Sporting Director, Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF). "We appreciate the enthusiasm the Sultanate of Oman has shown in raising awareness about this Paralympic sport and hosting a game in their home grounds."

PROMOTION

Enjoy attractive benefits on class leading fuel economy sedan Nissan Altima

MUSCAT: Nissan Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) is extending a wide range of offers for customers of Nissan Altima which offers an outstanding drive, enhanced handling, fuel efficiency and thoughtful technology solutions. As part of the new Nissan Oman offer customers can get 3 years/60,000 km periodic maintenance service, free first year insurance, free first year registration and more as attractive benefits. The offer, which is available on models purchased for personal use, will go on till January 9, 2022. A senior official of Nissan Oman said, "We are delighted to extend a special offer on Nissan Altima which offers those who drive it an effortless power while furthering remarkable fuel economy. Nissan Altima is also cherished by owners in Oman for its classy design, fuel economy, driving performance, safety technology, and comfortability. Its good looks, striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior have brought the car a lifetime of fans. Its powerful high-performance



engine and a range of other options adds to its appeal." Customers of Nissan Altima can enjoy free periodic maintenance service package for three years/60,000 kms. This offer is valid for 10,000 km service intervals. Customers of Nissan Altima can enjoy free insurance in Oman & UAE for first year for private registration. Nissan Altima customers can enjoy free registration for the first year. Customers of Nissan Altima can avail low EMI rate of OMR 170 as part of the offer. EMIs are calcu-

lated on the basis of 20% down payment and 3.25% rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure. Nissan Altima is also cherished by owners in Oman for its good looks, striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior have brought the car a lifetime of fans. The vehicle offers those who drive it an effortless power while furthering remarkable fuel economy. Nissan Altima has advanced safety features for those seeking a more focused driving experi-

ence. Owners vouch that with its advanced technology and in-built design, Nissan Altima is a pleasure to drive. The Nissan Altima 2.0L Turbo, which has a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology has been creating waves within the mid-size sedan segment since its launch. The sedan's advanced VC-Turbo engine – the company's first production-ready variable compression ratio engine – is one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created.

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ROUND-UP

BankDhofar provides proactive calling service via IVN system

Being the first bank in the Sultanate to provide this innovative service, BankDhofar aims to be in touch and engaged with its customers round the clock

MUSCAT: In the translation of its endeavour to offer the best customer experience, BankDhofar provides proactive calling service via Interactive Voice Notification (IVN).

Being the first bank in the Sultanate to provide this innovative service, BankDhofar aims to be in touch and engaged with its customers around the clock.

The proactive calling service

provided by BankDhofar's Customer Engagement Hub, through the Interactive Voice Notification (IVN) system, assists customers proactively in cases of exceeding ATM pin entry attempts, to reset their PIN, forgetting Mobile Banking App password, reset their password, attempting to withdraw or swipe more than the debit card daily limit and increase their daily

ATM and POS limit.

Commenting on the service, Abu Baker Karim Al Balushi, Head of Digital Banking at BankDhofar said: "At BankDhofar, we pay great attention to our customers' satisfaction. We understand that engaging with the customers 24/7 is crucial to guarantee their satisfaction. Thus, we have taken this concept even further, where we approach our customers before they approach us by calling them to lend them help in various scenarios. We are proud to be the first bank in the Sultanate providing this service, and our team will continue their efforts to provide further innovative services and products."

BankDhofar constantly endeavours to promote positive communication and retain a sustainable relationship with its customers.

Through the Customer Engagement Hub, the Bank provides significant benefits to customers by offering services around the clock, including Self-Services such as Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Interactive Voice Notification (IVN) Call Centre agents, among other functions to build meaningful communication with the customers.

In addition to the IVN service, BankDhofar's IVR system enables customers to handle their own simple operations over the phone. The facility provides a number of exclusive services including, mobile top-up, unblock debit card, re-issue and re-set of Debit Card pin, statement inquiry, cheque book request, bill payments, and many other prompt services. The IVR system contributed to boosting customer experience and enhancing their satisfaction level, by

minimizing the call duration, as customers get a faster response to their query.

Being one of the best banks in the region, BankDhofar has prioritized providing a convenient banking experience since its inception, putting technology and innovation at the core of its strategy to improve the experience of its customers. Customers may conduct their transactions at ease and round-the-clock through highly-secured and user-friendly digital banking channels. Following best international banking practices, provision of outstanding customer experience, in addition to its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, has placed BankDhofar at the top of the list of best banks in the region.



FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND

Technical Trading Company Fire Division inaugurates FM200/NOVEC-1230 gas filling facility in Oman

MUSCAT: Technical Trading Company LLC (TTC), one of the leading engineering companies in Oman with over 50 years of Business Excellence in "Providing Engineering Solutions", has added one more feather to its cap by launching the new refilling facility of FM200/NOVEC-1230 Gas at their Fire & Safety service centre, Wadi Al Kabir on 24th November 2021.

The International Qualifying Benchmark of ISO 9001:2015 certified, UL listed and FM approved clean agent refill/recharge centre is the first of its kind in Oman, providing the service of refilling the Novec 1230™ and FM-200® fire suppression systems.

At this inauguration ceremony, Ali Al Balushi- Chief Fire Officer - PDO did the ribbon-cutting honours alongside Ibrahim Al Sulaimi General Manager of TTC, Tharif Usman Divisional Manager, and key members from the management team and other employees of the company.

Speaking on this occasion, Tharif Usman, Divisional Manager- Fire, Safety & Security Division said that "the new facility is a step towards providing all services related to Fire & Safety to its customers under one roof. We have established this gas filling service centre equipped with modern equipment & technology with the aim of providing comprehensive Fire Safety Products & services to our customers under one roof.

"To tap the growing customer demand across the sultanate we regularly maintain stock with an extra quantity of gaseous fire suppression agents and other spare equipment so that we are capable to provide rapid response to our clients if required."

Ibrahim Al Sulaimi, General Manager - TTC, expressed his joy on this momentous occasion and added that "Customer satisfaction is our prime motto and we are happy that this facility has been added as part of TTC management Vision 2022 and beyond programme", but glad it was launched well ahead with the Management Support and the team-work. We continue to strive and emerge as a market leader by providing Engineering solutions across the country."

Ali Al Balushi- Chief Fire Officer - PDO congratulated the TTC team and said that they had "previously dependent on the companies located in UAE for refilling of FM 200 cylinders which were also expensive and time-consuming,



hence this TC's launched facility would put an end to a long term demand of having an FM 200 filling facility in Oman."



OFFER



Lucky Kia customer wins double cash gift on new K8

MUSCAT: Abdul Rahman Abu Baker Said Al Kaaf, a long-time fan and customer of Kia, recently, won instant Double Cash Prize when he purchased a K8. He is one of the many lucky customers who are turning winners in this year's most exciting offer from Kia.

As part of the campaign, customers owning their dream Kia can look forward to a Chance to Win their Kia Car Back through Scratch & Win Offer, Or Chance to Win 50% Value of Your Car Back through Scratch & Win Offer, Or Chance to Double Your Cash Gift, Or Win Periodic Services up to 100,000 kms and yes VAT is on Us which can be used as part of Down Payment. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details.) The campaign is valid until 28th December, 2021.

Sharing his views Abdul Rahman said, "I am very happy and excited to win double cash gift in this year's most exciting offer from Kia. I have been a fan of Kia vehicles for a long time now. I have had the Optima, the 2020 Cadenza and now the K8. I am also particularly happy to be the first person in Oman to own the all-new dazzling and stylish K8. So if you are looking to own a Kia, then now is the time you shouldn't miss. You could also become a lucky winner. So head to your nearest Kia showroom, today."

Speaking about his experiences with Kia he said, "I like the Kia brand for various aspects. Stylish designs, advanced technology

and most important of all – the smiling and every friendly staff who really go out of their way to fulfil your wishes. I am really happy with all my experiences here."

The Kia K8 combines cutting-edge innovation and dynamic performance to establish new benchmarks for premium quality in the sedan segment. Further demonstrating the recent rejuvenation of the brand, the K8 offers progressive and refined driving performance, cutting-edge Advanced Driver Assistance System, and a contemporary and clean interior space that provides the driver and passengers with a first-class lounge experience.

The K8 is equipped with 3.5-liter Euro4 engine with 296 HP and 36.6 kd.m. torque. This is paired to a smooth 8-speed automatic transmission.

Every element of the K8 interior has been designed with high-end luxury in mind, serving to elevate the senses of the driver and passengers. A 12.3" TFT LCD Supervision Cluster and 12.3" Navigation with Music System brings together the K8's advanced connectivity and infotainment technology for all inside the sports sedan. Adding to the K8's leading tech capabilities, is the Kia's head-up display technology.

Adding to memorable experiences in the K8 is a suite of advanced safety features. They include Smart Cruise Control (SCC), Forward Collision Avoidance Assist (FCA), Lane Keeping Assist (LKA), Around View Monitor (AVM) and more.



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