



HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES THANKS CABLE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of Sheikh Nasser Fahd Sabah Al Nasser Al-Sabah. In the cable, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his thanks and appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's sincere condolences, and sympathy, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harms.

— ONA



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AUDIENCE



HM endorses results of Census 2020

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik yesterday endorsed results of Census 2020 of Population, Residences and Establishments, which show that the population of the Sultanate stood at 4,471,148 (four million, four hundred and seventy-one thou-

sand and one hundred and forty-eight) as of 12 December 2020.

This happened when His Majesty the Sultan gave an audience to the Chairman and members of the Supreme National Census Committee at Al Barakah Palace.

His Majesty the Sultan ex-

pressed his satisfaction with the outcome of this major project which was implemented as scheduled. His Majesty the Sultan underscored the significance of data and indicators provided by the Census in enhancing Oman Vision 2040, as well as the Census's

important implications to developmental planning in all sectors of the state.

His Majesty also voiced his great appreciation for the Supreme National Census Committee and its sub-committees which, he noted, exerted efforts to make the project

a success. His Majesty the Sultan extended his appreciation to all government and private establishments, citizens and residents for their cooperation and positive response to Census requirements.

— ONA

See also >A3 and >A5

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN PCR test must for fliers with high temperatures

1 Passengers departing from airports in Oman who record temperatures higher than 38 degrees Celsius during thermal screening will be required to take PCR tests on the premises, according to Oman Airports advisory. "If required, PCR tests can be done at the airport drive-through and walk-in facilities, located in P5 car park in Muscat and at the cargo terminal in Salalah." >A3

SPORTS Former Liverpool manager passes away

2 Former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has passed away at the age of 73. The Frenchman was in charge of the Reds for six seasons, leading the team to a historic and unforgettable treble of League Cup, FA Cup and UEFA Cup in 2000-01 and paving the way for the club's return to the Champions League. >A8

MARKET Khazaen in investment pact with 3 local firms

3 Three new agreements have been signed by Khazaen with local firms. The first pact was signed with Al Wajen United Projects to build a lights and electrical fittings factory. The second deal, with Digital Energy Management, was for a factory to assemble switch gears, meters and electrical distribution boards. >B1

ASSIGNED BY HIS MAJESTY



Sayyid Taimour presides over prize distribution function of Youth Excellence Award 2020

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), yesterday presided over a ceremony for the announcement of results of His Majesty the Sultan's Cup for Youth 2019 and the handing over of prizes to winners of Youth Excellence Award 2020.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth.

Ahli Sidab Club were crowned champions of His Majesty the Sultan's Cup for Youth 2019. Salalah Club took second place, followed by A'Seeb, Al Nasr, Ibri, Al Salam, Dhofar, Al Bashayer, Sohar and Saham.

Thirty-eight clubs participated in the Youth Excellence Contest 2020. As many as 107 registered under the three categories of the Prize, which were "Individuals" category (53 contestants), "Youth Initiatives" category (34 contestants) and "Youth Establishments" category (20 contestants).



The competition covered nine sub-divisions of entrepreneurship, education, media, culture, sciences, sports, heritage, environment and labour.

The results of the contest in the three categories were as follows:

1. Individuals Category: Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Ma'amari (Media field), Abdulaziz bin Hamdan Al-Kalbani (Environment field), Salim bin Khamis Al Jadidi (Heritage field), Mohammed bin Khal-fan Al Issa'ee (Education field), Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas (Culture field), Rashid bin

Saif Al Hinai (Sports field), Omar bin Abdullah Al Maskari (Science field), Shatha bint Abdullah Al-Jabria Entrepreneurship field).

2. Youth Initiatives Category: "Law Network" initiative (Media field), Al Asma eco-friendly initiative (Environment field), "Eternal Achievements" initiative (Heritage field), Invest Yourself" electronic initiative (Education field), "Qumra 5th Photography Week" initiative (Culture field), "Sports is our Ethics" initiative (Sports field), "Omani Expo" initiative (Science field) >A2

NATIONAL SURVEY ON COVID-19 VACCINES COMMENCES TODAY

The questionnaire process will be conducted by the NCSI by organising a five-minute phone call with the person concerned

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A total of 3,000 Omanis and expats in the country have been selected at random to participate in the national COVID-19 vaccine survey, which begins today.

The survey has been launched to understand people's attitudes and practices concerning COVID-19 and the associated vaccine.

The survey is being implemented by the Ministry of Health, represented by the Directorate General for Disease Surveillance and Control, in cooperation with the National Centre for Statistics and Information, and a number of other stakeholders.

These people will participate in the survey to limit the effects of incorrect information about epidemic by getting closer to and understanding society, enhancing the accuracy of information provided.

It aims to examine the knowledge members of the various communities in Oman have, pertaining to the vaccine, and how their attitudes are likely to be



Shipment of COVID vaccine in United States begins. >A7

once it begins to be administered to people in Oman.

The questionnaire process will be conducted by organising a five-minute phone call with the concerned person, from the NCSI. A number of questions will be asked to the participants. These questions are divided into a number of topics: some are related to general information about the participant, while others concern what he/she knows so far about the vaccine, its position, and the practices and attitudes towards it.

According to the Ministry of Health, as of Monday, December 14, 2020, there have been 126,504 cases recorded in the Sultanate. 118,287 of those who tested positive have recovered, reflecting a recovery rate of 93.5 per cent.

14 patients were admitted to hospitals in the last 24 hours, while a total of 57 patients remain in intensive care units in the country. A total of 122 patients with COVID-19 continue to remain in healthcare facilities in Oman. 1,472 people have sadly died from the disease.

The Ministry of Health, as part of its daily updates on COVID-19,

continued to provide advice to people to bring down the rate of infection in Oman.

"Avoid group activities and gatherings, and wear a mask," said the MOH. "Maintain a physical distance of at least two metres, and regularly and thoroughly wash hands with water and soap or clean them with a certified hand sanitiser."

"Avoid touching your face, nose, mouth and eyes, and avoid going out from home unless necessary," added the ministry. "Follow healthy practices while sneezing or coughing, and adhere completely to isolation protocols if you show symptoms or have been in close contact with positive cases."

"With our commitment to wearing masks and maintaining social and physical distancing, we will prevent ourselves, our families, and our community from the spread of the coronavirus," the Ministry of Health went on to say.

There are 72,377,690 cases of COVID-19 around the world. More than 1.6 million people have died, and 46,360,708 have recovered.



Dhuhr.....	12.07pm
Asr.....	3:08pm
Maghrib.....	5:28pm
Isha.....	6:43pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.21am

FATAH'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Oman's foreign minister receives secretary general of Palestinian FCC

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Monday Major General Jibril Rajoub, Secretary General of Fatah's Central Committee (FCC), Head of the Palestinian Olympic Committee.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian cause, besides other topics of common concern.

The meeting reiterated the strong Omani-Palestinian rela-

tions and the Sultanate's firm stance towards the Palestinian cause, as well as its regional and international efforts aiming the comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Tayseer Ali Farhat, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Sultanate and some officials at the Foreign Ministry.

- ONA

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

HM receives cable

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of Princess Hessa Faisal

Abdulaziz Al Saud.

In the cable, King Salman expressed his thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's good feelings and sincere prayers. The King of KSA prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harms. - ONA

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Oman, Iran exchange views on regional, international issues



MUSCAT: The 7th session of the strategic consultation committee between Oman's Foreign Ministry and the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held on Monday.

The Omani side was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs while the Iranian side was chaired by Dr Abbas Araghchi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs.

The session discussed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of promoting them in various fields to the serve the joint interests.

The two sides exchanged views on different regional and international issues and efforts exerted to solve them through peaceful means. The session was attended by a number of officials from both sides. - ONA

AWARD

<FROM A1 HM Cup for Youth

3. Youth Establishments Category: "We Deserve All" Establishment (Media field, YouTube incubator), "Salickoon (We are managing)" Establishment (Education field), "Quiz (munadharat) Development Centre" Estab-

lishment (Culture field), "Swift Confrontation (Al Tahaddi Al Sareea) Establishment (Sports field), "Dawam Platform" Establishment (Labour field), "Injaz Oman" Establishment (Entrepreneurship field). - ONA

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MEETING

Oman, Iran hold bilateral talks

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received in his office Dr Abbas Araghchi, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs on Monday.

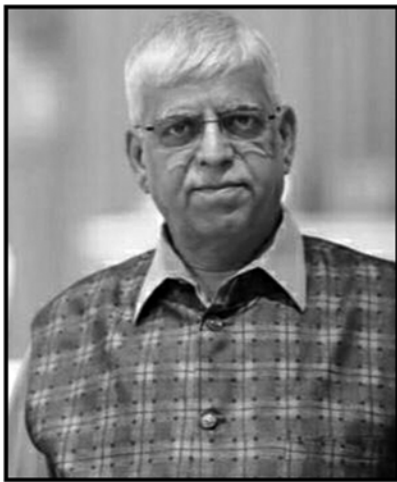
During the meeting, the two sides stressed the importance of promoting various fields of bilateral cooperation, particularly the economic, commercial, cultural and scientific areas to serve the joint interests.

They also exchanged views on the regional and international developments, stressing keenness of the two neighbouring countries in supporting all endeavours and initiatives to consolidate pillars of regional security and stability, as well as achieving understanding, harmony and cooperation among all.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs, the Iranian ambassador to the Sultanate and some officials from both sides. - **ONA**

CONDOLENCES

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HM gives audience to chairman, members of Supreme National Census Committee



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Tender Announcement

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel invites sealed bids for the below.

Description	Last Date of tender submission	Tender Fee
As -Built survey	27th December 2020	30 OMR

Consultancy firms of Excellent & international grades, having proven track record in this area may obtain detailed Scope of Work from Finance Department from Tuesday, 15th December, 2020 onwards between 09:00 – 16:00 hours.

For site visit, please contact Mr. Ehab Zaki, Director of Engineering @ 247764 126, the site visit is scheduled on Sunday, 20.12.2020 @ 10.00AM

Tender must be submitted in a sealed Envelope along with companies Trade License and certificates addressed to:

**Coordinator of the office of The General Manager,
Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel
On or before 27th December 2020 before 2 pm.
Sub: As-Built Survey**

Note: Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is not obliged to accept the tenders with least prices or any other tenders.

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Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

SUBJECT	TENDER NUMBER	LAST DATE FOR INQUIRIES	LAST DATE TO OBTAIN TENDER	TENDER DOCUMENT PRICE PER COPY RO.
SUPPLY OF CLOTHING & CESSORIES	42/2020	24/12/2020	05/01/2021	166 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.

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Shipment of COVID vaccine in US begins

It was the first step in a massive COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the world’s worst-hit country — with vaccinations expected to begin on Monday

WASHINGTON: The first shipments of the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine were sent out to distribution centres across the United States on Sunday.

It was the first step in a massive COVID vaccine rollout in the world’s worst-hit country — with vaccinations expected to begin on Monday.

Workers at a Pfizer factory in the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, packed the first shipments of the vaccine in boxes layered with dry ice.

Refrigerated trucks carrying the first shipments were escorted to a nearby airport by security officers wearing body armor.

The first shipments of the vaccine, co-developed with German pharmaceutical firm BioNTech, will be staggered. On Monday, 145 distribution centers will receive the first doses. An additional 425 sites will get shipments on Tuesday while the another 66 centers will get the vaccine on Wednesday.



day. The distribution comes after US regulators with the FDA authorized emergency use of the vaccine late on Friday — following similar moves by Canada and the United Kingdom.

Tricky transportation

The vaccine must be stored at around -70 degrees Celsius (-94 Fahrenheit), which presents a logistical challenge being met by dry ice and specially designed refrigerators.

When the vaccine arrives at health care facilities, state and local public health authorities will administer doses using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the FDA.

The vaccine is being distributed based on each state’s adult population.

Who will get the vaccine first?

The first in line to get the shot in the US will be front-line health care workers and elderly residents in nursing homes.

The BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine requires two doses that are given around three weeks apart.

Pfizer has said up to 25 million doses can be provided in the US by the end of the month. A total of 100 million doses have been preordered.

Long road to ‘herd immunity’

The US aims to immunize 100 million people — or around 30% of the population — by the end of March, Dr. Moncef Slaoui, the chief science adviser to the US operation to quickly develop vaccines, told Fox News.

“It is however critical that most of the American people decide and accept to take the vaccine,” Slaoui said. “We are very concerned by the hesitancy that we see.”

In order for the US to reach “herd immunity” to halt the transmission of the coronavirus, some 75% to 80% of the country would need to be vaccinated, he said.

Worst-hit country

The vaccine rollout comes as the US continues to set new daily records in coronavirus cases and deaths. **rw**



Sultanate of Oman

Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
278/2020	Supply and Installation of PABX Telephone System for the Renal Dialysis Unit at Wilayat Al-Amerat in Muscat Governorate	17/ December /2020	Before 08 am on Wednesday 13/January/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
285/2020	Supply and Installation of Fiber Optic Communication Network Points at Al Nahdha Hospital in Muscat Governorate	24/ December /2020	Before 08 am on Wednesday 20/January/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
286/2020	Maintenance of Fire Fighting System at Sohar Hospital in North Al Batinah Governorate	24/ December /2020	Before 08 am on Wednesday 20/January/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
288/2020	Construction of Medical Store at Jalan Bani Bu Ali Polyclinic in South Al-Sharqiya Governorate	31/ December /2020	Before 08 am on Wednesday 27/January/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board in the First Grade	R.O 25.000 Per set

• All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.

• Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.

• The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Purchase and Tenders one day before the submission date for all Tenders.

• Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

Any Clarification, you may contact via

Telephone: 24166670

Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Azerbaijan-Armenia trade blame over cease-fire violation

BAKU: Armenia and Azerbaijan have traded blame for breaking the terms of a cease-fire in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Azeri government said on Sunday that four of its troops had been killed in Nagorno-Karabakh after a group of Armenian fighters ambushed its forces on November 26.

The deaths are the first to be reported during the conflict’s cease-fire, which has lasted more than a month.

For its part, Armenia said that six separatist fighters were injured in clashes with Azerbaijan’s troops after skirmishes broke out on Friday evening.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict erupted in September with clashes between Azerbaijan and separatists backed by Armenia over the mountainous region.

Fighting supposedly ceased on November 10, thanks to a Russia-brokered peace deal that saw Armenia cede parts of its territory.

More than 5,000 people, including civilians, were killed during the fighting between the ex-Soviet rivals, who had previously gone to war in the 1990s over the mountainous region.

Russia has deployed nearly 2,000 peacekeepers to the troubled region for at least five years, to monitor the peace deal and to facilitate the return of refugees.

Moscow confirms cease-fire violation

Responding to Armenian accusations, the Baku government said the clashes over the weekend had taken place in an area that fell under its control. It said its forces had carried out a military operation against enemy forces responsible for the deadly attacks on Azeri servicemen.

But Armenia said its forces were simply repelling attempted intrusions by Azerbaijan’s forces into territories supposed to remain under the control of the rebel province’s government.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry said Russian forces were not present in the area where the clashes broke out.

Azerbaijan’s State Security Service responded, saying “unfounded accusations against the Azeri side and the Russian peacekeepers by some Armenian leaders and media” were unacceptable.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev warned that Armenia “shouldn’t try to start it all over again.”

“It must be very cautious and not plan any military action. This time, we will fully destroy them. It mustn’t be a secret to anyone,” Aliyev said.

Russia’s Defense Ministry reported that the cease-fire had been violated for the first time, but stayed silent on assigning blame. **rw**

GREAT LOSS

Former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier passes away

LIVERPOOL: Former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has passed away at the age of 73.

The Frenchman was in charge of the Reds for six seasons, leading the team to a historic and unforgettable treble of League Cup, FA Cup and UEFA Cup in 2000-01 and paving the way for the club's return to the Champions League.

The Premier League club mourned the demise of its former manager. "Liverpool FC is mourning the passing of former manager Gerard Houllier, aged 73," the club said in a statement.



Gerard Houllier

The club said that Houllier, who recovered from life-saving heart surgery during the 2001-02 campaign to return to the dugout, later guided Liverpool to a second League Cup triumph of his tenure in 2003 and departed the following year, having overseen 307 matches and successfully re-established the club as a modern force.

"Everybody at the club is deeply saddened by the loss of Gerard and our thoughts are with his family and friends," the statement added.

Liverpool's Jordan Henderson said the club will be "forever

grateful" to Houllier. "A great man and a great manager. Liverpool will be forever grateful. Gerard Houllier - Repose en paix," the player tweeted.

Commenting on the game against Fulham, Henderson had earlier said his side needs to shift focus onto the next game and "just got to keep going" after being held to a draw by Fulham. Liverpool witnessed a 1-1 draw against Fulham in the Premier League here on Sunday.

"Another big game comes quick around the corner. A big game for

us and we need to recover well, get ready and prepare for that one," the club's official website quoted Henderson as saying.

"The Premier League is competitive and no matter what position you are in on any given day, it is always a tough game. We knew Fulham would make it difficult and they did that. We've just got to keep going. There's a lot of games over a short space of time but it's the same for everyone -- demanding, injuries and stuff like that, but that makes us stronger as a squad," he added. **ANI**

Ronaldo first player to win 400 games in Europe's top leagues

The Portuguese forward achieved the feat in his 100th game for the Turin-based club

GENOA: Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo on Sunday added another feather to his illustrious cap as he completed his 400th win in Europe's top five leagues, a number no other player has reached in the 21st century.

A second-half brace by Ronaldo and a goal from Paulo Dybala saw Juventus claim a 3-1 victory over Genoa at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris. After a frustrating first half, the Bianconeri finally broke the deadlock through La Joya, before Ronaldo's two penalties meant the team returns to Turin with three points.

The Portuguese forward achieved the feat in his 100th game for the Turin-based club. Ronaldo, of course, starred in the Premier League for Manchester United and then La Liga with Real



ACHIEVEMENT: No other man has managed to finish on the winning side as many times as Ronaldo in the past 20 years.

Madrid before moving across to Italy in 2018.

No other man has managed to finish on the winning side as many times as him in the past 20 years, although Lionel Messi, with 365 wins, may catch him in the coming seasons.

Cristiano's Juventus teammate Gianluigi Buffon completes the podium, winning no less than 350 times in his illustrious league career that has spanned both Serie A and Ligue 1, with Paris Saint-Germain.

-ANI

FOUNDER OF SPORTS PROGRAMMES

Veteran media personnel Yaqoub Al Zedjali dies

AL MUSANNAH: Veteran Media Personnel Yaqoub Yousef Al Zedjali, one of the founders of sports programmes for television in the Sultanate, passed away yesterday.

Yaqoub Al Zedjali joined the former Ministry of Information and Culture in 1974. He worked as a director, producer and news presenter for many programmes, the most important of which were sport programmes. He was appointed as a media expert for news



affairs. Al-Zedjali was awarded the Youth Shield in 1993. He was also chosen to represent the Sultanate in the torch relay of the Olympic Games that took place in China in 2008. He received the Arab Sports Media Medal in 2011. He was also hosted in many local and foreign forums. Yaqoub Al-Zedjali authored two books "Omani Sports from Roots to the World and "Sultanate of Oman TV; a Journey and Achievement". **ONA**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

IT Works, Zubair CT and LC Tech post victories

Times News Service

MUSCAT: IT Works rode on wonderful performances by star Oman all-rounders Muhammed Nadeem and Khawar Ali to destroy AER by 116 runs in a Premier Division 50-over League game at OC Turf 1 in Amerat on Saturday.

Nadeem topscored with a solid 70 while Khawar contributed vital 40 as IT Works made their way to a respectable 260 for 7 in 50 overs. Young Muzahir Raza claimed 3 for 55.

AER's chase never really took off and they were bundled out for a disappointing 144 in the 43rd over, Nadeem and Khawar causing most of the damage with three wickets each. Only Imran Rijvi and Sachin Kumar made any notable contri-

butions with the bat, scoring 30 and 27 respectively.

Mubashar stars in Zubair victory

Magnificent all-round display by Mubashar Iqbal powered Zubair CT to a comfortable win over OCT Seeb in a high-scoring 30-over B Division League match at Muscat Municipality ground 2 in Amerat on Friday.

Opting to bat first, Zubair posted a robust 253 for 6 on the board in 30 overs thanks to valuable knocks from Naveed Akhtar (57), Mubashar (46), Chandana Jagath (43) and Mohammed Amjad (42). Yunus Al Balushi and Faris Al Balushi took two wickets each.

OCT Seeb was never really in command, spending much of its

29 overs in trying to catch up with an ever-climbing run rate. In the end, it managed to score only 193 all out due largely to brilliant bowling by Mubashar who claimed 4 for 50 while Arif Khan and Mustansar Hussain bagged two wickets each.

Samir Othman (45) and Abbas Al Balushi (34) were OCT Seeb's main scorers.

Noushad bowls LC Tech to easy win

In another B Division game, brilliant bowling by Noushad Haneefa, who picked up 5 for 20, and a superb 50 by Jaleel Mahamoud were the highlights of LC Tech's easy 7-wicket victory against OCT Al Hail A at Muscat Municipality ground 1.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by February 2020 reaching \$50.70, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman rose 13 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$50.57. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM index closed at 3,597.32 points, down 0.15 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.35 per cent at 509.92 points. Takaful Oman Insurance, up 10.0 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Arab, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser.

Khazaen signs three investment agreements with local companies

The pacts reiterate the economic city's growing preference among local and foreign investors

MUSCAT: Khazaen, the newest economic city in Oman, has been consistently gaining momentum over the past few months.

Three new agreements have been signed by Khazaen that reiterate the economic city's growing preference among local and foreign investors.

The first agreement was signed with Al Wajen United Projects to build a factory for manufacturing of lights and electrical fittings. The second agreement was signed with Digital Energy Management to build a factory for the assembly of switch gears, meters and electrical distribution boards while the third agreement was signed with Al Samsman Trading for constructing a factory for camping and outdoor specialised equipment.

The agreements were signed by Khalid Al Balushi, CEO of Khazaen Economic City and CEOs of the companies.



COLLABORATION: The first agreement was signed with Al Wajen United Projects, the second agreement was signed with Digital Energy Management and the third agreement was signed with Al Samsman Trading for constructing a factory for camping and outdoor specialised equipment. - **ONA**

"Khazaen Economic City witnessed a growing interest from companies and investors to relocate or establish their projects in the city which reiterates the confidence of local and foreign investors in Khazaen as an ideal destination, particularly after the recent completion of the phase one of infrastructure works," said Al-Balushi.

On his part, Ibrahim Al-Kindi,

CEO of Al Wajen United Projects, said, "We are confident that we took the right decision to invest in Khazaen Economic City to build a light and electrical fittings factory, thanks to the unique advantages and offerings of the city, as well as the incentives provided to us that include a waiver of rent charges for certain periods enabling us to focus on the core establishment activities."



Adnan Azam, CEO of Digital Energy Management said, "We aim through our investment at Khazaen Economic City to expand our businesses in the Sultanate and address new markets. We are fully convinced about our decision to invest in Khazaen due to the availability of required spaces, ready infrastructure and the City's expected growth in the future."

Sameer Al-Zedjaly, CEO of

Al Samsman Trading said, "We are proud to sign this agreement to build a camping and outdoor specialised equipment factory at Khazaen Economic City, the future business hub of the Sultanate.

The city offers an ideal location, unparalleled connectivity to main roads, in addition to a wide range of incentives for local and foreign investors making it the ideal investment destination in the Sul-

tanate and the wider region.

Khazaen had launched a package of incentives earlier this year to attract more investments despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These incentives include exemption from rental fees for specific periods and exemption from some administrative fees. Investors and companies interested in investing in Khazaen shall benefit from these incentives until the end of 2020.

Khazaen is the largest public-private partnership (PPP) project in the Sultanate of Oman being developed in Barka, South Al Batinah Governorate. Khazaen enjoys a strategic location; close to the capital city of Muscat, only 30 minutes away from Muscat International Airport and around two hours from Sohar Port.

The city will be connected to the future railway project making it a hub for multi-modal transport and fully integrated economic city.

The massive integrated economic city will be home to Oman's first dry port, central fruit and vegetables market, special zones for SME industries and logistics, besides multi-mix residential units, entertainment facilities, retail outlets, international schools and modern health care centres - creating a community where all residents can work, live and play. -**ONA**

FACT

NBC signs incubation deal with Tamkin Digital Transformation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Business Centre (NBC), which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, signed an incubation agreement with Tamkin Digital Transformation Company.

Tamkin offers services related to digital transformation through the usage of fourth-generation technologies including Internet of Things, cloud computing and cloud ERP for the resource management system, and fieldwork management system. The company also offers consultancy services in change management, and mainly focuses on applications related to smart offices, maintenance work and asset tracking.

According to the incubation agreement, NBC will provide Tamkin with a variety of services including office space, access to intensive training, and coaching and mentoring sessions. These services aim at developing the entrepreneurial skills which will eventually contribute to the growth of the company, partnerships, and easy access to business mentors.

NBC is an initiative launched by Madayn at the Knowledge Oasis

NBC will provide Tamkin Digital Transformation Company with a variety of services including office space, access to intensive training, and coaching and mentoring sessions

Muscat (KOM) to offer promising Omani entrepreneurs a platform to develop their business ideas and advance them into growing ventures. The centre offers a premier platform for Omani entrepreneurs by providing business development support and guidance, training and mentoring, access to markets and industry experts, and state-of-the-art and fully equipped office space, meeting rooms and presentation facilities.

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

Companies look past pandemic as work and leisure patterns shift: S&P

SINGAPORE: COVID-19's effect on industries has varied dramatically and will continue to be felt for years in terms of the growth outlook, financial policy and credit metrics, S&P Global Ratings said on Monday.

Shifting patterns of work and leisure have accelerated further while and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations have moved to the foreground, it added.

With the widespread availability of coronavirus vaccines insight, planning for post-pandemic business conditions among companies is taking on greater urgency. For certain sectors like retail, media and entertainment that means tackling secular changes that have been accelerated (rather than caused) by the crisis.

S&P said the pandemic has widened the gaps between regions and industries and within societies. In the corporate sector, disparities are set to grow between companies and industries that benefit from pandemic-accelerated digitalisation and those suffering from structural shifts in working practices and behaviour.

"Even if a vaccine is widely available by mid-year, as we assume in our base case, containment of the pandemic looks to be



WIDENS GAP: S&P said the pandemic has widened the gaps between regions and industries and within societies. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only.

very uneven worldwide."

The main risk for the first half of next year is that additional surges of COVID-19 will require renewed lockdowns and jeopardise a fragile economic recovery - leading to further credit deterioration particularly in sectors most exposed to social distancing and travel restrictions.

On the bright side, said S&P, record low-interest rates and abundant liquidity will likely persist beyond next year, cushioning the effects of the historic surge in

leverage that has supported companies, households and governments through the pandemic.

As the global economic recovery gains a toehold, the dialling back of fiscal support, which has both protected the most vulnerable and provided a bridge to the recovery, will require skilful policymaking. Premature austerity constitutes a key risk in 2021, said S&P.

Even if the global economy gets back on track toward year-end, with the United States regaining

its pre-pandemic GDP level (China has already recovered in this sense), it is likely to take until 2022 or later for many of the world's economies to fully recover.

"The aftermath of the crisis is likely to bring significant challenges for credit. There could be significant aftershocks given the severe economic damage, the dramatic expansion of private and public debt and the roiling of labour markets - undermining business models on which complex debt structures reside." - **ANI**

CEMENT GRINDING PLANT

Duqm Cement Factory gets ahlibank's OMR8.1mn financing



AGREEMENT: Signing the agreement on behalf of ahlibank was Hanaa Al Kharusi, General Manager - Corporate Banking while Raysut Cement Company was represented by its Group CEO Joey Ghose. - **Supplied picture**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Supporting initiatives to scale up the robust industrial sector in the Sultanate, ahlibank has announced the financing of OMR8.1 million for Duqm Cement Factory's new cement grinding plant in Duqm Industrial Estate.

A signing ceremony with Duqm Cement Factory, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Raysut Cement, Oman's largest cement manufacturer, took place on December 10. Signing the agreement on behalf of ahlibank was Hanaa Al Kharusi, General Manager - Corporate Banking while Raysut Cement Company was represented by its Group CEO Joey Ghose. Raysut Cement Factory's new cement grinding plant in Duqm Industrial Estate. The partnership with Duqm Cement Factory will go a long way in enhancing the industrial sector's growth in Oman as the factory will be a feeder to infrastructure projects in the area from industrial, logistics, real estate and tourism and will help in generating more employment opportunities.

"ahlibank has been at the forefront of contributing to the nation's growth in line with Oman's Vision 2040. The Sultanate's manufacturing sector is a key pillar of its long-term economic diversifi-

cation strategy. Oman continues to offer a strong value proposition for businesses, with a wide range of industrial estates and special economic zones (SEZs) adding to the attraction," she added.

Commenting ahlibank for its support, Joey Ghose said, "We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to ahlibank for financing the Construction of Duqm Cement Factory's new grinding plant in Duqm Industrial Estate. Through strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors, the Bank has ensured the all-round development of Oman's diverse sectors."

"The new cement plant will spur economic activities in around the Duqm Industrial Estate and thereby bring more and more businesses to the region," he added.

Raysut Cement held a groundbreaking ceremony triggering the start of the construction of the plant on November 10. The company will be producing 3 varieties of cement: Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), Portland Limestone Cement (PLC), and Granulated Glass Blast Furnace Slag (GGBFS).

ahlibank mission is to exceed customer expectations and deliver outstanding shareholder value. In line with its vision of being vibrant and an innovative centre of banking, the bank offers top-class retail, commercial, investment banking solutions and is well-known for its customer-centricity. The bank provides customers with convenient access to high-quality products and services through its presence at strategic locations throughout the Sultanate.

MARKET

MSM index ends lower

Takaful Oman Insurance, up 10.0 per cent, was the top gainer, while Oman Arab, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,597.32 points, down 0.15 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.35 per cent at 509.92 points. Takaful Oman Insurance, up 10.0 per cent, was the top gainer, while Oman Arab, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Ooredoo were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded and also were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 488 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.0 million, with more than 8.0 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded stocks, 8 advanced, 15 declined and 29 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR13,000 while GCC & Arab were net buyers for OMR8,000 followed by local investors for OMR5,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,577.73 points, down by 0.08 per cent. Takaful Oman Insurance, Vision Insurance, Sohar International Bank, Bank Dhofar and National Bank of Oman were up by 10.0 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 2.25 per cent, 1.06 per cent and 0.67 per cent respectively. Oman Arab, Dhofar Insurance, Muscat Finance, and Bank Muscat were down by 9.09 per cent, 3.53 per cent, 2.5 per cent, and 2.01 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,152.48 points, down 0.28 per cent. Raysut Cement and Al Jazeera Steel were up by 2.31 per cent and 0.73 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Ceramic, Oman Cable and National Aluminium were down by 2.62 per cent, 1.38 per cent and 1.16 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.85 per cent before closing at 1,583.46 points. Ooredoo was up by 1.05 per cent. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,601.51	3,586.74	3,597.32	3,602.56	-5.24	-0.15
Financial Index	5,578.81	5,561.56	5,577.73	5,582.01	-4.28	-0.08
Industrial Index	4,173.35	4,152.41	4,152.48	4,164.09	-11.61	-0.28
Services Index	1,595.84	1,582.99	1,583.46	1,596.99	-13.53	-0.85
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	509.93	507.86	509.92	508.16	1.76	0.35
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,110.14	4,093.28	4,105.35	4,111.33	-5.98	-0.15

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,020,013	2,014,727	488	20,085,994,979	8	15	29	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	290,225	102,487	29	0.352	0.354	0.350	0.354	0.346	0.008	2.312	0.352	0.328	0.360	0.100	70,800,000
OM0000000398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	75,000	6,825	4	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.089	0.002	2.247	0.081	0.091	0.092	0.100	221,540,113
OM0000000968	OOREDOO	1,458,059	582,045	191	0.384	0.388	0.382	0.386	0.382	0.004	1.947	0.384	0.384	0.386	0.100	251,264,473
OM00000002176	AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	47,917	6,600	6	0.138	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.001	0.730	0.137	0.137	0.138	0.100	17,235,918
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	22,000	3,168	3	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.143	0.144	0.100	12,240,000
OM00000001535	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	195,000	17,550	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	18,000,000
OM00000001533	OMINVEST	1,000	330	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.334	0.334	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.326	0.330	0.100	269,795,958
OM00000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	159,324	10,037	6	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.064	0.100	12,600,000
OM00000002077	AL OMANYA FINANCIAL SER	14,500	1,015	4	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.100	20,435,462
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,488	505	2	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.203	0.203	0.205	0.100	11,275,000
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	256,192	178,309	16	0.696	0.696	0.692	0.696	0.700	-0.004	-0.571	0.696	0.692	0.700	0.100	522,000,000
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	385,954	133,383	32	0.344	0.350	0.344	0.346	0.346	-0.002	-0.575	0.348	0.348	0.350	0.100	81,797,860
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HOLDING	92,000	6,260	2	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.066	0.070	0.100	6,120,000
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	648,772	253,180	29	0.382	0.382	0.388	0.380	0.398	-0.008	-2.010	0.392	0.382	0.394	0.100	1,287,313,790
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	16,650	642	29	0.037	0.040	0.037	0.039	0.040	-0.001	-2.500	0.039	0.038	0.040	0.100	11,978,707
Total		3,666,061	1,282,336	332												

Parallel Market

OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN INSURANCE	17,000	1,870	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	0.010	10.000	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.100	11,000,000
OM00000006920	VISION INSURANCE	20,000	1,740	1	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.084	0.003	3.571	0.087	0.080	0.088	0.100	8,700,000
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	347,600	32,987	6	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.954	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	284,653,386
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	71,777	107,667	17	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.001	0.671	0.150	0.150	0.151	0.100	243,891,953
OM00000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE FEED	100	12	1	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.109	0.123	0.100	4,762,850
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	500	350	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.716	0.100	110,250,000
OM00000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	304,200	27,074	5	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.088	0.092	0.100	178,027,838
OM00000001586	OMAN FISHERIES	122,586	10,542	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.090	0.100	10,750,000
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	191,000	23,875	4	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.130	0.100	908,207,163
OM00000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	190,000	41,230	4	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.206	0.217	0.100	13,281,327
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	57	55	1	0.972	0.972	0.972	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.972	0.920	0.972	0.100	65,000,000
OM00000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	170	132	1	0.776	0.776	0.776	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.776	0.776	0.788	0.100	49,020,000
OM00000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAR	1,630	1,024	2	0.628	0.628	0.628	0.628	0.628	0.000	0.000	0.628	0.624	0.628	0.100	43,332,000
OM00000002385	NATIONAL DETERGENT	70	46	1	0.652	0.652	0.652	0.658	0.658	0.000	0.000	0.652	0.652	0.660	0.100	10,683,850
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON	80,750	3,230	12	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.039	0.041	0.100	11,599,225
OM00000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,345	168	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.128	0.100	10,582,358
OM00000005711	SOHAR POWER	9700	107	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.043	0.045	0.100	9,945,450
OM00000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	114	20	1	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.000	0.175	0.100	17,604,389
OM00000004788	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	5,249	383	1	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	12,775,000
OM00000004925	AL BATINAH POWER	8,800	450	4	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	34,419,259
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	106,976	5,670	6	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.053	0.054	0.100	77,517,877
OM00000006912	AL AHLIA INSURANCE	26,000	9,502	3	0.352	0.356	0.352	0.366	0.366	0.000	0.000	0.356	0.332	0.366	0.100	36,600,000
OM00000007043	NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS	19,818	6,817	3	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	0.344	0.330	0.344	0.100	91,160,000
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	3,000	285	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.099	0.100	14,777,288
OM00000007280	ARABIA FALCON INSURANCE	1,430	107	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	7,954,228
OM00000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FU	100	10	1	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.099	0.099	-0.001	-0.001	0.101	0.096	0.096	0.100	91,160,000
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	105,406	10,144	13	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	144,000,000
OM00000001319	NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS	8,717	745	2	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	2,853,573
OM00000002820	GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	64,283	4,936	4	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	1,507,957
OM00000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	10,000	4,300	2	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.436	-0.006	-1.376	0.430	0.424	0.430	0.100	38,571,000
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,296,599	289,602	16	0.225	0.225	0.223	0.223	0.229	-0.006	-2.620	0.223	0.223	0.228	0.100	66,055,651
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	10,000	1,043	5	0.106	0.106	0.104	0.104	0.107	-0.003	-2.804	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	99,275,483
OM00000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	10,872	1,783	3	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.160	0.170	0.100	16,400,000
OM00000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	549,500	98,980	15	0.185	0.185	0.180	0.180	0.198	-0.018	-9.091	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.100	300,493,800
OM00000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	110,432	33,130	8	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.330	-0.030	-9.091	0.300	0.306	0.330	0.100	21,117,000
OM00000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	4,341,952	720,391	155												
Total																

IATA

Global air passenger traffic recovery disappointing

GENEVA: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said the recovery of passenger demand continued to be disappointingly slow in October with total demand measured in revenue passenger kilometres down 70.6 per cent compared to October 2019.

This was just a modest improvement from the 72.2 per cent year-to-year decline recorded in September. Capacity was down 59.9 per cent compared to a year ago and load factor fell 21.8 percentage points to 60.2 per cent.

International passenger demand in October was down 87.8 per cent compared to October 2019, virtually unchanged from the 88 per cent year-to-year decline recorded in September. Capacity was 76.9 per cent below previous year levels and

load factor shrank 38.3 percentage points to 42.9 per cent.

Domestic demand drove what little recovery there was with October domestic traffic down 40.8 per cent compared to the prior year. This was improved from a 43 per cent year-to-year decline in September. Capacity was 29.7 per cent below 2019 levels and the load factor dropped 13.2 percentage points to 70.4 per cent. —ANI

CONTRACTOR FORUM

Forum brings together key contractors and suppliers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tanweer, Rural Areas Electricity Company, member of Nama Group, hosted the Contractor Forum, yesterday, which brought together the company's key contractors, suppliers and consultants. The event was held virtually to support and encourage two-way communication.

The Contractor Forum brings together local and international contractors and suppliers to share their experience and learning. The forum also provides a unique opportunity for the suppliers and contractors to learn about Tanweer's future business opportunities and expectations.

Besides, the forum aims to reinforce the importance of two-way communication and provides transparency as well as facilitates positive interactions with the contractors aimed at



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FINANCE MANAGER

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 13 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in GSM: 99279626

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male 43.y.o seeking a suitable opportunity in Admin/Mktg/Ops Noc & D/L available. **PH. 98274545**

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for HR/ Admin. **Contact 95425764**

Indian female 29. Experience in telemarketing/secretarial/office admin work. On family visa. Ready to join ASAP. Muscat. 93605361

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience including Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate. **Contact 99283938**

Indian Female 7 years experience in Executive Secretary, HR/Admin Coordinator seeks suitable placement contact - **GSM 92243552**

Executive Secretary/Assistant, Graduate with 20+ years experience in Oman, high calibre, fluency in English/Hindi/Malayalam, seeks suitable placement. Ready to join from Jan'21. **Contact 99649967 or sunilshankaran@yahoo.com**

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

Moroccan Experienced Business Development Manager looking for a suitable position in Oman please **Contact 93823132**

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Autocad Draughtsman, 16 years of experience in Oman (Structural & Architectural) looking for a suitable placement with valid Visa. **Contact: 95289504 Email kvvinodk@gmail.com**

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

12yrs Experienced 3d Visualizer/ Draftsman (Architectural & Structural) looking for Full Time/Part Time/ Freelance Job. **Contact: 97188059**

Civil/MEP Draughtsman (9 yrs experience in Oman) NOC available. **Contact 94469729**

MISCELLANEOUS

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

ENGINEER

Quantity surveyor having 10 yrs gulf experience with NOC & valid D/L. Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. **Contact 79039342. Email abdulmajeednifraz@gmail.com**

Indian male with a BTECH. degree in Chemical Engineering seeking for a suitable placement. **Contact +968 78220101**

Project/Civil engineer with 8 yrs experience in construction projects, gulf experience & DL available. **Contact 97906770**

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**

B.E Civil Engineer having Oman experience looking for false ceiling sub contracting jobs plus building maintenance works. **Contact: 79882467**

Mechanical Engineer, available immediately for job. **Contact 79714227. Email lokeshshirodkar15@gmail.com**

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having more than 12 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD,ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. **Contact 92180869, E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com.**

IT

IT sales and support. 5 years experience with IT network and hardware, BSc. Networking, Oman D/L. **Contact 97060076**

Experienced IT support person looking for job, 13 year's experience in Oman, valid DL with own vehicle. Experience in IT & Internal quality audit. Currently in Muscat with NOC. **Contact 95832482**

Oman Experienced Indian Mobile App developer looking for job. **Contact 72247497**

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

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

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

M/48 Indian, P.M Civil Engineer, 28 years exp (Oman-18 yrs) seeks placement. **Contact 99613098**

Mechatronics engineer fresher, Indian available to join immediately. **Contact 94058298. Email : nihad-nasser8@gmail.com**

Lab Technician QC (civil engineering) seeks a job. **Contact 97797448/ 71253955**

Safety officer (engineer), two years experience in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid DL. **Contact 79318246**

BE Mechanical with overall experience of 5 yrs in fabrication & manufacturing industry. Ready to join immediately. Seeking position as production Engineer/QA/QC engineer position. **Contact 78052560**

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

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

MEDICAL

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

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

MANAGER

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

Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experienced, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. **Contact: 98803439**

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

BM, with 26 yrs fmcg exp, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. **Contact 92696545**

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Email: media@nexusnovel.com

JOB WANTED

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Diploma civil Indian male 26 yrs 5 yrs oman exp, NOC ready, sales/procurement/stores. **E.mail 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, **Wattsup +96871144578, GSM +917766019519**

A Competent Commercial Professional with 20+ years of experience in Procurement & Contract Management. **Contact +968 98993356**

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

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

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SALES / MARKETING

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

Indian male, with 4+ years of experience & valid oman driving license, looking for Sales/Marketing opportunities. **Contact 79860002 / kpsahazad@gmail.com**

Looking for a good placement 7 year showroom incharge cum sales executive in gold and diamond jewellery having Oman DL. **Contact 93937696.**

Indian male having 10 yrs experience in building material indoor shop sales man, storekeeper seeks job. **Contact 91033713, 79515603**

Indian 23 yrs experience in Sales & distribution with well knowledge about market & worked in Supervisory level seeks suitable placement with valid DL & local release. **Contact 78195565**

B.D.E, 22 yrs experience in Oman seeks employment. **Contact/whatsapp 95950370**

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

CRISEs

Adversity is often the springboard for visionary ideas.

Current challenges have helped accelerate the economic transformations envisaged in the Oman 2040 vision. While the government's bold strategy offers a long-term blueprint to diversify the economy and develop human resource, and to raise competitiveness regionally and globally – Corporate Oman is faced with the need to adopt responsive new strategies and sustainable business models to succeed in the new normal.

OER Business Summit 2020 is a unique platform for corporate leaders to join a panel of experts to share perspectives on synergising their business objectives with the national priorities for the coming two decades.



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VISION 2040: CHARTING A ROADMAP TO BLESSED RENAISSANCE 2.0



CHIEF GUEST
His Excellency
Talal bin Sulaiman Al Rahbi
Vice Chairman, The Implementation
Follow Up Unit of Oman Vision 2040



GUEST OF HONOUR
His Highness
Sayyid Tarik bin Shabib Al Said
Chairman, Renaissance Village
Duqm (RSVD)



GUEST OF HONOUR
His Highness
Dr. Adham Turki Al Said
Assistant Professor of Economics
at the College of Economics and
Political Science, Sultan Qaboos
University, and CEO and
Co-founder of The Firm for
Business and Economic Consulting

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
HIS EXCELLENCY SHAIKH SALIM BIN MUSTAHAIL AL MASHANI

SESSION 1

TOPIC: ECONOMIC ROADMAP TO VISION 2040

PANELISTS



Mr. Anwar Al Jabri
CEO, Jabreen Capital



Shaikh Aimen Al Hosni
CEO, Oman Airports



Mr. Eddy Abboud
CEO, GBM Oman



Mr. Himansu Mohapatra
Group General Manager,
Muscat Overseas Group



Mr. Reggy Vermeulen
CEO, Port of Duqm



SESSION 1 - MODERATOR
Mr. Mayank Singh
Group Editor, UMS

SESSION 2

TOPIC: TALENT DEVELOPMENT - A KEY ENABLER OF ORGANISATIONAL SUCCESS IN THE POST COVID-19 WORLD

PANELISTS



Dr. Khamis Al Muniri
Director General of Madayn
Industrial Academy



Mr. Abdullah Al Rashdi
Lead Talent Elevator,
OQ



Mr. Mutheer Al Kalbani
Vice President & Head - Learning
& Capability Development,
Sohar International



Ms. Kamla Al Nadabi
HR Manager,
Dhofar Insurance



Mr. Said Al Rashdi
CEO, Oman Manufacturers
Association



Ms. Zuweina Al Minji
HR Business Partnering Manager,
Petroleum Development Oman (PDO)



SESSION 2 - MODERATOR
Mr. Venkatesh Palakkad
Principal Consultant and
Business Head, RAB HR

PRESENTERS



Mr. Atulya Sharma
CEO, United Media Services



Mr. Shahid Rasool
Deputy CEO, OMINVEST



Eng. Ahmed Al Dughaisi
Infrastructure Manager, Public Authority
for Special Economic Zones and
Free Zones (OPAZ)

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Enticing offer on Kia Rio

From an attractive design to impressive fuel-efficiency to a range of hi-tech yet user-friendly features and technology



tures and technology. The Kia Rio offers more value than expected.

MUSCAT: The Kia Rio is the perfect car for first time car owners looking to have a bit of everything in a car.

From an attractive design to impressive fuel-efficiency to a range of hi-tech yet user-friendly fea-

Those looking to own the Rio can benefit with cash gift OMR1,400 to OMR1,600 (Varies on MY / grade selected), insurance (comprehensive & private) 0 per cent interest rate for 2 years, 3.49 per cent interest rate from 2 years up to 5 years, up to 10 years/100,000km service

package and registration 1 year. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details).

Designed to turn heads, the Rio with a breathtakingly distinct design, innovative technologies and advanced features, enhances the comfort and active lifestyle of its users. The Rio sedan and 5-door are world-class Kia models offer-

ing an exciting combination of impressive fuel efficiency, innovative technology and advanced safety features.

Accelerating your demand for exciting drives is a choice of lightweight naturally-aspirated 1.6-litre and 1.4-litre MPI (multi-point injection) gasoline engines. The DOHC 16-valve D-CVVT (dual continuously variable valve timing) 1.6-litre engine drives the front wheels and produces up to 123 ps at 6,300 rpm and 151 Nm maximum torque at 4,850 rpm.

The exterior further enhances interior refinement, with the Rio's front wheel air deflectors, a full under-body cover and vertical 'blades' extending downwards from the trunk spoiler, each serving to reduce wind noise and aerodynamics. Rio's cabin offers impressive storage space.

SEASONAL CHEER



Al Falaj Hotel holds Christmas tree lighting ceremony

MUSCAT: The Christmas season is setting in and Al Falaj Hotel Muscat wanted to bring a sense of warmth and seasonal cheer. On December 6, the Al Falaj Hotel Muscat hosted its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony was a tradition much older than the arrival of electricity as families would light candles to welcome the festive season with warmth.

Al Falaj Hotel together with staff and guests of the hotel got together, following all the necessary safety protocols, and celebrated the lighting of the Christmas tree with the singing of Christmas carols. The event is a reminder that it is time to leave the past behind and move forward keeping in mind the safety protocols.

The ceremony was graced by the Anسلم Perera Director of Aitken Spence Resorts Middle East and family together with

Srinith De Silva CEO of Aitken Spence Hotels Middle East, Praveen George, General Manager of Al Falaj Hotel.

Al Falaj Hotel Muscat also has a slew of seasonal festivities planned for this season. The Stassen Tea Lounge which is famous for its pure Ceylon tea will have its "Festive High Tea" daily together with a special treat for kids called "Santa's Ice Cream". The famous Japanese restaurant the Tokyo Taro will be hosting a special 5 course set menu lunch on Christmas day.

Christmas Eve diners will be introduced to a spectacular 5 course plated menu served up by the poolside at the Souq café whilst being serenaded by the soft Christmas Tunes.

Every Thursday by the poolside diners will be able to feast their pallets on scrumptious barbecue treats and be entertained by the live music on site.

BEST PERFORMING COMPANY

National Life Insurance wins AIWA Award

MUSCAT: National Life and General Insurance Co. (NLGIC) has won the award as the 'Best Performing Company in Large Cap Segment 2020' and S. Venkatachalam, CEO, NLG has won 'The Best CEO of the Year 2020' award in the Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards (AIWA AWARDS 2020).

NLG could not only retain the #1 rank but have the privilege to be in the #1 spot for 3 times in a row.

"We thank the people of Oman, our business partners and valuable employees for all the support that they have provided to achieve the



AIWA Awards consistently. It is a testimony to our strategy and business initiatives, digital innovations, and prudent investment strategy and customer-centric approach.

We remain committed to be the "trusted insurance partner" and I can confidently say that we are on the right track. We shall continue to work towards creating value for

all our stakeholders and bring in innovations and technologies to help people achieve their insurance objectives through trust and collaborations," said Venkatachalam on winning both the awards.

Venkatachalam also retained the Best CEO of the Year Award this year which is again 3 times in a row. Venkatachalam has acquired more than 30 years of rich and enterprising experience in the finance and insurance industry in GCC. Being a man with hard work and sheer dedication Venkatachalam truly deserves this award.

TRAVEL BENEFITS

Bank Muscat invites Premier Banking customers to try out its unrivalled benefits

MUSCAT: In line with its vision "To serve you better, everyday" and commitment to Recognition, Rewards and Solutions, Bank Muscat Premier Banking has invited all its Asalah Priority Banking and Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers to try out its unrivalled benefits.

With the reopening of international travel, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate has invited its Premier Banking clientele to experience the niche benefits and unparalleled privileges available to them free of charge.

Abdulnassir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager- Premier Banking, said, "Bank Muscat Premier Banking is all about world-class products and services offered along with customer service excellence. Differentiated and specialised service distinguishes the Premier Banking clientele - Private Banking, Asalah Priority and Al Jawhar Privilege banking - from others. The bank's Premier Banking strategy reflects our commitment to expand innovative services for the Sultanate's largest banking family. We request all customers to fully utilise the vast array of advantages that are available to them."

Abdulnassir Al Raisi added that with air traffic to different global destinations expected to climb in the coming months, the bank's customers can make use of the exclusive services, benefits and offers available to Asalah and Al Jawhar customers. He thanked them for their strong confidence in the bank and encouraged them to make



maximum use of the different facilities and services, including many newly launched ones.

Exclusive banking benefits for Asalah customers include complimentary visits to the Prime-class lounge at Muscat Airport and the Plaza Premium lounge at Salalah Airport as well as unlimited complimentary access to the Majan Lounge at Muscat International Airport. Importantly, it is the only debit card that also offers lounge access to more than 50 lounges worldwide. In partnership with the Visa Fine Dining programme, clients can enjoy the largest premium dining discounts and rewards program in the UAE at over 75 premium restaurants with discounts varying from 15-25%, plus reward points. Asalah clients can enjoy the included Visa Luxury Hotel Collection programme valid at more than 900 hotels worldwide offers VIP Guest status, the best available room rates, room upgrade upon check-in, free Wi-Fi or valet parking, free breakfast, late check-outs, and free food and beverage vouchers.

LONG TERM DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

MUSCAT: BankDhofar provides the chance for customers to secure their future through Long Term Deposit Account. The account ensures peace of mind for customers when it comes to fulfilling their retirement dream, or achieving their childhood dreams for higher education, with the best competitive interest rate in the Sultanate.

Commenting on the account, Dr Tariq Taha, Chief Retail Banking Officer, at BankDhofar noted, "The Long Term Deposit account allows our customers to plan for the future, which is very essential. Through the account, they may



save a monthly amount for a specific period and get an increased amount rate after the deposit period. Customers may save to fulfil their retirement dream with the retirement plan or their children higher education dream with the education plan."

With the Long Term Deposit Account, customers may save a monthly amount for a specific deposit period and enjoy additional credit facilities. Customers may go for the education plan, to save for the children's higher education, and benefit from the interest rate of up to 5.5 per cent. For example,

if a customer saves OMR 50 for 18 years, the amount will be more than OMR 18,000 at the end of the period and the customer will get interest amount of more than OMR7,000.

For the retirement plan, customers may save a minimum monthly amount of OMR25 for up to 10 years, and benefit from the additional amount on their savings at an interest rate of up to 4.7 per cent. For example, if a customer starts saving a monthly amount of OMR50 for 5 years, the amount will be more than OMR3,300 at the end of the period and the customer will get interest amount of more than OMR320.

AL MAR'A MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OAB female employees receive accolades

MUSCAT: A number of OAB female employees were recognised at the Al Mar'a Excellence Awards ceremony, organised by United Media Services group and Al Mara'a Magazine.

Seven OAB employees are featured in the Al Mara Annual Book, unveiled at the event, including Dalal Al Rahma, Head of Digital Marketing, Communication & Events, who received the Al Mar'a Magazine Special Award for Marketing & Communications and Leen Al Atassi, Head of Innovation, who received the Al Mar'a Magazine Special Award for Innovation.

The awards ceremony was held at Sheraton Oman Hotel, under the patronage of Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, and in the presence of Asila Salim Al Samsamiyah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, Lujaina Mohsen Haidar Darwish, Member of the State Council, alongside several female



leaders in the Sultanate.

The event was aligned with the Sultanate's 50th National Day of the Renaissance celebrations to highlight the achievements of Omani women and shed light on their contributions and effective roles in the comprehensive development of the Sultanate.

Leen Al Atassi holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Strathclyde and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a minor in Com-

munications. She has over 14 years of experience, working in various positions within the Sultanate's banking sector. She joined OAB in 2018 as the Head of Innovation, responsible for introducing new solutions and initiatives to strengthen OAB's core competencies and grow its business. Additionally, she also supervised the establishment of the first Innovation Lab in the sector, which was officially launched in the first quarter of 2020.

Dalal Al Rahma has extensive

experience in Marketing Communication in the banking sector, beginning her career more than 15 years ago, during which she worked with several major local banks. She joined OAB in 2014 and is currently responsible for the development of OAB's annual digital and marketing strategy, including the website. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Bedfordshire and is a graduate of LEAD, a leadership enhancement and development programme, organised by the Inspirational Development Group and OAB, in affiliation with the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst.

The Al Mara Annual Book comprises the success stories of five other female employees from OAB, namely Abeer Al Magdissi, Human Resources Business Partner, Sima Al Balushi, Head of Compliance Department, Fatima Ba Omar, Head of Payments, Wasfia Al Harthi, Head of Import Department, and Khalisa Al Wahaibi, Manager of Al Qurum Branch.

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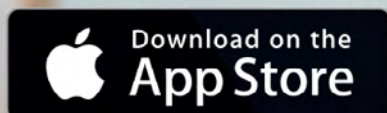
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