



HM RECEIVES PHONE CALL FROM POMPEO

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received a phone call from Mike Pompeo, the US Secretary of State, yesterday, in which they reviewed bilateral cooperation between the two countries along with consultation on the latest developments in the region. —**ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

Expatriate job status grace time extended

1 The Ministry of Labour has announced the extension of the grace period for employers to correct the job status of the expatriate workforce until January 21. The Ministry said that the announcement comes within the framework of regulating the labour market. **>A2**

WORLD

Japan's COVID-19 cases hit new record

2 Japan on Tuesday confirmed a record 4,912 new daily infections, bringing the country's total to 253,437, not including those related to a cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo last year. This comes as Japan is moving towards declaring another state of emergency in Tokyo. **>A6**

MARKET

Smart agriculture project lease inked

3 The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MoAFWR) signed a deal to lease 100 acres with the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Company (AFDC) to invest and implement the smart agriculture project in the Wilayat of Al Kamil Wa Al Wafi. **>B1**

ROYAL DECREE CONVERTS MSM INTO JOINT STOCK COMPANY

Muscat Bourse Company shall practice all its activities within the framework of the Capital Market Law

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik yesterday issued a Royal decree reading as follows: Royal Decree No. 5/2021 on converting Muscat Securities Market (MSM) into a closed joint stock company under the name "Muscat Bourse Company SAOC".

Article (1) states that, by virtue of provisions of this decree, an Omani closed joint stock company shall be founded under the name "Muscat Bourse Company SAOC" and that its ownership shall be transferred to Oman Investment Authority.

Article (2) states that all the allocations, origins, rights, obligations, assets and registers of Muscat Securities Market (MSM) shall be transferred to Muscat Bourse Company SAOC.

Article (3) transfers the employees of MSM to Muscat Bourse Company SAOC, in line with provisions of the Privatization Law promulgated under Royal Decree 51/2019.

Article (4) transfers all specializations of Muscat Securities Market stated in the Capital Market Law (promulgated under Royal Decree No. 80/98) shall be transferred to Muscat Bourse Company SAOC, without prejudice to this company's objectives stated in its Articles of Association.

Article (5) stipulates that Muscat Bourse Company SAOC shall practice all its activities within the framework of the Capital Market Law and thereby comes under the monitoring and supervision of the Capital Market Authority (CMA).

It also states that Muscat Bourse Company SAOC may issue all regulations and decisions necessary for practicing its specializations, achieving its objectives and specifying fees against the services that it offers, after the approval of the CMA. Till such time, the regulations and laws in force shall continue to be implemented without prejudice to the provisions of this decree.

Article (6) states that the Capital Market Authority shall determine the general policy governing Muscat Bourse Company SAOC and shall issue regulations and laws regulating licenses necessary to be granted to the company so that it could practice its activities, as well as fees that it needs to pay to the CMA.

Article (7) states that the Board of Directors of Muscat Bourse Company SAOC shall be formed in accordance with the company's Articles of Association and that the CMA may object to the decision of appointing a Board of Directors within a period of 15 days from the date the CMA is notified of such a decision. **>A2**



TAX AUTHORITY

New guidelines for VAT implementation

MUSCAT: The Tax Authority on Wednesday issued three executive decisions pertaining to the implementation of the Value Added Tax (VAT), which will enter enforcement stage by April 16, 2021.

The first decision determines the minimum volume of sales requiring the taxpayer to compulsorily register with the Tax Authority. The second relates to deadlines for registration to the Tax Authority while the third decision lists the foodstuff exempted from the VAT (zero VAT payment).

The first decision specified that registration to the Tax Authority becomes compulsory if the taxpayer's annual sales stand at OMR38,500 or more or are expected to reach this ceiling.

The decision set the ceiling of "voluntary" registration to the Tax Authority at OMR19,250 and states that, accordingly, the taxpayer may apply for voluntary registration if the applicant's annual sales stand at, or cross or expected to go beyond the value of OMR19,250.

94 items exempted from VAT

MUSCAT: The Tax Authority in its decision specified the type of foodstuff exempted from the VAT. The list consists of 94 customs tariff items to be exempted from the VAT.

These include meats, fish, poultry, dairy products, fresh eggs, vegetables, fruits, coffee, tea, cardamom, cereals and grains, olive oil, sugar, child foods, bread, bottled water and table salt. —**ONA**

Determining ceilings for compulsory and optional registration comes within the context of the provisions of the GCC Unified VAT Agreement, which the Sultanate signed in November 2016.

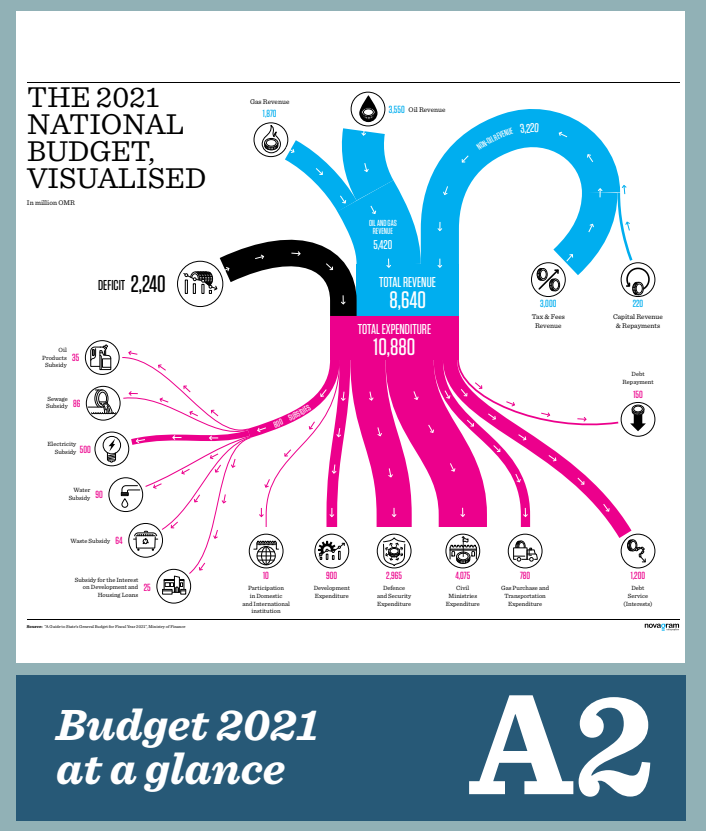
The second decision fixes deadlines for taxpayers' registration to the VAT at the Tax Authority.

The decision took into account a certain level of progression in taxpayers' registering to the Tax Authority, depending on the volume of their annual sales. The aim is to grant small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sufficient time to prepare and adjust their systems and their mechanisms of filing and billing to meet the requirements of the Tax Law.

The decision sets the deadline of registration, which is the date on which the taxpayer will be required to implement the provisions of the VAT Law, according to the volume of the taxpayer's sales.

The decision states that taxpayers whose value of annual sales crosses or is expected to cross OMR1 million have to register to the Tax Authority between February 1, 2021 and March 15, 2021. Accordingly, the VAT for this segment (OMR1 million-worth supplies) becomes applicable from April 16, 2021.

As for taxpayers whose value of sales crosses or is expected to cross OMR500,000, their registration begins from April and the deadline of registration will be July 1, 2021. The deadlines of lower segments follow a similar slope (per volume of sales) till the minimum level of OMR38,500-worth supplies. **>A5**



Budget 2021 at a glance

A2

LOTTERY

'I couldn't believe it when I got the call,' says winner of OMR2mn jackpot

Times News Service

MUSCAT: MV Abdussalam required a lot of convincing before realising that the news of him winning OMR2 million in a lottery were indeed true.

The Indian expat, who lives in Rustaq, and runs a number of businesses, won a prize money of AED20 million in the Big Ticket lottery in Abu Dhabi.

Abdussalam, a native of the south Indian state of Kerala, and seven of his friends, decided to stump up AED500 (OMR50) a head to buy tickets for the lottery, with the agreement that they would share their winnings equally, should one of them win.

"When I heard this for the first time, I could not believe I had won," he said. "My cousin tried to convince me, my brother tried as well, but I would not believe them. I thought they were just playing a joke on me. The organisers had contacted my relatives here to tell them I had won, and they then contacted me."

Abdussalam and his friends Venugopal, Nawaz, Baiju, Saheer, Riyaz, Rajesh and Jaleel have pledged to use at least some of this money to help the less fortunate back home.

"Not so long ago, our state of Kerala was badly damaged by floods," he recalled. "Many people lost their homes and other property, and sadly, some also died.

Now, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many people there, particularly the poor, so we want to do something to help them."

"We will allocate about OMR160,000 to conduct mass weddings of many who cannot afford lavish ceremonies," added Abdussalam. "We will donate more funds to other charities, but we don't know how much that will be. We will take a collective decision on how much to donate."

His wife and children were also, understandably, delighted, and he is waiting to make plans on how to spend his share when they return from India. His wife travelled to India with his young daughter three months ago to give birth to



his son, and are expected to return in seven days.

"Fortunately, my business was not so badly affected by COVID-19, because all of the items we sell are essential to people," Abdussalam added. "But we wanted to share some of our winnings with others because it is important we give

what we have to those who are not as lucky as we are."

Sooraj Kumar, a friend of his, who also works in Rustaq, was just as stunned when he heard of the news. "I live with Abdussalam's cousin and work with his brother, so when I heard the news, I was obviously happy for him," he said. "But he was not willing to believe us when we told him he had won the lottery. It took a lot of efforts to persuade him into accepting the truth."

"The plan to win the lottery and share the winnings was something he and his friends had thought of for quite some time, after one of them had suggested entering the competition," said Suraj of Abdussalam, who bought the lottery tickets

online with his friends.

One of his brothers, who also works in Oman, said this was the reward for the hard work and dedication he'd put into his job, as well as his sincerity to look after his family.

"We have received a lot of calls from India asking if he would be willing to donate to charities there, because they are helping a lot of people, but that decision is not ours to make," he admitted.

"Let Abdussalam and his friends decide, but we are sure he will make the right one. This is proof that if you work hard and do what is right, you will be taken care of. He is my brother and I am very happy for him."

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12.18pm
Asr.....	3:20pm
Maghrib.....	5:41pm
Isha.....	6:56pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:30am

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THE 2021 NATIONAL BUDGET, VISUALISED

In million OMR

The infographic visualizes the 2021 National Budget as a tree-like structure. At the top, revenue flows into a central trunk. The trunk is divided into two main sections: a blue upper section for revenue and a pink lower section for expenditure. The total revenue is 8,640 million OMR, and the total expenditure is 10,880 million OMR, resulting in a deficit of 2,240 million OMR.

Revenue Breakdown:

- Oil and Gas Revenue: 5,420
- Non-Oil Revenue: 3,220
- Oil Revenue: 3,550
- Gas Revenue: 1,870
- Tax & Fees Revenue: 3,000
- Capital Revenue & Repayments: 220

Expenditure Breakdown:

- Subsidies: 800
- Oil Products Subsidy: 35
- Sewage Subsidy: 86
- Electricity Subsidy: 500
- Water Subsidy: 90
- Waste Subsidy: 64
- Subsidy for the Interest on Development and Housing Loans: 25
- Participation in Domestic and International institution: 10
- Development Expenditure: 900
- Defence and Security Expenditure: 2,965
- Civil Ministries Expenditure: 4,075
- Gas Purchase and Transportation Expenditure: 780
- Debt Service (Interests): 1,200
- Debt Repayment: 150

Source: "A Guide to State's General Budget for Fiscal Year 2021", Ministry of Finance

novagram

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Grace period extended to correct job status of expats

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has announced the extension of the grace period for employers to correct the job status of the expatriate workforce until January 21.

The Ministry of Labour said that the announcement comes within the framework of regulating the labour market.

The declaration included

REGULARISATION: The Ministry of Labour said that the announcement comes within the framework of regulating the labour market.

amending the occupations of the non-Omani manpower from "Omanised" occupations to other professions in accordance with the requirements of the profession to be filled, amending the occupations of the non-Omani workforce from "suspended" occupations to other professions or vice versa, and permitting the amendment of professions of various professional levels according to the requirements of the desired profession run it.

It also included permitting the amendment and transfer of the data of the expats' manpower from one activity to another in the same establishment in accordance with the requirements of work permits issued, amending the wages of the non-Omani workforce according to the approved work contract, and permitting the transfer of non-Omani manpower services from an employer to another according to established controls and procedures.

The ministry also allowed the employer to apply for a licence to recruit and engage expats from within the Sultanate in the suspended activities, if the conditions stipulated for the licencing permits the cancellation of the report of worker after paying the prescribed fees, and fines resulting from the expiration of the work permit, provided that there is actual work for the worker.

COVID-19

Rustaq Hospital becomes COVID-free

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With zero patients of COVID-19 Rustaq Reference Hospital has achieved great success and feels proud of it after 10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Sulaiman Al Meqbali said.

Speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*, Dr Sulaiman Al Meqbali, an intensive care consultant at the Rustaq Reference Hospital, said, "We feel joy and happiness as we see the last COVID-19 patient leaving Rustaq Hospital. We have achieved great success and feel proud of that 10 months after the

start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the announcement that the Sultanate reported the discovery of the first two cases infected with the Coronavirus in November 2020, as the last 41-year-old patient suffering from COVID-19 left on Tuesday and is healthy, praise be to God, and he was hospitalized in the Rustaq Reference Hospital in intensive care from December 20, 2020."

Dr. Al Meqbali continued, "The patient was suffering from respiratory problems, and we had to use a ventilator to save his life, and with medical care, we were able, thank God, to bypass the

danger stage and the patient recovered gradually."

Dr. Sulaiman confirmed that during the peak days of COVID-19 during two close periods from July to September 2020, the number of COVID patients in hospital and intensive care reached 35, 15 of whom were in intensive care.

"The number of COVID-19 patients in Rustaq Reference Hospital reached 813 since the start of the pandemic until yesterday, when the last patient left, and most of them were suffering from respiratory problems and their need for artificial oxygen," he added.

Dr. Sulaiman supervised the treatment of a number of patients in intensive care, whose ages ranged from 18 years to more than 80 years.

Dr. Sulaiman Al Meqbali concluded, "We have achieved a great moment in treating Covid 19 patients and preserving their lives. We have gone through difficult circumstances and we felt very sad for them and very sad if we lost one of them, yesterday was the last patient to leave Rustaq Hospital, and this is due to the commitment of citizens and residents to self-protection and follow health procedures."

DECREE

FROM A1 Muscat Bourse to need CMA approval

Article (8) states that Muscat Bourse Company SAOC must obtain the approval of the CMA prior to appointing a Chief Executive Officer for the company and employees for the top management of the company.

Oman Investment Authority

Article (9) instructs Oman Investment Authority to draft a contract of foundation of Muscat Bourse Company SAOC and its Articles of Association and to fi-

nalise its registration procedures in accordance with provisions of the Commercial Companies Law (promulgated under Royal Decree No. 18/2019) before the date of enforcement of this law.

Article (10) cancels Muscat Securities Market (MSM), as well as all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (11) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced after 90 days from its date of publication. -OHA

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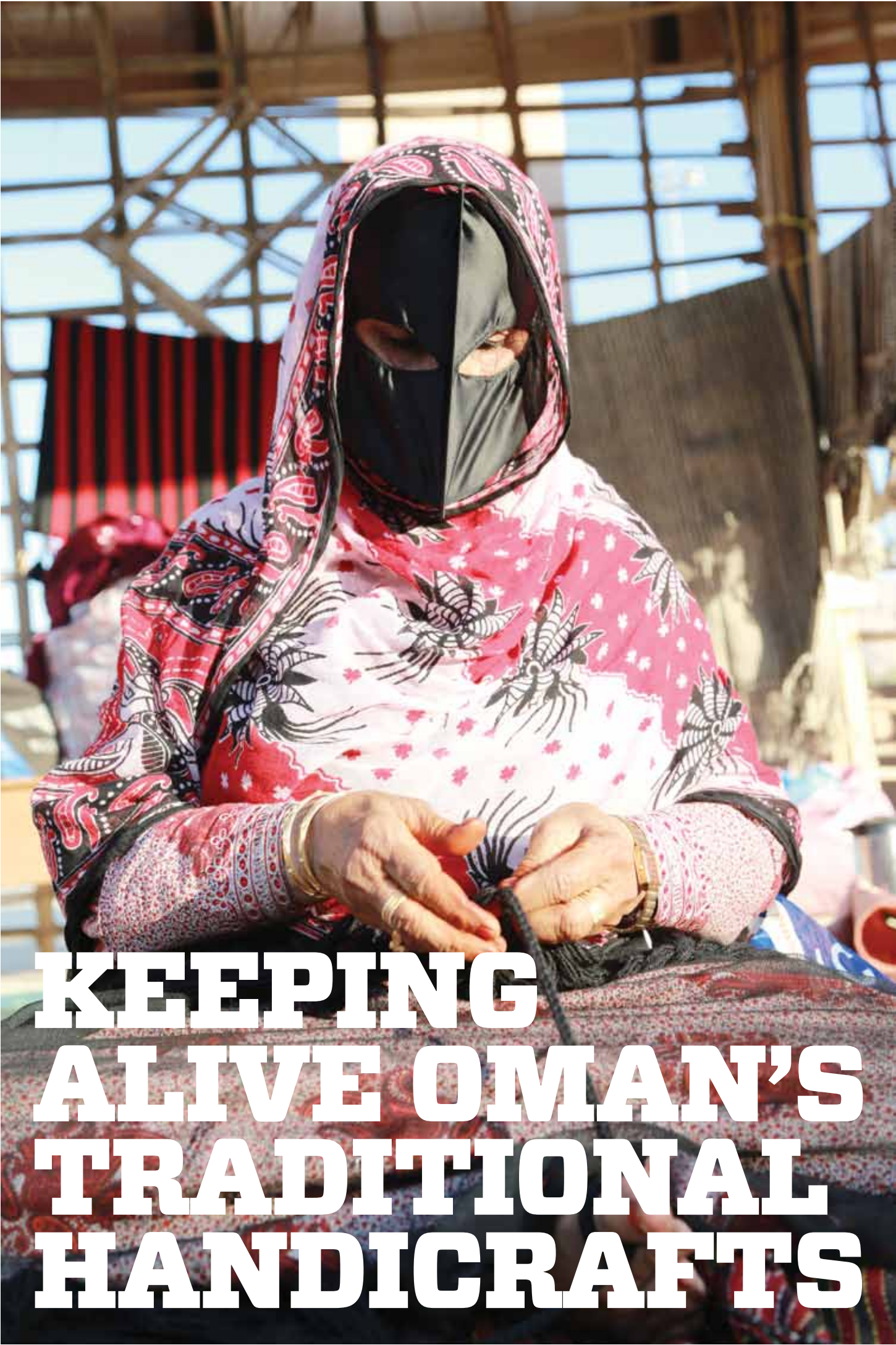
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KEEPING ALIVE OMAN'S TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS



OMAN'S HANDICRAFTS that are mostly home-based and done by using simple tools have a huge demand among tourists who buy these artefacts as souvenirs. Showcasing the Sultanate's rich culture and heritage, these handcrafted products include pottery items, products made of palm fronds, silverware, leather and more.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Omani arts and crafts are revered treasures that need to be preserved and popularised. Art and crafts also serve as the main source of vocation of the citizens in the interior regions of the country. Handicraft industry, if developed properly, can provide huge employment opportunities to artisans that include women and people belonging to interior regions of the country. Handicrafts help preserve a country's beautiful cultural aspects. Some of the lines of handicrafts projects in Oman are weaving, embroidery, ceramics, jewellery, basket weaving and paper. Omani items of ceramic, pottery and baskets made of palm and date tree leaves are also popular."



Having been passed down over many generations, one can find a cultural melange of Arab and Islamic imagery in Oman's traditional handicrafts. Be it the beautiful handmade glasses, earthenware vessels or *khanjars*, silverware, carpet weaving and other and uniquely crafted silver jewellery items, all the handcrafted designs are rooted in Omani culture and heritage.

While palm tree leaves are used to make *mukhruf* (a bag for collecting dates), baskets and intricately designed shoulder bags called *murbah*, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, anklets, ear pendants and bangles are among other souvenirs which tourists like to take from Oman, adds Oman's Ministry of Tourism.



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Oman eyes over 3.5% GDP growth rate in Tenth Plan

One of the main objectives of the plan is to attract more foreign direct investment in the oil and non-oil sectors, to reach 10.9 percent of the GDP at the end of the plan



Dr Nasser Rashid Al-Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy. — ONA

MUSCAT: Dr Nasser Rashid Al-Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy has said that the 10th Five-Year Plan will focus on achieving a real GDP growth rate of not less than 3.5 percent on average and 5.5 per cent in nominal GDP growth rate, as well as increasing the investment rate to 27

percent of GDP on average.

Main objectives

He added in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that one of the main objectives of the plan is to attract more foreign direct investment in the oil and non-oil sectors, to reach 10.9 percent of the GDP by the end of the plan.

In addition to increasing the private sector's contribution to investment to reach 60 per cent on average, as well as achieving a real growth rate for non-oil activities estimated at about 3.2 per cent on average, and maintaining safe and stable inflation rates in the range of 2.8 per cent annually.

He said, "Oman Vision 2040 has been directly followed up and supervised by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. The 10th Five-Year Plan reflects the directions of His Majesty that were included in his historic speech on February 23, 2020."

He added, "The plan is of great importance at this historical stage and is considered the first implementation plan for the vision. It is also the first tool by which the potentials of the future vision and the proposed initiatives and policies are implemented in order to achieve the goals of the vision during the next five years."

He concluded that there will be a special pamphlet known as "The Citizen's Guide for the Tenth Five-Year Plan" in addition to a number of other documents within the plan's outputs, including a volume for "The First Year Projects in the 10th Five-Year Plan", "Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the 10th Five Year Plan" and a volume for "The 10th Five Year Plan Programmes" which will be released in the first quarter of 2021. — ONA

HM the Sultan's Football Cup Round 16 draw conducted

MUSCAT: The draw for Round 16 of His Majesty the Sultan's Football Cup for the sports season 2021 was held on Wednesday at the conference hall of Seeb Sports Stadium.

According to the draw, Dhofar will play against Al Rustaq; Al Arouba vs Al Etihad; Seeb vs Al Nasr; Sohar vs Al Suwaiq; Al Nahda vs Majis; Sur vs Ibri; Saham vs Sumail and Al Musana vs Oman club. The matches will begin on January 21 and 22 and the venues for the matches will be decided later.

Said bin Othman Al Balushi, Secretary General of Oman Football Association (OFA) gave a speech in which he tackled the single-match elimination system of the competition. In case of a tie, the match would continue for additional time and would go on for a penalty kick in case of a tie by end of additional time, he said.

The draw ceremony was attended by a number of officials from Oman Football Association and representatives of the sponsoring companies and the local media.

— ONA

VALUE-ADDED TAX

<FROM A1> VAT will be paid eventually by the consumer

The decision grants taxpayers a right to register voluntarily to the Tax Authority with effect from February 1, 2021 in case the value of their supplies crosses or is expected to cross OMR19,250.

CA. Sarweshwar Biyani, Vice President - Finance & Accounts, SV Pittie Sohar Textiles LLC, said: "The VAT is paid eventually by the consumer. However, due to its structure of spreading responsibility on all businesses, there is a substantial compliance cost burden on all."

"These are adopting accounting and IT systems to capture accurately and remit the correct amount of VAT to tax authority, issuing correct VAT invoices, filing VAT returns, manpower training, VAT audits and dispute resolution etc. Scattered registration process over a period is a really good decision by the tax authority which will be favourable for business community."

It will give ample time to them to prepare for VAT specially SME. It will not put sudden burden and rush for small businesses. Also, if businesses prepare themselves in an appropriate manner to become crucial part of VAT collection administration system, it will finally help tax authority to collect VAT hassle free. It's like win-win situation for both."

— ONA/Times News Service

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OMAN-US

Oman Vision 2040 the start of a new stage of partnership

MUSCAT: Kimberly Reed, President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) said that the business community in the United States positively views the steps taken by the Government of the Sultanate under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

These steps are aimed to further enhance the economy and business environment, the support of the private sector and to attract more investments to the Sultanate.



She said that the trade team at the US Embassy in Muscat is extending tremendous efforts on acquainting the business community in the US with the avail-

able investment opportunities in the Sultanate.

In a speech to ONA, she tackled the possibility of contribution of EXIM Bank to enhancement of the investment and economic relations between the two sides.

She said that Oman Vision 2040 is not just the beginning of a renewable renaissance but also an opportunity for the start of a new stage of partnership relations between the Sultanate and the United States, mainly in the economic fields. — ONA



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- A copy of claim form can be obtained from the below **website: <http://www.mcd.gov.om/>**
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BAIL DENIED

Julian Assange denied bail by UK court



LONDON: Lawyers for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange had argued there is no risk of him absconding pending an appeal against a decision not to extradite him to the United States. Lawyers for the US government, however, told the court there were “no conditions that could guarantee his surrender” if Assange were released from custody.

“I am satisfied that there are substantial grounds for believing that if Mr. Assange is released today he would fail to surrender to court to face the appeal proceedings,” Judge Vanessa Baraitser said.

Crowds of supporters gathered outside the court awaiting the ruling.

A London court on Monday blocked his extradition to the United States, where the 49-year-old faces a number of charges for publishing hundreds of thousands of secret documents online. Judges said he was a high suicide risk if handed over. The US Department of Justice called the extradition ruling “extremely disappointing” and said it will appeal. The process, however, will likely take months, particularly given the current backlog of cases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even if the US loses again, it could also appeal to the UK Supreme Court, which would mean longer delays. Assange had remained in the high-security Belmarsh prison in southeast London pending the latest hearing at Westminster Magistrates’ Court in central London. **mw**



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

NEW EMERGENCY

Japan’s COVID-19 cases hit new record ahead of declaration of emergency

TOKYO: Japan on Tuesday confirmed a record 4,912 new daily infections, bringing the country’s cumulative total to 253,437, not including those related to a cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo last year.

The new record figure comes as Japan is moving towards declaring another state of emergency in Tokyo and the three neighboring prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba, owing to a resurgence of COVID-19 infections in these areas. The greater Tokyo area now accounts for half of the country’s daily infections.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga earlier on Tuesday said that a decision to declare another state of emergency would be made on Thursday, stating, “What the people want from the government and the ruling party is a sense of security and hope.”

“We will put the coronavirus response first and work hard at it,” Suga said at an executive meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Government officials have said that the emergency declaration is expected to be kept in place for roughly one month for the greater Tokyo area.

Specifically on Tuesday, Tokyo, the hardest hit among all of Japan’s 47 prefectures, reported 1,278 new cases, the second-highest on record since the outbreak of the pandemic, bringing its overall tally to 64,752 infections.

Neighboring Kanagawa Prefecture confirmed 622 new infections to total 23,510, Saitama Prefecture, meanwhile, registered 369 new cases, bringing its tally to 15,542 infections, while Chiba Prefecture booked 261 new cases to a total of 12,123 infections.

A state of emergency was declared in Tokyo and six other prefectures on April 7 last year. It was later expanded to cover the whole country. **xinhua**





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Democrats win first of two US Senate elections

The results of the neck-and-neck races will have a major impact on the course of Joe Biden's presidency

WASHINGTON: A pastor who spent the past 15 years leading the Atlanta church where Martin Luther King Jr. preached, Raphael Warnock defeated Republican incumbent Kelly Loeffler, US media predicted on Wednesday.

The results of the neck-and-neck races will have a major impact on the course of Joe Biden's presidency and his ability to pass legislation through the US Congress. The election has also drawn an international spotlight on the state following November's tumultuous US presidential election. Vote counting stopped in many parts of the state overnight with results expected on Wednesday afternoon (local time).



The race between Republican David Perdue and Democrat Jon Ossoff remains too early to call. As of 2:15 a.m. Wednesday, Ossoff had a lead margin of less than 0.2 per cent, reported a news agency.

Georgia's first black senator

With the win, Warnock has become the first Black senator in his state's history. He acknowledged his improbable victory in a message to supporters early Wednesday, citing his family's experience with poverty. "The other day, because this is America, the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton picked her youngest son to be a United States senator," he said, referring to his mother.

"Tonight, we proved with hope, hard work and the people by our side, anything is possible."

Loeffler refused to concede in a brief message to supporters shortly after midnight.

Why is this race important?

Once a solidly Republican state, Georgia in 2020 chose a Democratic presidential candidate for the first time since Bill Clinton in 1992. Joe Biden won the state by a thin margin of just under 12,000 votes. However, none of the four candidates for Senate on Election Day in November won more than 50% of the vote for Georgia's two seats, which automatically resulted in a runoff.

Since then, both Republicans and Democrats have been pouring millions of dollars into campaigns, as Georgia's seats will determine whether Democrats or Republicans control the Senate. If Democrats flip Georgia's both Senate seats currently held by Republicans, it would split the chamber 50-50, giving Vice President-elect Kamala Harris a tiebreaking vote in passing legislation. If Republicans win the second runoff, their party would have a 51-49 advantage in the upper house of US Congress.

As legislative cooperation between Democrats and Republicans has been deadlocked in recent years, Democrat control of the Senate is seen as being critical for the fate of incoming President Joe Biden's agenda. ■■

Police arrest over 50 pro-democracy activists, lawmakers in Hong Kong

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

HONG KONG: Over 50 opposition lawmakers and activists were arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of violating the national security law, for their part in a primary election run-off last July.

Among the arrested were former lawmakers James To Kun-sun, Lam Cheuk-ting, Andrew Wan Siu-kin, Alvin Yeung Ngok-kiu and Wu Chi-wai, as well as pollster Dr Robert Chung Ting-yiu, who helped organise the event, South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported. Most of those had organised or taken part in primary contests held by the pan-democratic camp last July as part of a "35-plus" strategy to maximise its chances of taking control of the 70-member legislature.

The national security law was implemented in Hong Kong in June last year. The 35-plus strategy was drafted by Occupy co-founder and law academic Benny Tai Yiu-ting in March last year.

Its aim is to gain a majority in the Legislative Council election (35 seats or more), and then vote down the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's budget twice, if possible, SCMP reported.

According to the national security law, a principal offender convicted of subversion faces imprisonment of 10 years to life, while an "active participant" can be sentenced to between three and 10 years' jail, while a minor can face a fixed term of not more than three years' imprisonment or short-term detention or restriction.

China has faced criticism over the national security law which is being dubbed in conflict with the Sino-British joint declaration.

The agreement of Hong Kong was signed in Beijing on December 19, 1984, by the Prime Ministers of China and Britain, Zhao Ziyang and Margaret Thatcher. The two governments agreed that China would reassume control of Hong Kong from July 1, 1997.

The main body of the treaty has eight articles and three annexes and it states that China's basic policies regarding Hong Kong "will remain unchanged for 50 years", including the promise that the city would retain a high degree of autonomy. ■■

NO DELIVERY CHARGES

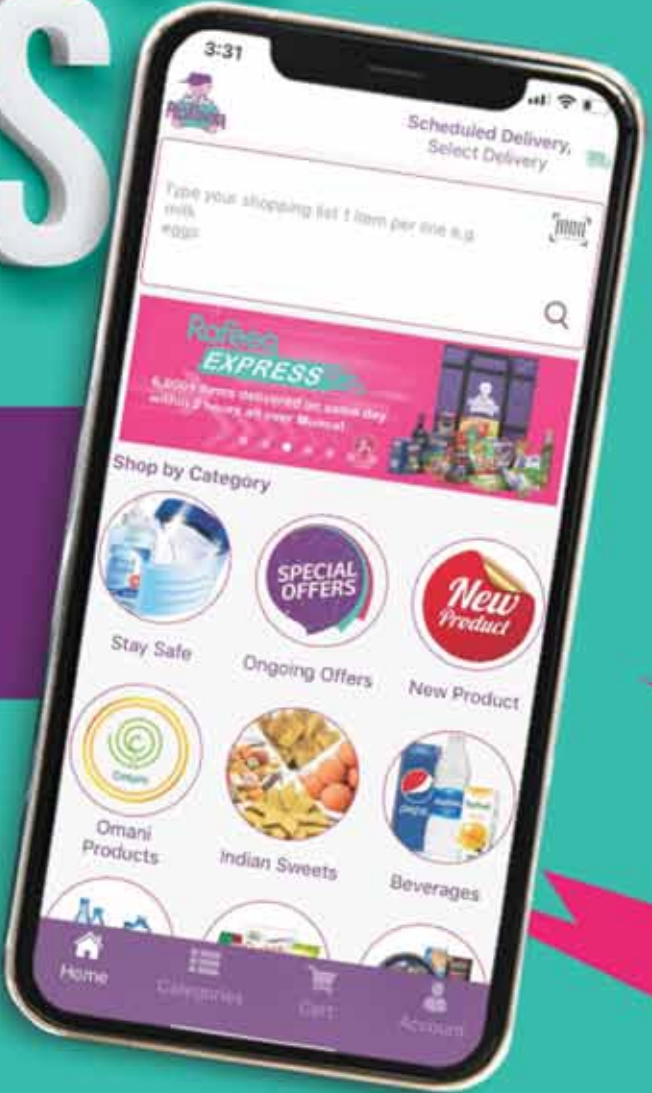
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New Zealand topple Australia to gain number one Test spot

Australia with 116 points stand at second spot followed by India (114), England (106) and South Africa (96)

CHRISTCHURCH: With an innings and 176-run massive victory against Pakistan in the second Test, New Zealand toppled Australia to become the number one side in Test rankings.

Kane Williamson-led side clean-swept Pakistan in the two-match Test series. They have also gained crucial points to strengthen their position in the ICC World Test Championship standings. New Zealand now have 118 points and leading the charts. They have achieved the feat for the first time in rankings history. Australia with 116 points stand at second spot followed by India (114), England (106) and South Africa (96).

A win for Australia in Sydney will see Tim Paine's side go back ahead of Kiwis on the ICC's provisional Test rankings that are officially updated at the series' end. Only a 3-1 series win for India can see them claim the number one spot after the fourth Test in Bris-



TOPPING CHARTS: Kane Williamson-led side clean-swept Pakistan in the two-match Test series.

bane. A drawn Australia-India series would see New Zealand remain top.

New Zealand who declared their first innings after gaining a lead of 362 runs, made light work of Pakistan batsmen in the second innings and the hosts just took 81.4 overs to bundle out the visitors to gain a comprehensive win.

Resuming day three at 8/1, Pakistan lost the wicket of night-watchman Mohammad Abbas (3) in just the fourth over of the day as the right-handed batter was sent back to the pavilion by Trent Boult. Abid Ali and Azhar Ali then tried to retrieve the innings for

the visitors as the duo put on a stand of 29 runs.

However, before the lunch break, the Kiwis managed to get another breakthrough as Kyle Jamieson scalped the wicket of Abid Ali (26) and as a result, the visitors went into the interval at 69/3. After the lunch break, Pakistan lost the wickets of Haris Sohail (15) and Azhar Ali (37) in quick succession as Jamieson had both batsmen caught at the hands of wicketkeeper BJ Watling and the visitors were left staring down the barrel at 88/5.

In the 52nd over of the innings, Jamieson recorded his five-wicket haul as he clean-bowled Paki-

stan skipper Mohammad Rizwan (10). Before the tea interval, Kiwis also dismissed Fawad Alam (16) and the hosts were just three wickets away from victory in the second Test.

Faheem Ashraf played a knock of 28 runs, but he was sent back to the pavilion by Jamieson in the 72nd over and after this dismissal, the Kiwis quickly wrapped up the tail and the side recorded a well-deserved victory.

Pakistan was bowled out for 186 in the second innings. Jamieson had also taken five wickets in the first innings and in the end, he finished the match with a total of 11 wickets. **ANI**



Rohit returns, Saini to debut as India name playing XI for third Test

SYDNEY: Rohit Sharma made a return to the Indian team for the Pink Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground while pacer Navdeep Saini is set to make his debut in the longest format game on Thursday.

India's playing XI: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Rohit Sharma (vc), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Jasprit Bumrah, Navdeep Saini, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin and Mohd. Siraj. India on Wednesday named the playing XI for the Pink Test. Opening batsman Mayank Agarwal has been dropped from the side as Rohit replaces him. Gill will open the innings with Rohit after playing knocks of 45 and 35* in his debut Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Saini comes in for speedster Umesh Yadav. The latter sus-

tained a strain in his left calf muscle on Day 3 of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne and has returned to India after he was ruled out of the series.

Rohit was also named the vice-captain for the remaining two Test matches against Australia. The opener will take over the reins from Cheteshwar Pujara. Ajinkya Rahane continues to lead the Test side in the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli, who is on a paternity leave.

The third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Test Series between India and Australia will be played at Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) from Thursday. The series is level at 1-1 with India registering an eight-wicket win in the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground after being thrashed in the opening Test of the series at the Adelaide Oval. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

A GOOD CAUSE

Neymar is a leader, will try to get everything out of his talent: Pochettino

PARIS: Paris Saint Germain (PSG) head coach Mauricio Pochettino hailed Neymar saying that the Brazilian is a leader on the pitch and he will try to get everything out of the player's talent.

"I like to talk about animation, both in attack and defence, with and without the ball. The playing systems are only a small part of the tactics," the club's official website quoted Pochettino as saying. "When Neymar is able to train with the squad, we'll talk everything through with him. He's a leader on the pitch of course, and that's why we'll try to get everything out of his talent on the pitch. All the players are leaders, and the more of those we have on the field the better it will be for the team," he added.

PSG appointed Pochettino as head coach on January 2. The 48-year-old, Pochettino, has a history at PSG where, as a centre-back and club captain, he made 95 appearances for the Rouge and Bleu between 2001 and 2003, scoring six goals.

Pochettino came through the ranks at Newell's Old Boys in his native Argentina, before moving to Europe to play for Espanyol FC and then PSG. Born in Murphy, Argentina, he won 20 caps and scored 2 goals for his country, and his fight-



ing spirit made him a favorite of the Parc des Princes crowd during his 30 months in Paris. PSG are currently gearing up for the Ligue 1 clash against St-Etienne which will be Pochettino's first game in charge.

Reflecting on the same, Pochettino said: "I need to adapt quickly as it's a new environment and a new club, but my coaching staff speak French, so we'll be able to work very quickly. I'm very happy

to have this responsibility of adapting quickly to all the expectations of the club, we have great things to accomplish, and it starts tomorrow at Saint-Etienne. I know the coach as I came up against him in England. They're a team that have clearly defined playing principles. We are happy to be back in competitive action and above all playing there, in a historic place for French football." **ANI**

Tendulkar lends support to McGrath's 'Pink Test' initiative

SYDNEY: Little Master Sachin Tendulkar has extended his support to the McGrath Foundation which is helping patients dealing with breast cancer.

In the lead-up to the iconic Pink Test, the McGrath Foundation called on Australia to help keep the 'pink' in the Pink Test by buying virtual Pink Seats to help raise 1 million dollars to fund McGrath Breast Care Nurses. The legendary Indian batsman reconnected with former Australian pacer Glenn McGrath, Co-Founder and President McGrath Foundation, off the field and lent his support for the noble cause.

Tendulkar handed over Team India's Test jersey signed by himself which will now be auctioned for the noble cause.

"Happy to lend my support to @McGrathFdn's noble efforts during the #PinkTest to help patients dealing with breast cancer. It was wonderful meeting Glenn McGrath after long. My best wishes to him, his team & especially the nurses who are the backbone of this initiative," Tendulkar tweeted.

Unveiled on Tuesday, the virtual Pink Seats campaign has been developed in response to a reduced crowd at the SCG.

Cricket Australia (CA), in an official release, said that by purchasing virtual Pink Seats, people right across Australia can get



involved in the Pink Test no matter where they are, "either at the ground or watching from home."

McGrath has asked people from across Australia to show their support for people with breast cancer by buying virtual Pink Seats.

"The Pink Test has become a national phenomenon and we always look forward to seeing people pinking up with our bandanas to help bathe the SCG in pink as a symbolic show of support for those experiencing breast cancer and raising much-needed funds for the McGrath Foundation. But the reality is the Pink Test will look a little bit different this year. There will be less people in the

crowd and sadly, we won't have our much-loved volunteers on the ground collecting donations," McGrath said in a statement.

Recognised as one of the biggest charitable sporting events in the world over the last 13 years, the Pink Test partnership between the McGrath Foundation, Cricket Australia and the SCG Trust symbolises the best in the sport coming together to make a difference to those living with breast cancer.

The four-match series between India and Australia currently stands level at 1-1 and the third Test is slated to be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground from Thursday. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Easy wins for Al Jadidi, Safara, Danmark and Aflag

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Jadidi Engineering rode on Rizwan Muhammed's magnificent 85 not out to thrash Pitspot by 9 wickets in a D Division T20 League game at Muscat Municipality ground 4 in Amerat on Friday.

Chasing Pitspot's 103 for 8, Al Jadidi raced to the target in just 12.1 overs, scoring 106 for 1, thanks to brilliant batting by Rizwan.

Brief Scores (D Division): Pitspot 103 for 8 in 20 overs (Bilal Suleiman 38 - 2x4, 1x6, Ahmed Shahzad 2-15, Muhammed Rizwan 2-20, Gokul Gopinath 2-21)

lost to Al Jadidi Engineering and Contracting 106 for 1 in 12.1 overs (Muhammed Rizwan 85 - 16x4) by 9 wickets.

Uzair helps Safara to victory

In another D Division game, Syed Uzair Saman struck an elegant half century to steer Safara International to a comfortable 7-wicket victory against Al Rehwan at Muscat Municipality ground 3.

Safara bowled well, restricting Al Rehwan to 147 for 8, Sandesh Pulkar taking 3 for 11, and then chased the total down in the 17th over, scoring 150 for 3 thanks to useful knocks by Syed Uzair (50)

and Ahmed Mohammed (39).

Brief Scores (D Division): Al Rehwan 147 for 8 in 20 overs (Puthan Marachali 37 - 4x4, Sandesh Pusalkar 3-11, Ali Akbar Husain 2-22) lost to Safara International 150 for 3 in 16.3 overs (Syed Uzair Saman 50 - 5x4, 1x6, Ahmed Mohammed 39 - 6x4, Sandesh Pusalkar 38 - 5x4) by 7 wickets.

Doresh steers Danmark to easy win

Doresh Devender's superb 50 guided Danmark to an easy 8-wicket win over OCT Al Nahdha in an E Division match at Muscat Municipality ground 3.

Rafeeq Mohammed's 66 was the highlight of OCT Al Nahdha's 128 for 6 which Danmark surpassed in only 13.4 overs, scoring 129 for 2. Doresh and Syamlal Sasidharan (36) were its main scorers.

Brief Scores (E Division): Oct Al Nahdha 128 for 6 in 20 overs (Rafeeq Mohammed 66 - 10x4, Mustafa Subhan 2-24) lost to Danmark CC 129 for 2 in 13.4 overs (Doresh Devender 50 - 5x4, Syamlal Sasidharan 36 - 5x4) by 8 wickets.

Haris takes Aflag to victory

In another E Division game, Haris

Alam struck an unbeaten 84 off 46 to help Aflag Group to a comfortable 53-run victory against OCT Al Hail B at Muscat Municipality ground 3. Batting first, Aflag scored 195 for 5 and then restricted Al Hail side to 142 for 4 in 20 overs. Khalid Rahim (50) and Abdul Jalil (49) were Al Hail's main scorers.

Brief Scores (E Division): Aflag Group Ct 195 for 5 in 20 overs (Haris Alam 80 - 6x4, 3x6, Junaid Iqbal 30 - 8x4, Asim Abdul Qadeer 2-24) beat Oct Al Hail B; 142 for 4 in 20 overs (Khalid Rahim Bakhsh 50 - 2x4, Abdul Jalil Al Balushi 49 - 6x4, 1x6) by 53 runs.

Brief Scores (F Division): KCA Deutag 176 for 5 in 20 overs (Sultan Ali 69 - 9x4, 3x6, Munthir Al Balushi 36 - 6x4) beat Team Coorg Muscat (TCM) 131 all out in 15.5 overs (Dinal Napanda Devaiah 23 - 2x4, Sultan Ali 2-19, Irfan Ur Rahman 2- 24) by 45 runs.

Brief Scores (F Division): Israr Ghala 132 all out in 17 overs (Ihshan Ullah 38 - 7x4, 1x6, Prashant Rana 4-33, Sanjay Makwana 3-05, Ashwinkumar Dave 2-22) beat Y Horizon 73 all out in 15.1 overs (Gajendran Thathapillai 16 - 2x4, Muhammad Islam 3-16, Muhammad Saqib 3-10, Amir Munir 2-11) by 59 runs.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by February 2020 reaching \$53.52, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman rose \$2.98 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$50.54. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,711.50 points, up 0.09 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.06 per cent at 525.81 points. Gulf International Chemicals, up 2.86 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Omaniya Financial Service Bonds, down 20.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Ministry inks OMR5.6mn pact for smart agriculture project



COOPERATION: The agreement was signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Abdullah Mohammed Al-Siyabi, Director General of AFDC. - OMA

The project aims to increase productivity of various vegetables, extend their production seasons and raise quality of local products

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MoAFWR) signed an agreement to lease 100 acres with the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Company (AFDC) to invest and implement the smart agriculture project in the Wilayat of Al Kamil Wa Al Wafi.

The OMR5.6 million project aims to increase the productivity of various vegetables, extend their production seasons, and raise the quality and safety of local production.

This agreement comes within the framework of cooperation between the public and private sectors and approaches of Oman

Vision 2040 to encourage investment, especially in the agricultural and animal fields, to achieve local food security and create job opportunities for citizens.

Smart agriculture is defined as a system that relies on advanced technology in cultivating crops in sustainable and clean ways and rationalising the use of natural resources.

The project focuses on introducing advanced technologies in the agricultural sector and raising the efficiency of using agricultural resources and inputs to produce vegetables. The project will also serve young Omani investors in the agriculture project in the Wilayat of Al Kamil Wa Al Wafi.

The project consists of green-

houses, shade houses, soilless farming techniques, open field cultivation techniques, mechanisation, modern irrigation networks, a wireless agricultural meteorological station, warehouses, production sorting and processing facilities, and other facilities.

The project seeks to cultivate varieties of vegetables. 150,000 square metres will be allocated for winter cultivation of various crops, which will focus on new varieties.

The agreement was signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Abdullah Mohammed Al-Siyabi, Director General of AFDC. - OMA

BP OMAN

JANUARY 7

Sharakah workshops upskill entrepreneurs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In partnership with BP Oman, Sharakah (Funds for the Development of Youth Projects) has recently concluded the 'Zaad Al Ruwad' virtual workshops.

These workshops aimed to create awareness of financial management and entrepreneurship-related topics aiming at upskilling the entrepreneurs understanding to manage businesses effectively and efficiently.

A total of five online workshops were conducted in collaboration with BP Oman Social Investment Programmes partners which included Al Rudha, Youth Sada and Global Connections Centre known as Tawassul, which are local companies with programmes targeting the entrepreneurship.

In addition to MEDRC, which is an international organisation established in Oman and mandated to find solutions to freshwater scarcity

that carries out a programme enabling entrepreneurs in this sector.

An additional workshop targeted individuals from the general public. A total of 86 Omanis participated in these workshops.

Shamsa Al-Rawahiya, BP Oman Social Investment Manager, commented, "The workshops offered an interactive fun opportunity to the participants. They are based on real-life business simulations, which take the participants through a step-by-step journey in small project establishment, including on how to deal with risks and opportunities. We hope that these workshops have supported the participants to sustain and grow their business in the future."

'Zaad Al Ruwad' is a two-day interactive workshop where participants can enhance their practical business knowledge. The workshop covers the fundamentals of running a business.

Qatar Airways resumes daily flights to Muscat

Times News Service

DOHA: Qatar Airways is pleased to announce the resumption of daily flights to Muscat starting from January 7, as well as weekly flights to Salalah, with the first service having touched down at Salalah Airport on January 1, 2021.

The newly resumed flights to Salalah will leave Doha each Friday at 08:25 (05:25 UTC) am and arrive to Salalah at 12:00 local time. Flights from Salalah are scheduled on Fridays at 16:00 local time to arrive to Doha at 17:50. The flights to Muscat will fly daily from Doha at 00:45, arriving to Oman capital at 03:25, and leave Muscat at 04:40, landing in Doha at 05:30. This schedule will be valid from January 1st to March 26th, 2021.

Qatar Airways enhanced connectivity with North America will benefit passengers from Oman, including Omani students, who massively enrolled to Qatar Airways' Global Student programme. Qatar Airways also expanded its



BENEFIT: Qatar Airways connectivity to North America will benefit passengers from Oman, including Omani students, who are enrolled to Qatar Airways' Global Student programme.

connection with South America, increasing Sao Paulo services to 10 weekly flights and expanding its codeshare cooperation with LATAM Airlines Brazil.

Qatar Airways and Oman Air recently signed a code-share expansion that will significantly increase the number of destinations available to Oman Air passengers from three to 65* on the Qatar Airways'

network across Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, India, and the Middle East.

Qatar Airways passengers will also benefit from additional connectivity, with the ability to book travel on an additional six destinations across Africa and Asia in Oman Air's network. Both airlines will also explore a number of joint commercial and operational ini-

tiatives to further optimise their partnership.

Bennet Stephens, Qatar Airways' Vice President Sales for Gulf, Middle East, Levant and Caucasus region, said: "We are pleased to continue rebuilding our network and offering our passengers the opportunity to travel safely from Muscat and Salalah. We are delighted with the response from the students' community of Oman to our Student club programme, where they can enjoy great savings and bespoke benefits such as extra baggage allowances, the flexibility to change the dates of their flight, complimentary Super Wi-Fi onboard".

Qatar Airways is currently flying to over 110 destinations worldwide with more than 800 weekly flights, providing more global connectivity than any other airline and connecting to US, GCC, Europe and Levant regions.

Starting from January 29, Qatar Airways will restart flights to Seattle, almost two months ahead of the initial schedule.

FALAJ MAINTENANCE

Jusoor Foundation completes project worth OMR25,000



TOURIST ATTRACTION: Maintenance of the Aldhuwaiqa Falaj in Wadi Al-Jizi area in the wilayat of Sohar will enhance the tourist attraction with the preservation of Oman's heritage. - Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Jusoor Foundation has completed the maintenance of Aldhuwaiqa Falaj in Wadi Al-Jizi area in the wilayat of Sohar, which is a project funded by OQ within the cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

Costing nearly OMR25,000, this project is part of the commitment of OQ to social responsibility through Jusoor Foundation, the social investment arm of Sohar Aluminium, Vale Oman and OQ companies. The falaj is expected to serve citizens residing in the area of Hail Dhuwaiqa in Wadi Al Jizi through providing them with groundwater for their farms and animals. Maintenance of the falaj will enhance the added-value through preparing it to be a tourist attraction

and through the preservation of Oman's attractions and heritage.

Aldhuwaiqa Falaj is categorised as a 'ghaili falaj', which refers to the type of falaj that is fed through ponds and running water. Measuring 880 metres long and locating 5 km away from the highway, this falaj is the water source on which people depend to irrigate their crops and for their other daily uses.

The maintenance work included the construction of an 800m-long open-air water distribution canal. This process required the removal of the old canal, deeper digging and expansion, especially near mountainous surfaces. This was followed by cementing the bottom of the canal and constructing a 5-metre fly-over.

Saif Al Shibli, Supervisor of Aldhuwaiqa Falaj, said, "This project is of great importance to the

people who rely heavily on this historic falaj in many aspects of their life, in addition to their connection to it.

"Therefore, this maintenance will revive the falaj and enable the best utilisation of its water and will certainly preserve it as part of the Omani heritage and one of the beautiful tourist attractions in Wadi Al Jizi area."

It is worth mentioning that the social investment funded by the founding companies of Jusoor for the maintenance projects for the various falajes in North Al Batina Governorate reached OMR188,000, which included maintenance works for 5 'ghaili' and 'dawoodi' falajes. These projects included the reconstruction of old water canals and the construction of new ones with fly-overs to sustain the genuine water heritage of the Sultanate.

Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

Tender 1 /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
1/2021	Maintenance of Toilets & Pantries at Ministries Main Building - Ruwi	25/- R.O	Specialized	Tuesday 12/1/2021	Wednesday 20/1/2021 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>.

1- 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.

2- 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.

3- 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:

1- Tender inquiries; All correspondence pertaining to TENDER Inquiries shall be online through E-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2- 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

@moci_oman

@mociip.om

mcioman

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Gulf International Chemicals, up 2.86 per cent, was the top gainer, while Al Omaniya Financial Service Bonds, down 20 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,711.50 points, up 0.09 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.06 per cent at 525.81 points. Gulf International Chemicals, up 2.86 per cent, was the top gainer, while Al Omaniya Financial Service Bonds, down 20.00 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Ooredoo was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as of turnover.

A total number of 295 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR0.947 million, with more than 4.15 million shares changing hands. Out of 36 traded stocks, 3 advanced, 11 declined and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close,

foreign investors were net buyers for OMR207,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR191,000 followed by domestic investors for OMR16,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,736.86 points, down by 0.03 per cent. National Life & General Insurance and Sohar International Bank were up 1.16 per cent and 1.09 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Holding, Al Sharqiya Investment Holding, and Bank Muscat were down by 2.99 per cent, 1.35 per cent, and 0.50 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,358.09 points, down 0.29 per cent. Services index was down by 0.38 per cent before closing at 1,611.24 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,715.71	3,705.44	3,711.50	3,714.91	-3.41	-0.09
Financial Index	5,741.30	5,726.98	5,736.86	5,738.64	-1.78	-0.03
Industrial Index	4,370.55	4,358.05	4,358.09	4,370.55	-12.46	-0.29
Services Index	1,618.87	1,611.24	1,611.24	1,617.44	-6.20	-0.38
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	526.15	525.81	525.81	526.15	-0.34	-0.06
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,240.46	4,228.74	4,235.66	4,239.55	-3.89	-0.09

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
4,158,311	947,037	295	20,297,388,886	3	11	22	36

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/A VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	89,075	8,284	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.092	-0.001	1.087	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	228,409,126
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	2,100	305	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.100	12,325,000
OM0000000418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,000	338	1	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.338	0.332	0.338	0.100	68,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	165,355	7,219	11	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	13,514,438
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	200	49	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.100	81,063,814
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,421,685	55,7945	118	0.392	0.396	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.000	0.000	0.392	0.390	0.392	0.100	355,170,138
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	113,978	45,163	11	0.386	0.400	0.394	0.386	0.398	-0.002	-0.503	0.400	0.394	0.400	0.100	1,286,810,925
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	69,000	50,232	4	0.728	0.728	0.728	0.728	0.732	-0.004	-0.546	0.728	0.724	0.732	0.100	546,000,000
OM0000002176	AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	98,684	14,164	12	0.145	0.145	0.143	0.144	0.145	-0.001	-0.690	0.144	0.144	0.145	0.100	17,985,306
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	76,000	25,688	3	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.342	-0.004	-1.170	0.338	0.336	0.338	0.100	79,906,580
OM0000000440	AL SHARQA INVESTMENT HOLDING	153,105	11,779	11	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	6,570,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	20,000	1,810	2	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.092	-0.002	-2.174	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	110,742	7,231	13	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.067	-0.002	-2.985	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	13,000,000
Total	13	2,320,922	729,606	189												

Parallel Market

OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	10,033	1,084	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.105	-0.003	-2.857	0.108	0.106	0.110	0.100	2,268,000
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS.	286,274	92,663	7	0.348	0.348	0.348	0.348	0.344	-0.004	-1.163	0.348	0.348	0.348	0.100	92,220,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	7,024	1,454	2	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.200	0.207	0.100	6,210,000
OM0000001319	NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS	15,700	1,424	3	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.089	0.091	0.100	3,055,002
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	4,286	686	2	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.155	0.160	0.100	266,655,202
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	7,000	616	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000000581	OMAN AND EMIRATES INV. HOLDING	4,794	215	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.047	0.100	5,606,250
OM0000001822	UNITED POWER	110	99	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.902	0.902	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	1.000	793,600
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	101,800	28,481	9	0.275	0.280	0.275	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.272	0.280	0.100	82,939,831
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,500	313	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.100	209,506,498
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,990	1,990	1	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.920	1.000	0.100	95,000,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	2,710	271	3	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	299,635,144
OM0000003900	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAR.	4,450	2,990	1	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.000	0.000	0.672	0.608	0.672	0.100	46,368,000
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	238	30	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.100	10,175,344
OM0000004768	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	15,000	1,155	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000004925	AL BATINAH POWER	52,806	2,641	5	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	50,942	2,598	5	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	29,374	1,616	13	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	34,443,080
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	318,942	26,472	5	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	8,300,000
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	37,600	9,321	10	0.254	0.254	0.252	0.253	0.254	-0.001	-0.394	0.253	0.247	0.253	0.100	15,484,681
OM0000004735	SEMOB CORP SALALAH	21,955	2,152	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.000	0.098	0.098	0.100	0.100	93,548,051
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON.	881,071	38,929	27	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.044	0.047	-0.003	-6.383	0.044	0.044	0.045	0.100	12,759,148
Total	22	1,836,589	217,399	105												

INDIAN MULTINATIONAL CONGLOMERATE

ITC to meet all energy needs from renewable sources by 2030

NEW DELHI: Indian multinational conglomerate company ITC Ltd said it has set a target to meet 100 per cent of its purchased grid electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2030.

At present, ITC meets over 40 per cent of its electrical energy requirement through renewable

sources like wind, solar and bio-mass. "As a part of Sustainability 2.0 Vision, ITC is planning to invest further in strengthening its renewable energy portfolio to contribute meaningfully to the fight against climate change," it said in a statement.

The current renewables portfolio

of the company consists of 138 megawatts of wind power plants and 14 MW of solar plants with 53 MW of additional solar capacity under execution.

Projects are also underway in the area of other sources of renewable energy like a solar boiler or biomass boilers. - ANI

REVIVAL

Air cargo markets on recovery path

KUALA LUMPUR: There is lack of progress in the revival of international travel with demand still held back by ongoing border restrictions amid a resurgence in COVID-19 infections in various countries, the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) said.

Meanwhile, air cargo markets are a silver lining for the region's carriers, supported by a recovery in global manufacturing activity.

Only 1.4 million international passengers were carried by Asia Pacific airlines in November, a mere 4.6 per cent of the 30.8 million recorded in the same month of 2019.

Offered seat capacity was comparatively higher at 12.5 per cent of levels in the previous corresponding period.

Reflecting challenging operating conditions, the region's carriers recorded an average international passenger load factor of just 30 per cent for the month, far below the 80 per cent achieved in November 2019.

International trade flows continued to rebound in November, buoyed by an acceleration in new export orders.

As a result, cargo volumes carried by the region's airlines increased for the third consecutive month, although demand, as measured in freight tonne kilometres, was still down 11.3 per cent year-on-year. - ANI

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Looking for experienced Srilankan housekeeper for a English family. Contact 99888143

Housemaid for north Indian family in Al Falaj area. Contact 92187589

CATERING

Urgently wanted experienced Philippine female cook. Fluency in english, knowledge in Continental & International food is must. Best sal-ary package. Contact 99466062

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Urgent Requirement for Indian AC Technicians with minimum experi-ence of 5-10 years in maintenance of cassette, Ductable, package, AHU units.Email najeebairtech@gmail.com.com.Contact : 99899028

GTO 2 colour Machine Operator. Please send CV printoman24x7@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

MEDICAL

Required nurse with MOH license for immediate appointment for a clinic at Ruwi.Contact 78330763 between 9.30 to 12.30 & 5 to 8.30

MISCELLANEOUS

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Urgently wanted experienced Purchase manager/supervisor for a super market in Qurum. Contact 91444677

SALES/MARKETING

Urgently required a Ready-made Gar-ments salesman with minimum Two Years Experience.Computer knowledge is a must. WhatsApp: 99816262

Required, Sales Helper for Building Material Shop in Muscat, cv to: mwmuscatcarrer@gmail.com, whatsapp +968-78268276

We are looking for an experienced Sales Executive with valid Omani DL. printoman24x7@gmail.com

Smart, dynamic Sales Executive, 2-3 years of outdoor sales for a reputed Tile & Cladding stone company. Building material experience, Arabic knowledge, Oman Driving License preferred. Attractive package. Apply with photographs to salesjobsds@gmail.com or 00968-96986963.

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Moroccan Sales Engineer with over 6 years of industrial experience in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.

GSM: 93823132
Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.com

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

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 ; premjithpremanathan@gmail.com

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

9539 1786

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

Senior MEP Manager

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

Contact GSM: 79880377
Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

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: sakthiveljothi@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

Chief Accountant MBA

Indian Male With 16 Years' Experience
in all aspects of Accounting. NOC & Oman
DL Available, seeks Suitable placement.

Contact: 97741485
Email: stm.crg@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting, Income tax, VAT etc. Qualified CPA, CMA, CIA. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608 /
soji_ansu@yahoo.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

Execution Architect/ Finishing Manager

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

Contact: 78371040;
architdesign2020@gmail.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

HSE Eng/Advisor, Msc Env &
NEBOSH IGC with 10 years
extensive construction, safety exp.
Immediately available with NOC.

Contact 95193937

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

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

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

Smart Indian, excellent English, Research & Technical Writing Skills, Double Masters (Finance, Journalism & Mass Communication), Arabic Speaker, 17years Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC seeks role in Admin/HR/Projects/Corporate & Marketing Communications/Operations/ Customer Relations/Role in Chairman/CEO Office. Immediate joining. NOC.

99283938 / rajansampath@hotmail.com

SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR
- CIVIL ENGINEERING

Very widely experienced both in Consultancy and Construction looking for a placement at top management level or on partnership.

Contact: winnerdandd@gmail.com
Mobile/WhatsApp 95150850, 79163390

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

CIVIL ENGINEER

16+ Years Experience In Site Supervision, Structural Engineering, ETABS, STAAD, ROADS, BRIDGES, Project management, INDUSTRIAL. WORKED WITH SOHAR ALUMINUM AND OCC. WITH ALL SAFETY Training & KNOWLEDGE. Available Noc & Valid Driving License.

Call or Wts app 98333185

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

FINANCE

Indian, Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' world class experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting etc. Multiple Professional qualifications in Accounting and audit. Looking for Top/Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 99455353

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant (CA Inter) - Indian
(male) with 10 years' experience
Accounting, Oman DL. Contact
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, 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. varghesekutikkattil@gmail.com

Male accountant M.S finance, 7yrs gulf experience with DL.Contact 95318382. Email salmanriaz1988. thumrait.in@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

Accountant Indian Male, 34 years old, 9 years of experience in finance, Looking for suitable job. Contact 9874 8634

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

Sudanese 32 yrs,6 yrs experience in Oman in Accounting & Administrative assistant. Contact 94050251. email danygalaxy184@gmail.com

Accountant, office administration, back office. Contact 93403636. Email munafshaikh22@gmail.com

Part time accountant with more than 12 yrs experience in different financial sectors.Good working knowledge of ERP softwares & advanced excel.Can do audit & certification & consultancy work. Contact 94197499. Email ma.abdul1988@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience in Airport Projects, Hospital, Media, EPC. Contact 99283938

Indian male 14+ yrs experience NOC available looking for secretarial, administration job. Contact 99341481. Email mhd82ajaz@gmail.com

Bangladeshi male, B.SC looking for suitable job. Contact 79978201

ENGINEER

BTECH IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING *EE* WITH 3 YEARS EXPERIENCES DIPLOMA IN PLC & SCADA. NOC, Oman Valid Driving License Looking for a suitable Job. Contact 78227500 Email: muhdfahiz007@gmail.com

DRIVER

Experienced driver with car, looking job in office/company for contract. Contact 79250786

10 yrs experience driver looking job. Contact 91335595

Looking for driving job. Contact 96312087

Looking for driving job with Car. 6 yrs experience. Contact 96176918

HOSPITALITY

Looking for Bartender job. Contact 98917401

IT

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

Indian Post Graduate with 21 years experience in Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, Forms, Reports, DBA, IT Manager, Orion ERP, Sage ERP with Accounts Knowledge and NOC. Contact 95398567 / 78141598 / anasd2k@gmail.com

Web developer, 22, Indian, BSc (Hons.) IT, UK. 1yr exp in various software projects (including PHP,NodeJS,ReactJS). Seeking a suitable job. Currently in Oman. Contact: 79371798

Computer service technician with 2 years exp, also with 2 years exp in sales in oman, looking for suitable job. Indian male 28, currently in oman, NOC available. # 94496905

IT Administrator, Indian Male Looking for Job. 12years of Exp.in Oman with D/L. CCNA Certified Work Exp. in POS system, CCTV, IT Network. 95059065 / 95147348 / jaxonnj@gmail.com

MEDICAL

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

Indian 30yrs, MSW [Medical & psychiatry] MSC Psychology,6 yrs experience seeks job.Contact 79308281,919207258008

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Quantity Surveying, preparation of documents like BOQ. 23 years in Oman searching a job from contractor or consultant has experience in Civil, MEP, landscaping and interior decorations. Contact 93072517

Indian 22/Male, B.Tech (Comp. Science) from SRM University, Chennai, Interned at Uniq Technology, Chennai as an Android App developer is looking for an immediate placement. 95495877

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

HVAC Technican cum Supervisor, chiller plant coldroom all refrigeration system, VRF system, 30 yrs experience DL holder Contact 79816271. Email mohandaskd1@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer (B.E) with 7+ yrs exp in MEP projects,Oil&Gas piping projects.Noc & Oman DL available. Contact 91293770. email jebilkl212@gmail.com

B.E Mechanical engineer, having overall of 5 yrs experience in steel fabrication industry seeking a suitable job.Ready to join immediately with local NOC arranged. Contact 968-78052560

Indian 26, experience in Telecom Networks (Oman) & master's degree, seeking position as Project/Network Engineer. Contact 92613254. Email mohdsalih22@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer, Looking for a job in Quality Control, with DL Contact 79714227. Email lokesshirodkar15@gmail.com

MANAGER

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

Indian, Finance Manager 20Yrs Experience, Trade finance - MIS - Budget - Planning - Auditing - Finalisation - Banking: 90473368, devan801@gmail.com

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

Senior Civil Engineer with 8 years' experience in government and private construction projects with NOC/DL looking for a suitable job , GSM : 93352004

Electrical Engineer B.Tech, 15 years exp in Oman seeks job. NOC and Release available. Contact 92254336 Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E Civil engr with 14 years of Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

HVAC engineer with 1 year Experience seeks job. Contact 79027224

Mechanical engineer of Car diagnostic and maintenance with experience three years. Contact 93521100

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

B.E civil engineer having 12 plus years of Oman experience in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

SALES / MARKETING

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

Experienced and academically qualified retail professional available in Oman with more than 20 years experience in multinational brands. Looking for a challenging opening in the top management role.
Contact +968 92639013

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

Indian/female (28)/MBA, 6+ years' experience in digital marketing and business development with valid Oman D/L. available for immediate joining. Contact: 97210952

Indian Sales/Marketing manager selling of Constructional,building material products with 14 yrs experience in Oman with DL,looking job. Contact 95952066



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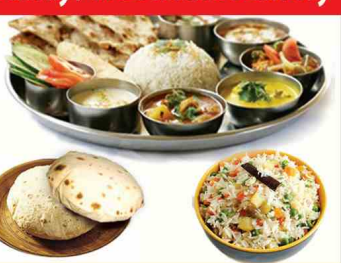
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Plumbing,painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837,98937266

Electririan, plumber & A/C Service, L.Driver (D/L) Contact 95308363

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Finance Manager, 28 years Oman experienced worked with reputed groups, Managing Cashflow, MIS, Budget, Forecast etc. Contact 968-98803439 (Call/Whatsapp)

Civil / MEP Draughtsman (Indian-aged 35) having 13 years of oman experience seeking a better placement. Valid oman driving licence. NOC available. Contact 98079806. Email shirshadbabu@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Diploma civil Indian male 26 yrs 5 yrs oman exp, NOC ready, sales/procurement/stores.
Email vijju.asp7777@gmail.com, GSM/WA 00918712330030

Senior Procurement Engineer, M.tech-Civil, Looking for a job, NOC Available, Immediate Joining, Indian Male, 38yrs, have over 16+ years UAE& Oman experience. E. syed-kamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Watsapp +96871144578, GSM +917766019519

Keralite, 31 yrs purchase assistant, 10 yrs working experience in Oman, valid Oman DL. Looking for suitable jobs. Contact 98615731 Email sanalk73@gmail.com

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

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ROUND-UP

be'ah, Schlumberger sign pact for safe disposal of industrial waste

The pact and the associated business with oil and gas firms are considered tangible efforts by be'ah to achieve the goals of the Oman 2040 Vision for a sustainable environment

MUSCAT: The Oman Environmental Services Holding Company "be'ah" recently signed an agreement with Schlumberger Oman for the safe disposal and treatment of industrial waste generated from its operations.

The memorandum was signed



by Engineer AbdulKarim bin Qasim Al-Balushi, Acting Head of Industrial Waste Sector, while Schlumberger was represented by Hilal bin Salim Al-Busaidi, GeoUnit Supply Chain Manager-OPG.

Eng. Abdulkarim Al-Balushi said, "We are pleased with this cooperation with Schlumberger,

the leading energy services company with a strong environmental stewardship commitment. We are eager to work with them operating from our industrial waste treatment facilities in North Al-Batinah and the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

AbdulKarim added, "be'ah seeks,

through this agreement, to provide the latest practices and with high-quality international standards, to achieve the principles of sustainability and to protect the Omani environment from the risks of random disposal of waste and in-line with the national strategy for managing the waste sector in the Sultanate."

Engineer AbdulKarim explained, "be'ah is making efforts with companies and factories continuously by introducing them to the role of the company and the importance of treating industrial waste in a proper and correct manner in order to protect the people and preserve the environment."

Engineer Ali bin Mohammed Al Lawati, Regional Managing Director at Schlumberger, commented on the event, "Schlumberger is committed to responsible environmental stewardship. We strive to meet international environmental standards and regulations, and to exceed customer expectations by managing risk, reducing pollution, reducing our waste and natural resource consumption, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions."

"We are glad to partner with be'ah to enable safe and responsible disposal of industrial waste as we continuously pursue opportunities to collaborate with our customers and partners to accelerate our sustainability agenda in every aspect of our business. Also, this is in-line with the government's initiatives to drive sustainability aspects and preserve Oman's

beautiful nature and to enable the circular economy."

Transfer document

"be'ah" has created a transfer document whereby companies wishing to dispose industrial waste resulting from their operations must fill out the manifest document in order to ensure that the waste is being packaged and coded correctly and to ensure that it is transported safely from its location to the environmental waste treatment facility."

In addition, the company has set terms and conditions for companies wishing to transport industrial waste by registering on be'ah's official website, and they are accepted in the list of the be'ah company for companies authorized to transport hazardous waste.

This agreement and the associated business with oil and gas companies are considered tangible efforts by be'ah to achieve the goals of the Oman 2040 Vision for a sustainable environment and competitive economy by applying principles of transformation towards the circular economy.

10TH EDITION

Viewpoints to host renowned mathematical physicist, scientist Dr Robbert Dijkgraaf

MUSCAT: Continuing to bring global learning and perspective to locally relevant topics, Sohar International's thought-provoking Chairman's forum - Viewpoints, is back with yet another compelling session on Sunday, January 17, 2021, starting at 7:30pm.

The upcoming session of Viewpoints will host Dr Robbert Dijkgraaf, Director and Leon Levy Professor at Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey in USA - one of the world's foremost centres for curiosity-driven basic research. Chaired by Mohammed Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sohar International, the 10th edition of Viewpoints will tread into the many nuances of a digital, technology-enabled world, underlined by age-old as well as modernised scientific infrastructure.

Announcing the latest edition Al Ardhi said, "Viewpoints continues to share experiences, knowledge, and ideas from a global perspective through engagement with eminent international leaders.

"In the upcoming edition, we look into the deeper meanings of the imminent use of science and technology, especially in a new digitised and virtual world. We are confident that our community comprising of mostly youth will benefit from this session as the take-aways will have a positive impact on the society and the nation at large."

"In the upcoming session, we are proud to have Dr Robbert Dijkgraaf. He is not only an effective



communicator, but also a leader in science policymaking, and a trained artist. Through this session, Dr Robbert will offer a global perspective on science and policy, in context to its local adaptability, thereby maximising opportunities for Oman and its people to reflect on," added Al Ardhi.

Dr Dijkgraaf has served as President of the InterAcademy Partnership, a consortium of more than 130 of the world's national science academies, and Co-Chair

of the InterAcademy Council, the global alliance of science academies advising the United Nations, the World Bank, and other international organisations.

Heco-authored 'The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge', which articulates how essential basic research and original thinking are essential for innovation and societal progress. As the Director and Leon Levy Professor at Institute for Advanced Stud, Dr Dijkgraaf is an impassioned and eloquent ad-

vocate for pure scientific inquiry and the vital importance of encouraging creativity, imagination, and "out of the box" thinking.

In the last few years, Viewpoints - Sohar International Chairman's forum, has gained audience eyeballs, for hosting the best of international experts as speakers. This, coupled with intriguing and engaging conversations, has put Viewpoints as a benchmark in events focused at building leadership equity.



GRAND PRIZE DRAW



Total cash prize of OMR500,000 with BankDhofar's savings account scheme

MUSCAT: BankDhofar's Savings Account Scheme Grand Prize Draw awaits two lucky winners, who will take home OMR 250,000 each. The Savings Account Scheme, which reiterates BankDhofar's keenness to spread the culture of saving among the community, rewarded customers throughout the year and provided chances for all family members to win valuable cash prizes.

Commenting on the upcoming grand prize draw, Dr Tariq Taha, Chief Retail Banking Officer, at BankDhofar said, "In addition to providing best services and products to our customers, we are keen to instil saving hab-

its among the community. We are glad about the success of the 2020 Savings Account Scheme, in which we introduced new categories to ensure providing chances to win for all family members, including; children, youth, and ladies. In addition to the guaranteed prizes for every branch, with bigger prizes and more winners ensuring more customers are included in the scheme. We have also dedicated major prizes for our Priority Banking customers. We wish all the best for our customers in the coming Grand Prize Draw, in which 2 lucky customers will get the chance to win OMR 250,000 each."

KHIMJI RAMDAS CSR ARM

Eshraqa reveals Stemazone calendar theme for 2021



MUSCAT: With a keen eye on the future of the nation, Eshraqa, the Social Development Arm of Khimji Ramdas unveiled its 2021 calendar that showcases Stemazone, a new age learning programme, which will introduce and mentor kids aged 6-16 years in the wonderful world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Art. Stemazone is being presented in a collaborative initiative with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Ministry of Education.

The vision of the programme is to make children enjoy and cultivate a keen interest in these new age topics. This will enable them to develop a scientific mindset and help develop creative thinking, logical reasoning and problem-solving abilities, critical factors in building a knowledge economy.

The calendar is a compilation of an assortment of pictures of students enthusiastically honing their skills through hands-on workshops and virtual learning experiences. It also highlights the dedicated teaching faculty that has shown an utmost commitment to imparting quality educa-

The vision of the programme is to make children enjoy and cultivate a keen interest in new age topics

tion to the students. Stemazone has been designed for new-age learning; it brings together the best of online learning as well as physical classroom experiences. The physical centre will be housed at the Children's museum, Qurum.

"The youth of today is the future of our country and steering them in the right direction is our responsibility. At Khimji Ramdas, we want to play our part in powering the knowledge economy envisaged in the Oman Vision 2040. Aligning itself with the changing economic landscape driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Stemazone will give talented young Omanis the necessary means to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge in STEMA fields which are

essential for jobs of the future. By dedicating a calendar to Stemazone we want to encourage others to join the journey to new-age learning. We also want to express our appreciation to those who have invested their time, energy, and efforts in this initiative, and we encourage them to stay dedicated," said Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas. He further added "Being well-versed in STEMA fields will give our youth a competitive edge when they step ahead as leaders of tomorrow. The skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience acquired in this field will be increasingly beneficial in the years to come. We will strive to ensure that our youth are ready to take on challenges, become pioneers in their fields, and spearhead revolutions."

Focusing on children in the age group 6 to 16 years, which is considered prime for developing long-term interests, the activities are linked to the educational curriculum of the Sultanate. It aims to help improve the scientific skills of students which are fundamental to cultivate a passion for scientific discovery and innovative problem-solving.

ROUND-UP



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95.4 91.0



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Own impressive Kia K5 with exclusive benefits

The K5's powerful and angular design language represents another chapter of boldness and passion for the brand



MUSCAT: Kia's impressive and stylish K5 is a bold new chapter that highlights Kia's focus on creating impressive designs. Indeed the K5 is designed to not only attract all the attention. But to inspire the industry and make a mark.

Those looking forward to own- ing the K5 can benefit with cash gift OMR2,000 to OMR3,000 (Varies on MY / grade selected),

insurance (comprehensive & pri- vate), Up to 10 years/100,000km service package and registration 1 year. (Conditions apply. Please

visit Kia showroom for details).

The K5's powerful and angular design language represents another chapter of boldness and pas- sion for the brand. From the side, the K5's low-slung and fastback silhouette confirm the impression it was made to excite, highlighted by a chrome garnish that spans the roofline and wraps around the rear glass. A number of other exterior design traits give the K5 an unex- pected level of visual impact. Giv- ing the K5 its stunning looks are features that include LED Head- lamps, LED Daytime Running Lights, LED Front Fog Lamps, LED Rear Fog Lamps, 18" Alloy Wheels and Dual LED Headlamps.

In terms of performance, the K5 makes a fine mark with a 2.5L GDI engine dishing out 191 HP and 25.1 KG.M. Torque. This is paired to an 8-speed Automatic Transmission.

Bank Nizwa CEO shares insights on future of Islamic finance in post COVID-19 world

MUSCAT: Representing Oman's leading and most trusted Islamic bank, Khaled Al Kayed, CEO, Bank Nizwa, joined international ex- perts and fellow industry leaders at the 15th annual AAOIFI-IsDB conference which was conducted virtually under the patronage of Central Bank of Bahrain and sponsored by Bank Nizwa.

The conference, organized by Accounting and Auditing Organi- sation for Islamic Financial Insti- tutions (AAOIFI) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), was themed around 'Adaptability of Islamic finance post-COVID-19: navigating through the unprece- dented times.'

With the active participation of several industry leaders along with regulators and standard- setting organisations, particularly in the region, the conference shed light on the resilience of Islamic finance principles during the pandemic and provided the neces- sary guidance on the sector's future. The conference also cov- ered topics that revolved around the measures taken by Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs) that contribute to social and economic development, and key opportuni- ties and challenges for the Islamic finance industry during and post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Al Kayed participated as a pan- ellist discussing the 'Future of Islamic finance in the post-COV- ID-19 world: change of business model in consideration of social and economic developments.' The panel highlighted the core principles that define Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs), its distinct characteristics of trans- actions, and a successful track record of overcoming financial obstacles. Sharing his valuable



inputs, Al Kayed said, "It is im- portant to have unified standards in Islamic finance across the world, especially in Islamic coun- tries. This is essential for better growth, stability, resilience, risk management, and consistency. Standardisation has emerged as a key factor, both as an opportunity and a challenge, which is critical to take the Islamic finance indus- try into globalization, where the multi-national Islamic banks will play a key role in driving growth of the industry. Also, the role of regulators in any country will be important to keep the banking system, both conventional and Islamic, abreast and resilient, to reach its ultimate goal. Regula- tors should use national discre- tion to control matters which will have a direct impact on opera- tional models, products and ser- vices. This way, we can witness good growth and developments in all Islamic banks."

The 15th annual AAOIFI-IsDB conference was an influential gath- ering of international leaders and experts from across the Islamic finance industry and was attended by over 2,000 global stakeholders.

BANK MUSCAT

Upgraded BM Wallet, mBanking apps see strong response from customers

MUSCAT: More and more cus- tomers have begun using the up- graded BM Wallet and mBanking apps for daily transactions.

The upgraded apps which were launched in line with Bank Mus- cat's vision to 'To serve you better, everyday', has made it easy for cus- tomers to transfer money to or re- quest funds from others using the Mobile Payments System of the Central Bank of Oman.

Funds can be transferred in- stantaneously using the follow- ing modes. For a person to person transfers, money can be sent or col- lected from the recipient's default account or wallet. 'Send money' can be initiated by using mobile num-

ber, Alias or by QR code scanning and 'collect money' can be initiated using recipient Alias/Mobile Num- ber. Both the sender and recipient should be registered on the Mobile Payments System (MPS).

Fund transfer

Bank Muscat customers have the facility to register on the MPS via both its BM Wallet and the mBank- ing app. Funds can be transferred instantly to both Bank Muscat and non-Bank Muscat customers' bank accounts or wallets by using their MPS-registered mobile number/ Alias/QR code. Funds can be trans- ferred instantly, 24/7 and at zero cost to any bank's registered MPS

customer without the need to en- ter the beneficiary's long account number. Beneficiaries can be sim- ply selected from one's phone con- tact list to initiate a payment.

The new payment options will greatly help the retail sector in the country. A 'Scan & Pay' option can be used to initiate merchant payment requests. Merchant pay- ments can be initiated from cus- tomer's mBanking app or wallet to the merchant by scanning a static or dynamic QR code and the merchant can also request money from a customer using Mobile Pay- ments System registered mobile number / Alias / QR code.

The BM Wallet app is highly se- cure and does not store any sensi- tive information or transaction logs on the phone, which makes it secure. Bank Muscat has also built-in other robust security fea- tures into the app. The BM Wallet app can be accessed on iOS and Android devices and is available at the App Store and Google Play in both Arabic and English versions.

Funds can be loaded onto the BM Wallet through debit card, mobile banking, Internet banking, ATMs or CDMs. An added advan- tage is that frequently carried out transactions can be highlighted for convenience and transaction his- tory for the past 90 days is avail- able within the app.

HEALTHCARE

Badr Al Samaa Group launches vaccine protection programme

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, the largest private healthcare provider and the most trusted healthcare brand of Oman launched one of its kind 'Badr Vaccine Protection Programme'.

This programme is aimed at creating awareness about all new- born, paediatrics and adult vac- cinations recommended by the Ministry of Health, Oman and WHO. Dr Anirudha Potey, Senior Manager, Serum Institute of India, Pune, India was the eminent keynote speaker in the event.

Two health awareness talks about various newborn, paediatric and adult vaccinations were presented by Dr Parthasarthy An- gappan, Specialist Paediatrician, Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Ruwi and Dr Atma S Raj, Specialist, Intern- ist & Group Nodal Officer for this program, Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Al Khoud. Both the doctors spoke explained the purpose of each vaccine, schedule for when to be taken and age groups for which each vaccine is recommended.

Abdul Latheef and Dr P A Mo- hammed, managing directors of Badr Al Samaa Group extended their full support for the vaccina- tion programme. Badr Al Samaa is known for many innovations and introduced many initiatives in the past which were very beneficial to society. Similarly, Badr Al Samaa has always been at the forefront of fighting the pandemic COVID-19



by doing all possible and treated hundreds of COVID cases suc- cessfully and managed make-shift COVID hospitals established by the Ministry of Health.

Badr Al Samaa's compre- hensive vaccination programme ti- tled "Badr Vaccine Protection" is an important initiative by Badr Al Samaa aimed at raising aware- ness about all types of vaccina- tions, including newborn, child and adult vaccines.

On this occasion, Sameer P T, Group CEO said that Badr Al Samaa will ensure the availabil- ity of all vaccinations across all centres of the group. The patient can conveniently check with the nodal officers at group level and individual branch level and learn

everything about the vaccines and seek appointment for vaccination. He said being the largest private healthcare provider, Badr Al Sa- maa feels proud to take up the re- sponsibility to spread awareness about the importance of vaccines.

Dr Anirudh Poety, in his pres- entations, discussed the positive impact of vaccines in various pandemics which happened in the 20th and 21st century. The extended programme of immu- nisation was introduced in 1981 and it is impressive to see how various vaccines programs like polio, hepatitis, rubella, etc have positively impacted the outcomes in Oman context. In the context of COVID-19 vaccine, he said due to emergency the COVID-19 vac-

cinations have been ready for a clinical trial of as less as 8 months whereas other vaccines take al- most 15 years to come to this stage, which is very impressive.

KO Devassy, Chief Marketing Officer urged the people of Oman to meticulously gather the aware- ness about various vaccines and regularly follow the vaccination schedule to stay safe and healthy from various infectious diseases. He said Badr Al Samaa Group strives to bridge the gap in aware- ness and availability of vaccines in private healthcare.

Jacob Oomen, Group Chief Op- erating Officer presented the vote of thanks. He expressed sincere gratitude to managing directors, Dr P A Mohammed and Abdul Latheef, Dr Anirudh Poety, senior management, speakers of the session, branch heads, marketing team and most importantly the participants who actively partici- pated in the event.

Asif Shah, Head Branding and Communication and the host of this event said that Badr Al Samaa has created a special point of con- tacts at the branch and corporate level. With these SPOCs, not just availability, the people can know everything about vaccines.

He said the doctors of Badr Al Samaa will come on board using various digital and social media platforms to raise the awareness about the vaccinations.

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