

BIG CELEBRATIONS TO MARK 40 YEARS OF OMAN-SRI LANKA TIES

Events honouring four decades of diplomatic ties between Sri Lanka and Oman will be held throughout the year, the ambassador of the island country said ahead of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which falls on February 17. **>A5**



HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONDOLENCES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on the death of Princess Lamia Hathloul Abdulaziz Al Saud. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant her family patience. **-ONA**



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HM receives credentials of ambassadors

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received separately credentials of a number of ambassadors of the sisterly and friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate at Al Barakah Palace yesterday.

His Majesty received credentials of the following ambassadors:

- Ole Moesby, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, accredited to the Sultanate.
- Renatas Norkus, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Gitanas Nauseda of the Republic of Lithuania, accredited to the Sultanate.
- Dominique Mineur, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of King Philippe of Belgium, accredited to the Sultanate.
- Dr. Juraj Koudelka, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic, accredited to the Sultanate.
- John Gerrard, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Michael Daniel Higgins of Ireland, accredited to the Sultanate.
- Shahin Shakur, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr. Ilham Heydar Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan, accredited to the Sultanate.
- Antti Rytovuori, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Sauli Niinisto of the Republic of Finland, accredited to the Sultanate.

accredited to the Sultanate.

During the side meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders along with their best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people continuous progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

They also expressed their great honour and utmost delight to present their credentials before His Majesty the Sultan.

They affirmed to exert their sincere efforts to promote relations of their respective countries with the Sultanate in various domains in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' peoples.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his thanks for their leaders' greetings and best wishes.

His Majesty affirmed to them that they would receive all support from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties.

The credentials' presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Head of the Royal Protocols, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. **-ONA**

See also >A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

People over 60 exempt from hotel pre-booking

1 People aged over 60 years will be exempted from booking hotels for the mandatory seven-day quarantine before their entry into the Sultanate. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a list of people who will be exempted from this rule. **>A3**

WORLD

Capitol attack probe

2 House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday announced a probe into the breach of the US Capitol Building on January 6. **>A7**

OMAN

PDO, IEA ink pact

3 PDO and IEA have inked a Statement of Co-operation to boost collaboration on energy transitions and policy dialogue. **>B1**

HEALTH

Online therapy helpful in treating anxieties linked to COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Counselling services offered during the COVID-19 pandemic are helping people deal with the anxieties, a new study shows.

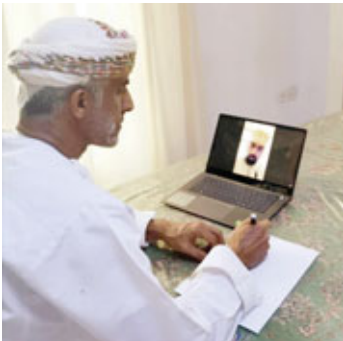
Conducted by a research team headed by Dr Hamed Al Sinawi, a senior consultant in old age psychiatry at Sultan Qaboos University, the study provides preliminary evidence to support the effectiveness of online therapy to reduce anxiety and depression that originate from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Better impact

The study also shows that therapy provided by trained counsellors has a better impact than self-administered therapy.

This research project, funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) within the COVID-19 Research Programme, aimed to assess the efficacy of therapist guided e-therapy versus self-help email delivered therapy.

In the first phase, the research team surveyed a sample of 1,580 participants, among whom 30



per cent (474 participants) were found to suffer from anxiety and depression.

During the second phase, the research team randomly selected 44 participants out of the 474 suffering from the above symptoms, and tested the two types of therapy on them.

22 of them received one online session per week over a span of six weeks from psychotherapists in either Arabic or English, while the other 22 received an automatic weekly newsletter through e-mail containing self-help information and tips to cope with distress associated with COVID-19. **>A5**

Of the 10,496 people who died in Oman last year, 1,499 died due to the coronavirus

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 14 per cent of all deaths that took place in Oman in 2020 were due to the COVID-19.

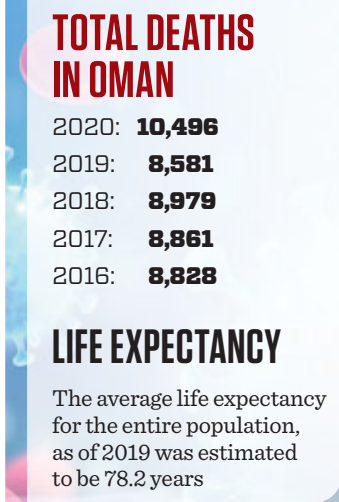
10,496 people died last year, reveal statistics from the National Centre of Statistics and Information.

According to the Ministry of Health, 1,499 died due to the coronavirus, as of December 31, 2020. This means COVID deaths accounted for 14.28 per cent of all deaths recorded in 2020.

Currently, the number of deaths due to COVID stands at 1,544 people. Oman has recorded 137,929 cases of the disease, and posted a recovery of 129,543 people, resulting in a recovery rate of 94 per cent, according to the Ministry of Health.

Of the nearly 10,500 people who passed away, the vast majority (8,576) were Omanis. 58.4 per cent of them, or 5,015 were males, while the remaining 3,561 (41.5 per cent) were females.

Conversely, only 1,920 expatriates died in Oman last year, among whom 1,623 (84.5 per



Oman's birth rate fell in 2020: 81,704 babies were born last year, compared to 86,819 the year before

cent) were males, and 297 (15.5 per cent) were females. The number of deaths recorded in 2020 was significantly higher than the previous years.

In 2019, 8,581 deaths were reported while in 2018 the numbers

stood at 8,979. 2017 saw 8,861 deaths, and 2016, another 8,828.

Preventive measures

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, a senior official of the Ministry of Health, said that the deaths from

COVID-19 can be reduced further by following the preventive measures and taking the vaccine.

Oman's birth rate also fell in 2020: some 81,704 babies were born last year, compared to 86,819 in 2019. Once again, the majority of these babies were welcomed into Omani families (74,571). 37,821 of these new arrivals were boys, while 36,750 were girls.

Babies born to expatriate parents numbered far lower at 7,133. 3,751 of these tiny tots were boys, and 3,382 were girls.



Dhuhr.....	12.26pm
Asr.....	3.42pm
Maghrib.....	6.08pm
Isha.....	7.19pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.22am

HIS MAJESTY WELCOMES AMBASSADORS



Photos by Mohammed Mustafa

DEAL OF THE DAY

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SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY

Discussion on ways to achieve sustainable development goals

MUSCAT: Represented by its International Cooperation Office and its library section, the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) on Tuesday organised a virtual international workshop on the role of higher education institutions (HEI) in sustainable development goals (SDG) in liaison with the Beirut-Doha-based UNESCO's Arab region office.

HH Dr. Mona Fahd Al Said, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for External Cooperation at the SQU, said in a statement on the occasion that "the workshop constitutes a practical start of programmes, plans and activities about partnering with the government to achieve sustainable development goals within the framework of Oman Vision 2040."

Then, Dr. Anna Paolini, Director of UNESCO's regional office for GCC States and Yemen, laid emphasis on the role of higher education institutions in spearheading change in the region.

The workshop worked towards



The workshop saw the participation of international speakers.

devising SDG plans in a number of higher education institutions in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. It discussed the rise and growth of higher education and sustainable development in the Sultanate, the first voluntary report of the Sultanate for the realisation of 2030 SDG and the activation of universities in this respect.

The workshop saw the par-

ticipation of international speakers. Dr. Anas Buhlal, Beirut UNESCO's office, delivered a lecture titled "Higher education and SDG", while Dr. Khalaf Al Abri, SQU, gave a presentation about the development of higher education and sustainable development in the Sultanate.

Dr. Sharifa Hamoud Al Harthi, member of the national team tasked with sustainable development and in-charge of the 9th sustainable development goal of 2030, spoke about the Sultanate's national voluntary report on SDG 2030 and the significance of motivating higher education institutions. The workshop also reviewed the experiences of different Omani universities, including the SQU, Dhofar University, Niwza University, Sohar University and Muscat University.

The workshop's opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Dr Fahd Al Julanada Al Said, Vice-Chancellor of SQU, in the presence of about 200 participants. -ONA



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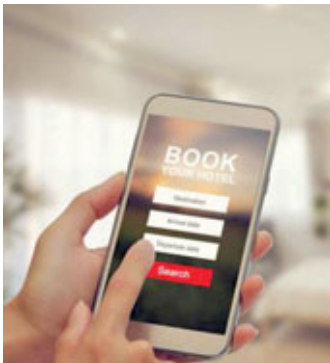
Under-15 kids, over 60 elders exempted from hotel quarantine

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Children under the age of 15 and elders over 60 are exempt from hotel quarantine on entering the country, Oman's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has said.

Exceptions are also in place for diplomatic representatives to Oman, aircrews, passengers whose existing medical conditions mean they are unable to enter quarantine, and people who are allowed to spend their quarantine at other isolation centres.

"Sick passengers who obtain an exemption in writing from the concerned healthcare personnel owing to their current medical conditions, and holders of permits for private institutional isolation centres that are pre-approved by the Relief and Shelter Sector of the Ministry of Health are also exempted," said an official from the CAA.



preme Committee for dealing with COVID-19 is considering halting the operation of flights to and from countries that see high numbers of increasing cases.

Analysing data
"The Supreme Committee is analysing data from many countries, especially those such as Tanzania," he said. "We've seen 18 per cent of tests done on people from Tanzania come back positive. This is a very high number.

"For this reason, the Supreme Committee is considering stopping flights to countries where the disease is spreading in a worrying and dangerous manner," he added.

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Every year on February 17, this day is commemorated to honour these noble gestures. Random Acts of Kindness Day was first started in Denver, Colorado in 1995 by a small nonprofit organisation, the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation. Nine years later it spread to New Zealand in 2004. As mentioned by the

organization, "The idea behind this day is to make the world a better place by spreading a little light around and to make kindness a part of our everyday lives. Lift someone up with your words, compliment them on their appearance... even the simplest acts can help to brighten someone's day."

The day is celebrated by individuals, groups and organisations in the US to encourage acts of kindness. In New Zealand, it is celebrated on September 1st.

So how can you celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day? It can be just anything. From sharing words of encouragement or motivating a colleague, to helping your neighbour carry the grocery load, or sending a bouquet to an old or sick person, when it comes to showing kindness the list is never ending.



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39 bodies recovered as bus falls into canal in India's Madhya Pradesh

A team of two ministers will visit the bus incident site after CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan called a meeting to discuss the incident

SIDHI: As many as 39 bodies have been recovered from the Sidhi bus accident site, where a bus carrying around 54 passengers, fell into a canal, said Ravindra Kumar Choudhary, District Collector, on Tuesday.

"Death toll in the bus accident rises to 39," said Choudhary. "The search operation is underway and now the search in the canal is going to start," said NDRF.

A team of two ministers will visit the bus incident site after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called a meeting to discuss the incident.

A bus carrying 54 passengers fell into a canal in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi on Tuesday after the driver lost control and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has asked District Collector to extradite the rescue operation.

Seven people have been rescued, and the search operation is underway. The Chief Minister has taken cognisance of the matter. He has spoken to District Collector asking him to expedite the operation.

Water from Bansagar Canal was released into Sihawal Canal to



MAJOR ACCIDENT: Water from Bansagar Canal was released into Sihawal Canal to lower its water level for the rescue operation.

lower its water level for the rescue operation.

Ex-gratia for victims

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for kin of those who have lost their lives in the Sidhi bus accident on Tuesday.

"PM Narendra Modi has approved an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the bus accident in Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh. Rs 50,000

would be given to those seriously injured," Prime Minister's Office tweeted on Tuesday.

A bus carrying 54 people from Sidhi to Satna fell into a canal as the driver lost control. The death toll has mounted to 39 so far.

Expressing grief over the situation, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu tweeted, "Deeply anguished by the loss of lives in a bus accident in Sidhi district, Madhya Pradesh. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured as rescue operations are underway."

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"Seven people have been rescued and the search operation is underway and now the search in the canal is going to start," said NDRF.

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SECOND CHARGE

Aung San Suu Kyi faces new charge



NAYPYITAW: Authorities in Myanmar filed a second charge against the country's ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, her lawyer said on Tuesday.

Suu Kyi was taken into custody on February 1 when Myanmar's military staged a coup against her civilian government.

What is the new charge?

Suu Kyi now faces a charge of violating a section of Myanmar's Natural Disaster Law, Khin Maung Zaw told local media.

Although further details on the charge were not immediately available, the violation has been used to prosecute those who have violated coronavirus restrictions.

The charge may allow her to be detained indefinitely without a trial, due to changes to the country's Penal Code that the junta implemented last week.

The rule change allows for suspects to be detained without court permission in certain cas-

es, according to the Associated Press.

Suu Kyi has already been charged under the country's import and export laws for having walkie talkies in her home that were imported without being registered.

What has the military said?

Suu Kyi's lawyers and her National League for Democracy party have said they have not been able to make contact with her since she was detained.

Facing ongoing protests against the coup and calls for Suu Kyi's release, Myanmar's military said on Tuesday that she was "in good health."

"It's not like they were arrested — they are staying at their houses," said military spokesman Zaw Min Tun at a press conference.

He added that Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint are being held at a "safer place for their security." **DW**

CONDOLENCES



The Managing Committee, sub-committees, Past Chairpersons and Members of Muscat Chapter of ICAI express their heartfelt condolences to
The family of H.E. Nasser Bin Hamood Bin Salim Al Rawahy

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9/11-STYLE COMMISSION

Democrats announce 9/11 style probe into Capitol attack

WASHINGTON: Top Democratic leader and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday announced a probe into the breach of the US Capitol Building by former President Donald Trump's supporters on January 6.

The storming of the Capitol left five people dead, and ultimately led to Trump's second impeachment by the House.

Pelosi said the "outside, independent 9/11-style Commission" would seek to review the "facts and causes" behind the breach.

"We must get to the truth of how this happened," Pelosi asserted.

Pelosi's remarks come after the Senate on Saturday voted to acquit Trump of his role in the breach during an impeachment trial.

Seven Senate Republicans voted to convict the former president, joining all 50 Democrats in the upper chamber, but this ultimately fell short of the 67 senators needed for conviction.



Staunch Trump ally backs call for 9/11-style probe

Some Republicans have also called for a 9/11-style commission into the breach. Lindsey Graham, a Republican senator from South Carolina and a staunch Trump ally, said

the probe would be needed to better protect the Capitol from future intrusions.

"We need a 9/11-style commission to find out what happened and make sure it never happens again, and I want to make sure that

the Capitol footprint can be better defended next time," Graham told Fox News on Sunday, adding that Trump's behavior after the 2020 election was "over the top."

After it was clear that Joe Biden won the November election, Trump continued to deny the results, claiming there was widespread voter fraud without any concrete evidence. Trump's legal team, led by former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, filed lawsuits across the country disputing Biden's win, but the cases failed to prove the fraud allegations.

Further legal consequences for Trump?

After Trump's dozens of lawsuits failed to gain any traction, the former president began to pressure state and local officials to overturn the results. On January 2, Trump called Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, pressuring him to overturn Biden's win in the state.

Legal experts have argued that Trump's call with Raffensperger violated election law. Raffensperger's office has launched an investigation into Trump's attempts to overturn Georgia's election result.

Although Trump was acquitted of inciting the breach in the Senate impeachment trial, some Republicans have claimed the former president could still be prosecuted. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, said it was "no question" that Trump was "practically and morally responsible" for the riots on Jan. 6.

"We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation. And former Presidents are not immune from being held accountable by either one," McConnell said in a floor speech on Saturday. McConnell had voted to acquit Trump, arguing impeachment was unconstitutional since he had left office.

Biden's AG nominee urged to prosecute Trump

Biden's nominee for attorney general, Merrick Garland, has been urged by a prominent left-wing organization to prosecute Trump and his associates for their role in the Capitol breach and other crimes. After Trump was acquitted on Saturday, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCC) circulated a petition to pressure Garland into investigating Trump. "If we want accountability for Trump and his criminal network, we cannot just depend on Democratic leaders," a statement from the PCC said. "We need to push them, a lot," it added.

New York AG Letitia James, along with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., have already launched separate criminal investigations into Trump's business dealings. It's unclear whether James or Vance will unveil criminal charges against Trump now that he has left office. **bw**

FORMER FINANCE MINISTER OF NIGERIA

WTO welcomes its first women, African chief

GENEVA: Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Monday agreed by consensus to appoint Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a former finance minister of Nigeria, as the next director-general, said the WTO in a press release.

The decision was made at a special meeting of the WTO's General Council at which the World Bank veteran was formally selected.

"Dr. Okonjo-Iweala will become the first woman and the first African to head the WTO. She will take up her duties on March 1 and her term, renewable, will expire on Aug. 31, 2025," WTO said.

"I am honoured to have been selected by WTO members as WTO director-general," said Okonjo-Iweala to the General Council, underlining that "a strong WTO is vital if we are to recover fully and rapidly from the devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic."

"I look forward to working with members to shape and implement the policy responses we need to get the global economy going again. Our organization faces a great many challenges but working together we can collectively make the WTO stronger, more agile and better adapted to the realities of today," she said.

Okonjo-Iweala, 66, is a global finance expert, an economist and an international development



professional with over 30 years of experience working around the world.

Twice served as Nigeria's finance minister and briefly acted as foreign minister, she has a 25-year career at the World Bank, including as Managing Director of Operations.

Extending the "warmest congratulations" to Okonjo-Iweala, General Council Chair David Walker said that "this is a very significant moment for the WTO."

"I am certain that all members will work with you constructively during your tenure as director-general to shape the future of this organization," he added.

Applauding the "timely" appointment, China's Ambassador to the WTO Li Chenggang noted that "the collective decision made by the entire member-

ship demonstrates a vote of trust not only in Dr. Ngozi herself, but also in our vision, our expectation and the multilateral trading system that we all believe and preserve."

"As a contributor and beneficiary of a stable, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system, China does believe trade, mutually-advantageous trade, will be a key tool that can help us to find a way out of the current situation and realize economic recovery soon," he added.

The General Council decision follows months of uncertainty triggered by the initial refusal of the United States to join the consensus around Okonjo-Iweala, throwing its support behind South Korea's Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee instead. **Xinhua**

EMERGENCY USE

WHO approves AstraZeneca COVID vaccine

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday gave the green light to two versions of the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, allowing them to be rolled out globally via COVAX.

The two versions are produced by AstraZeneca-SKBio in South Korea and the Serum Institute of India, WHO said in a news release, noting that the vaccine shows 63.09 percent efficacy and

"is suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to easy storage requirements."

The vaccine can now be used via COVAX, a WHO-led international initiative for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, said Dr. Mariangela Simao, WHO assistant-director general for Access to Medicines and Health Products.

"Countries with no access to vaccines to date will finally be

able to start vaccinating their health workers and populations at risk," said Simao.

"But we must keep up the pressure to meet the needs of priority populations everywhere and facilitate global access," she said.

And to this end, she sorted out two priorities: a scale-up of manufacturing capacity, and developers' early submission of their vaccines for WHO review. **Xinhua**

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India beat England in Chennai Test

Indian bowlers produced a sublime performance on day four as England only managed to score 164 runs



TEST SERIES: Indian team celebrates after winning the 2nd test match against England at MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai on Tuesday.

CHENNAI: India levelled the four-match Test series 1-1 against England after an emphatic 317-run win in the second Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday.

Indian bowlers produced a sublime performance on day four as England only managed to score 164 runs in their second innings. Axar Patel, who made his Test debut in the match, picked a five-wicket haul during England's second innings while Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav scalped three and two wickets respectively.

The visitors resumed their sec-

ond innings from the overnight score of 53/3, chasing a target of 482 runs set by the hosts. England survived six overs before Ravichandran Ashwin struck with his first ball on day four. Ashwin fired the ball down the leg side on seeing Dan Lawrence step out and Rishabh Pant pulled off a brilliant stumping.

Ben Stokes then along with skipper Joe Root played some cautious shots to rebuild the England innings. The partnership survived for 12 overs as Ash-

win dismissed the all-rounder, Stokes, in the 38th over. Stokes departed after scoring eight runs off 51 balls as England lost half their side for 90 runs. Ollie Pope then stitched a 20-run stand with Root to take England over the 100-run mark before he was dismissed by Axar Patel. Kuldeep then got hold of Ben Foakes, reducing England to 116/7. England then suffered a major blow as skipper Root got out.

Root (33) was caught at slip by Ajinkya Rahane off Axar Pa-

tel's delivery. Moeen Ali smashed three consecutive sixes to Axar Patel in the 52nd over. However, Kuldeep got hold of Moeen, who scored 43 off just 18 balls, and with this, England's second innings came to an end.

Earlier, Ashwin's scintillating century helped India set England a target of 482 runs at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. Ashwin played a knock of 106 runs before the hosts were bowled out for 286 in the final session of day three. **ANI**

Orient Travels crowned champions of B Division

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Orient Travels, led by Samir Saiyed, were declared champions of the B Division. They had a memorable season and remained unbeaten winning seven of the league matches.

Orient Travels scored 268 for 7 in their allotted 30 overs. Their openers Arif Hussain and Adil Khan together stitched a 68-run partnership in 5 overs.

After the fall of their first wicket, one down batsman and Man of the Match Gurvir Singh hit a sizzling 92 with 9 boundaries and two sixes. Other batsmen also



chipped in to help reach a mammoth total of 268.

In reply, OCT Al Hail 'A' were bundled out for a paltry 94 in the 23rd over. They lost three quick wickets in the power play and had no answer against quality bowling and sublime fielding of Orient Travels.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Serena beats Halep, moves into semis

MELBOURNE: American tennis player Serena Williams on Tuesday progressed to the semi-finals of the ongoing Australian Open.

Serena defeated Romania's Simona Halep 6-3, 6-3 in the quarter-finals at the Rod Laver Arena and as a result, the American has her dream intact of registering her 24th Grand Slam win. The 39-year-old Serena was in an emphatic mood in the first set and she

did not give Halep any chance and as a result, the American star won the first set 6-3. Serena hit 14 winners to win the opening set.

In the second set, Halep gained a 3-1 lead, but Serena managed to come back to bring the scoreline level at 3-3. Carrying on her with her momentum, Serena made the winning charge and as a result, she ended up winning the match in straight sets. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Azam ton takes ISM to victory, MCCC Yellow top U-13 League

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Azam Ali struck another superb century to steer Indian School Muscat (ISM) to an exciting 6-wicket victory against Boshers Sports Centre (BSC) A in a Junior League Under-19 League game at OC Turf 2 in Amerat on Saturday.

BSC was bundled out for 186 in 50 overs, Vrishab Gladwin (43)

and Muzahir Raza (41) being the top scorers. Tanuj Sivakumar was the pick of BSC bowlers, taking 3 for 18. Azam led ISM's response with a solid 107 while Arjun Suresh contributed 33 their side raced to the target in the 38th over, scoring 187 for 4.

BSC beat SLSM

Lakshmi Narayana's splendid hundred powered Boshers Sports Cen-

tre (BSC) to a thumping 8-wicket win over Sri Lankan School Muscat (SLSM) in a Junior League 30-over Under-16 match at Muscat Municipality ground 1.

SLSM posted 191 for 8 on the board with Mustafa Mahabub topscoring with 41. Jeyapranesh Ayyappan bowled well, taking 4 for 31. BSC's chase was led by Lakshmi Narayana's brilliant 100 not out off 61 balls as it sealed victory

in 20 overs, scoring 194 for 2. Venkata Naga scored an unbeaten 47.

MCCC Yellow end U-13 League on top

MCCC Yellow ended their Junior League Under-13 campaign with a huge 128-run victory against MCCC Blue and a top-spot finish with 12 points from 8 games, three more than second-placed Indian School Wadi Kabir which

has 13 from the same number of matches.

Yellow scored a huge 223 for 6 in 20 overs and then bowled Blue out for 95 in 20 overs to seal a comfortable win. Anirudh Para (53), Aneek Chakravarty (52) and Kriv Rajesh (50) were its top scorers.

Priyanka bowls ISC to big win

Priyanka Mendoca was the star

of Indian Social Club's thumping 10-wicket victory against Pakistan School Muscat Women in a Women's League game at OC Turf 1 in Amerat.

Priyanka bowled a magnificent over, taking five wickets for only one run as PSM was dismissed for a dismal 18 in 5.2 overs.

ISC raced to the target in just 7 balls, scoring 19 without loss with Priyanka unbeaten at 14 off 8.

MORE REASONS TO CHOOSE RENAULT



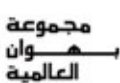
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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has declined, with prices for delivery by April 2021 reaching \$62.44, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil declined by 10 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$62.54. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM index closed at 3,554.13 points, down 0.35 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.19 per cent at 531.77 points. Oman Fisheries, up 2.33 per cent, was the top gainer while Madina Takaful, SMN Power down 8.11 per cent, was the top loser.

Energy agreement inked to meet Oman's sustainable ambitions

The pact between PDO and IEA will usher in intensified joint efforts across the energy sector to help Oman meet its clean and sustainable ambitions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) signed a Statement of Cooperation (SoC) with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to strengthen collaboration between the two parties in the areas of energy transitions and policy dialogues.

This agreement, which covers oil and gas, water management and technologies, renewable energies, energy efficiencies, hydrogen, emissions intensity, data and statistics, and training, will usher in intensified joint efforts across the energy sector to help Oman meet its clean and sustainable ambitions.

The agreement was signed virtually by Abdul-Amir Al Ajmi, PDO External Affairs and Value

Creation Director, and David Turk, IEA Deputy Executive Director.

Through this agreement, PDO strives to leverage Oman's competitive advantage today in oil and gas exploration and production, established production and export facilities, an abundance of renewable resources, and centrality in the global trade map into a continued advantage for the future.

PDO External Affairs and Value Creation Director Abdul-Amir Al Ajmi said, "We are delighted to partner with the world's powerhouse – a major step that supports PDO's dedicated efforts in energy transition and sustainability. Such partnership shall emphasise PDO's and Oman's aspirations to be at the forefront of the future energy sector."

IEA Deputy Executive Director David Turk said, "The Interna-



STATEMENT OF CO-OPERATION: The agreement was signed virtually by Abdul-Amir Al Ajmi, PDO External Affairs and Value Creation Director, and David Turk, International Energy Agency (IEA) Deputy Executive Director. - **Supplied picture**

tional Energy Agency is working hard to put clean energy transitions at the heart of everything we do. Oman is a key country in the world, with great opportunities to leverage its existing energy advantages to advance clean energy

transitions. The IEA looks forward to supporting a growing global consensus on the need for ambitious action to meet our energy and climate goals."

Dr Abdullah Al Abri, Hydrogen Economy Project Manager, said "I

am particularly pleased today for this will reinforce collaboration on joint projects, expertise sharing, technical foresight, applied research and development across the 'new' energies and technologies, and other areas of mutual in-

terest – including those related to hydrogen as an emerging new and environmental-friendly economic engine for Oman. We architecture Oman's clean and sustainable future in partnership with this global think-tank (IEA)."

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR83.5mn

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR83.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

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

The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.65179 per cent and 0.65211 per cent, respectively.

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

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 1 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. - **ONA**



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

PARTNERSHIP

Sohar Port and Hutchison Ports sign agreement for expansion of port



DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT: The study will commence this year and will assess the social, environmental, logistical, In-Country Value and economic impacts of any future expansion.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with implementing the Sultanate's aspirations to increase revenue from the logistics sector, in accordance with the objectives of 'Oman Vision 2040', Sohar Port and Freezone signed a development agreement with Hutchison Ports Sohar.

The agreement will see a joint study conducted for the expansion

of Sohar Port alongside the addition of a new container terminal capable of receiving mega-vessels.

Roadmap

The study will commence this year and will assess the social, environmental, logistical, In-Country Value and economic impacts of any future expansion. Moreover, it will provide a clear roadmap for future expansion to meet the needs

of the growing local and regional economy. Apart from enhancing the competitiveness of Sohar Port, at the regional and global levels, especially in containers and cargo handling, it will further contribute towards the generation of more local job opportunities.

Sohar Port is currently witnessing a growing occupancy rate and efforts should be enhanced to increase its capacity, to enable it

to keep pace with future development. The addition of new areas will increase the attractiveness of the port and comprise the necessary infrastructure to attract important international shipping lines. The successful implementation of the project is set to bring in sustainable economic and social benefits for the Sultanate as a whole and in particular the Governorate of North Al Batinah.

REPORT

India on track for economic recovery: S&P Global Ratings

SINGAPORE: India is on track for an economic recovery in the fiscal year ending March 2022, S&P Global Ratings said.

Consistently good agriculture performance, a flattening of the COVID-19 infection curve and a pickup in government spending are all supporting the economy, it said in a report titled 'Cross-Sector Outlook: India's Escape From COVID'. India needs many things to be right for its recovery to continue. Most significantly, the country needs to quickly and thoroughly vaccinate most of its 1.4 billion people.

"The emergence of yet more contagious COVID -19 variants with the potential to evade vaccine-derived immunity present a major risk to this recovery. As does the possibility of early withdrawal of global fiscal stimulus," said the report.

However, near-term prospects are positive. With a sustained decline in national confirmed COVID -19 cases allowing for a gradual relaxation of formerly stringent epidemic control measures, high frequency economic indicators continue to show improvement.

S&P said the Indian government's recently released Budget will also support the recovery with higher than previously expected expenditures for fiscals 2021 and 2022.

"India's improving growth prospects are critical to its ability to sustain the higher deficits associated with its more aggressive fiscal stance."

The economy still faces important risks as it transitions from stabilisation to recovery. "We estimate that India faces a permanent loss of output versus its pre-pandemic path, suggesting a long-term production deficit equivalent to about 10 per cent of GDP," said the report.

Localised containment measures in India are replacing nationwide lockdowns. This has rejuvenated demand and removed supply bottlenecks and labour shortages, supporting a sharp recovery in infrastructure use.

But the pace of recovery varies widely. Airports are still struggling with most flights grounded.

Utilities are faring better, bolstered by regulated, contracted or availability-based returns that protect their operating cash flows despite an earlier fall in unit demand. "We believe counterparty credit risks and receivable delays

Consistently good agriculture performance, a flattening of the COVID-19 infection curve and a pickup in government spending are all supporting the economy, it said in a report titled 'Cross-Sector Outlook: India's Escape From COVID'

pose the biggest risk for utilities (including renewables) while benign funding conditions assuage liquidity risk."

Likewise, a faster-than-expected earnings recovery has lowered downside risk for rated corporates. An increase in commodity prices and a revival of domestic demand after lockdowns were eased have driven upside earnings surprises. Changes in consumer choices, for example a preference for personal transport for health-safety reasons, have helped sectors like automobiles.

"In our view, a sustained earnings rebound is key for ratings to stabilise. Roughly one quarter of ratings are still on negative outlook. On the other hand, proactive refinancing by speculative-grade corporates has materially reduced refinancing risk in 2021."

On the banking front in India, S&P estimates the system's weak loans ratio at 12 per cent of gross loans and credit cost to remain elevated at 2.2 to 2.7 per cent.

Faster economic recovery and steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian government to cushion the effect of the economic crisis have helped ease the stress on bank balance sheets.

"In our view, India's banking system's performance is likely to start improving materially in fiscal 2023, trailing an economic recovery of 10 per cent in fiscal 2022. On a positive note, banks are building capital buffers and reserves to deal with the COVID crunch."

S&P said finance companies' performance has been a mixed bag and polarisation between Indian finance companies can persist. - **ANI**

MARKET

MSM index ends lower

Oman Fisheries, up 2.33 per cent, was the top gainer, while Madina Takaful, SMN Power down 8.11 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,554.14 points, down 0.35 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.19 per cent at 531.77 points. Oman Fisheries, up 2.33 per cent, was the top gainer, while Madina Takaful, SMN Power down 8.11 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Ceramic were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while was most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 329 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.04 million, with more than 5.53 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded stocks, 12 advanced, 26 declined and 24 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR115,000 while

foreign investors were net buyers for OMR62,000 followed by local investors for OMR52,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,312.09 points, down by 0.36 per cent. Al Sharqia Investment and Bank Muscat were up by 1.39 per cent and 1.01 per cent. Al Omaniya Financial, Bank Nizwa, and Sohar International Bank were down by 4.11 per cent, 3.06 per cent and 1.32 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,642.35 points, down 0.22 per cent. Oman Fisheries was up by 2.33 per cent. Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel and Al Maha Ceramic were down by 2.0 per cent, 0.92 per cent and 0.38 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.44 per cent before closing at 1,555.33.14 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,570.62	3,551.12	3,554.14	3,566.58	-12.44	-0.35
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,337.08	5,305.30	5,312.09	5,331.33	-19.24	-0.36
Services Index	1,562.15	1,553.62	1,555.33	1,562.15	-6.81	-0.44
Industry Index	4,652.59	4,642.35	4,642.35	4,652.59	-10.24	-0.22
MSM Shariah Index	532.79	530.19	531.77	532.79	-1.02	-0.19
MSM TR INDEX	4,074.88	4,052.63	4,056.07	4,070.27	-14.20	-0.35

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,537,153	1,041,428	329	20,244,127,091	4	12	26	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	20,000	1,460	2	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	-6,570,000
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	548,040	219,201	62	0.400	0.404	0.398	0.400	0.396	0.004	1.010	0.398	0.394	0.398	0.100	1,298,806,016
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	70,000	26,880	3	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.000	0.384	0.384	0.400	0.100	-38,400,000	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	2,000	280	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	-11,900,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	59,600	19,191	5	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.000	0.000	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.100	-260,102,690
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	267	3	0.273	0.273	0.282	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.282	0.282	0.271	0.100	-90,988,995
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	475,400	31,241	18	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.065	0.067	0.100	-13,200,000
OM0000002026	OMAN TELECOM	2,332	1,754	4	0.748	0.772	0.748	0.764	0.764	0.000	0.000	0.772	0.748	0.772	0.100	-573,000,000
OM0000002324	RENAISSANCE SER.	60,000	20,745	6	0.344	0.346	0.344	0.346	0.346	0.000	0.000	0.346	0.342	0.350	0.100	-81,797,860
OM0000002605	ALMAHA CERAMICS	9,425	2,437	5	0.258	0.260	0.258	0.259	0.260	-0.001	-0.385	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	-14,245,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	142,492	30,570	24	0.214	0.215	0.214	0.215	0.217	-0.002	-9.222	0.214	0.214	0.215	0.100	-26,853,061
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	270,000	20,320	8	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.318	0.076	0.075	0.080	0.100	-182,588,005
OM0000003968	QOEDOO	280,308	104,776	17	0.398	0.408	0.398	0.402	0.408	-0.006	-1.471	0.400	0.384	0.400	0.100	-261,679,580
OM0000003077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	50,799	3,553	4	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.073	-0.003	-4.110	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	-20,435,462
		14	1,971,366	482,675	162											

Parallel Market

OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	41,798	3,678	3	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.088	0.088	0.089	0.100 -11,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,000	2,890	1	0.289	0.289	0.289	0.289	0.284	0.005	1.761	0.289	0.289	0.000	0.100 -17,888,035
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	31,349	20,690	4	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	0.000	0.660	0.660	0.720	0.100 -103,950,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	10,000	1,300	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.140	0.100 -211,573,026
OM0000001377	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	80,000	34,870	4	0.436	0.436	0.434	0.436	0.436	0.000	0.000	0.434	0.412	0.434	0.100 -38,108,200
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	300	7	1	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.023	0.024	0.100 -4,764,482
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	740,843	223,735	2	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.300	0.304	0.100 -89,456,532
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	100,000	10,100	4	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.104	0.100 -166,615,404
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	340,254	12,589	13	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.037	0.039	0.100 -12,918,343
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	94,180	66,679	2	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.000	0.000	0.708	0.708	0.000	0.100 -43,382,700
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	16,556	1,713	7	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.100 -8,384,483
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	580	28	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100 -9,945,450
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	195,300	16,991	16	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.091	0.100 -15,225,000
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	500	25	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100 -33,068,484
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	65,000	3,210	10	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.046	0.050	0.100 -35,005,911
OM0000004992	AHLIA INSURANCE	22,800	7,570	1	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332	0.332	0.350	0.100 -33,200,000
OM0000004979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	367,739	35,674	9	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.094	0.097	0.100 -8,703,000
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	20,000	7,800	1	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.370	0.390	0.100 -103,350,000
OM0000007407	DHOAFAR GENERATING	200	32	1	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.000	0.000	0.158	0.155	0.158	0.100 -35,113,920
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	4,493	418	2	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100 -19,000,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	20,000	1,700	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	-0.001	-1.183	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100 -2,853,573
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	379,016	18,951	6	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.051	-0.001	-1.961	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100 -73,130,073
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	113,979	10,932	18	0.096	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.098	-0.002	-2.041	0.097	0.096	0.105	0.100 -144,000,000
OM0000004899	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	120,230	14,603	13	0.123	0.123	0.121	0.121	0.125	-0.004	-3.200	0.121	0.122	0.125	0.100 -11,834,061
OM0000005321	GALFAR ENGINEER	340,000	16,380	16	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.050	-0.002	-4.000	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100 -57,919,071
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	34,088	3,068	9	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.097	-0.007	-7.216	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100 -13,999,536
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	400,665	27,145	17	0.067	0.070	0.067	0.068	0.074	-0.006	-8.108	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100 -13,575,221
Total		27	3,549,810	542,773	164										

DEVELOPMENT

‘Thrive in Abu Dhabi’ programme launched to encourage global talent

ABU DHABI: Talented professionals and students, and investors, in priority sectors are being encouraged to set down roots with their families in Abu Dhabi as part of a new programme that supports the emirate's strategy to develop key areas such as culture, health-care, research and development

and real estate. “Thrive in Abu Dhabi” highlights the long-term visas and paths to citizenship available for expats working, creating, studying, excelling or investing in priority sectors that empower them to build their futures in a safe, welcoming and supportive environment while contributing to

its sustainable development. Creative talent is encouraged to be part of a global arts and culture hub, join the emirate's dynamic media and entertainment industry, or support the development of our understanding of the past among fellow academics, conservators and archaeologists. - ANI

FINANCIAL RESULTS

GFH reports net profit of \$45.1 million

MANAMA: GFH Financial Group announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and 12 months ended December 31, 2020.

The group reported a net profit attributable to shareholders of \$21.93 million for the fourth quarter of 2020 compared with \$1.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2019, an increase of 1362 per cent.

Previous year fourth-quarter results included a significant impairment provision in the commercial banking subsidiary of the Group. Earnings per share for the fourth quarter of 2020 was US cents 0.65 compared to US cents 0.04 for the comparative quarter of 2019. Consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter was \$19.04 million compared with losses of \$8.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Net profit attributable to shareholders was \$45.1 million for the full year compared with \$66.03 million in 2019, a decrease of 31.7 per cent. The decline is predominantly attributable to the slower contribution from business lines as a result of the pandemic situation during the year. Earnings per share for the year was US cents 1.35 compared to US cents 1.96 for the full year 2019.



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Contact GSM: 79880377
Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

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

9539 1786

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Indian Bachelor, B.Com, 4 yrs experience as ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT seeks suitable placement. D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 96324484

Finance Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman (Currently available in Oman). Experience in Engineering / Construction/Structural Steel Projects, Manufacturing & Trading Concern. With administrative skills with D/L & NOC. Looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 78039935

FINANCE

Indian, Female, MCOM with B.Ed. Having 2 Years' experience in Office accounts (Inventory Checking, Book keeping, Payroll) and training experience (IIT teaching, Lecture methods-Accounting) in schools. Looking for suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin / Teacher jobs. Currently on Visit visa, Residing in Wadi kabir, Muscat.

Contact 97131091, Email: gokulsbg@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer

Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.

Please contact me on 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

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

PLANNING ENGINEER/MANAGER

Planning Engineer/manager 20 yrs experience in Mechanical, civil, pipeline 7 MEP projects using Primavera with NOC & D/L seeks suitable position.

Contact 92651105
Email reji_mathai@hotmail.com

FOOD AND QUALITY

A Post Graduate in Food science and Technology, with certification in Food Safety Level 4 and HACCP Level 3, actively looking for a job in food industry.Ability to handle in-Process quality and Food Technology related activities. Excellent communication and Interpersonal skills.

Contact +968 78359939
Mail id: vargheseroy98@gmail.com

HR Manager

17 years' experience in Finance & HR (10 Yrs), Indian Male, MBA & M.Com. NOC Available.

Contact: 96332608

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.

Contact: 92999419
d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

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

Contact 95972625

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

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Srilankan Senior Accountant looking for a suitable opportunity. 7 years experience in Oman & capable of handling accounts up to finalization. On hand experience in Tally, Spur, QB etc. Having D/L.

CONTACT: 92821932

ADMINISTRATION

More than 22 years of experience, Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree seeking suitable placement, having experience in Administration/ Document Control/IT, HR, and Finance Support, with valid Oman Driving Licence. NOC available.

Contact NO. 99757759
Email: bijucchacko85@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male, 41 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (13 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager, Internal Auditor and statutory auditor. currently working as Accounts Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.

Contact: 99169501

Senior Software Test Engineer

Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.

Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

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

GSM: 78259755

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.

Contact whatsapp: 99477009
Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

Finance Manager / CFO

Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 99884291 / 99741875
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.

Mob: 95073054
Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

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9 years experienced Female Architect with Urban planning experience seeking for a job. Contact 96146645

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Indian cook with 8 yrs experience, looking for job. Now on visit visa. Contact 79850765

Cook seeks job. Contact 79508817

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

B.Sc Indian lady fashion designer, 8 yrs experience looking for related job. Contact 96919159, 94004019. Email fassionpassion.trupti@gmail.com

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian Female, Msc Biotechnology graduate currently in Muscat looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 94687398 Email gayathrisprem21@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Indian male experience in logistcs sales looking for job opportunity. Contact 79964123 Email: raheelrahmani23@gmail.com

Indian Male, Logistics Executive- 2+ years' Experience(MCT), MBA(UK), Valid Oman D/L, Seeks suitable opportunities, Contact 79221551 / shamfza3@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. 9 yrs. Contact 93191575

Driver with 8 yrs experience looking job. Contact 79352646

3 yrs experience in driving, looking job. Contact 98763258

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Project manager searching for job of managing projects for client company for construction. Presently working with high profile client, handling all the projects. Contact 99116074

Male having 10 years Experience (Oman), working as a "Fleet Manager" looking for a suitable position. Contact 93363316

IT

Indian female MCA, 4 yrs experience in TCS as a software testing engineer seeking suitable position. Contact 95249883 Email rejaaramdas@gmail.com

Female, B.Tech (CS) digital marketing, 5 yrs of project development exp & managing end to end project development activities. # 94403029 Email anna.shaju3@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE, professional having 20+ yrs of experience in HSE field in building, airport construction & oil & gas. Contact 90125179

Indian male civil supervisor, 25 yrs experience in galfar Oman. Client approved permit holder OETC scaffolding tag inspector, reservior, HDPE, DI pipeline, earth works shuttering, reinforcement, concrete. Contact 97680142 Email awadhesh37@gmail.com

22 years experience in modular kitchen. Working as a project co-ordinator/Designer/Sales co-ordinator Contact 99757846 email: baiju.zukai@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male, 10+ yrs experience in the field of purchase, store, asset coordinator. Valid D/L. Immediately available for joining. Contact 71596360. Email praveenskurup82@gmail.com

A 35 years experienced person with exposure in purchase and other day to day activities office activities seeking a suitable job. Contact 98528907

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

Procurement & Logistics Head with 17+ yrs exp, Indian # 99224623

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Store Incharge, Sales associate, customer service, retail, warehouse logistics and merchandiser with driving license. Contact 95042624

Indian purchase assistant, store keeper, 10 yrs experience in Oman valid DL, looking for suitable job. # 98615731 sanalk73@gmail.com

TOUR / TRAVEL

Seeking job in Travel & Tourism. 12 years experience, Graduate (B.Sc) IATA Certified professional presently available in Oman. Contact 968 92477622, 79842322 Email: thahaspm@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Driver plumber Electrician, looking for job. Contact 96750080

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Indian Male 15 years Experience (MBA) looking for job in Sales & Marketing, Currently in Oman with Valid Driving License and Valid Visa. Contact 91127809

Indiam male MBA post graduate, 9 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing, Oman DL holder. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 71537034

B.Tech MBA, Indian 10 yrs experience, sales, marketing IT. Contact 90725202

Sales, Business development manager, construction, FMCG, UPVC 7 years GCC experience Oman D/L. Contact 95842228

Indian male 27 yrs MBA graduate with specialized degree in Management seeking suitable placement. valid Oman DL available. # 91209360. Email amirasadc@gmail.com

BM, with 26 yrs FMCG exp, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. Contact 90925520

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

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Mazaj Terrace & Lounge: Place for ideal outdoor dining experience

Unwind in the most spacious terrace with beautiful weather under the starlit skies at Grand Millennium Muscat's Mazaj Terrace & Lounge

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat, a five-star luxury hotel situated at the heart of Muscat City, has a secret gem inside its premises – Mazaj Terrace & Lounge is perfect for social distancing with very spacious seating and tables, and a good venue to meet-up with friends you haven't seen for a long time while enjoying the nice and cool ambience under the blue skies.

Mazaj Terrace caters to a well-curated delectable menu of freshly oven-baked pizzas, scrumptious burgers and sliders, a varied selection of tea or coffee with sweet and savoury delights, and fruity mocktails prepared by our talented chefs and baristas.

You can always recharge and energise your souls with your friends and families, and get the most out of your evenings over a scrumptious meal till sundown without having to be in a now-crowded place. Not only that you can enjoy watching the daily football streaming on the city's biggest 178 inches 2-way outdoor screen.

Mazaj Terrace & Lounge offers daily pizzas to order and unlimited sliders every Wednesday to complete that idyllic, relaxing afternoon or evening you've been looking forward to.

"Grand Millennium Muscat aims to provide an outdoor dining experience

and warm hospitality yet at an affordable price to sit and engage in conversations or to unwind with friends & families during this period and we believe that the Mazaj Terrace & Lounge is a perfect place where comfort and safety will be achieved. With the help of our talented and passionate chefs and baristas, we have come up with a well-curated menu that guests can enjoy sumptuous and lavish meals that will surely satisfy their cravings," said Luca Medda, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Muscat, and Millennium Executive Apartments Muscat.

Centrally located in the business, government, and diplomatic district, with direct access to Muscat Grand Mall, Grand Millennium Muscat Oman is uniquely convenient. Our 296 rooms and suites, and 40 spacious apartments, are all luxuriously appointed with everything you need. At our Seafood Restaurant and rejuvenating spa, you can indulge all of your senses.

If you're here for business, our range of meeting rooms, Executive Lounge with panoramic views of the city, and located 10-mins from the airport will ensure a productive time. Staying with us will provide a complete Muscat experience with memorable moments to take away.

The hotel features 296 Classic and Executive rooms, suites and 26 spacious apartments, as well as 6 signature private villas, which boast a private terrace and swimming pool. Grand Millennium Muscat is located over 7 floors. The top two floors are dedicated executive floors including an exclusive Executive Lounge on the 7th floor with panoramic views of the city.

The Grand Millennium Muscat hotel is ideally located in the Al Khuwair district of Muscat.

We are just 10 minutes by car from Muscat International Airport (MCT) in Seeb. It is close to banks, the embassy district, beaches and tourist attractions; Grand Millennium Muscat places the city at your fingertips.



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Maternity and delivery programme introduced

Badr Al Samaa Maternity & Delivery programme is a comprehensive package which in the special journey towards motherhood aims at covering everything from the time of conceiving and delivering in a professional and caring manner



MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals launched Badr Maternity & Delivery programme in an online event attended by expecting mothers, doctors, senior management among other dignitaries.

Dr Deena Al Afsoor, Head Clinical Committee, Oman Women's Association was the guest of honour. Badr Maternity & Delivery programme is a comprehensive package which in the special journey towards motherhood aims at covering everything from the time of conceiving and delivering in a professional and caring manner. It is a comprehensive one covering both antenatal care and delivery.

Shammath Aman, Branch Head of Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Barka welcomed the guest of honour, panellists, senior management, doctors and attendants to this glittering launch event of Badr Maternity & Delivery programme.

Speaking on this occasion, Sameer P T, Group CEO said, "Badr Maternity and Delivery Program will ensure utmost comfort and special care for pregnant ladies. Single point of contacts in every branch will ensure all necessary information and assistance is given to enrolled expecting mothers. Badr Al Samaa Group has well-experienced obstetricians and complete facilities to handle all sorts of complications in deliveries."

Guest of Honour, Dr Deena Al Afsoor, said out of all women in Oman fifty per cent is in the reproductive age so the need for multidisciplinary care to cater to all types of expecting mothers becomes important. She said programs like Badr Maternity & Delivery programme are much suited to this demand as it is not just comprehensive and flexible but

affordable at the same time. She appreciated the efforts of Badr Al Samaa Group for exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of Omani women.

Asif Shah, Head Branding and Communication and host of this event presented the overview of the program. He said this affordable program, available at all centres of Badr Al Samaa Group, will have the flexibility to join in any trimester and pay in instalments. All routine investigations including viral markers, consultation with obstetricians, ultrasound scans, growth scans, NST (non-stress test) scans and deliveries will be covered under this programme which is starting at OMR 250. At the time of enrollment special points of contacts will provide special counselling sessions to expecting mothers.

Dr Tahira Kazmi, Senior Consultant (visiting) Gynecologist, Badr Al Samaa Hospital Ruwi in her keynote speech on woman's health from puberty to menopause explained the type of care to be given at each stage. Every stage in women's life is important as there are different threats and risks associated with it.

Dr Smitha Mohan, specialist gynaecologist at Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Al Khoud discussed various ways to ensure a healthy pregnancy. She gave valuable advice on diet, do's and don'ts, exercises, work & travel during pregnancy.

Jacob Oomen, Group COO in his vote of thanks expressed his gratitude to the Board of Directors Abdul Latheef and Dr P A Mohammed for their support and inspiration to launch newer medical programs. He thanked guest of honour and all other panellists to make this a memorable and knowledgeable event.

COMPACT SUV



Kia Sonet arrives in the Middle East, Africa region

DUBAI: The urban and athletic Sonet has arrived to select markets within the Middle East and Africa region. Designed to be bold and unforgettable, the Sonet sports key features that place it in a league of its own within the compact SUV segment. Customers can now visit their Kia dealerships online or in-person to learn more about the model and book a test drive.

With multiple powertrain options, the new Sonet's impressive features come encapsulated in a modern exterior, making the Sonet the latest addition to Kia's award-winning SUV family. With a dynamic stance in a confident and compact body, the Sonet includes a fresh interpretation of Kia's signature 'tiger-nose' grille, 'heartbeat' LED DRLs (daytime running lights), and a stylish front skid plate beneath.

Kia first unveiled the Sonet concept in Delhi, India, during the Auto Expo 2020. Within a year, Kia has taken a concept to reality, bringing the future closer to customers. The all-new Sonet incorporates Kia's DNA of emotive styling along with a premium appeal, which creates a strong presence on road.

Boasting multiple segment-first features that offer the ultimate driving experience for customers, the Sonet provides comfort,

convenience, and safety. Fitted with the largest and the best in class 10.25-inch (26.03 cm) HD touchscreen with navigation and live traffic, the Sonet also comes with other smart features such as remote engine start, multi-drive & traction modes, and grip control for automatic models.

Designed around the driver with a well laid-out, intuitive infotainment and cluster interface, the Sonet was built taking into consideration the end user's experience. The Sonet comes with premium BOSE seven-speaker audio with sub-woofer, wireless smartphone charging with a cooling function, LED Sound Mood Lighting, and Smart Pure Air Purifier with virus protection. Harboring functional qualities in every inch of its ergonomic space.

"Kia has manufactured a vision inspired by our young, ingenious customers who crave simplicity and seamlessness in their lives. The Sonet delivers on features that are simply not found in models belonging to the same compact SUV category. Packed with first-in-class, purposeful features and technologies. Customers from the Middle East and Africa will find in the Sonet a smart companion to navigate the needs of life," said Yaser Shabsogh, Chief Operating Officer, Regional HQs, Middle East & Africa, Kia.

COMMUNICATION CATEGORY

Top 3 free messaging apps that you can download from Huawei AppGallery now

MUSCAT: Are you adept at social messaging and in search of the best alternative free apps to benefit from? Don't waste your time searching further. Here are the top-performing messaging apps available on the Huawei AppGallery right now.

Ranked by the highest number of downloads across the MEA region, Botim, IMO, and Moya have made their way to the top four most downloaded apps falling under the "Communication" category in Huawei AppGallery.

Botim

Botim - Unblocked Video Call and Voice Call is a free worldwide calling and messaging app for everyone. It can bring your family and friends closer than ever. The application supports both video and audio calling among Botim users. In addition, it lets you send text messages, photos and short videos.

IMO

IMO is a global instant communication platform aiming to provide the most convenient, interactive and fun way for people to connect. Through accessible audio and video communication services, rich multi-media content and other features such as games, IMO connects over 200 million users in 62 languages, across more than 150 countries around the world.



Moya

Moya App is a #datafree super-app for messaging, browsing, checking your SASSA grant, live scores and more. No airtime? No worries! The Moya App works in all countries and is #datafree.

With over 96,000 applications available across all categories, Huawei AppGallery, the third-largest global app distribution platform from Huawei, offers a wide range of diverse apps and enables

the users to use these applications seamlessly with strict protection of their privacy and security.

Huawei AppGallery deploys the highest level of verification to isolate and protect users' sensitive data and privacy. Personally-sensitive information will never be processed outside the Huawei device, giving the user complete control over their data. Moreover, thanks to Huawei EMUI services included on Huawei smartphones,

users have complete control over apps user permission.

Popular messaging apps such as Botim, IMO, and Moya are fully usable within the Huawei Mobile Service thereby enabling smooth and enhanced user experiences. This highlights Huawei's commitment to continually develop its app portfolio to provide users with innovative and high-quality apps that meet their needs and enhance the overall user experience.

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