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A BIG BOOST TO TOURISM INDUSTRY

Times News Service

The decision by the government to allow travellers from 103 countries to spend 14 days in the country without a pre-booked visa will also help attract more visitors.

“As part of the efforts to support

Although the cooler winter months do make up the tourist season in Oman, the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly affected international travel, but the hoteliers in the country say they have

coming months. Hopefully, this decision to temporarily shut the borders only lasts for a week, and the hospitality sector can continue to recover a bit," adds Kuhn.

"Our hotel occupancy is cur-

"Once vaccines are distributed across the world, and the number of cases go down then the fear of infection will vanish, and you will see international travel resume once again," he says.

"A lot of the bookings we get right now are the last minutes, with people looking to get away for a short break or for the weekend, but what will really help us is if Oman is included on a travel bubble with the European countries, because they and the GCC are our main markets," he explained.

PANDEMIC

Times News Service

On the brighter side, the total number of patients admitted to ICUs on Tuesday stood at 22 against 106 on December 3.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

Girl turns passion for seafood into enterprise

1 Muzna Al Hatami, combined passion for seafood with her academic pursuits at the College of Agriculture and Marine Sciences to create unique fish products. **>A3**

WHO warning over vaccine distribution

2 Inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines between rich and poor countries will prolong the pandemic, the WHO chief has warned. **>A6**

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR57mn

3 Oman's central bank raised OMR57 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from January 20, 2021, until February 17, 2021. **>B1**

BP OMAN, PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

Oman Sail programme seeks to empower differently-abled youth



Times News Service

SailFree, one of BP Oman's social investment programmes, aims to empower Omani disabled youth. Phase two of the programme, in which participants

As part of taking candidates out into the water, SailFree instructors were trained on coaching individuals with disabilities in collaboration with the Armed Forces Hospital.





Dhuhr.....	12.23pm
Asr.....	3.29pm
Maghrib.....	5.50pm
Isha.....	7.04pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.32am

Best ideas for Oman's development honoured at Research Awards

The awards honour research ideas across a number of fields, including healthcare, transportation, energy, environment, computing, and others, which benefit society



AWARD: The Annual Research Forum has demonstrated once again the importance of raising the standards of research, innovation and development in the Sultanate. - **ONA**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new way for people with diabetes to cure themselves of their condition, new energy-saving ways to cool homes in hot countries like Oman, and better methods to generate renewable energy are among the 12 projects to have been awarded at this year's National Research Awards.

The awards honour research done by those who come up with ideas across a number of fields, including healthcare, transportation, energy, the environment, computing, and many others, which benefit the lives of society. Under the PhD category, Constantinos Chrysos from Muscat University won in the Education and Human Resources field for his project titled 'University-industry interactions in the Sultanate of Oman: Challenges and opportunities'.

Two teams won in the Informa-

tion Systems and Communication Technologies field: Dr. Hedi Haddad from Dhofar University for his project 'Transportation Service Redundancy from a Spatio-Temporal Perspective' and Dr. Ashraf Saleem from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) for his project 'Cooperative Cruise Controller for Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Vehicle Platoon System'.

In the Environmental and Biological Resources field, the award went to 'Enhanced power generation and desalination rate in a novel quadruple microbial desalination cell with a single desalination chamber' by Dr. Tahereh Jafary (SQU, International Maritime College Oman), while in the Health and Social Service field, the award went to 'Clonal copy-number mosaicism in autoreactive T lymphocytes in diabetic NOD mice' by Dr. Maha Al Riyami (SQU).

As for the Energy and Industry field, Dr. Chaham Alalouch from SQU took the award for his project 'Energy-saving potential for residential buildings in hot climates: The case of Oman'. Under the Young Researchers' category, Hanan Al Burashdi from the Ministry of Education took the award for her project 'The effectiveness of using the Course Lab program in improving the academic achievement and the attitudes toward science among 10th grade students in Oman' in the Education and Human Resources field.

In the Information Systems and Communication Technologies field, the award went to 'AMA-CoT: A Marketplace Architecture for Trading Cloud of Things Resources' by Ahmed Al Rawahi from the University of Technology and Applied Sciences Nizwa. Two teams won under in the En-

vironmental and Biological Resources field; 'Fungal Diversity in Tomato Rhizosphere Soil under Conventional and Desert Farming Systems' by Elham Kazerooni from SQU and 'Detecting Dubas bug infestations using high resolution multispectral satellite data in Oman' by Rashid Al Shidi from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

For the Health and Social Service field, the award went to 'MOVEdiabetes: A cluster randomized controlled trial to increase physical activity in adults with type 2 diabetes in primary health care in Oman' by Dr. Thamra Al Ghafri from the Ministry of Health, while 'Investigating the technical feasibility of various energy carriers for alternative and sustainable overseas energy transport scenarios' by Mohammed Al Breiki from Hamad Bin Khalifa

University took the award in the Energy and Industry field.

The award for the Cultural, Basic, and Social Sciences field was withheld this year for both the PhD and Young Researchers' categories. The National Research Award in 2020 has witnessed an increase of 34.6 per cent over the previous edition in terms of the number of applicants, with the total number of research applications submitted reaching 218 pieces of research.

The Annual Research Forum has demonstrated once again the importance of raising the standards of research, innovation and development in the Sultanate of Oman, as it aims to encourage researchers to conduct high quality and relevant research in areas of national interest and to reach the goals and meet the criteria of Oman Vision 2040.

The seventh edition of the Annual Research Forum organised by the Research and Innovation Sector of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) took place on Monday 18 January 2021 at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat, under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, and in the presence of Rahma Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and a number of ministers, researchers, academics and research winners.

The Annual Research Forum opened with a welcoming speech by Al Mahrooqi, who maintained that "the high interest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik in research and innovation, placing it at the top of the country's national concerns, and making it the

first priority of Oman Vision 2040, made national knowledge-based economy for sustainable development a key focus.

Abdullah Al Haddabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Research and Innovation, also highlighted the main objectives and achievements of the sector and stressed on "the importance of maintaining the harmony between the research and innovation sector, the National Strategy for Research and Development 2040, the National Innovation Strategy, and Oman Vision 2040, in terms of vision, goals and strategic directions".

There were also two major presentations during the forum: a presentation by Dr. Jamila Al Hina, Project Director of NSRD 2040 at MoHERI, on the action plan of the National Strategy for Research and Development 2040, and a virtual keynote speech by international expert Dr. Jamil Salmi titled 'Learning from the Past, Coping with the Present, Readying for the Future' about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of research and innovation in tackling this kind of challenge.

Moreover, as part of the forum's activities, the Oman Animal and Plant Genetic Resources Center (OAPGRC) launched its new identity and brand name 'Mawarid', illustrating Oman's precious genetic resources as both a natural element and a force of nature.

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY

SAI meeting to discuss action plan for managing plastic waste

MUSCAT: The State Financial and Administrative Audit Institution (SAI), is taking part in the 20th meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), which is taking place from 19 to 21 January 2021 through video conferencing with the participation of the working group members.

The meeting agenda covers several practical and interactive sessions in matters, such as discussing aspects related to Circular Economy and its effectiveness in reducing resources waste and reviewing international experiences and observations on recycling nutrients and regenerative agriculture.

The meeting will also discuss the action plan for managing plastic waste, review an audit case on agricultural circular economy projects and highlight challenges



SDGS: The members will also review the report of the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development, discuss training needs on Sustainable Development Goals. - **ONA**

related to audit of plastic waste management.

Further, the meeting will examine progress reports of regional WGEA through exchanging experience and capacity building sessions. The members will also review the report of the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (ICED), discuss training needs on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the importance of citizen participation in environmental auditing.

SAI participation in this meeting comes in line with its keenness to keep abreast with the international experiences relevant to different audit fields and in order to efficiently contribute to the activities organized by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTO-SAI). - **ONA**

MARCH 23 AND 24

SQU to hold meet on mass communication in digital environment



VIRTUAL MEET: Specialists, experts and researchers of media and education will take part in the conference, which will be held via video-conferencing. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: The Department of Mass Media at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) will organise on March 23 and 24, 2021 its Third International Scientific Conference themed "Mass Communication in the Digital Environment: Between Necessities of Media Literacy and Requirement of Media Education".

Organising the conference comes in response to the shifts emerging in the media literacy and education over the last years, particularly the shift from traditional methods of media education to the new methods.

The conference aims to develop many academic visions pertaining to understanding and analysing the deep impact of diverse array of mass media technologies. It also

addresses issues and latest developments of media literacy and review the academic and professional aspects of media rehabilitation.

Specialists, experts and researchers of media and education will take part in the conference, which will be held via video-conferencing.

Sub-themes of the conference will also cover the philosophical, theoretical, and practical aspects of the relationship between media production, consumption, and media education, including policies.

The conference's organisers affirm those interested from within and outside the Sultanate, are invited to submit an abstract in both Arabic and English as the deadline will be the end of January 2021. - **ONA**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Total number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Sultanate reaches 132,146

MUSCAT: The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Sultanate reached 132,146, while the number of recoveries stood at 124,398, comprising 94.1 percent.

Meanwhile, the total number of COVID-19 related death cases stood at 1,516, the Ministry of

Health said.

The Ministry also pointed out that 21 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, adding that the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 79, of them 22 are in intensive care units (ICU).



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Student turns hobby into enterprise



Muzna Al Hatmi combined passion for seafood with her academic pursuits to create unique fish products

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A young Omani woman has started the production of fish food items such as fish paste, dry filling, and fish stock cubes. Muzna Al Hatmi has combined her passion for cooking seafood with her academic studies at the College of Agriculture and Marine Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University to become a female entrepreneur and pave her way to create unique products.

Al Hatmi from the wilayat of Al Musannah in South Al Batinah says, “The size of the fish wealth that abounds in the coasts of the Sultanate, and the scarcity of innovative products with added nutritional value in the field of seafood are among the most important factors that encouraged me to establish the Lawamis company for food products derived from fish. “There are many products of the Lawamis project, including dry filling with sardine and shrimp

flavours, fish paste with sardine and shrimp flavours, fish stock powder with dried sardines and shrimp flavours, fish stock cubes with dried sardines and shrimp flavours.” Muzna Al Hatmi explains about its beginnings, “I founded Lawamis in October of 2019 after my participation in the programme for establishing innovative start-ups that was organised by the Industrial Innovation Centre. While registering intellectual property and choosing the appropriate equipment it was the main support centrd during our journey to produce a high-quality product and achieve my dream that I always strived to achieve. “Such programmes work to enhance the confidence of young citizens to enter the world of entrepreneurship, which strengthens the country’s economy and raises the level of self-sufficiency. I have a deep belief that innovation is the true beginning of economic growth in all sectors.” Al Hatmi worked alongside the Industrial Innovation Centre on the production of fertilisers from fish waste resulting from the process of manufacturing its products such as skin, fins, head and bones. She said, “We work first on drying the waste and then converting it into fine fertilizer, and it can be said that the exploitation of the waste is very important, as it is a product. Economically and environmentally adding value.” Regarding her future plans, Al Hatmi says, “I plan to increase production and launch more innovative products. I am hoping that Lawamis will become one of the best seafood companies in Oman within five years, and one of the best food firms in ten years.”

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Agreement signed for Omani Sarooj innovation project

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism yesterday signed an agreement with the Industrial Innovation Centre (IIC) for an Omani Sarooj (lime) innovation project. The agreement was signed by Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mahrooqi, CEO of the IIC. The “Project for Innovation in Sarooj” aims to develop the industry and upgrade its sustainability. This gypsum-like material consists of silicon and aluminum.

It was used earlier in the Sultanate as a construction material in building aflaj (water channels) and military bulwarks like forts and castles. **Conventional method** Currently, it is used in restoration or repair works. The conventional method used in making sarooj takes a long time and its quality cannot be guaranteed. The new project seeks to improve the production of sarooj and enhance the tasks associated with it. The project also aims to explore and develop sarooj production

through the use of modern techniques and comprehending the best practices used in this process. It will devise guidelines on “requirements of sarooj production” from the stage of raw material to the stage of finished product. In the meantime, the project will help preserve the traditional method of making sarooj. The agreement lays emphasis on several goals to be achieved, like fostering innovation in sarooj industry, upgrading the product’s quality, implementing awareness and joint programmes between the Ministry and innovation centres, exchanging expertise, adopting new proposals, providing licences for sarooj sites, selecting suitable locations for extracting sarooj and forming joint working teams to participate in the project. **Innovation Centre** According to the agreement, the Industrial Innovation Centre will explore the best practices in producing sarooj, with emphasis on global experiences, besides establishing a national strategic framework for the production of the Omani building material. -ONA



FACT SIGNED: The agreement was signed by Eng. Ibrahim Said al-Kharousi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mahrooqi, CEO of the IIC. -ONA

ECONOMY



<FROM A1> Travel, tourism industry upbeat

Memon was also hopeful that business would pick up over the next couple of months. “It’s not just Oman... globally the entire travel and tourism sector has been hit,” he reveals. “I think the arrival of the vaccine will really help things along, but it will definitely still take time before the confidence to travel returns.” Adding this, Faiyaz Khan, the general manager of Travel Point, a travel agency in Oman, says the reduction of the mandatory quarantine period would automatically bring more tourists to the country. “This is of course a very understandable safety precaution that many countries have taken around the world,” he says. “For that to happen, the number of cases around the world will need to fall, and then the quarantine period could be reduced to may-

be two days. Most people come to Oman for seven to 10 days anyway, so to quarantine for one week and then spend another seeing the country is not something they want to do right now.” **‘Lot of enquiries’** “We have received a lot of enquiries, though, for February and March, and we had many in January as well, but the border closure has once again affected travel,” Khan went on to say. “When tourism to Oman does increase, the decision of the government to allow people from 103 countries to come here without pre-booking a visa will really help.” Michael Kuhn adds, “If you look at other countries that have benefited from this, they have done so because it makes it easy for people from overseas to visit them.”

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“Give me a good sharp knife and a good sharp cheese and I’m a happy man.” George R.R. Martin’s words explain why January 20 is celebrated as Cheese Lovers’ Day.

Do you know how this decadent delight was created? If you are thinking a whole lot of effort was made for its invention, you are highly mistaken. Cheese was created over 4,000 years ago by accident and it wouldn’t have been discovered if it weren’t for a mistake. It so happened that milk was accidentally stored in a container lined with an animal’s stomach. An enzyme from the stomach caused the milk to separate into liquid and solids and that’s how cheese was discovered. And since then, it contin-

ues to be one of our favourite food. Earlier cheese was stored in caves for age and flavour. The cool and humid climate is conducive for cheese to age properly. While in Europe cheesemakers used natural caves, in America these caves were man-made where one could regulate the temperatures and humidity levels to the exact specifications.

When it comes to cheese several world records have been made world wide. On September 2, 2016, Philippe Marchand of France, set the world record for having the largest display of cheese varieties. Philippe had 730 different types of cheese on display in a really long refrigerated tent.

There were a total of 2,140 cheeses on display. Troy Landwehr’s giant cheese carving received its Guinness World Record for largest cheese sculpture. It weighed 691.27 kilograms. And that’s not all. The largest cheesecake was made by Philadelphia Cream Cheese that weighed 3,129.787 kilograms. The giant cheesecake was wider than a king-sized mattress.

Cheese Lovers’ Day is the perfect time for cheese connoisseurs to celebrate their favourite cheese, taste the new ones, or even try learning to make one’s own. You can also try making your favourite cheese-based recipes. As long as it involves cheese your celebration is on.



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ROYAL COURT AFFAIRS ORGANISES CAMEL BEAUTY COMPETITION

The activities of the Camel Beauty Contest (Mazaynah) at the Sultanate's level was held on Tuesday, at the camel race track of the Royal Camel Corps at Al Felaij in the Wilayat of Barka. The contest was held as part of the Annual Camel Racing Festival for the 18th Season 2020/2021 , organised by the Royal Court Affairs, represented by the Royal Camel Corps. The contest comprised five rounds. — **ONA**





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Private sector asked to use e-services for salary transfers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has called on private sector establishments to use electronic banking services to transfer salaries and payments starting from February 28, 2021 and stop using traditional means, based on the notice issued by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

CBO circular

A statement issued by Ministry of Labour said, "Based on the notice issued by the Central Bank of Oman on 12th January 2021, to oblige all banks operating in the Sultanate to provide an easy and smooth mechanism for transferring salaries and payments through electronic banking services and to stop using traditional ways as of February 28, 2021."

Ministry of Labour

Accordingly, the Ministry of Labour notes to all private sector establishments the necessity of



adhering to the circular of the Central Bank of Oman, through each establishment reviewing the bank in which its main account is located, in order to find out the new mechanism used to transfer salaries.

"The Ministry affirms the necessity of cooperating with banks and adhering to the date set for the implementation of this initiative at the national level for the public interest," the statement further added.



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WORLD



WHO chief blasts rich countries for hoarding vaccines

The WHO chief blasted vaccine manufacturers for chasing regulatory approvals “where the profits are highest”

GENEVA: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director general of the World Health Organization (WHO), has warned that the inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines between rich and poor countries will prolong the pandemic.

He slammed wealthier countries for buying up and hoarding all the available vaccines.

“More than 39 million doses of vaccine have now been administered in at least 49 higher-income countries. Just 25 doses have been given in one lowest-in-



come country. Not 25 million; not 25,000; just 25,” Tedros said at the opening of a week-long meeting of the WHO Executive Board on Monday.

The WHO chief blasted vaccine manufacturers for chasing regulatory approvals “where the profits are highest,” rather than seeking global approval with the WHO.

“I need to be blunt: the world is

on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure — and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world’s poorest countries,” he added.

Last week, the global death toll from COVID-19 surpassed 2 million, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University. The milestone came even as vaccines are being rolled out around the

world in an all-out campaign to stop the pandemic.

A ‘self-defeating’ approach

Tedros hailed the COVID vaccine development in less than a year since the start of the pandemic a “stunning scientific achievement.” However, he warned that hopes of quickly ending the pandemic were fading.

The WHO chief dubbed the “me-first approach” self-defeating, saying the richer countries would themselves remain at risk if they ignored the needs of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people. These actions, he said, would ultimately prolong the pandemic and increase suffering.

Tedros said plans to start vaccine deliveries in February to many of the world’s poorer countries were now at risk.

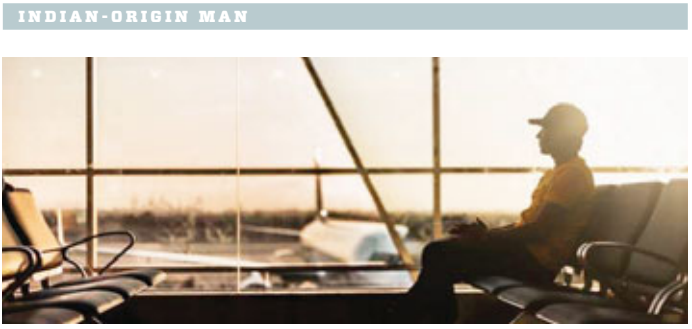
A global initiative, COVAX, was formed at the start of the pandemic aiming to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for every country. The organization has managed to secure 2 billion doses from five producers, with options to receive more than a billion more doses. **aw**



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Too scared to fly to India due to COVID, man lives at airport for three months

CHICAGO: A man of Indian origin was found living inside Chicago O’Hare international airport for three months, after missing his flight on purpose, because he was too scared of the coronavirus to fly home.

According to reports in the United States, 36-year-old Aditya Singh arrived in Chicago on a flight from Los Angeles on 19 October last year, and had been living in the airport’s security zone ever since, managing to avoid detection.

He was finally arrested last Saturday after airport staff asked him to show them his identification, to which he responded by pulling out a badge that had originally belonged to an airport worker, who’d reported it missing. Ac-

cording to the Chicago Tribune, they then called the cops, who took him into custody at 11am on Saturday. The case was presented before Cook County Judge Ana Ortiz, who was left incredulous by the story.

Singh’s defendant Kathleen Hagerly said he was living off the food given to him by other passengers. He does not have a criminal background, and lives with roommates in the town of Orange in California, with roommates. He has a master’s degree in hospitality and is currently unemployed.

As part of the conditions for his release, Singh is required to pay \$1,000 in bail money, and promise to never set foot in O’Hare again.

Joe Biden to be sworn in as new US President

NEW DELHI: With a promise to ‘heal’ America, which in recent months witnessed a chaotic election and messy transition of power, Joseph R Biden will take the oath to become the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday.

Biden, who is known around the world for his stint as the vice president during the Obama ad-

ministration, will be the oldest person ever sworn in as president of the country. He turned 78 in November. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will be sworn in at the West Front of the US capitol during the 59th Presidential Inauguration ceremony.

Biden’s inauguration is taking

place under the shadow of the unprecedented health crisis and protests in the US.

The security in the capital has been beefed up amid a high level of security concerns following the January 6 Capitol riots.

In his victory speech in his hometown, Wilmington, Delaware in November, Biden pledged to

unite the country as he called it ‘a time to heal in America’.

“I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify; who doesn’t see red states and blue states, only sees the United States,” Biden said. Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1942 and moved to Delaware as a child. **ANI**





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WORLD



Trump lifts travel ban on UK, Ireland, Brazil despite surge in COVID-19 cases

In an executive order issued by Trump, the travel restrictions will only be lifted from European countries in the Schengen Zone

WASHINGTON: Despite the fact that the US on Monday (local time) surpassed 24 million COVID-19 cases, President Donald Trump has issued an executive order lifting the travel restrictions, which were placed due to the pandemic, on much of Europe and Brazil with effect from January 26, a week after he leaves office.

In an executive order issued by Trump, the travel restrictions will only be lifted from European countries in the Schengen Zone consisting of 26 countries, the UK, Ireland and Brazil as they are “no longer detrimental to the interests of the United States”. “I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the



NUMBER OF CASES: Johns Hopkins University reported that the US has surpassed 24 million coronavirus cases and reported 398,806 deaths on Monday.

United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a), hereby find that the unrestricted entry into the United States of persons who have been physically present in the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom (excluding overseas territories outside of Europe), the Republic of Ireland, and the Federative Republic of Brazil is no longer detrimental to the interests of the United States and find that it is in the interest of

the United States to terminate the suspension of entry into the United States of persons who have been physically present in those jurisdictions,” Trump said.

Johns Hopkins University reported that the US has surpassed 24 million coronavirus cases and reported 398,806 deaths on Monday. While the order will come into effect from 12:01 am (local time) on January 26, President-elect Joe Biden’s incoming press secretary Jen Psaki has said that “this is not the time to be lifting restrictions

on international travel”.

Taking to Twitter, Psaki said, “With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel.”

“On the advice of our medical team, the Administration does not intend to lift these restrictions on 1/26. In fact, we plan to strengthen public health measures around international travel in order to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19,” she added. **ANI**

VACCINE CAMPAIGN



Brazil launches mass coronavirus vaccination drive

BRASILIA: Brazil launched its mass vaccination campaign against the novel coronavirus disease simultaneously in each state starting 5:00 p.m. Monday local time, Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello said.

The initial plan was to begin nationwide vaccination on Wednesday, but the date was moved up in response to the request of state governors, said Pazuello.

“The governors asked that as soon as (the vaccines) arrive in the states, they have the freedom to begin vaccination,” Pazuello said. As of Monday afternoon, all states were expected to have received their doses of the CoronaVac vaccine developed by Chinese laboratory Sinovac in collaboration with the Butantan Institute of Sao Paulo.

Brazil was distributing around 6 million doses, with over 4.6 million distributed by the federal government and 1.3 million by the local government of Sao Paulo.

Brazil’s Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) on Sunday authorized the emergency use of the CoronaVac vaccine, as well as the AstraZeneca-University of Oxford vaccine against COVID-19.

Immediately following Anvisa’s authorization, the government of Sao Paulo, the epicenter of Brazil’s COVID-19 outbreak, applied the first CoronaVac vaccine. **xinhua**

DENIED LAWYER

Navalny decries ‘mockery of justice’ at rushed hearing

MOSCOW: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was rushed to a makeshift courtroom on Monday, just a day after his arrest at a Moscow airport. The court session was set up at the police station in Khimki, on the outskirts of the Russian capital.

Navalny’s aide accused authorities of denying him access to his lawyers, saying he was notified at the last minute of the makeshift hearing.

The judge handed Navalny a sentence of 30 days in prison.

“I’ve seen a lot of mockery of justice... but they have ripped up and thrown away” Russia’s criminal code, Navalny said in a video of the proceedings that was released by his team.

“This is impossible. It’s ultimate lawlessness,” the 44-year-old added.

Navalny called on Russians to join him in protesting the government, in a video posted on YouTube from the police station.

“Do not be silent. Resist. Take to the streets,” he said. “Don’t go out for me, go out for yourself and your future,” the anti-corruption activist added.

Some 200 hundred Navalny supporters gathered outside the police station to demand his release, Reuters reported.

DW’s Moscow correspondent Emily Sherwin said it was noteworthy that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had initially said he



JAILED FOR 30 DAYS: Navalny’s aide accused authorities of denying him access to his lawyers, saying he was notified at the last minute of the makeshift hearing.

was unaware of the circumstances of the arrest.

“That’s of course in keeping with the Kremlin’s general policy to downplay the importance of Alexei Navalny here in Russia and on the international stage,” said Sherwin. “In fact, Vladimir Putin has never actually referred to Alexei Navalny using his name. He always refers to him as ‘the blogger,’ and also more recently as ‘the Berlin patient.’”

However, according to Vladimir

Ashurkov, executive director of the Anti-Corruption Foundation and a friend of Navalny, the Kremlin feels threatened by the opposition leader’s versatility.

“He can play on different chessboards, he can organize mass protests, he can build an effective organization,” Ashurkov told DW. “He has gained his fame in investigations of corruption in large state-owned companies and among government officials. So he

is quite versatile and he has proven that his resolve is really unrivaled.”

Merkel: Navalny’s case ‘weighs’ on relations

Navalny was arrested on Sunday, as he was returning home from a months-long stay in Berlin. He was flown to Germany for treatment at the city’s Charite Hospital, suffering from what the German government determined to be poisoning with a Novichok nerve agent.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday decried Navalny’s “arbitrary” arrest.

“The chancellor condemns the arbitrary arrest of Mr. Navalny... which violates the principles of the rule of law,” Merkel’s spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters, saying Germany called on Russia “to release Mr. Navalny immediately.”

Seibert said Russia had arrested the “victim” of “attempted murder with chemical weapons” and “not the perpetrator.”

Merkel had “repeatedly” noted that Russia’s treatment of Navalny “weighed on” relations between Berlin and Moscow, Seibert added.

Charged with fraud

Russian authorities have said Navalny was detained for violating the terms of a suspended sentence he was given in 2014 on fraud charges. Critics view the proceedings as a pretense designed to prevent him from running for office in future elections. Monday’s hearing’s nominal goal was to decide whether he had violated the terms of that suspended sentence.

The leading opposition figure also faces the threat of fresh charges, as part of an investigation launched last year, that he misappropriated political donations.

Nevertheless, Navalny insisted on returning to Russia after receiving medical treatment for his poi-

soning in Germany. Russia is set to hold elections later this year.

International outcry

His detention has been widely condemned internationally, with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas calling it “totally incomprehensible” and Britain’s Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, saying it was “appalling.”

Jake Sullivan, US President-elect Joe Biden’s national security adviser, has criticized Moscow for arresting Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, calling the Russian politician’s arrest “not just a violation of human rights, but an affront to the Russian people who want their voices heard.”

“Mr. Navalny should be immediately released, and the perpetrators of the outrageous attack on his life must be held accountable,” Jake Sullivan wrote on Twitter.

Baltic states responded even more sternly. Lithuania’s Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis called for EU sanctions against Moscow.

“The detention of the opposition leader and poisoning survivor Alexei Navalny is totally unacceptable. The EU should discuss further sanctions on those involved,” Landsbergis told a news agency.

European Union members Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia also called for the “imposition of restrictive measures” against Russia. **dw**

GIFT FROM INDIA

India to gift 2mn doses of vaccine to Bangladesh

DHAKA: Bangladesh will receive 2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine ‘Covishield’ as a gift from India on January 20.

Citing the letter by the Indian High Commission written to the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka Tribune reported that a special flight from India carrying the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines, locally manufactured by Serum Institute of India, would land at Shahjalal International Airport on January 20. The Health Services Division under the Ministry has issued a letter to the drug regulator the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) to take appropriate steps to administer the vaccine. The vaccines will be received and stored at DGHS’ facilities, such as the Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI), Dhaka Tribune further said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister

Zahid Maleque said that additional storage for the COVID-19 vaccines will be provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

On January 8, Bangladesh had approved the procurement of 30 million doses of Covishield COVID-19 vaccine from India.

Bangladesh drug regulator Directorate General of DGDA had authorised Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited to import and distribute the COVID-19 vaccine from India. In the initial six months of the first phase, Beximco will procure five million vaccine doses per month, reported Dhaka Tribune.

An agreement was signed in November between the Bangladesh government and Serum Institute of India through which Beximco Pharma will avail 30 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. **ANI**

EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH

Indonesian President Joko Widodo (second from left) walks near damaged buildings after a 6.2-magnitude earthquake in Mamuju, West Sulawesi province, Indonesia, January 19, 2021. Presidential Press Bureau/Handout via Xinhua



Team India breaches Australian fortress, wins Brisbane Test

The last time a visiting team came out triumphant from the Brisbane Cricket Ground was back in November 1988

BRISBANE: The fortress has been breached. It took 32 years and two months, but the unthinkable has been achieved as an injury-ravaged young Indian team beat Australia by three wickets against all odds in the final Test of the series at The Gabba on Tuesday to take the series 2-1.

Rishabh ‘nerves of steel’ Pant will be forgiven for all the mistakes he has made through the series with wicket-keeping gloves in hand as each of the 89 runs that he scored in the final hour on Tuesday was worth its weight in gold. It was only poetic justice that he hit a boundary to win India a thriller.

The last time a visiting team came out triumphant from the Brisbane Cricket Ground was back in November 1988 when the mighty West Indian outfit under the leadership of Viv Richards thrashed Allan Border’s team by 9 wickets. What makes the feat even more commendable is how the Indians fought multiple injuries and mental fatigue - due to the bio-bubble restrictions -- to register a historic win.

Having already lost Ravindra Jadeja and Hanuma Vihari going into the final Test, Jasprit Bumrah and R Ashwin too couldn’t get match-fit and that saw India field a bowling attack that was led by a two-Test old Mohammed Siraj. But the lion-hearted pacer rose through the ashes like a phoenix



HISTORIC WIN: Indian squad celebrates with the National Flag after winning the 4th Test Match and the series with Australia at The Gabba on Tuesday.

to show he belongs at the highest level. Coming back to the final day’s action, needing 69 to win going into the last hour, any other team might have thought of ensuring a draw first.

But not this Indian team which is filled with youngsters who believe in backing themselves till the fat lady sings. With swashbuckling Rishabh Pant at the crease, Australia skipper Tim Paine had no option but to keep the field open with men at the boundary. The wicket-keeper did take a few chances, but luck was smiling bright and sunny on him and he made hay.

And when Washington Sundar hit Pat Cummins for a six and a four off the last two balls of the 93rd over, it was down to 39 needed off the last seven balls. From there on, it was a game tailor-made for T20 star Pant. He went for twin boundaries in the very next over off Nathan Lyon and from there on, it was about just not committing hara-kiri.

But it all started with a 21-year-old Shubman Gill and a

gritty Cheteshwar Pujara standing ground and stitching a slow yet steady 114-run partnership off 240 balls after Rohit Sharma was dismissed for 7 in the seventh over of the final morning. The wicket of the experienced campaigner was just the impetus the Australian bowlers needed to begin the day. But the duo of Gill and Pujara had other ideas.

Pujara was more than happy to take blows on his hand, head and body, but refused to budge. Gill on the other hand kept picking the gaps off the bad balls and showed class and elegance as he moved towards a well-deserved fifty before lunch. With 245 runs still needed, Gill and Pujara started off from just where they had left before lunch to keep the scoreboard ticking.

But just when it looked like Gill would score his maiden century, Lyon sent him back for 91. The walk back to the pavilion was definitely the longest he has ever had to walk. But with Pujara in the middle, the prayers were on. Skip-

per Ajinkya Rahane (24 off 22 balls) flattered to deceive and India went to the tea break needing 145 in the last session and Pant in the middle with Pujara.

Having taken multiple blows, Pujara was finally dismissed after scoring his slowest-ever fifty (off 196 balls) when Cummins returned with the second new ball. Mayank Agarwal (9) once again failed to hold his nerves, but Washington Sundar was there to not just play second fiddle to Pant, but also ensure he gave the wicket-keeper company till the team needed 10 more to win.

Lyon finally sent Sundar back for a 29-ball 22 as he missed an attempted reverse sweep, but the Indians still had first-innings hero Shardul Thakur waiting to see it off. But Hazlewood sent him back for 2 with India still needing three more runs. But it was too late in the day. Brief Scores: Australia 369 and 294 (Steven Smith 55; Mohammed Siraj 5/73); India 336 and 329/7 (Shubman Gill 91; Rishabh Pant 89*; Pat Cummins 4/55). **ANI**

WORLD CHAMPION



India claim top spot in World Test Championship table after historic win

BRISBANE: India overcame unimaginable odds to defeat Australia in the fourth Test and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. With this classic victory, the Ajinkya Rahane-led team has moved to the top of the ICC World Test Championship standings.

India now has 430 points while New Zealand, holding the second spot, has 420 points on the table. Sitting in the third position, Australia has 332 points. “India on top. After the hard-fought win at The Gabba, India move to the No.1 spot in ICC World Test Championship standings. Australia slip to No.3,” ICC tweeted.

Apart from this, India also topped Australia in the ICC Test Team Rankings to claim the second spot. New Zealand sits atop the table with 118.44 points, India now has 117.65 points, overtaking Australia on 113 points.

“India displace Australia to become the new No.2 in the @MRF-Worldwide ICC Test Team Rankings,” ICC tweeted.

It took 32 years and two months, but the unthinkable was achieved on Tuesday as an injury-ravaged young Indian team defeated Australia by three wickets against all odds in the final Test to take the series 2-1.

Rishabh ‘nerves of steel’ Pant will be forgiven for all the mistakes he made through the series with wicket-keeping gloves in hand as each of the 89 runs that he scored in the final hour on Tues-

day was worth its weight in gold. It was only poetic justice that he hit a boundary to win India a thriller.

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Coming back to the final day’s action, needing 69 to win going into the last hour, any other team might have thought of ensuring a draw first. But not this Indian team which is filled with youngsters who believe in backing themselves till the fat lady sings. With swashbuckling Rishabh Pant at the crease, Australia skipper Tim Paine had no option but to keep the field open with men at the boundary. The wicket-keeper did take a few chances, but luck was smiling bright and sunny on him and he made hay. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

FIFA rejects Atletico Madrid’s appeal against Trippier’s ten-week betting ban

ZURICH: FIFA on Monday officially rejected Atletico Madrid’s appeal against England defender Kieran Trippier’s 10-week betting ban.

“The FIFA Appeal Committee has dismissed the appeal lodged by the club Atletico Madrid in a case concerning the player Kieran Trippier. As a consequence, the decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee passed on December 23, 2020, is confirmed, extending sanctions imposed on the player by the English FA to have worldwide effect,” the football’s governing body said in a statement. Earlier in the month, Trippier’s ban was put on hold by FIFA following



an appeal from Atletico Madrid.

The defender’s offences took place in July 2019, while he was still on the books of Tottenham Hotspur, but Atletico attempted to get the decision overturned by taking an appeal to FIFA.

On December 23, Atletico defender was suspended for ten weeks by the FA for breaching

anti-betting rules. Along with this suspension, he has also been handed a 70,000 euros fine following misconduct in relation to breaches of The FA’s Betting Rules. Atletico will be without Trippier for a large portion of the 2020-21 campaign, with the 30-year-old set to miss eight games in total across all competitions.

He will not be available for La Liga fixtures against Eibar, Valencia, Cadiz, Celta Vigo, Granada, Levante and Villarreal, while he will also have to watch on from the sidelines when Los Rojiblancos take on Chelsea in the first leg of their Champions League round of 16 tie on February 23. **-ANI**

ALL PRAISE

Hudson-Odoi playing at a really high level: Lampard hails youth

LONDON: Chelsea manager Frank Lampard is all praise for Callum Hudson-Odoi saying that the youngster is playing at a really high level and is improving continuously.

The 20-year-old came off the bench to help break the deadlock at Craven Cottage on Saturday evening as Chelsea secured a 1-0 win. Mason Mount had netted the only goal in the match.

“He’s definitely playing well and improving, making assists and scoring goals. He’s playing at a really high level in terms of where we saw him last year recovering from an injury,” the club’s official website quoted Lampard as saying.

“His confidence to go one-v-one and beat his man, which Callum



has to be about, wasn’t quite there and we have to understand that because he’s young and he’d come off the back of a really bad injury,” he added. Also, Hudson-Odoi scored a stunning goal during Chelsea’s 4-0 FA Cup victory over Morecambe on January 10.

Impressed with the player’s re-

cent performances, Lampard said: “Now we’re seeing that come back, we’re seeing him behind the line, like when he scored against Morecambe where he breaks the line and scores a goal. He’s doing that much more regularly now, which are things that I ask from him, so the progression is there.” **ANI**

EXHIBITION GAME

OC Chairman’s XI beat Dromedary team to retain Camel Trophy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket Chairman’s XI retained the Camel Trophy by beating Dromedary Club, a team of British expats in Oman, by 16 runs in a nail-biting finish to the annual exhibition game at Oman Cricket Academy’s floodlit Turf 1 in Amerat on Monday.

The two teams play the match once in a year to uphold the sportsman’s spirit the gentleman’s game so espouses across the world.

OC Chairman’s XI, led by Janab Sayyid Qais Khalid Al Said, in the absence of team captain Pankaj Khimji, posted an imposing 216 for 4 on the board in 25 overs with the help of major contributions from Mendis (33 off 25), Qais (31 off 13), Hemal Mehta (28 off 17), Wilson Burboz (20 not out off 9)



IOC Chairman's XI and Dromedary cricket team at OCA ground

and Mazhar Qayyum (20 off 25). Craig and Williams claimed two wickets each.

The carpet-like picturesque ground that enjoys Test status from ICC was lit up by lovely strokes from former Sri Lankan

great Duleep Mendis who top-scored before retiring in line with the match rules that require a batsman to close his innings after he has faced 25 balls or scored 30 runs, whichever comes first.

Despite his age, the 68 years old

Mendis reproduced his customary cuts and flicks and lovely drives that made him one of the most elegant batsmen of his time.

“Although I was playing after a gap of ten years it felt good to be in the middle holding a bat. It was a

pleasure to play for the OC Chairman’s XI for the first time and I look forward to our next outing,” said Mendis.

Determined to alter the course of history and take the Camel Trophy home for the first time since its inception in 2018, Dromedary made a whirlwind start to its innings, racing to first hundred for two inside the first 10 overs before its opponent started to make amends.

OC Chairman’s XI fought back in great style with a flurry of wickets to slow down the run rate for a close finish. Requiring 22 to win the final over, Dromedary could manage only six before getting dismissed for 200 in 24.4 overs. Luke topscored with 49, batting twice, while captain James Lansdell hit up 36. David was the third main

scorer with 21.

Mazhar Qayyum was the pick of OC bowlers, taking 2 for 16. Alkesh Joshi picked up 2 for 29 while Wilson took 2 for 37 with Qais claiming 1 for 25.

The teams were served a scrumptious dinner with the courtesy of Khimji Ramdas, which has been a regular sponsor of the annual event. Dromedary captain thanked Oman Cricket for its hospitality and wonderful facilities at OCA.

“It was great game of cricket made more special by the spirit in which it was played. We wish to thank the ground staff too for providing an excellent track to play on as more than 400 runs were scored in 50 overs which is fantastic work,” added the British team’s captain.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2020 reaching \$55.06, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman rose by 86 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$54.20. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,679.68 points, up 0.99 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 1.04 per cent at 529.46 points. Dhofar Cattle, up 7.79 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman National Engineer, down 4.95 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR57mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from today until February 17



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance.

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR57 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period 28 days, starting from January 20, 2021, Wednesday until February 17, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the aver-

age yield reached 0.65179 per cent and 0.65211 per cent, respectively. It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the dis-

count rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 1 per cent.

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

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

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

APPOINTMENT

Alizz Islamic Bank appoints new Sharia Supervisory Board

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently announced the appointment of a new Sharia Supervisory Board. Sheikh Dr Essam Khalaf Al Anzi was appointed Chairman of the Sharia Supervisory Board. Sheikh Dr Ahmed Subhi Ahmed Ayadi and Sheikh Nasser bin Yousef Al Azri were appointed as members.

The Sharia supervisory board of Alizz Islamic Bank reviews all Islamic banking agreements, documents, products and services launched by the bank. The board includes members who are knowledgeable about Sharia law and transaction jurisprudence in particular. They work in accordance with the Central Bank of Oman and with the higher Sharia Supervisory Authority to provide the bank customers with peace of mind by offering products and services that are approved by fatwas and resolutions. The Sharia Supervisory Board also helps reassure shareholders and depositors whose trust is undoubtedly one of the most important factors for the bank's success. It is also through the contribution of their knowledge and experience play a key role in the success of Islamic banking in the Sultanate.

Regarding the appointment of the new Sharia body, Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, stated, "The appointment of the new Sharia Supervisory Board is in line with the vision of the bank's Board of Directors to conduct a comprehensive review of the business model of Alizz Islamic Bank to improve the banking services provided to the bank's valued customers.

"The Sharia Supervisory Board is one of the important pillars of the bank, as the decisions and judgments that are taken form a major role in all the commercial operations that the bank undertakes, and we are proud that the new body that has been appointed includes a group of



prominent scholars who have extensive legal, economics, banking and financing knowledge; in addition to their specialisation in Islamic Sharia Studies.

Al Harthi added, "The regulatory frameworks issued by the Central Bank of Oman related to the governance of Islamic banks have stipulated controls for nominating, selecting and appointing members of Sharia supervisory bodies and on the work entrusted to them to ensure continuous compliance with the principles of Islamic Sharia, including products, services, processes and daily transactions alongside the guidelines issued by the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB).

"Alizz Islamic Bank remains at the forefront of digital adoption utilising the latest technologies and methodologies to ensure that all products and services comply with international standards and with Islamic Sharia. The Sharia Supervisory Board, through its contribution of knowledge and extensive experience, has played a major role in supporting the success of Islamic banking in Oman."

PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PROJECT

25-megawatt solar plant launched in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Shell launched the 25-megawatt Qabas solar plant, helping the port and free zone in Sohar to become more sustainable and demonstrating the commercial benefits of solar power for industrial purposes. Owned by Shell, Sohar Solar Qabas is the company's first utility-scale, photovoltaic (PV) solar project in the Middle East and Oman.



SOLAR MODULES: The plant is located on a 50-hectare site within Sohar Freezone, northern Oman, and consists of over 88,000 solar modules. - **Supplied picture**

Renewable electricity output

The plant is located on a 50-hectare site within Sohar Freezone, northern Oman, and consists of over 88,000 solar modules. The renewable electricity output from Qabas is supplied to a large ferrochrome production facility, displacing the equivalent gas-fired power generation taken from the grid and avoiding more than 25,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

The project was completed to budget and on time while meeting

Oman Shell's stringent Goal Zero safety standards. It was accomplished despite unprecedented challenges created by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Walid Hadi, Oman Shell's VP & Country Chairman commented: "This is an incredible project and the first of its kind for Shell in the Middle East and Oman while be-

ing in line with our ambition to become a net-zero emission energy business by 2050 or sooner. I thank the Omani government, particularly the Sohar Port and Freezone, for their collaboration and support on a project with potential for long-lasting economic value for the Sultanate."

Milestone

Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, Chairman of The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) commented, "I would like to congratulate Oman Shell and Sohar Free Zone for inaugurating this solar project in Sohar. The facility is an important milestone and it aligns with Oman Vision 2040, the Sultanate's national economic ambition. It is the first step for the Public Authority of Special Economic Zones and Free Zones' plan for solar projects equating to 1 gigawatt in Sohar. This will help free up natural gas for other industrial use."

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Ominvest's net profit rises by 5% to OMR33.7 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest), one of the oldest and the largest investment company in the Sultanate, announced its initial unaudited financial results for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The financial results are subject to statutory audit, review by the Audit and Control Committee, and approval of the Board of Directors of Ominvest. At the group level, net profit attributable to the shareholders of Ominvest rose by 5 per cent to OMR33.7 million, whereas net profit at the parent company level rose by 6 per cent to OMR38.1 million, compared to the previous year.

Abdulaziz Al Balushi, Group CEO of Ominvest, attributed the company's resilient performance to its major subsidiaries and associate companies and certain strategic transactions completed during an otherwise extremely challenging year. He added that Ominvest's portfolio companies nimble adjusted to new operating routines necessitated by the onset of COVID-19 and continued to serve their customers efficiently. Al Balushi stated that Ominvest ended the year with a strong financial position. Particularly, the company built a substantially large liquidity cushion enabling it to withstand difficult economic conditions and take advantage of emerging investment opportunities.

Although Ominvest has had the capacity to avail more long-term debt facilities at attractive terms, the company maintained a conservative debt profile with its net Debt/Equity ratio still well below 1.0x. The company intends to prudently deploy its excess li-



UNAUDITED RESULTS: The financial results are subject to statutory audit, review by the Audit and Control Committee, and approval of the Board of Directors of Ominvest. - **Supplied picture**

quidity and unused debt capacity to undertake new investments to achieve its future growth and diversification objectives.

During the year, Ominvest's banking subsidiary Oman Arab Bank (OAB) successfully merged with Alizz Islamic Bank (Alizz); completed its listing on the Muscat Securities Market and became SAOG. Importantly, Alizz was seamlessly integrated into OAB as its Islamic Banking subsidiary, offering a wider array of products and services to its clients and realizing mutual synergies across the platforms. Preceding the merger transaction, Ominvest also sold an 11.76 per cent stake in OAB to Arab Bank plc, resulting in Ominvest's shareholding in OAB declining from 51 per cent (before the merger) to 31.64 per cent in the combined entity (after the merger). After the sale of the stake, OAB's classification in Ominvest's financials was changed from a Subsidiary to an Associate with effect from 30 June 2020. Therefore, in line with IFRS requirements, from the date of the

reclassification to an associate, Ominvest stopped consolidating OAB's financials and implemented the Equity Method of Accounting. In addition, sale of its partial equity stake in OAB will result in a lower share of income with effect from the date of reclassification.

In another major transaction during the year, our subsidiary Jabreen Capital sold 6.74 per cent of the Treasury Shares at attractive terms. In addition, International General Insurance (IGI), a portfolio company of Jabreen Capital, successfully listed on Nasdaq, resulting in partial liquidation of our stake, and generating decent cash proceeds. These transactions further boosted Ominvest's cash position and the overall strength of its balance sheet.

Al Balushi highlighted that being cognizant of such macro challenges, Ominvest is prudently managing its assets and liabilities, aiming to further diversify and grow to maximise shareholder value while keeping potential risks well anchored.



وزارة التجارة والصناعة ودفع الاستثمار

Tender 3/2021

The Internal Tenders Committee at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion announces the following tenders:

Tender No	Title of the Tenders	Tender document price R.O (un refundable)	Company rate	Deadline for Tender Document collection	Deadline For Offers Submission
3/2021	Supply Laptops to MOCIIP	R.O-25/	Specialized	Tuesday 26/1/2021	Thursday 4/2/2021 10:00 am

Companies Specialized in such fields and the **Omani Local Companies** that have valid registration certificate from the Tender Board and a valid tax card issued by tax Authority can participate and obtain requirement for proposals and tender terms from the following website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

- Offers should be submitted online to the above mentioned website. enclosed with a copy of Bank Guarantee or certified cheque issued by a local bank in the Sultanate of Oman values (1%)of the offer, valid for (90) days from the date of offer submission and addressed to H.E the Undersecretary of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee.
- Offers shall be submitted in a wax-sealed envelopes accompanied by the original Bank Guarantee or the cheque to the Secretariat of the Internal Tender Committee located in second floor of the Ministry's main building in Muttrah AlKubraa.
- The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other submitted offer.

Note: Priority shall be given to companies and institutions whose bid has the highest Omanisation rate.

Correspondences:

- Tender inquiries; All correspondence pertaining to TENDER Inquiries shall be online through E-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System inquiries: All correspondences pertaining to the technical support of E-Tendering System shall be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number. Tel. :+968 24166670 E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

 moci.gov.om
 [@moclip_om](https://twitter.com/moclip_om)
 [@moclip.om](https://www.instagram.com/moclip.om)
 [mcioman](https://www.facebook.com/mcioman)

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Dhofar Cattle, up 7.79 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman National Engineering, down 4.95 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,679.68 points, up 0.99 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 1.04 per cent at 529.46 points.

Dhofar Cattle, up 7.79 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman National Engineering, down 4.95 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded and Ooredoo was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 872 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.91 million, with more than 14.56 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded stocks, 10 advanced, 20 declined and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, local Investors were net sellers for OMR831,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for

OMR727,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR103,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,612.882 points, up by 0.33 per cent. The Oman Emirates Holding, Al Anwar Holding, United Finance, Bank Nizwa and Sharqia Investment were up by 4.76 per cent, 4.69 per cent, 4.55 per cent, 2.11 per cent and 1.41 per cent respectively. Vision Insurance, Muscat Finance and HSBC Oman were down by 3.41 per cent, 2.27 per cent and 1.12 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,545.23 points, up 1.83 per cent. Services index was up by 0.88 per cent before closing at 1,618.92 points. Ooredoo, National Gas, Al Jazeera Service, OIFC and Renaissance Service were up by 5.7 per cent, 2.84 per cent, 2.34 per cent, 1.1 per cent and 0.59 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,682.22	3,643.52	3,679.68	3,643.52	36.16	0.99
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,621.39	5,588.48	5,612.88	5,594.23	18.66	0.33
Services Index	1,619.25	1,604.81	1,618.93	1,604.81	14.12	0.88
Industry Index	4,545.23	4,473.13	4,545.23	4,463.56	81.67	1.83
MSM Shariah Index	529.67	525.10	529.46	524.03	5.43	1.04
MSM TR INDEX	4,202.24	4,158.08	4,199.35	4,158.08	41.27	0.99

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
14,563,287	2,919,669	872	20,280,750,134	22	7	14	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

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
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REGULAR MARKET

OM000000176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	2,331,070	509,044	121	0.210	0.222	0.210	0.218	0.203	0.015	7.389	0.222	0.215	0.222	0.100	27,227,755
OM000000398	OOREDOO	2,352,666	961,732	85	0.384	0.420	0.384	0.408	0.386	0.022	5.899	0.410	0.402	0.410	0.100	265,585,246
OM000000172	AL ANWAR HOLDING	1,007,764	68,388	51	0.068	0.069	0.067	0.067	0.064	0.003	4.888	0.067	0.067	0.068	0.100	13,400,000
OM000000174	OMAN CEMENT	71,487	18,713	13	0.258	0.264	0.258	0.261	0.251	0.010	3.894	0.264	0.265	0.275	0.100	86,357,777
OM000000116	NATIONAL GAS	41,000	5,957	4	0.147	0.147	0.143	0.145	0.141	0.004	2.837	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.100	12,325,000
OM000000148	RAISUT CEMENT	128,768	39,962	26	0.316	0.318	0.310	0.310	0.304	0.006	1.974	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.100	62,000,000
OM000000440	AL SHARQIA INV	827,169	45,176	25	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	6,480,000
OM000000152	OMAN INVST&FIN	888,860	81,775	25	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.001	1.099	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	18,400,000
OM000000324	RENAISSANCE SER	1,129,262	385,034	125	0.338	0.350	0.338	0.340	0.338	0.002	0.592	0.346	0.346	0.350	0.100	80,379,400
OM000000302	OMAN TELECOM	92,461	67,633	15	0.724	0.732	0.724	0.728	0.724	0.004	0.552	0.732	0.728	0.728	0.100	546,000,000
OM000000505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	194,219	48,943	22	0.252	0.253	0.250	0.251	0.250	0.001	0.400	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.100	13,805,000
OM000000108	OMAN UNITED INSUR	36,945	15,147	5	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.380	0.410	0.100	41,000,000
OM000000796	BANK MUSCAT	273,106	110,410	29	0.400	0.406	0.400	0.404	0.404	0.000	0.406	0.400	0.400	0.406	0.100	1,312,807,106
OM000000150	MUSCAT FINANCE	70,000	3,010	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.044	-0.001	-2.273	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	13,207,292
Total		14	9,244,777	2,360,756	548											

Parallel Market

OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	11,888	1,153	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.090	0.007	7.778	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.100	7,842,450
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	2,571,823	128,314	73	0.048	0.050	0.048	0.049	0.046	0.003	6.522	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	14,209,051
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	24,000	1,066	3	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.044	0.042	0.002	4.762	0.045	0.044	0.044	0.100	5,362,500
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	478,300	42,813	38	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.085	0.004	4.706	0.090	0.090	0.093	0.100	2,987,859
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	222,698	10,296	14	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.046	0.044	0.002	4.545	0.045	0.045	0.048	0.100	16,060,643
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	701,100	183,940	51	0.259	0.264	0.259	0.262	0.256	0.006	2.344	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	16,035,520
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	114,500	32,737	10	0.286	0.286	0.285	0.285	0.279	0.006	2.151	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.100	84,420,899
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	338,296	32,931	24	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.097	0.095	0.002	2.105	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.100	145,500,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	11,413	1,388	3	0.120	0.122	0.120	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.122	0.122	0.127	0.100	199,608,553
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	167,214	24,413	19	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.690	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.100	237,398,198
OM0000001707	OMAN CARLES INDSTR	40,000	18,000	8	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.448	0.002	0.446	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.100	40,365,000
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	3,000	510	1	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	39,043	27,330	10	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.100	110,250,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	5,000	430	4	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.090	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	573	315	1	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.000	0.000	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.100	27,479,685
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,000	510	3	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.108	0.100	302,631,495
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	3,400	2,516	2	0.740	0.740	0.740	0.780	0.780	0.000	0.000	0.740	0.704	0.800	0.100	477,944,500
OM0000003083	AL KAMEL POWER	3,000	825	1	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.292	0.292	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.263	0.275	0.100	28,105,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	218,090	17,067	18	0.077	0.079	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.084	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	30,500	1,526	3	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.055	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000005965	PHOENIX POWER	1,195	65	2	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.053	0.056	0.100	78,980,479
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS.	100	8	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.080	0.084	0.100	8,264,133
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	1,000	187	2	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.000	0.187	0.100	41,558,880
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	21,000	1,170	3	0.207	0.207	0.200	0.206	0.207	-0.001	-0.483	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	1,180,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	25,000	2,870	5	0.115	0.115	0.104	0.114	0.115	-0.001	-0.870	0.104	0.104	0.114	0.100	9,279,914
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	9,900	877	2	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	176,027,526
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	34,700	1,770	6	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.052	-0.001	-1.923	0.051	0.049	0.057	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	17,739	14,599	12	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.088	-0.003	-3.409	0.085	0.085	0.100	8,500,000	
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	63,515	6,115	5	0.099	0.099	0.091	0.096	0.101	-0.005	-4.950	0.095	0.092	0.095	0.100	11,520,000
Total		29	5,318,510	558,912	324											

Asia's global investment bank hires 20 private bankers, investment advisers

SINGAPORE: Asia's global investment bank Nomura has hired over 20 private bankers and investment advisers in its international wealth management business as it expands its capabilities to serve high-net-worth (HNW) clients. These individuals have been hired in Hong Kong and Singapore following the integration

of international wealth management into the firm's wholesale business and the appointment of Ravi Raju as Head of International Wealth Management in September 2020. Nomura aims to more than triple assets under management in its international wealth management business by March

2025 through an accelerated expansion of the client franchise, and enhancement of the wealth management product and services platform. "The initial focus of recruitment drive has been to strengthen our presence across Greater China, Southeast Asia and the global south Asia market," Raju said. -ANI

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Boost to real estate sector must for economic growth: Experts

NEW DELHI: Real estate experts have called for an added impetus to affordable housing in the forthcoming Union Budget for 2021-22 to revive economic growth. Farshid Cooper, Managing Director of Spenta Corporation, also called for addressing liquidity concerns currently plaguing the industry. He said the government must introduce tax breaks and reduce transaction costs for home buyers. The Indian real estate sector had been facing challenges even before the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, said Cooper. The subsequent lockdown brought with it several new problems including stopping of construction activities, unavailability of labour, muted sales and tepid buyer sentiment. There have been positive signs since the start of the festive season. But the industry continues to face systemic issues that need redressal. Aditya Kushwaha, CEO and Director of Axis Ecorp, said the government should accord industry status to the real estate sector as a whole, including secondary housing and holiday homes. -ANI

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For a bachelors accommodation of a well-established Company in Ruwi - Muscat. The cook is expected to prepare vegetarian breakfast and meals. Work visa and other related benefits will be provided to suitable candidates.

Contact: 9553 2907

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Restaurant Manager with minimum 5 years experience preferably with Arabic cuisine. Immediate Joining.

Email:

recruitment.hr.1112@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

MANAGER

Urgently wanted experienced supervisor for a super market in Qurum.Previous experience on similar position is must. please whatsapp the resume to 91444677

Property Leasing Manager, send CV-vepsupervisor@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Urgently required a Pharmacist & staff Nurse with MOH License to work in a well reputed clinic. Contact 79947844. Email drsrbualath@yahoo.co.in

Pharmacy Sales Representative for a medical supplies company based in Muscat. Minimum 2 years experience and a valid driving licence. E-mail: magedaltafaol@gmail.com whatsapp only: 71554549

Wanted for Pharmacy, B.Pharm with 2 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 99471699

SALES/MARKETING

Urgently required a Tally Sales Executive with a minimum of 3 to 5yrs experience. Contact +968-92770324. Email: tallysales456@gmail.com Whatsapp +91-9743546518

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking For Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter, Foreman, Office Staff. Contact 24709144 Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

BUSINESS

A reputed Omani business group wants to purchase GP clinics/poly-clinics in Muscat and interior towns of Oman including Salalah.Send WhatsApp message to 95092995 or mentioning name of clinic, location, contact number.

CORPORATE

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Nair boy, BE/MBA Engineer, 27/167, working in Muscat. Star Makam invites suitable proposal. Contact 96236014

Kerala based Nair boy 45/175 Star Aswathi, BDS, MDS, MFDS Dental doctor, divorce working in UK, suitable proposals invited. Contact 00968-99344106, 00417-95423663, 0091-9207384572

For Auditing, Accounting, Taxation, VAT implementation, Consulting, Advisory Services. Contact: 7922 2467 / 7934 9166, anoopkrishna1978@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Part-time Accounting with proficiency in VAT and Income Tax, seeks job. Contact 96975454. Email: connect@myacsys.com

Accounting Manager/Chief Accountant, 12 years' experience in Oman-MIS-Budget- Planning-Finalization-Tax Returns etc., Have NOC looking for suitable position - Contact 95570425 (Call/WhatsApp)

Accountant, office administration. Indian Male B.com + Diploma Oman Experience. Tally , Peachtree, QB , Tradeasy knowledge and have DL.Contact : 79841591Email : murshidmuchi4513@gmail.com

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

Finance, ERP, audit & taxation, project & market study business modelling, business process with professional & corporate experience full time or part time. # 93671585

Accounting manager / Chief accountant, 15+ years of experience in Oman & UAE, have NOC on visit. Contact: 79007124 / 78039524 Email: shkkader@gmail.com

Female looking for a part time job in accounts. Contact 97125362

Senior accountant, 18 yrs experience in accounts & finance along with 14 yrs experience in Oman seeking suitable replacement.Oman DL. Independently can handle accounts upto finalization, tax returns etc. Contact 93653482

Accountant (CA Inter) - Indian (male) with 10 years' experience Accounting, Oman DL. # 94450401.

BCom Graduate with DL & Experience looking for suitable placement. Contact 92695069. Email: zameelpv@gmail.com

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

Indian Male Bcom MBA. 19 years experience in Finance, MIS,Audit, Budget, banking, Tax, Payroll, ERP (Orion, Tally, Sage, Epicor). NOC available. GSM 91190552.

Indian Male, Senior Accountant over 16 years Oman experience in Accounts looking for a Job & have NOC. Contact: 95851920, 78258270

Indian male B.Com, tally experience,accounts upto finalization with DL. Contact 94532610. vargheseekuttikatil@gmail.com

Male accountant M.S finance, 7yrs gulf experience with DLContact 95318382. Email salmanriaz1988.thumrait.int@gmail.com

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

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

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER
11+ Yrs of experience (10 Yrs Oman experience)
• On **Engineer Visa** (Expiry - Feb 2022), Can get release also.
• Experience in **Building and Factory projects** with **Ministry & Private Clients**.
Looking for fulltime/part time job. **Having Omani DL**.
GSM: 94125368 ; premijithpremanathan@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer
Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.
Please contact me on 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

Omani Mechanical Engineer
Omani, looking for a job, Bachelor in Mechanical Engg from the United States of America, +2 yrs of experience in Oil & Gas. + NEBOSH certification Holder.
Contact: 95070748 Email: siyabi430@gmail.com

Facility Manager / Operation (Project-Civil) Manager
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Construction Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Security & Surveillance, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer
Indian Post graduate civil engineer with 37 years of professional experience in Oman in property development and construction management seeks senior management opportunities in similar field.
Contact 96504377 jobsearchza@gmail.com

Senior MEP Engineer

Indian Male: Btech, having 23 years GCC experience with valid Oman driving licence seeks suitable placement.

Contact GSM: 79880377 Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

Accountant Indian Male
MBA Finance 2 years experience in india with good knowledge in tally seeks placement.
9539 1786

Structural/Civil Engineer
with 14 years of experience (**8 years in USA and 4 years in Oman**) in PEB, RCC, Pipeline, Offshore, and Marine structures and have Master degree from USA. Seeking for placement as Project Engineer or Manager.
Please contact me on +968-93368626 irfan.sanjari.syed@gmail.com

SR. Manager/GM/VP (Plant)
Indian Male, with more than 23 years exp. in repair/ maint/deployment/logistic/procurement of Vehicles/Heavy construction equipment in a large reputed construction industry seeks suitable placement in senior management level. NOC available.
Contact: 79198709

ELECTRICAL MANAGER
Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.
Contact: 968-94029112 Email: sakhthiveljothi@gmail.com

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION/CEO OFFICE/OPS/HR /CORPORATE COMMUNICATION/ADMIN/MKTG
Smart Indian, Masters, excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp including Multi-Billion Airports Project, Hospital, Media, EPC handling Project Administration, CEO Office Management, Corporate Communication, Admin, HR, Operations, Customer Relations. # **99283938**

MBA, seeking job, 27 yrs experience in capable managerial candidature with rich experience in Business operations, Vendor development, Procurement and HR generalist. Can join immediately.
Whatsapp: 7730012111 Mobile: 94268870 Email: mvssmgbr@gmail.com

Moroccan Sales Engineer with over 6 years of industrial experience in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.
GSM: 93823132 Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.com

SENIOR CORPORATE AND RETAIL BANKER
With over 30 years experience in Credit Management, Relationship Management, Credit Administration, Operations Management and Recoveries/ IFRS9 Provisioning Methodologies seeks suitable placement.
Email: DolphinOcean367@gmail.com

QUALITY MANAGER
Indian, Quality Manager, 18 years exp.4.3 years at Abu Dhabi, looking for top/senior management position in quality. Coordinating RFQ to Mass production, Time, Resource & Quality planning, Process design, Project execution, etc. Available to join shortly.
Contact: 91-9952022345, venkatavaradu@rediffmail.com

Project Engineer
32 yrs old - Having 10 years of experience (6 yrs in Oman) in oil & gas field - Intense work experience in fabrication of Pressure Vessels, Structural Steel fabrication & erection, Manufacturing of Skid Packages, Piping Spools & supports, Storage Tanks, Stack & Ducts, Pig Traps. EPC & Turnaround projects.
Having DL & Current Visa expires in Feb/2021.
Contact # boopathiraja88@gmail.com / 97412105

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.
GSM: 78259755

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.
Contact whatsapp: 99477009 Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

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PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION
Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman (Currently available in Oman). Experience in Engineering / Construction, Manufacturing, Trading Concern & Structural Steel Projects. Materials Management with administrative skills. Looking for suitable placement and ready to join immediately with D/L & NOC.
Contact: 78235621/bsda@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

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.
Mob: 95073054 Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

Finance Manager / CFO
Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.
Contact: 99884291 / 99741875 VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.
Contact: 92999419 d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

General Manager/ Sr. Manager Role, Indian Professional (BE, MBA, PMP, FIDIC) with 25 years experience into Civil and Infrastructure Constructions and Project Management. NOC available.
Contact 94634053

Senior Software Test Engineer
Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.
Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com

Graduate Civil Engineer
From India with over 11 years Project Management Experience with Consultant and Client in Oman with local release & driving license seeks suitable opportunities.
Email: contactsyedshams@gmail.com; GSM: +968 98500235

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.
Call 97015841 Email khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

Junior Architect with 3-years Oman experience in designing, proficiency in AutoCAD, Sketchup, Lumion Vray & Photoshop. Has worked in quantity estimations. Looking for suitable placement in Muscat.
Contact 95972625

Finance/Accounts Manager
Indian male (MBA Fin) with 20 yrs working exp as Accounts & Finance Manager (Strategic planning, Procurement, Finance, Accounting, HR Admin, Audit, Tax, VAT) seeking suitable post. Valid Oman DL. NOC available.
Contact No.99705790 email: thoms_mat@yahoo.com

Omani DL holder Indian from Kerala looking for a job in F M C G sector.
12 year experience in Oman.
Speak Arabic, English, Hindi and Malayalam.
Work experience in all over Oman.
Interested please Contact 94022634

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)
MBA, B.Sc and CA (Intermediate) with 18 years of experience (12th year in Oman) in Retail, FMCG, Leasing and Property management sectors. Immediate joining. DL. NOC is available.
M: 9641 6394 / Mail: scms.acc133@gmail.com

Bsc In Civil Engineering, MBA in Project Management, PMP certified, having 14 yrs experience(12yrs in Oman) with experience of construction of 4 star hotel, Airports, commercial & residential buildings, factories, Oil stations, is looking for a suitable placement. Having Oman Driving licence with NOC.
Contact: 99721926, tanvircivil@gmail.com



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Indian Male 40 yrs old 16 yrs Exp in Business Dev. & Customer Service looking for a job Mob: 96072016

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience including Airport Projects, Hospital/Healthcare, Media. Immediate, NOC. 99283938

Indian Male with 3+ years of experience with valid Oman D/L looking for Administrative, Business Development or Sales/Marketing opportunities. Contact: 91400234. shaheemraf@gmail.com”

Indian male graduate 14 years of experiences in Secretarial and office administration seeking a suitable position Mob 99341481, mhd82ajaz@gmail.com

Indian Female 7 years experience Exe. Secretary, Admin Asst, Project Asst, Collection Followup. # 92243552

Looking for job Document Controller/Admin/Camp boss, 11 years experience. Contact 79245674

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Autocad draftsman with an experience of 8+ yrs(GCC) in drafting. Looking for an opportunity part/full time immediate joining.Contact 79828683

DRIVER

Driver job wanted. Contact 99797810, 97612115

Looking for Driver job. Contact 95137694

LOGISTIC

Seeking opportunity in managerial position in logistics, having 4 yrs exp in administering logistic through air, sea, land & documentation within Oman & 6 yrs in India. Contact 98347003 Email jibyjohn28@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Irani Civil engg +18 yrs experience in GCC, looking for job. Contact 79135430

Electrical Engineer having 7 years of experience in construction sector in Oman in MEP Data cabling, BMS works, ELV systems looking for opportunities. Contact: +968-96335725

A Civil engineer with a valid D/L, 9 years experience in Oman seeks job. Contact 97646908

30 Yrs Male, Steel Fabrication Engineer, 6Yrs in Oman, Mechanical CAD, Shop Drawing, Ph: 97097688.

Project / Site Engineer, B.tech Civil, 8+ yrs Gulf Experienced in Major Projects, Oman D/L Ph-99857800.

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 92180869, E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

Omani HSE engineer with 1.5 yrs experience in Oil & Gas & construction seeks job.DL available. Contact 70707011. Email malisyabi@gmail.com

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

Indian male having diploma in mech engg & valid Oman DL have 6 yrs experience in Oman # 95645241

Civil Engineer, Indian female with 3 yrs experience in Oman, 28 yrs old, looking for a suitable job in a construction Company. Oman DL, valid visa. Contact 99772710, 99256371

Mechanical Engineer, 10 yrs exp with Oman DL, looking for sponsor/ position in MEP solar, Oil & Gas. Contact 79550976, +919446253959. Email afsalhyder@gmail.com

Arabic/English speaking Civil engineer, 5 yrs experience in Projects coordination, preparing submittals & engineering software, resident & have valid DL. Contact 95432250

Senior Civil engineer with 12 yrs exp in government & private construction projects, looking for a suitable position. Contact 95962450. email solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer having over all 14 yrs Experience in building & Roads with consultant and contractor. NOC available immediate joining. Contact 94011294. Email: adnanluky@gmail.com

Planning Engineer, Indian 20 yrs experience in using Primavera P6 for oil & gas, water pipeline & building, MEP works scheduling seek suitable senior position with release & Oman DL. # 92651105, 90643701 rejil_mathai@hotmail.com

Safety officer (engineer), two years experience in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid D.L. # 79318246

Planning Engineer: Pakistani National with BE Civil, 13 years of experience including 8 years in Oman in Project Planning, Scheduling and Delay Analysis looking for a suitable position. Local transfer - NOC, Contact: 97018909.

Mechanical Engineer (B.E) with 7+ yrs exp in MEP projects, Oil & Gas piping projects. NOC & Oman DL available. Contact 91293770. email jebilK212@gmail.com

Senior civil engineer with over 10 yrs experience on high end projects(RE) Contact 78270396

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing, painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837, 98937266

Driver plumber Electrician, looking for job. Contact 96750080

MicroMasters in Supply Chain Management, B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering 3 years industry experience as a Sales Engineer, Valid Oman DL.
Contact: 99137115 Email: adimurali7@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

MANAGER

Electrical Project Manager with 10 Years Experience in (Primary & Distribution) Substations and Over head lines, Oman DL. # 99022692

MEDICAL

Lady G P. With M O H licence. Full or part-time, for Capital area only. Contact 99470508

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Sri Lanka male in Oman seeking a job as, procurement, store manager, operation & Administration, Degree, fluent in Supply Chain Management- Oracle ERP. Contact 98878815

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Store Incharge, Sales associate, customer service, retail, warehouse logistics and merchandiser with driving license. Contact no. 95042624

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

IT

CRM, ERP & MIS analyst, experience 5 yrs. Contact 71561266

Sudanese, Male, BSc with honors in Computer Science. 5 yrs Experience in IT support, Android apps Development, ERB Systems, and systems management & Administration. Contact 96606209. Email Blackmode21@gmail.com

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SALES / MARKETING

13 years exp in sales, marketing and distribution management. Indian male, MBA, DL. Contact 78097687

Indian with 16 years experience in sales and marketing with valid Oman DL, looking for opportunities Contact 79685337

Indian male with Oman D/L, looking for job in Sales. Having experience in sales in a very well reputed FMCG company in Oman. Contact 90625165, Email id: farookshamas@gmail.com

Business development Executive with vast marketing knowledge 20 yrs experience seeks employment. Whatsapp 95950370

Sales Executive, 14 yrs experience in FMCG/IT/Oilfield supplies with DL, looking for suitable placement. Contact 90174597

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

6 years experienced Sales officer looking for the suitable job. Valid, Omani driving license available. Contact 98424254

20 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing of Central Air Conditioning & Structural steel etc. Contact 968-95950370

23 Years Graduate in Marketing looking for job in Sales or Marketing having 03 years sales experience. Contact: 9427 1666.

MBA Marketing/HR, 5 years working experience in India. Experience in Sales, Marketing and operations. Contact +96896652549

15 yrs exp in perfumes & cosmetics in GCC. DL holder. Contact 78399076, 95868684

Sales/office driver, 15 yrs experience with DL & NOC. Muscat Area. Contact 79758863

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ROUND-UP

Dominos opens new branch in Mawaleh

The new store features a refreshing design concept in the region, along with a unique pizza theatre concept to give customers a candid view of their orders being prepared



MUSCAT: Domino's Pizza, the recognised world leader in pizza delivery, has unveiled its 25th store in Mawaleh Janubiya. Yousef Sulaiman, The Country Manager of Domino's Oman said,

"In addition to our special value deals, the residents of Oman love a fresh oven-baked pizza made from scratch with fresh ingredients, which we have been witnessing with the expansion of our cus-

tomers base. Customers have grown out of the frozen dough trend, they appreciate the quality, freshness and value which Domino's delivers. The addition of another branch in Mawaleh brings us closer to our valued customers by providing them with better service and delivering happiness one slice at a time." The new store feature a refreshing design concept in the region, along with a unique pizza theatre concept design to give customers a candid view of their orders being prepared. Every aspect of this Domino's store has a vibrant theme, complementing the customer's taste and preference, with a menu that satisfies the taste buds of the residents of Mawaleh, Oman.

CHALLENGING

BAIC Motor participates in Saudi Dakar Rally

MUSCAT: Gulf Great Sands, the exclusive importer of BAIC cars and SUVs in Oman, has expressed delight in the participation of the BAIC team in the 2021 edition of the renowned and challenging Dakar Rally held in Saudi Arabia recently.



BAIC ORV, as the sole Chinese participating off-road brand, embarked on the Dakar Rally using three BJ40 racing cars. The 13 days top rally event highlighted the desert sector with a total route of 7646km and the specials of 4767km.

Noteworthy, the BAIC ORV consisting of three BJ40 racing cars as well as Team 343, Team 352 and Team 361, stood as the unique Chinese off-road competitors in this rally.

Significantly, BAIC demonstrates a big leap forward in the off-road vehicle technologies by putting genuine off-road models into the Dakar Rally instead of general SPV. With a great competitive edge in over 60-year off-road origin, several newly launched BAIC models like BJ40 Rainforest Crossing Edition and

BJ40 Respect 2020 Edition reflect deep insights and leading technologies in off-road vehicles.

On top of enhancing brand reputation through world-class rallies, BAIC strategically intends to verify and polish its production technologies and hence provides clients with upgraded off-road vehicles which integrate better expertise and designs.

Dakar Rally 2021 ushered in even more difficult desert sectors with totally different landscapes for competitors, including large-scale sands, dunes and bushes, which presented higher technical requirements, diversity and challenges.

MERCEDES-BENZ OMAN



C300 ePlug-in hybrid sedan available from OMR23,495

MUSCAT: Luxurious, economical, and fun to drive, the new C300 ePlug-in hybrid sedan makes no compromises. Mercedes-Benz Oman is giving drivers the chance to own this highly coveted model, starting from just OMR23,495. With all the benefits of the brand's legacy of luxury and performance and a super-efficient dual-engine, this hybrid has been fine-tuned to offer unmatched levels of sophistication. "The appeal of a hybrid car has

not been lost on our discerning customers in Oman, who value poise and power," said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman. "As one of the first hybrid cars to arrive in the Sultanate, it is fast becoming one of our top-selling cars thanks to its improved fuel economy, abundant high-tech features and an elegant design, all of which guarantee to catch the attention on motorists on the road."

'COLLABORATION TEAM'



Z-Corp distributes masks and sanitisers to senior citizens at Social Welfare Home

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to contribute towards meaningful causes in the community, The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp)'s 'collaboration team' recently visited the Social Welfare Home at Al Rustaq and distributed masks and sanitisers for senior citizens.

The 'collaboration team' comprises of a group of employees of Z-Corp and its subsidiaries who participate in community initiatives which are planned and conducted by them.

The 'collaboration team' stressed on the importance of using face masks and how they play a very vital role in personal hygiene and protection from germs and other deadly infections.

Faisal Al Manthri, Communication Manager and a member of the collaboration team said, "The elderly citizens are at a greater risk against COVID-19, and those with pre-existing problems are all the more vulnerable. Masks prevent people from getting and spreading the virus. Therefore,

senior citizens should wear a mask especially in public places. Our collaboration team distributed masks at the Social Welfare Home in Rustaq to create awareness among people about the importance of wearing masks and use of hand sanitiser to check the spread of the virus."

Mutafa Al Rujabi the Chairperson of the Welfare Home in Rustaq said, "Government authorities in Oman have directed the use of face masks in all public places. The World Health Organisation (WHO) advises wearing masks and use of sanitiser as the best way to avoid infection. We thank the 'collaboration team' for distributing masks for senior citizens in Rustaq."

Within the framework of strengthening community partnership, Z-Corp's 'collaboration team' had recently distributed masks and sanitisers in all schools in the Musandam governorate.

The 'collaboration team' continuously organises socially important events in the last two years.

AL JAWHAR REFERRAL SCHEME

Refer your friends and win up to OMR5,000 prizes with Bank Muscat

MUSCAT: In line with the bank's vision 'To serve you better, everyday', and commitment to offering the best services in Oman to benefit its customers, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has called upon its Privilege Banking customers to make the best use of the ongoing Al Jawhar referral scheme.

The promotional scheme gives Al Jawhar customers a chance to earn up to OMR5,000 by referring their friends and family members to join the Privilege Banking services. The scheme is at present seeing an excellent response.

Abdulnassir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, said: "In line with its prolific role as an innovator, Bank Muscat is very happy to launch this new scheme with guaranteed rewards.



All existing Al Jawhar customers will earn an incentive of OMR50 for every successful referral, up to a maximum of 100 referrals. New referrals who successfully open an Al Jawhar account before the last date of the scheme will also win OMR 50 each. This makes the scheme a win-win proposition for existing

customers as well as their family and friends when they join the largest banking family in the country."

Designed to elevate Privilege Banking to unparalleled heights, Al Jawhar opens a world of opportunities with a number of services and facilities that makes the banking experience truly rewarding for its exclusive clientele. Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the 'Visa Offers MENA' app on their smartphones. They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of OMR 800, the chance to win a fixed salary prize of OMR 500 every month for a year as well as other exclusive and high-value Al Mazyona prizes that are especially reserved for them in the

new 2021 Al Mazyona scheme. Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers who maintain a minimum balance of OMR 10,000 in their accounts are eligible to win one of the 20 monthly prizes of OMR 5,000 each. They are also eligible to be in the special draws for 10 prizes of RO 20,000 each during the Mid-year and End of Year draws. In all, 340 high-value prizes worth over OMR 2.1 million are exclusively reserved for Al Jawhar customers during the year.

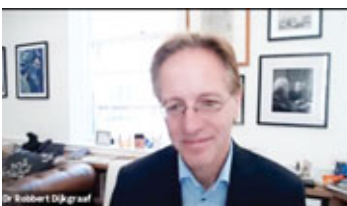
Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders offers access to 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat and Salalah airport. Cardholders are eligible for a complimentary Dragon Pass and a 'Meet and Greet' service with a 15 per cent discount at over 450 global destinations.

SOHAR INTERNATIONAL

Viewpoints engages live wide audience

MUSCAT: Continuing its efforts to make a significant local impact on topics of national interest, Sohar International hosted its 5th virtual Viewpoints session in its 10th edition, recently.

Chaired by Mohammed Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sohar International, the interactive forum witnessed an enticing conversation as it left the audience with learnings to reflect on and solutions to implement. The session's guest speaker, Dr Robbert Dijkgraaf, Director at Leon Levy Professor at Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (New Jersey), USA - one of the world's foremost centres for curiosity-driven basic research, left the viewers with interesting facts and global



learnings on 'The Future of Science & Technology'.

Hundreds of audience, including students, academicians, entrepreneurs and working professionals attended the virtual session on Zoom and Sohar International's YouTube channel. Dr Robbert shared from his rich experience the need for futuristic concepts, their global adaptability and the technological way forward in vari-



ous industries.

Al Ardhi said, "Sohar International truly believes in the value of knowledge sharing and the opportunities and ideas it opens up for aspiring entrepreneurs and today's youth. With that belief, Viewpoints augments the bank's confidence in creating value for the people of Oman and the economy as a whole. In line with the same, the latest session under-

lined an important aspect of what is defined in Oman's Vision 2040 as innovation and digitalisation."

Dijkgraaf talked about the factual meaning and application of technologies developed across the world, the impact of useful inventions and curiosity-driven transformational building blocks of reality. He threw light on the future of design and how science will influence the smallest matters of everyday life going forward. Making the session more interesting, Dr Dijkgraaf defined a triple Helix - Life genes, Atomic matter and information codes & algorithms - that is reinforcing itself in the form of synthetic biology, quantum technology and artificial intelligence, moving into the 21st century.

ROUND-UP



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Mitsubishi Outlander available with low EMIs

The Outlander is built with families, road-trips, versatility and utility in mind



MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, for the New Year, announced attractive EMI rates of as low as OMR 99 for the Mitsubishi Outlander.

Commenting on the promotion, Manoj Ranade, the General Manager of GAC, said, "A practical and spacious SUV, the Outlander is built with families, road-trips, versatility

and utility in mind. Featuring Mitsubishi's new design language, the Outlander also exudes as much style as it does purpose, thanks to its angular, sleek and modern looks.

As a result, it is a very popular model within our line-up, and together with the low EMIs, is also one of the more affordable."

"We launched this promotion so that those customers who may have missed out on our year-end sale last month, still have an opportunity to pick up the Outlander at an affordable price," concluded Manoj.

In addition to the Outlander, this promotion also applies to the Mitsubishi Pajero and L200 models with EMIs starting from OMR129 and OMR79 respectively.

Mitsubishi is also offering each of these models with six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance.

RECOGNITION



GAC Motor tops JD Power China IQS for 8th consecutive year

MUSCAT: GAC Motor fans in Oman have yet another reason to cheer about; with the brand topping J. D. Power's China Initial Quality Study (IQS) for the 8th year in a row.

The study, now in its 21st year, measures initial vehicle quality by examining problems experienced by new-vehicle owners within the first two to six months of ownership. Overall initial quality is determined by problems reported per 100 vehicles (PP100), with a lower number of problems indicating higher quality.

GAC Motor vehicles are painstakingly designed and engineered to offer customers some of the finest experiences in the automotive world. GAC Motor International is devoted to the production and sales of world-class vehicles, engines, auto parts and car accessories as well as R&D of automobile engineering technology. Since its establishment, GAC Motor International has adopted a global vision and adhered to international standards, forming a world-class car manufacturing system with GAC Motor International's global R&D network, world-class production mode,

global supply chain system and GAC Motor International's marketing approach as its core.

GAC R&D Centre has established a rigorous and well-organised automobile development management system with the vehicle design and development control programme as its core components, major system standardisation development process as an extension, and supported by standardisation of management process in each stage of vehicle development.

It has passed the examination of ISO9001 Quality Management System for certification review and approval. GAC R&D Centre has worked with world-famous partners many times in thorough and complete chassis performance optimisation. The joint effort was also made in testing and tuning in different road conditions and/or under various temperatures on major proving grounds home and abroad.

GAC Motor has blazed a development path that is high-end focused, quality-first and innovation-driven with its development speed and profit level being among the best.

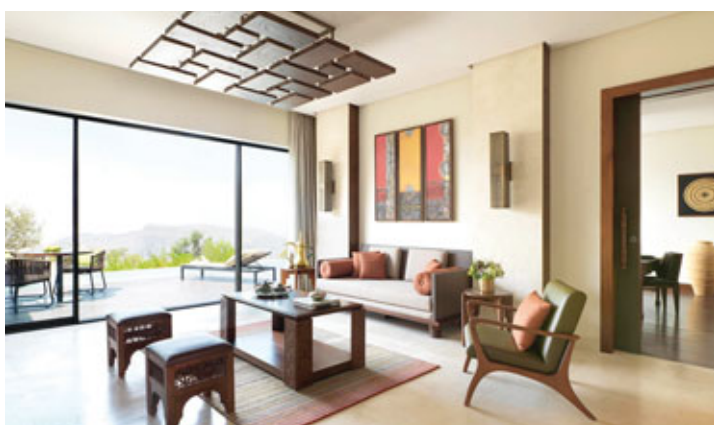
LUXURY RESORT

Anantara Jabal Akhdar Resort unveils new package for perfect holiday getaway

MUSCAT: Experience the true #TasteOfWinter at the elevated luxury resort, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, as the property welcomes all guests with an exciting new season package for the perfect holiday getaway.

Visitors can make themselves at home and celebrate the holidays in style, comfort and the privacy of a luxury abode as they breathe in the cool mountain air whilst feeling the warmth of the Omani hospitality. The property provides the perfect setting to witness scenic and breathtaking canyon views for the leisure seekers as well as exciting escapades for the adventurous, making it one of the region's most sought-after resorts.

Perched 2,000m above sea level, amidst the majestic Hajar mountains, guests can now unwind and stay in one of the 115 luxury rooms and villas available at the property



that overlooks the majestic canyon, tranquil gardens and even boasts a private temperature-controlled infinity pool.

The offer also includes daily breakfast and dinner at Al Maisan, otherwise known as "The Rising Star" which features an elegant

indoor dining area and a spacious outdoor terrace in addition to a light lunch at Bella Vista, a charming restaurant that re-imagines a traditional Italian kitchen with contemporary flair.

Guests can relish in mouth-watering as they soak in spectacular

views of the vast gorge surrounding the resort that will truly elevate their dining experience.

Additionally, for all thrill-seekers, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar hosts an array of incredible adventure experiences; from wadi hikes and mountain biking to the newest Jabal Activity Wall for a mountain climbing and zipline challenge, all of which are sure to get your heart racing. For those who would like to opt for a more relaxing activity, the property provides a tour of the organic gardens or a three-village culture walk as well as movie under the stars.

A mere two-hour drive from Muscat or a four- and a half-hour drive from Dubai or Abu Dhabi, guests from all over can come up to the mountains and enjoy an extraordinary holiday during these ordinary times and celebrate winter with their family and friends.

MILESTONE

Omantel app's popularity reflects in 1 million users

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading telecom services provider in the Sultanate, has entered the year 2021 buoyed on a great achievement that underscores the company's growing popularity as the preferred integrated telecom services provider among customers in the Sultanate.

The user-friendly Omantel app has clocked 1 million users and continues making it easier to avail the company's array of services, for an increasing number of users. The milestone has been achieved within one year from the revamped app launch on January 9, 2020. The app has continued to benefit Omantel's subscribers as well as non-subscribers.

From around 368,000 registered users at the beginning of 2020, Omantel saw the number grow to 1 million users, with a monthly average acquisition of new customers by 200 per cent. The in-app monetisation for the company has increased by 90 per cent since December 19.

Dr Jihad Al Ansari, Senior Manager, Digital Operations at Omantel said, "It gives me immense pride to highlight this achievement. The 1 million marks are not just a reason to celebrate, but also the time to set higher goals. I am confident that Omantel will achieve more milestones in customer service by channeling technology and moulding it into a user-friendly avatar for our subscribers as well as non-subscribers so that they derive maximum benefit from the telecom



and digital revolutions."

He further added, "Omantel is working to further expand the service offerings on the app. Users can look forward to more flexibility, cost savings and easy operation. The app has benefited everyone - from our individual to corporate customers. Their growing trust has been reflected in this 1 million mark. We are poised to go higher."

With an improved user experience, intuitive design and Artificial Intelligence for superior customer engagement, support and experience, the Omantel app has opened the pathways to simplified registration, instant access to services like top-ups, bill payments and purchase of popular services.

Existing customers have been using the fast, easy and secure Quick Service option in the app for top-ups and bill payments. The service option does not require a login and is hence a very useful feature for non-Omantel subscribers as they can learn more about the company's promotions and offers through the

app. Introduction to Omantel's service offerings through the app has led many non-subscribers to become a part of the growing Omantel subscribers' family.

As the COVID-19 pandemic demanded strict health safety protocols, Omantel made services access hassle-free by rolling out additional features on the App and in the process, became the pioneering company to bring these to its valued customers.

The eSIM has been one such feature. Introduced through the Omantel App for the first time in Oman, this service allows subscribers to buy new SIMs and select both the number and plan through easy and simple steps on their devices seamlessly without having to visit any Outlet.

The "Get Our Services" facility on the Omantel app introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, made the ordering of Omantel services from the comfort and safety of homes easier. It has since been offering facilities like buying Hayyak and Baqati plans through the App, SIM ordering and replacement, Home Internet, Smart Home Products, Bill payments and Wireless Home Broadband among others.

With the gift cards service, the Omantel app also allows customers to buy their favourite apps, games, and digital content from iTunes, GooglePlay, PlayStation, Xbox and others with Omantel account under the categories of Gaming, entertainment, software, shopping.

CHARITY



Sohar Institute for Music & Arts raises OMR100,000

MUSCAT: Geetha Ravishankar, Director of Sohars Institute for Music & Arts presented a booklet with all the evidence of the contribution made by her to the voluntary service organisations in Oman from 2006 through the annual cultural events of the institute. She has raised and donated a total sum of OMR100,000 for helping the following associations/ centres.

She along with her husband, Ravishankar presented the booklet to Munu Mahawar, the Ambassador of India to Oman.

Geetha said in her presentation that this contribution of OMR100,000 through her programmes is only in Oman. Besides, she has helped to provide Green Roof and a few air-conditioners to Al Wafaa Volunteering Social Centre in Sohar which if included will exceed OMR100,000 by a little more. She has done similar efforts and made donations in Zambia & Cyprus.

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