



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES KING OF THAILAND

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and his best wishes of good health and happiness to King Vajiralongkorn. His Majesty also wished the people of Thailand further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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HM RECEIVES SAUDI CROWN PRINCE

MUSCAT: HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), arrived in the Sultanate of Oman yesterday on an official visit lasting two days.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik led the welcoming party for the Saudi Crown Prince. When the jet of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman touched ground at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the Royal guest at the foot of the ramp, welcoming him and wishing him and his official delegation a pleasant stay in his second home Oman.

Along with His Majesty the Sultan, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman was received by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior (Head of the Mission of Honour), Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, HH Sayyid Faisal bin Turki Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the KSA and Abdullah bin Saud Al Anazi, the Saudi Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A4**



DIWAN OF ROYAL COURT

His Majesty issues five Royal Decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Monday issued five Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 69/2021 transfers to the Diwan of Royal Court the affiliation of Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science.

Article (1) states that the affiliation of Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science (SQHCCS) shall be transferred to the Diwan of Royal Court, to which all allocations, origins, rights, obligations and assets of SQHCCS shall also be transferred, and so do the employees of the SQHCCS, along with their current financial grades.

Article (2) cancels Royal Decree No. 52/2012 on establishing the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science. It also cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 70/2021 transfers the affiliation of the Environment Conservation Office from the Diwan of Royal Court to the Environment Authority. **>A4**

JOINT COOPERATION

Omani-Saudi Business Forum explores investment opportunities

MUSCAT: The Omani-Saudi Business Forum, held here on Monday, explored opportunities for joint cooperation between the two sides in economic and investment fields and scopes for forging agreements and strategic partnerships.

Eng. Ridha Jumaa Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), said that "a manifestation of deep-rooted historic relations between Oman and Saudi Arabia and the keenness of their leaderships—His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, requires us to intensify efforts to meet the aspirations of the two countries' peoples, notably the need to speed up joint projects that realise economic diversification and other goals".

Al Saleh added that the in-



auguration of the desert highway between Oman and Saudi Arabia will pave the way for a new era of partnership, provide more direct access for the flow of goods and services and, generally, spruce up economic and

commercial activities.

Meanwhile, Ajlan Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, Chairman of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that the business forum "sets in pace a blessed approach espoused during 11 July 2021 Summit held in Neom in Saudi Arabia by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. The summit provides for continuous cooperation towards the expansion of areas of cooperation in all fields and the utilisation of available investment opportunities in the business sectors".

Al Ajlan pointed out that Oman and Saudi Arabia share various potentials and common approaches for economic integration, among them Saudi Vision 2030 and Oman Vision 2040. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

HM confers Renaissance of Oman Order

1 His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has conferred Renaissance of Oman (2nd Class) Order on Abdullah Shaban Al Farsi, Head of the Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Diwan of Royal Court, in appreciation from for Al Farsi's efforts. **>A5**



WORLD

Omicron variant does not look severe: Fauci

2 Anthony Fauci, the chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden, has said that he was encouraged by early reports on the severity of the new Omicron variant, but warned against drawing premature conclusions. **>A6**

MARKET

PDO inaugurates Yibal Khuff project

3 Under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) celebrated the inauguration of its Yibal Khuff Mega Project (YKP). **>B1**

We warmly welcome
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Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud,**
Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to the Sultanate of Oman

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Dhuhr.....	12:03pm
Asr.....	3:05pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:17am

ENVOY

Al Nu'mani meets Qatari, Indian, Malaysian, Brazilian Ambassadors

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Monday Sheikh Jassim Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting reviewed the advanced relations between the two countries and areas of joint cooperation.

The two sides also exchanged views on topics of common interest.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani received Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, Gen. Al Nu'mani underlined the historic relations binding the two countries.

The meeting touched on several matters of common interest.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister received Ligia Maria Scherer, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting reviewed joint cooperation between Oman and Brazil.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani received in his office Shaiful Anuar Mohammad, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting reviewed joint cooperation and means of promoting relations between Oman and Malaysia. -ONA



1,498 students graduate from Sultan Qaboos University

The graduates of Sultan Qaboos University are assuming leading positions in various fields and many of them act as the pillars of the renewed renaissance under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Chairperson of SQU Council on Monday patronised over the 31st batch graduation ceremony of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) at the open theatre.

The total number of graduates

in the 31st batch reached 2,962, 1,498 of them graduated yesterday. The remaining group of students will graduate this Wednesday.

His Highness Sayyid Dr. Fahad bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, said: "We meet today, and it seems as if it was not long enough since the day you made your first steps in your respective colleges of Sultan Qaboos University. Your graduation marks a new stage towards a



brilliant future you have been well-prepared and equipped for. The time each student had at his/her respective college would remain vivid and bright in your minds for the rest of your lives as a source from which you take whatever is best for your future and career."

Dr. Sayyid Fahad said that since that since the establishment of Sultan Qaboos University it has emerged as a place for a better future for the Sultanate and under an ambitious vision that meet the needs of the society and the country through

well-prepared and qualified cadre equipped with the latest techniques in various fields. "Now, we see the graduates of Sultan Qaboos University assuming leading positions in the various fields and many of them act as the pillars of the renewed renaissance

under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik," he added

"Going forward under the renewed renaissance, we should always keep in mind that laying the foundations for glory and achievements are only possible with the will, determination and hard work supported with relentless efforts and well-established knowledge," he said.

"The development and renaissance witnessed in the Sultanate are a result of the hard work and efforts, challenges faced and efforts accorded for providing solutions under all difficult economic conditions, Oman has undergone.

"The Sultanate had been and is always moving forward and it was high time for graduates to play their role in preserving the achievements secured in the Sultanate and to secure further achievements. The youth is the cornerstone for building the nation and will always remain a source of pride and appreciation for the nation," he added.

37TH SESSION

Oman participates in Arab Justice Ministers meet

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs yesterday took part in the 37th session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers.

Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al

Saidi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs headed Oman's delegation in the session, which was held at the Arab League premises in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The meeting discussed a num-

ber of topics, notably the Council of Arab Justice Ministers' technical secretariat report on the updates regarding the implementation of decisions, recommendations and Arab agreements.

The ministers further dis-

cussed the Arab guidance draft project on preventing hate speech, and the Arab guidance draft project on protecting and supporting the elderly rights, among other relevant topics.

-ONA

NATIONAL ECONOMY

Economic stimulus meet kicks off in Musandam



MUSANDAM: Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (OCCI) branch in Musandam Governorate today organised "the Economic Stimulation Conference in Oman", in cooperation with Oman Economic Association.

The conference aimed to support the government's efforts to stimulate the national economy as per the collaborative approach adopted by Oman Vision 2040.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

Raed Mohammed Al Shehhi, BOCCI Board member and Chairman of the Chamber's branch in

Musandam, said that the Economic Stimulation Conference comes within OCCI's efforts to enhance the business and investment environment and revitalize Oman's economy.

The move is within the framework of OCCI's role in supporting private sector companies to overcome current challenges, and conveying their views to the authorities concerned.

The conference included four discussion sessions on the impact of government incentives, monetary policies, the impact of interest rates, the business and investment environment, decision governance and policy integration. -ONA

INVEST IN OMAN

<FROM A1> Business opportunities in Oman

Meanwhile, Azan Al Busaidi of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion gave a presentation titled "Invest In Oman", which portrayed the competitive business opportunities in Oman and how economic growth gives impetus to endeavors of the private sector and entrepreneurs.

Azan said that Oman's business climate is motivating and open to the world.

The presentation also touched on the Economic Stimulus Plan and the incentives it provides, including customs exemptions for investors, as well as free trade agreements already signed by Oman and offering 50 opportunities for investment in the indus-



try sector that stand at more than OMR207.8 million.

On his turn, Muneer Al Muneeri of Oman Investment

Authority presented a paper featuring the potential of the Investment Fund of Infrastructure projects (Rakeeza).

In another paper, Dr. Badr Al Munthri spoke about Oman Telecommunications and Information Technology Company, while Eng. Khalid Al Mahrooqi presented a paper about Khazaen Economic City.

Nassir Said Al Hajiri, Head of the Saudi side at the Omani Saudi Business Council, presented a paper about the activities of Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, stressing that the petrochemical industries sector provides a good alternative for crude oil export. In the meantime, Hakeem Al Rasheed spoke about the experiences of Alam Company in supporting digital progress in Saudi Arabia. -ONA

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END OF TOUR OF DUTY

Sayyid Asa'ad bids farewell to Russian ambassador

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan received in his office on Monday Dmitry Dugadkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Sultanate of Oman to bid them farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The ambassador expressed his thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the support extended to him during his tour of duty in Oman from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people, which had enabled him to carry out his duty.

He wished His Majesty good health, happiness and long life, and the Sultanate of Oman further progress and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

On his turn, Sayyid Asa'ad expressed his utmost thanks to the ambassador for the efforts he exerted in serving relations between Oman and his country. He wished him permanent success and the Russian people further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and the two advisers at the Office of Sayyid Asa'ad. -ONA



Italian Design Day focuses on urban sustainability

Event highlights the quality of urban life, thanks to new materials, quality architecture and livable public space

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In celebration of the Italian Design Day, the Embassy of Italy in Muscat in collaboration with the Scientific College of Design is organising a two-day workshop by the Italian architect Paolo Ubaldi, testimonial of Italian Design for Oman 2021, on "Sustainability and Urban Space" at the College's theatre. The event that began on Monday, concludes today.

This edition highlights the quality of urban life thanks to new materials, quality architecture and



SHARING EXPERIENCES: Paolo Ubaldi shared his experience in promoting the reuse of materials in construction and the dialogue between space and people in urban areas.

livable public space. Paolo Ubaldi, considered as one of the most talented representatives of the new generation of Italian architects, shared his experience in promoting the reuse of materials in construction and the dialogue between space and people in urban areas.

The workshop shed light on the role of design in shaping new urban spaces, transforming existing cities, as well as how design can

improve the quality of life during the pandemic.

The students will be around Muscat to capture photos of what is their perception of sustainability and will put together ideas on how to improve the surroundings in their city.

This workshop by Arch. Ubaldi represents one part of the solid partnership between Italy and Oman in the field of design, where

Italy is ready to share its expertise, know-how and technology to support the Sultanate's Vision 2040 in the field of design and urban development.

The Italian Design Day initiative is supported by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through its Embassies worldwide to promote design as a key element of the Italian lifestyle.

OCCI



Omani, Ukrainian business leaders explore new areas

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) received on Monday a business delegation from Ukraine, headed by Dmytro Senik, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine.

The visit aimed at enhancing relations between the two countries on various economic and trade fields, besides increasing trade exchange between the two sides. During the meeting, Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, OCCI Chairman underlined the importance of promoting business relations between the two countries.

He further added that the Sultanate of Oman enjoys commercial and investment potentials that would attract business owners from various countries.

OCCI Chairman also stressed the need for establishing commercial partnerships between the Omani businesspersons and their Ukrainian counterparts, as well as organising visits for the trade delegations between the two countries to enhance trade relations.

The meeting was attended by some members of the OCCI Board and businesspersons from both sides. -ONA

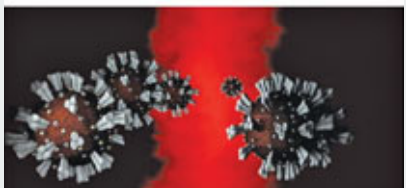
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The WHO has classified Omicron as a 'variant of concern'.

Story
Omicron
variant of
Covid-19

A story Omicron variant of Covid-19 reached 36,842 people and had 3,812 engagements on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

8,700 VIEWS

Midday
Update
video

The Midday Update video had 8,700 views and reached 30,500 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

570 VIEWS

Morning
Minute
video

The Morning Minute video on Ministerial decision on concurrence system on imports validity had 570 views and 24 likes on Instagram

BIG TICKET ABU DHABI DRAW

Turn of fortune beyond our wildest dream, say expat winners of AED10mn lottery



Times News Service

MUSCAT: "In the wildest of my dreams, I didn't think that I would win so big," Indian expat, Renjith Venugopalan Unnithan, said after winning the grand prize of 10 million Dirhams in the Big Ticket Abu Dhabi draw held on Friday, December 3, 2021.

He along with five Indian friends had collectively bought the tickets online by spending OMR54 on November 27, 2021.

Renjith, who hails from Kerala in India and works as an account-

ant at a reputed mall, told the *Times of Oman*, "All of my winning friends stay in Seeb."

"It was on November 27, we thought of just taking a chance and buying a ticket online," he said.

Renjith, who has been living in the Muscat for the last 12 years, said he bought tickets once before and that too two years back. "That time I didn't win anything," he said.

"I was watching the draw live. My heartbeat was racing during the draw. Then I came to know we were the winners. I am feeling on

top of the world now," he said.

The ticket's share will be divided among six friends. "For us it's a treasure and will help us take care of our liabilities. But I am not leaving this job," he added. "I still cannot explain this feeling of winning Big Ticket."

Over the moon

His phone hasn't stopped ringing after people came to know that they have hit the jackpot. "A lot of people have congratulated us after winning," he said.

Renjith and his friends Shalu

Shankran, Mohd Yousuf, Shaji, Vipin are over the moon ever since they came to know that they are the winners.

"All of us stay alone in Muscat with families back home in India and we always catch up during our free times so this weekend has been great for us," he summed up.

Earlier this year, Abdussalam N V, a 28-year-old Indian expat living in Oman had won the Dh20 million Big Ticket draw in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Abdussalam has been running a business in Muscat for the last six years.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE VISIT



HM receives HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman

< FROM A1 Then, His Majesty the Sultan and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman headed to the main vehicle of the motorcade which, flanked by two rows of the Royal Guards of Oman, proceeded to Al Alam Palace.

The Saudi Crown Prince is accompanied during his visit to the Sultanate of Oman by an official delegation comprising HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Energy, HRH Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of State, Member of the Council of Ministers, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Sports, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin

Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Interior, HRH Prince Abdullah bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of the National Guard, HRH Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud, Foreign Minister, HRH Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Minister of Culture, Dr. Musaed bin Mohammed Al Aiban, Minister of State, Member of the Council of Ministers, Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, Minister of Commerce and acting Minister of Media and Abdullah bin Saud Al Anazi, the Saudi Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

The visit will be an opportunity to explore various areas of interest to the two countries and their peoples' aspiration for further progress and prosperity.-ONA



ROYAL DECREE

< FROM A1 Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation

Article (1) states that the affiliation of the Environment Conservation Office shall be transferred from the Diwan of Royal Court to the Environment Authority, to which all allocations, origins, rights, obligations and assets of the Environment Conservation Office shall also be transferred, and so do the employees of the Environment Conservation Office, along with their current financial grades.

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 71/2021 endorses the organisational structure of the Diwan of Royal Court.

Article (1) endorses the organizational structure of the Diwan of

Royal Court in accordance with the Annex attached to this decree.

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 72/2021 cancels the National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation.

Article (1) states that all allocations, origins, rights, obligations and assets of the National Field Research Center for Environmental Conservation shall be transferred to the Diwan of Royal Court.

Article (2) transfers to the Diwan of Royal Court the employees of the National Field Research Center for Environmental Conservation, along with their current financial grades.

Article (3) cancels the National Field Research Center for Environmental Conservation. It also cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 73/2021 appoints a Chairman for the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Cul-

ture and Science at the Diwan of Royal Court.

Article (1) appoints Habib Mohammed Al Riyami as Chairman of Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science at the Diwan of Royal Court, along with his current financial grade.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.-ONA





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HONOUR

His Majesty the Sultan confers Renaissance of Oman Order

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has conferred Renaissance of Oman (2nd Class) Order on Abdullah Shaban Al Farsi, Head of the Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Diwan of Royal Court, in appreciation from His Majesty for Al Farsi's efforts during his tenure at the Diwan of Royal Court.

The order was handed over by Sayyid Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court when he received him in his office on Monday. -ONA



CBO

GCC hallmark marking 40th anniversary gifted to HM

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Taimour Asaad Al Said, Chairman of Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), has received a hallmark commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a gift for His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

Kuwait Central Bank

The memento was delivered to His Highness Sayyid Taimour by Dr. Mohammed Yousef Al Hashel, Governor of Kuwait Central Bank when he received the latter in his office here on Monday.

The meeting touched on aspects of cooperation between the financial and banking sectors



and ways to develop integration among GCC monetary systems.

The meeting was attended by Tahar Salim Al Amri, CEO of the CBO, and Dr. Sulaiman Abdullah Al Harbi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Oman.

-ONA

POLITICAL TALKS

Oman, Cyprus review bilateral ties

MUSCAT: The second round of political talks between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Cyprus was held at the general diwan of the Foreign Ministry here on Monday.

The Omani side was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, while Kornelios Korneliou, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Cyprus chaired his country's side.

The session reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries as the two sides stressed their keenness to continue promoting them in different fields. The two sides also exchanged views on various international and regional issues of common interest. The session was also attended by Sheikh Ahmed Salim Al Shan-



fari, Ambassador of Oman to Cyprus, Andreas Nikolaides, Ambassador of Cyprus to Oman and some officials from both sides.

Kornelios Korneliou, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Cyprus and his accompanying delegation visited the Maritime Security Center (MSC) at Al Murtafaa Garrison.

Upon their arrival at the MSC, they were received by Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Com-

mander of Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), head of the Maritime Security Committee.

The guest toured the center's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies.

He was also briefed on the roles and tasks carried out by the center within its national duties, as it coordinates with relevant authorities in search and rescue missions for the safety of the maritime environment. -ONA

HRH PRINCE

Saudi delegation visits Information Ministry

MUSCAT: A media delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Monday visited the headquarters of the Ministry of Information on the sidelines of the visit to Oman by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, KSA Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

The delegation toured various departments of the Information Ministry and was briefed about

the role of media establishments in conveying a sound media message at the local and regional levels. The delegation also took note of the modern equipment, techniques and the media staff operating in different print, audio, visual and electronic fields.

The media delegation included Dr. Khaled Al Ghamdi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information for International Media Rela-

tions, Dr.Fahd Hassan Al Aqran, President of the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), representatives and editors-in-chief of various Saudi media establishments. The Saudi delegation was received by Ali Khalfan Al Jabri, Information Undersecretary at the Ministry of Information, and Mohammed Said Al Balushi, the Ministry's Undersecretary for Radio and Television, among other officials. -ONA

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable consultant for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference No	Title of the Tender
DISC/W/Tender/2021/004	Consultancy Services for Supervision of Upgradation and Improvement of Water Distribution Network - Sahalanoot Area
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) each Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	Consulting Engineer overall and specific experience in similar nature projects - Pipeline Diameter above 1,200 mm (2 projects, each project 5 points).
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration certificate and Oma chamber of commerce and Industry certificate in Sultanate of Oman.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 21 st December 2021
Site Visit	-
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 23 rd December 2021
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 26 th December 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 2 nd January 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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NEW CHANCELLOR

Karl Nehammer sworn in as new chancellor of Austria

VIENNA: Karl Nehammer was sworn in as Austrian chancellor by President Alexander Van der Bellen on Monday in a ceremony in Vienna's Hofburg Palace as the country's third leader in three months.

He now faces the task of trying to free the coalition government from the taint of months of political turmoil and scandal and of creating conditions con-

ducive to lifting the country's coronavirus lockdown.

Nehammer, 49, from the ruling conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), was formerly the country's interior minister.

Why is Nehammer taking power?

Outgoing Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg offered his resignation on Thursday. One day later,

the ÖVP nominated Nehammer as new party head — succeeding former Chancellor Sebastian Kurz in the position — and chancellor.

Kurz's resignation as party leader and declared departure from politics also came on Thursday. Previously, he had stepped down as chancellor in October amid a corruption scandal that saw his offices searched

in a police investigation.

As reasons for his now abandoning the political stage altogether, Kurz, 35, said he wanted to spend more time with his partner and newborn son.

However, his political career has been dogged by scandal in the past few years since he became the youngest democratically-elected head of government in the world in 2017. **aw**



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Oman and Saudi Arabia sign 13 MoUs on economic cooperation

The pacts, sealed by firms owned by Oman Investment Authority (OIA) with Saudi counterparts, in coincidence with the visit of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, KSA Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have signed 13 memoranda of understanding to activate joint action in promising economic sectors.

The pacts, sealed by firms owned by Oman Investment Authority (OIA) with Saudi counterparts, in coincidence with the visit of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, KSA Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister



and Minister of Defence. They manifest the two countries leaderships' vision aimed to meet the aspirations of their peoples. OQ signed three MoUs in the fields of petrochemicals, renewable energy and green hydrogen sector: the first with ACWA Power, the second with Aramco and the third with Sabic.

In the field of dry dock and logistic services, Asyad signed an MoU with a Saudi Shipping Company.

Oman Mining Company signed an MoU with Saudi Mining Company to assess opportunities for

explorations in the mining sector. Omran signed an MoU with Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development Company for the development of a tourism project in Yetti area.

MoUs on investment in the fisheries sector were signed by Oman Fisheries Company and Naqua Fisheries company.

In the field of securities, Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) signed an MoU with Tadawul Stock Exchange. Oman Communications and Information Technology inked an MoU with the National Information Technology Com-

pany (NITC), while a contract was signed between Khazaen Economic City and Naqel Express of Saudi Arabia to set up a vehicle assembly unit in Khazaen City.

The MoUs also included an MoU between Oman Project Development Company and Alkhorayef Petroleum. An MoU was signed in the field of entrepreneurship by Oqal Oman and its Saudi counterpart. Oman Integrated Logistics Company signed an MoU with Saudi Arabia's Al Zajel company to develop cooperation in the field of logistics and transport. **-ONA**



OMICRON CONCERNS

Omicron variant doesn't look severe, says Fauci but calls for caution

NEW YORK: Anthony Fauci, the chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden, has said that he was encouraged by early reports on the severity of the new omicron variant, but warned against drawing premature conclusions.

"Thus far, it does not look like there's a great degree of severity to [the omicron variant]," Fauci told CNN.

"But we have really got to be careful before we make any determinations that it is less severe or it really doesn't cause any severe illness, comparable to delta," he added.

The medical expert's comments followed reports that hospitalization rates have not appeared to rise in any worrying way in South Africa, where the highly contagious variant was first detected.

Fauci went on to say that he was hopeful that the travel ban against several African countries could be



lifted "in a quite reasonable period of time."

Omicron has been detected in dozens of US states already, but the delta variant remains by far the dominant strain, fueling a surge in cases and hospitalizations.

Experts have warned that even if the omicron variant proves to

be milder in its effects, the highly contagious virus will keep giving some of the people it infects serious problems. Health authorities around the world continue to recommend vaccines and booster shots against COVID-19.

Germany's Robert Koch Institute (RKI) reported 27,836 new

coronavirus cases and 81 new deaths on Monday. The seven-day rate of infection per 100,000 people increased slightly to 441.9.

Police in Belgium fired water cannons and tear gas as around 8,000 people marched through the capital in protest against forced health restrictions.

Denmark has recorded a jump in omicron cases, with the total number of detected infections of the variant rising to 183.

Italy's new stricter rules for curbing the spread of the virus came into effect on Monday. Several areas of public life, such as indoor dining, clubs and cinemas, are now only accessible for people who have been fully vaccinated or recovered.

People who want to use public transport will also have to show proof of vaccination, recovery or a negative test. The rules are set to stay in place until January 15. **ANI**

ANNUAL SUMMIT

Russia perceives India as great power, says Putin during India-Russia summit



NEW DELHI: In his opening remarks at the 21st India- Russia Annual Summit meeting on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Moscow perceives India as a great power and a time-tested friend.

"We perceive India as a great power, a friendly nation, and a time-tested friend. The relations between our nations are growing and I am looking into the future," Putin said in his opening remarks during the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here at Hyderabad House. Putin also said that "Last year the trade between India and Russia had decreased by 17 per cent, but in the first 9 months of 2021, both countries witnessed an increase in trade by 38 per cent."

This is the first in-person between the two leaders since they met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in 2019 in Brasilia.

The visit of the Russian leader is in continuation of the tradition of annual summits held alternately in India and Russia.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no

change in the pace of growth of India-Russia relations.

"Despite the challenges posed by COVID, there is no change in the pace of growth of India-Russia relations. Our special and privileged strategic partnership continues to become stronger," PM Modi said.

During the discussions, both leaders also touched upon the situation in Afghanistan.

"We are certainly worried about everything related to terrorism and the fight against it. As well as with drugs, with organized crime. In this regard, of course, we cannot but worry about the situation and how it is developing in Afghanistan," Putin said at the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit.

Earlier in the day, the two countries held their first 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. The two countries on Monday signed an agreement for the procurement of 6,01,427 assault rifles AK-203 through India-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd, under the military-technical cooperation arrangement for 2021-31.

Meanwhile, Putin also said that both the countries continue to develop relations both in the international arena and in the military sphere. **ANI**

NEW RESTRICTIONS

Unvaccinated face new restrictions in Italy

MILAN: New restrictions for unvaccinated people came into force in Italy on Monday, excluding them from indoor restaurants, theaters and museums. This is to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and encourage people to get vaccinated.

The restrictions are to remain in place until January 15.

How will the restrictions be enforced?

Police will now be able to check whether diners in restaurants or bars have a "strengthened green pass" that certifies whether they have been vaccinated or alternatively have recovered from the virus. Those who have tested negative for COVID-19 will now be excluded



from these venues and events.

The "basic" green pass, which can be obtained following a negative COVID-19 test, still allows travelers to board long-distance

trains. As of Monday, the basic green pass will also be required for subways, buses and local trains.

The "green pass" certificate is a digital or printable QR code that

can be scanned using a smartphone app.

What is the current state of the pandemic in Italy?

COVID-19 infections have been on a gradual rise in the country for the past six weeks. This has raised concerns ahead of the Christmas holidays as Italians plan gatherings and travel to spend time with friends and family.

Italy's vaccination rate is higher than many of its neighbors. Around 85% of the eligible population over 12 has been vaccinated, which amounts to 77% of the total population. People between the ages of 30 and 60 have proven reluctant to get vaccinated, and 3.5 million still haven't received their first dose. **aw**



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جدول النقاط POINTS TABLE



Group A	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة أ
Qatar	2	2	0	0	3	1	6		قطر
Iraq	2	0	2	0	1	1	2		العراق
Oman	2	0	1	1	2	3	1		عمان
Bahrain	2	0	1	1	0	1	1		البحرين

Group B	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة ب
Tunisia	3	2	0	1	6	3	6		تونس
UAE	3	2	0	0	3	2	6		الإمارات
Syria	3	1	0	2	4	4	3		سوريا
Mauritania	3	1	0	2	3	7	3		موريتانيا

Group C	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة ج
Morocco	2	2	0	0	8	0	6		المغرب
Jordan	2	1	0	1	1	4	3		الأردن
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	1	2	1		السعودية
Palestine	2	0	1	1	1	5	1		فلسطين

Group D	U	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	المجموعة د
Algeria	2	2	0	0	6	0	6		الجزائر
Egypt	2	2	0	0	6	0	6		مصر
Lebanon	2	0	0	2	0	3	0		لبنان
Sudan	2	0	0	2	0	9	0		السودان

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



مباريات اليوم TODAY'S MATCHES

المغرب MOROCCO	19:00	السعودية SAUDI ARABIA
الأردن JORDAN	19:00	السودان PALESTINE
لبنان LEBANON	23:00	موريتانيا SUDAN
الجزائر ALGERIA	23:00	الإمارات EGYPT



TUNISIA BEAT UAE, QUALIFY FOR QUARTERS

Times News Service

DOHA: Tunisia defeated the United Arab Emirates by a solitary goal in their group match of FIFA Arab Cup at Al Thumama Stadium in Doha on Monday and finished as the group's winner, while the UAE will have to face the host Qatar in the quarter-final.

As the UAE almost managed to ruin their chances in the FIFA Arab Cup, fortunately, it was Mauritania who saved them in the end.

Both Tunisia and the UAE have now reached the quarter-finals. Though the match was very hard fought from the physical point of view, in the end, the Tunisians won with an early goal scored after 10 minutes. Jaziri Seifeddine of Tunisia scored the first goal in the first half against the UAE for his country. The United Arab Emirates were desperate for an equaliser but did not have clear ideas to reach Tunisia's goal.



MAURITANIA EDGE PAST SYRIA 2-1

Mauritania defeated Syria 2-1 in their FIFA Arab Cup match at Al Janoub Stadium in Doha on Monday.



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Agarwal, Jayant Yadav shine as India register 372-run win

India sealed the two-match series 1-0 and now Virat Kohli's side will head to South Africa for three Tests and three ODIs



MUMBAI: Mayank Agarwal's heroics with the bat and Jayant Yadav's four-wicket haul in the second innings helped India defeat New Zealand by 372 runs in the second Test of the two-match series here at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

With this win, India sealed the two-match series 1-0 and now Virat Kohli's side will head to South Africa for three Tests and three ODIs, beginning December 26.

However, the second Test will be remembered for Ajaz Patel's ten-wicket haul in the first innings which made him just the third bowler in the history of the game after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble to achieve the feat.

Resuming Day 4 at 140/5, overnight batters Rachin Ravindra (18) and Henry Nicholls managed

to add just 22 more runs to the total before the former was scalped by Jayant Yadav and the visitors were starring down the barrel, still needing 378 runs for the win with just four wickets in hand.

In his very next over, Jayant Yadav had Kyle Jamieson and Tim Southee dismissed for a duck and it seemed like that the hosts

would wrap up the victory before the lunch break on Day 4.

The final two wickets also fell in quick succession and in the end, New Zealand was bowled out for 167, handing the hosts a 372-run win. Brief Scores: India 325 and 276/7d; New Zealand 62 and 167 (Daryl Mitchell 60, Henry Nicholls; Jayant Yadav 4-49). **ANI**

SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX



Max Verstappen doesn't think rules apply to him, says Lewis Hamilton

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix winner Lewis Hamilton said title-rival Max Verstappen does not believe the rules apply to him after a number of controversial incidents between the pair in the race.

There were numerous flash-points in the race and both championship protagonists were later summoned to the stewards for an incident at Turn 27, which saw Verstappen slow to give P1 to Hamilton - while Hamilton was seemingly caught unaware and mistakenly rear-ended the Red Bull. And after all that, Hamilton had some choice words to say about his rival.

"I've raced a lot of drivers through my life in the 28 years," said Hamilton as per formula1.

com whose third straight victory puts him equal on points heading to the season finale in Abu Dhabi next week. "I've come across a lot of different characters and there's a few at the top which are over the limit. Rules kind of don't apply, or they don't think of the rules."

"[Max] is over the limit for sure," he added. "I've avoided collisions on so many occasions with the guy, and I don't always mind being the one that does that, because you live to fight another day, which I obviously did."

"Then he obviously brake-tested [me], I think to try and get the DRS into the last corner to overtake me again back into Turn 1, so there was a commotion. I thought that I'd lost my wing." **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Rafiullah powers Stallions to 79-run victory

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rafiullah's all-round heroics helped Oman Stallions to a thumping 79-run victory against Yalla Shabab in a 50-over Premier Division League clash at Oman Cricket Turf 1 in Al Amerat on Saturday. Rafi topscored with a scintillating 70 off 39 including 8 powerful sixes in Stallions' score of 258 all out in 48.1 overs. Opener Akshay Kumar Patel batted well too, scoring an equally entertaining 66 off 42, spanking 7 huge hits over the fence.

Fast bowler Hassnain Ali was the pick of Yalla Shabab bowlers,

taking 5 for 63 whereas Wasim Ali claimed 3 for 35.

Rafiullah and Mehran Khan struck twice in their opening spells reducing Yalla Shabab to 59 for 4. The side never really recovered from the early blows and was dismissed for 179 in the 36th over.

Karan Sonavale was brilliant with the ball too, taking three late wickets for only one run. Young Wasim Ali was the main scorer with a fluent 74 off 73 that included 3 big sixes. Brief Scores (Premier Division): Oman Stallions 258 all out in 48.1 overs (Rafi Ullah 70 - 3x4, 8x6, Akshay Kumar Patel 66 - 4x4, 7x6, Hassnain Ali 5-63,

Wasim Ali 3-35) beat Yalla Shabab 179 all out in 35.3 overs (Wasim Ali 74 - 6x4, 3x6, Karan Sonavale 3-1, Mehran Khan 3-49, Rafi Ullah 2-43) by 79 runs.

Sankarlal helps Danmark to victory

Sankarlal Sasidharan's superb batting powered Danmark CT to a comfortable 46-run win over Mazoon Up in a T20 D Division match at Muscat Municipality ground 2 on Friday.

Sankarlal topscored with a magnificent 66 off 36 whereas his partner Muhammed Bashir struck 34 off 36 in an opening stand of 105 as

Danmark went on to post 157 for 6 on the board. Fahad Mohamed picked up 4 for 26.

Mazoon Up failed to put up a fight, folding up for a lowly 111 inside 18 overs. Bilalwal Ali was the only notable scorer with 37 off 26. Syamlal Sasidharan and Rajeesh Ravindran bowled brilliantly, taking three wickets each.

Brief Scores (D Division): Danmark CT 157 for 6 in 20 overs (Sankarlal Sasidharan 65 - 7x4, 2x6, Muhammad Basheer 34 - 5x4, Fahad Mohamed 4-26) beat Mazoon Up 111 all out in 17.5 overs (Bilawal Ali 37 - 6x4, Syamlal Sasidharan 3-27, Rajeesh

Ravindran 3-29, Mohammed Wasim 2-24) by 46 runs.

Waseem bats Global to big win

In another D Division game at the same venue, opener Waseem Abbas struck a sizzling 77 off 37 to guide Global Corp Logistics to a big 80-run victory against OCT Al Mabela. Global Corp amassed 208 for 4 in 20 overs thanks to Waseem's brilliant batting. Azeem Abdul (46 not out off 26) and Marshall Bermeda (44 off 35) were the other main scorers. Asif Al Balushi bagged 2 for 27.

OCT Mabela's chase could not

really get going as it managed to score only 128 for 8 in 20 overs. Opener Salim Al Balushi was the only batsman to impress, scoring a fluent 40 off 30 balls. Mohammed Shafeek and Praveen Pattath claimed three and two wickets respectively.

Brief Scores (D Division): Global Corp Logistics 208 for 4 in 20 overs (Waseem Abbas 77 - 9x4, 3x6, Azeem Abdul 46 - 4x4, 2x6, Marshall Bermeda 44 - 4x4, Asif Al Balushi 2-27) beat OCT Al Mabela 128 for 8 in 20 overs (Salim Al Balushi 40 - 4x4, Mohammed Shafeek 3-24, Praveen Pattath 2-20) by 80 runs.

RESTRICTIONS

Ashes fifth Test moved out of Perth due to COVID-19 restrictions

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia (CA) on Monday confirmed that the fifth men's Ashes Test match will be relocated from Perth Stadium due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions.

CA and Western Australian Cricket (WA Cricket) have worked closely and constructively with the Western Australia Government and Perth Stadium over several months, with the shared goals of prioritizing the health and well-being of the WA community, while providing the best possible environment for the players, their families, match officials, staff and broadcast partners.

While absolutely every effort was made to ensure the final Test match of the series could be staged in Perth, border controls, quarantine requirements and the complexities of staging a five-Test series in a tight schedule have meant it is unfortunately not possible to align the respective priorities of the WA Government, CA and WA Cricket.

These complexities also mean that any suggestion of changing the order of the venues would not be feasible.

CA is disappointed for WACA Cricket Members and WA fans who have been looking forward to this fixture for some time, however, CA remains committed to continue bringing elite cricket to WA. **ANI**

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BOOSTING COOPERATION

Dubai Customs has organised a virtual meeting with an Indian business and trade delegation as part of their "Ertibat Initiative" to enhance cooperation with diplomatic missions and trade partners.

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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 3,968.77 points, down 0.85 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.28 per cent at 531.62 points. Al Maha Ceramics, was the top gainer 1.21 per cent while, Oman Cables down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser.

PDO inaugurates Yibal Khuff project

This project will be delivering five million cubic metres of gas per day and around 20,000 bpd of crude, in addition to extracting 235 tonnes of sulphur per day



MEGA PROJECT: The event, which was held at PDO's Mina Al Fahal headquarters, was attended by several senior government officials, members of the company's board and executive committee and representatives from both the public and private sectors. - ONA

MUSCAT: Under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) celebrated the inauguration of its Yibal Khuff Mega Project (YKP). The event, which was held at PDO's Mina Al Fahal headquarters, was attended by several senior government officials, members of the company's board and executive committee and representatives from both the public and private sectors. Sayyid Shihab said, "Oil and gas industry remains the main enabler of the national and global economy. Indeed, the production start at PDO's Yibal Khuff Project is of

high strategic value towards meeting Oman's growing medium and long-term oil and gas demands. "This national mega and technically complex project involved Omani skilled workforce who worked on the design, construction and commissioning as well as awarding contracts to Omani companies for the provision of goods and services. It certainly sets an example for the implementation of national projects, especially as Oman witnesses further growth and development in all areas under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik." Spanning an area of 1.68km² within the Yibal cluster area, YKP

is the second largest, and most technically complex project in PDO's history - with COVID-19 adding another layer of complexity over the past two years of construction and commissioning activities. This project will be delivering five million cubic metres of gas per day and around 20,000 bpd of crude, in addition to extracting 235 tonnes of sulphur per day. In his speech on the occasion, PDO Managing Director Steve Phimister said: "This venture is a world-class addition to our portfolio and was delivered with a remarkable safety record. As we shift to a full-fledged energy company, this trailblazing project will be es-

sential in powering the country, generating revenue for the nation, and funding research and development for renewables and investment in greener energy installations and infrastructure. "We are proud of everyone who worked on this project from the company and our contractors Petrofac, Galfar and Arabian Industries as they demonstrated commitment and perseverance to overcome logistical, technical and operational challenges to deliver on the promise and ensure this project's safe and timely delivery." This project has achieved several significant firsts, including the first to deliver the tallest column ever fabricated for PDO in Oman. This 'Made in Oman' acid gas recovery unit absorber stands at 48 metres high, four metres in diameter, and weighs 291 tonnes. It has also delivered one of PDO's first steam turbine generators, taking the heat from some of the facilities' processes and using it to generate steam. The plant will be able to generate 13MW of electrical power, supplementing the 45MW of the Yibal Khuff Power plant. It is also the first project to allocate a scope for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Around 1,200 Omanis have been employed on-site in the construction of the facilities, with a further 200 nationals deployed as fully qualified welders. -ONA

MAJOR EVENT

Business opportunities at Oman Design & Build Week to foster positive engagement in construction

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of the Oman Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Oman Design & Build Week, incorporating The Big Show and Oman Real Estate Expo, will be held from March 14 to 16, 2022, at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat, Oman. The event is dedicated to the building, construction, and real estate industry, and seeks to build partnerships and grow business in an in-person environment. As the economy in the Sultanate of Oman continues to recover from the slowdown resulting from the global pandemic, the economic diversification plans guided by Oman Vision 2040 emphasise strengthening the construction industry. The construction industry being the second-largest driver of non-oil growth of Oman's economy is witnessing rapid growth. A significant rise in the number of multi-billion projects is accelerating demand for building and construction products and services.

Ashley Roberts, General Manager, CONNECT - the organiser of Oman Design & Build Week states, "We are confident that the business opportunities offered at Oman Design & Build Week will foster positive meaningful engagement in the construction, building and real estate industries, and that will support economic growth." Oman Design & Build Week will feature over 300 new products and technologies catering to the building interiors and finishes, building envelope and special construction, building technology and automation, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), construction tools and materials, concrete and concrete-related products and plant, machinery and vehicles (PMV) sectors. With companies participating from over 18 countries, the event is expected to draw 11,000 visits in three days. At the co-located Oman Real Estate Expo, the real estate industry will converge offering brokers, agents, developers, owners and home buyers' multiple options to search commercial and residential projects, invest in new projects, buy properties, and learn about the ongoing and upcoming trends in the market. Oman Real Estate Expo is organised in partnership with Oman Real Estate Association, Oman's nodal trade body representing Omani real estate institutions and companies operating in real estate development, investment, valuation, and brokerage. Asim Mohammed Al Zadjali, Chairman of Oman Real Estate



We are confident that the business opportunities offered at Oman Design & Build Week will foster positive meaningful engagement in the construction, building and real estate industries

Ashley Roberts
General Manager, CONNECT - the organiser of Oman Design & Build Week

Association adds, "Oman Real Estate Association is pleased to co-organise Oman Real Estate Expo. The exhibition provides immense opportunities for the real estate developers looking at engaging with property buyers on a face-to-face basis. We invite real estate business owners and buyers to take advantage of this platform to nurture their business." With the support of prominent international and regional bodies such as the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises India, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany), Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trade, and Muscat Municipality, Oman Design & Build Week will host country pavilions from Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Turkey, and United Kingdom, making it a truly international event. Some of the key exhibitors showcasing their products will be AKG Hardware, RICS, Salem Mohiyaddin bin Saif & bros. Trad & Cont Co, and Techno Pipes. The event will offer an educational programme for budding and established professionals from the construction sector. The free-to-attend Continued Professional Development and Project Management Institute certified seminars and workshops across three days will include informative topics on effective leadership in managing engineering projects, applying innovative techniques in managing projects and increasing profits by managing risk-cost-claims in construction projects.

ALIZZ ISLAMIC BANK

48 months profit-free finance on buying apartment in Shaden Al Hail project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has strengthened its strategic partnerships with real estate development companies in the Sultanate by signing a new agreement with Shaden Development to provide easy and flexible financing facilities to customers who wish to buy an apartment in Shaden Al Hail Residential Complex, which is one of the most prestigious residential complexes in Muscat. This agreement comes within a variety of housing financing options offered by Alizz Islamic Bank represented by the Retail Banking Department, all of which comply with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia. The signing ceremony of the agreement was held at the head office of Alizz Islamic Bank in CBD, Ruwi, coinciding with the Sultanate's celebrations of the glorious National Day. The memorandum



PARTNERSHIP: The memorandum was signed by Mohammed Al Ghassani, AGM - Chief Consumer Banking Officer on behalf of Alizz Islamic Bank, and Engineer Abdul Rahman Ba Omar, Board Member of Shaden Development Company. - Supplied picture

was signed by Mohammed Al Ghassani, AGM - Chief Consumer Banking Officer on behalf of Alizz Islamic Bank, and Engineer Abdul Rahman Ba Omar, Board Member

of Shaden Development Company on behalf of Shaden Development Company. The signing ceremony was attended by the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, Suleiman Al-Har-

thy, and a number of senior management members. According to this agreement, Alizz Islamic Bank will provide financing facilities to customers who wish to purchase an apartment in Shaden Al Hail project for eligible customers with exemption from profits and transaction fees for a period of up to 48 months or 4 years. Shaden Development Company will bear the transaction fees and profits on behalf of customers during this period, as well as the Takaful insurance fees, with the possibility of extending according to the agreement that is also concluded between the customer and the developer. The validity of this offer is from November 18 to December 31. Alizz Islamic Bank will provide housing finance under the Diminishing Musharakah concept with a financing rate of up to 80 per cent of the value of the housing unit for eligible customers in accordance with the bank's policy.

OIL PRICES

Oil rebounds more than \$1 per barrel after Saudi price hike

SINGAPORE: Oil prices rose by more than \$1 a barrel on Monday after top exporter Saudi Arabia raised prices for its crude sold to Asia and the United States, and as indirect US-Iran talks on reviving a nuclear deal appeared to hit an impasse. Brent crude futures for February gained \$1.39, or 2 per cent, to \$71.27 a barrel by 0458 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude for January was at \$67.66 a barrel, up \$1.40, or 2.1 per cent. On Sunday, Saudi Arabia raised January official selling prices for all crude grades sold to Asia and the United States by up to 80 cents from the previous month, according to Reuters. The price hikes were implemented despite a decision last week by the Opec and their allies including Russia, a group known as OPEC+. -BNA

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Maha Ceramics, was the top gainer 1.21 per cent while, Oman Cables down 7.69 per cent, was the top lose

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,968.77 points, down 0.85 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.28 per cent at 531.62 points. Al Maha Ceramics, was the top gainer 1.21 per cent while, Oman Cables down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 282 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.4 million, with more than 8.88 million shares changing hands.

Out of 39 traded securities, 3 advanced, 15 declined and 21 remained unchanged.

At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for

OMR506,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR415,000 followed by GCC and Arab investors for OMR91,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,365.04 points, down 0.56 per cent. Madina Takaful and Bank Muscat were up 1.05 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively. Al Madina Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Dhofar and Bank Nizwa were down 7.02 per cent, 2.06 per cent, 1.87 per cent, 1.57 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,986.72 points, down 0.71 per cent. Al Maha Ceramics was the only gainer by 1.21 per cent.

Services Index was down by 0.60 per cent before closing at 1,588.98 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,002.62	3,967.29	3,968.77	4,002.62	-33.85	-0.85
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,401.04	6,360.53	6,365.04	6,401.04	-36.00	-0.56
Industry Index	5,991.60	5,984.46	5,986.77	6,029.72	-42.94	-0.71
Services Index	1,598.51	1,587.31	1,588.98	1,598.51	-9.53	-0.60
MSX Shariah Index	533.11	530.66	531.62	533.11	-1.50	-0.28
MSX TR INDEX	4,816.58	4,774.05	4,775.84	4,816.58	-40.73	-0.85

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,886,810	1,451,842	282	21,919,852,748	3	15	21	39

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

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	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	51,000	25,494	2	0.500	0.500	0.484	0.500	0.494	0.006	1.215	0.494	0.500	0.494	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	158,806	77,157	14	0.484	0.486	0.484	0.486	0.484	0.002	0.413	0.486	0.486	0.486	0.100	1,737,194,749
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	940	128	1	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.000	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.244	0.100	47,600,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVT&FIN	822,450	113,498	30	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.000	0.138	0.138	0.148	0.100	32,700,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,000	310	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.100	250,409,422
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	50,000	19,000	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	101,000	11,310	4	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.100	218,361,636
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	26,850	8,699	5	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.324	0.320	0.330	0.100	19,830,184
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV	92,920	7,291	3	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.089	0.100	7,740,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	124,993	52,516	9	0.414	0.422	0.414	0.420	0.422	-0.002	-0.474	0.422	0.422	0.426	0.100	99,292,200
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	60,100	14,184	3	0.238	0.238	0.236	0.236	0.238	-0.002	-0.840	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.100	78,085,960
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	207,339	145,138	20	0.708	0.708	0.700	0.700	0.708	-0.008	-1.130	0.700	0.680	0.700	0.100	525,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	8,838,745	403,089	25	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.107	-0.002	-1.869	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.100	313,956,540
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	38,585	5,566	10	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.097	-0.002	-2.062	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000003968	QOEDOO	631,195	217,147	66	0.352	0.352	0.324	0.344	0.358	-0.014	-3.911	0.340	0.336	0.350	0.100	223,924,815
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	8,970	8,611	2	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	1.040	-0.080	-7.692	0.960	0.960	1.040	0.100	86,112,000
Total	16	6,234,493	1,109,839	196												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	45,792	4,396	3	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	26,000	2,386	3	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.092	0.100	11,960,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,000	139	1	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.135	0.141	0.100	4,666,432
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	40	68	1	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.750	1.750	0.000	0.000	1.700	0.000	1.700	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	5,000	265	1	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.053	0.055	0.100	18,504,654
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	400	357	1	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.904	0.904	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.000	0.904	0.100	55,392,600
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	10,850	998	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.089	0.092	0.100	48,793,202
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	4,000	288	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	18,258,480
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	129,887	6,364	14	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,000	162	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.161	0.161	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.158	0.162	0.100	288,775,010
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	3,900	147	2	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,820	274	2	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.092	0.097	0.100	15,088,389
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	30,000	9,000	3	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.290	0.300	0.100	21,117,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	237,649	45,063	7	0.190	0.190	0.186	0.190	0.192	-0.002	-1.042	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	308,929,808
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,339,213	127,280	16	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000003847	OMAN REIT FUND	103,000	8,755	4	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.088	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	55,654,510
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	30,000	2,220	2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.333	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	15,020,997
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	224,269	28,034	7	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.127	-0.002	-1.575	0.125	0.125	0.127	0.100	374,543,930
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	167,955	8,123	10	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INV	15,706	832	3	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.057	-0.004	-7.018	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.100	3,710,000
Total	20	2,377,281	245,152	83												

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TRADE PARTNERS

Dubai Customs, India explore boosting cooperation

DUBAI: Dubai Customs organised a virtual meeting with an Indian business and trade delegation as part of their "Ertibat Initiative" to enhance cooperation with diplomatic missions and trade partners.

The meeting took place in the presence of Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation and Director-General of Dubai Customs; and Dr Aman Bouri, Indian Consul-General to the UAE.

Dr Bouri thanked Dubai Customs for organising the meetings, which serve the interests of both parties and facilitate trade and investment activity between India and the UAE.

The Indian Consul-General added, "Trade between the UAE and India shows signs of remarkable recovery and growth thanks to the world's procedures and measures last year that led to a slowdown in the spread of the pandemic. India and the UAE are continuing their negotiations on the comprehensive economic partnership agreement, further strengthening ties, expanding economic and investment possibilities and ushering in a new era of strategic collaboration between the two countries. Such an agreement could increase mutual trade of commodities to \$100 billion and services to \$15 billion in the next five years."

-WAM

SHARE MARKET

US, European stock futures rise, oil rallies

SYDNEY: US and European stocks futures moved higher on Monday as Asian markets lagged, while bonds surrendered some of their recent gains and oil rallied as Saudi Arabia lifted its crude prices.

November's mixed US jobs report did little to shake market expectations of more aggressive tightening by the Federal Reserve, leaving a week to wait for a consumer price report that could make the case for an early tapering.

Omicron remained a concern as the variant spread to about one-third of US states, though there were reports from South Africa that cases there only had mild symptoms.

Early trade was cautious as MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan inched down 0.5 per cent.

Japan's Nikkei eased 0.5 per cent, even as the government considered raising its economic growth forecast to account for a record \$490 billion stimulus package.

Chinese blue chips managed a 0.6 per cent gain after state media quoted Premier Li Ke-qiang as saying Beijing will cut banks' reserve requirement ratios "in a timely way."

Shares of embattled property developer China Evergrande Group slid 11 per cent.

-BNA

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Looking For **Carpenter and Office Staff.** Contact 24709144 Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Looking for a Skilled & experienced **Signboard Maker & a Engraving & CNC Router Machine Operator.** Contact: +968 99112319

SALES/MARKETING

Furniture wholesale leading company requires a Salesperson with experience and Omani driving license. Kindly send CV to: furniture.company2021@gmail.com

Looking urgently for a well experienced building material sales man with computer knowledge. Contact 92525406

Need experience **Sales Executive** for Gas field industry. Dood sales and communication Oman D/L needed. send cv on: osgcfinance@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Indian Male, Graphic Designer, 15yrs+ experience. Looking for a suitable placement. Contact +968 98693322. WhatsApp: +968 99029672 Email: shoji074@gmail.com

Freelancer 2D /3D Autocad Revit drafting MEP, Arch, B.Tech. Contact 99506977

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs 8months of experience. Gyrs of Oman experience. Looking for a suitable placement. Contact +968 9919 2490, Whatsapp +91 8075337320 E-mail: tonymxx@gmail.com

DRIVER

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience in Oman looking for job. Contact 79185382, 79141820

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

Driver need job with own car. Contact 94722609

MANAGER

Plant Manager with 25 years Exp for construction machinery is available for immediate joining. Contact 79724650

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

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

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

Social Media Editor & Manager, Indian male with 3 yrs experience in every media platform with SEO proficiency for channel growth. also affiliated with the cryptoverse. Currently in Oman looking for a suitable job and visa. Contact 94786582 Email: abduhrahil310@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Warehouse Incharge & inventory controller having 6 years experience with Oman D/L seeks suitable job. Contact 97915240

JOB WANTED

CIVIL ENGINEER
An Indian, Graduate Civil Engineer having 22+ yrs Exp. in Construction Sector on Buildings, Infrastructure & Electro-Mechanical Projects with Project Management/Contracts Exp. looking for a Middle Management Position in the Consulting/Contracting Firm. Valid Engineer Visa & D/ L, NOC available/Transferable Visa.

Contact No. 91996650

Senior Accountant
Indian male M. Com with PG in computers, working as Senior Accountant in Oman with over 12 years with advanced knowledge in MS Dynamics, ODDO, Tally Erp/Prime (Tally customising with developer), looking for suitable position.

Contact on +96871551938

Executive Camp Boss/Logistics/Store/Procurement
Graduate with 10 years experience in Oman as camp administration-in-charge with Oman D/L & 15 yrs experience in Logistics/store/inventory control/ procurement exp in oil and gas field is looking for suitable position. Fully vaccinated, valid Oman gama medical and ready to join immediately.

Whatsapp 0091 9656724161
Email - rajeshm117821@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS ADMIN
Accountant with 10 yrs experience in Trading & Contracting, Oil & Gas, Building Materials, Manufacturing, Constructions & IT sectors. Expertise in Accounting, Finalization, Auditing, Budgeting, Costing, Payroll & VAT. NOC / Local release & Driving licence available.

Contact: 91183601
E-mail: suneel.suneel@gmail.com

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER
MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

SALES / BDM / ADMIN
Indian Male, B.Sc. (Mathematics), PGD in Business Management. 16 Yrs. of Oman Experience, Worked with the leading Companies in Oman (MCT, SLL & Nizwa). Sales, Admin & Oilfield Services Companies & Key Accounts Handling. Good in MS Word, Excel, letter drafting. Fluency in Arabic, English, Hindi & Malayalam. Valid Oman D/L.

Contact: +968 9527 8838, anup2p4p@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Electrical & Electronics Indian Male looking for a suitable placement in Oman. 5 years India' Exp in Protection/ Testing Engineer Contact +919633154156, Email: vishnuvasudevan11@gmail.com

Site Engineer (3 year) experience as a supervisor and site engineer in addition familiar with calculating quantities, BBS, managing sites and budgets. Presently in Oman seeking a job. Contact 72646903, 79566531 Email: mohammedalip7p@gmail.com

Electrical engineer, SCADA control operation and maintenance of medium Voltage, 9 years of experience, looking for job. Contact 79142265

B.E Civil Engineer, 8 years of Oman Experience in building construction. Looking for suitable position, NOC & D/L Available. Contact 79083823.

Indian Male B.E Civil 3Y experience currently available in Oman with NOC. Ready for Immediate join Looking Job. Contact 72651777

Electrical eng 10 years experience in O&M and projects , PMP, D/L looking for job. Contact 71543379

Civil Engineer having 3 years Indian experience as a site engineer, presently in Oman. Looking for suitable job. Contact 94130276

M. Tech Structural Engineer with 14 years experience in Oman with ministries & consultants seeks suitable placement. NOC & D/L available. Contact 92497704 Email: fahadca@gmail.com

Indian male, diploma in polymer technology, 2 year experience. Looking for suitable jobs in plastic factory /oil & gas. Contact 78353615. Email: abdupklm@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 25 yrs with 3 years experience in Site supervision, Quantity Surveying, Billing Currently in Oman looking for suitable job. Contact 72078636 Email: arunrajendran911@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer
Sudanese mechanical engineering with 10 years experience, Firefighting & alarm system, Seeking a position as Mechanical engineer.

WhatsApp and direct phone call +968 94044896

FINANCE
Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.

GSM: 92334161

FINANCE MANAGER
Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies

Contact Number # 78556829

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

SALES / PURCHASE
Indian Male(31), MBA-Finance, 7 years experience as Sales Procurement Specialist, specialized in electrical & lighting for residential and commercial projects, Seeking suitable position. D/L available.

Email: gaisebukhari@gmail.com
Contact: 94560161

Mechanical Engineer
Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 6 years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhalbusman313@gmail.com

OMANI HSE
Bachelor's degree in BA & IOSH.
10 years experience in HSE and O&M.

Contact +968 95555865

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

Please contact: 91245950

Senior Project Manager / Project Director
Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer; Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Call / WhatsApp +971543499629

FINANCE
MBA, Mcom, ICWA (inter) 21 years experience in Oman working as Manager in Business / Accounts / Finance / Operations. Looking for Senior positions in Business / Finance and Operations.

CONTACT: 96211885

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)
Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience with international exposure. Having GCC experience. Also having Experience in the Education Industry (India). Presently in Muscat. D/L Available.

Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
B.Tech graduate with 1+ years of experience working as a Site Engineer & Quantity Surveyor. Proficient in Quantity Survey, Quality Control, 2D Drafting, 3D Modelling & Project Management. Currently in Oman. Available to join shortly.

92408363
sawad.mohammed@outlook.com

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4. Very Good relationship with Major to Small Local and International Engineering Consultants.
5. MBA (Int. Marketing) with Omani DL with NOC.

+968 79645179, bdomanconstruction@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

BE Mech & MBA Marketing with (10 years Exp in Oman Sales) looking for suitable opportunity in manufacturing or trading industry. Contact 9432 4991

Indian male, 12 yrs Oman exp in sales & marketing, MBA, available immediately. Contact 98314180

12 years experienced person in FMCG industry, looking for a suitable placement. Holding valid Oman D/L. Contact 92428081

Indian, MBA (Marketing & Finance), with experience of 1year in Sales(India) seeking for a job & presently available in Oman. Contact +968 79858680 Email: hidayathizy49@gmail.com

Indian, 7 years of experience as a FMCG Sales executive in Oman with Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 78642042

Indian, 12 years of experience as a Sales executive in Oman, FMCG & textiles. Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 91883131, 79871821

33 Yrs Male, 11+ Yrs Experience in sales, service, lead & Supervision (Automobiles & FMCG) With D/L. Contact 7862 2687

Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs. Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact +968 79975463 nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com

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LISTENING TO FAVOURITE MUSIC IMPROVES BRAIN PLASTICITY

Researchers at the University of Toronto and Unity Health Toronto have demonstrated that repeated listening to personally meaningful music induces beneficial brain plasticity in patients with mild cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer's disease.

Changes in the brain's neural pathways correlated with increased memory performance on neuropsychological tests, supporting the clinical potential of personalised, music-based interventions for people with dementia. The landmark multi-modal study was published today in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

"We have new brain-based evidence that autobiographically salient music – that is, music that holds special meaning for a person, like a song they danced to at their wedding – stimulates neural connectivity in ways that help maintain higher levels of functioning," says Dr Michael Thaut, senior author of the study, director of the Music and Health Science Research Collaboratory, Tier One Canada Research Chair in Music, Neuroscience and Health, and professor at U of T's Faculty of Music and Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

"Typically, it's very difficult to show positive brain changes in Alzheimer's patients. These preliminary yet encouraging results show improvement in the integrity of the – brain, opening the

door to further research on therapeutic applications of music for people with dementia – musicians and non-musicians alike," Dr Michael added.

The research team reported structural and functional changes in neural pathways of study participants, notably in the prefrontal cortex, the brain's control centre where deep cognitive processes occur.

Researchers showed that exposing the brains of patients with early-stage cognitive decline to autobiographically salient music activated a distinct neural network – a musical network – comprised of diverse brain regions that showed differences in activation after a period of daily music listening. Differences were also observed in the brain's connections and white matter, providing further evidence of neuroplasticity.

"Music-based interventions may be a feasible, cost-effective and readily accessible intervention for those in early-stage cognitive decline," says Dr Corinne Fischer, lead author, director of Geriatric Psychiatry at St. Michael's Hospital of Unity Health Toronto and associate professor at U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

"Existing treatments for Alzheimer's disease have shown

limited benefit to date. While larger controlled studies are required to confirm clinical benefits, our findings show that an individualised and home-based approach to music-listening may be beneficial and have lasting effects on the brain."

For the study, 14 participants – eight non-musicians and six musicians – listened to a curated playlist of autobiographically relevant, long-known music for one hour a day over the course of three weeks. Participants underwent structural and task-based functional MRI before and after the listening period to determine changes to brain function and structure.

During these scans, they listened to clips of both long-known and newly composed music. Heard one hour before scanning, the new music was similar in style yet held no personal meaning.

When participants listened to the recently heard, newly composed music, brain activity occurred mainly in the auditory cortex, centred on the listening experience. However, when participants listened to long-known music, there was significant activation in the deep-encoded network of the prefrontal cortex, a clear indication of executive cognitive engagement. There

was also strong engagement in subcortical brain regions, older areas minimally affected by Alzheimer's disease pathology.

The researchers reported subtle but distinct differences in structural and functional brain changes associated with music listening in musicians relative to non-musicians, though further studies in larger samples are needed to verify these findings. Repeated exposure to music with autobiographical salience improved cognition in all participants, regardless of musicianship.

"Whether you're a lifelong musician or have never even played an instrument, music is an access key to your memory, your prefrontal cortex," says Thaut.

"It's simple – keep listening to the music that you've loved all your life. Your all-time favourite songs, those pieces that are especially meaningful to you – make that your brain gym."

This paper builds on a previous study in the same participant group that first identified the brain mechanisms that encode and preserve musical memories in people with early-stage cognitive decline.

Next, the researchers plan to replicate the study in a larger sample and institute a strong control condition to investigate the role of musicianship in moderating brain responses, and whether it is the music or the autobiographical content that induces changes in plasticity. -ANI



FEATURE



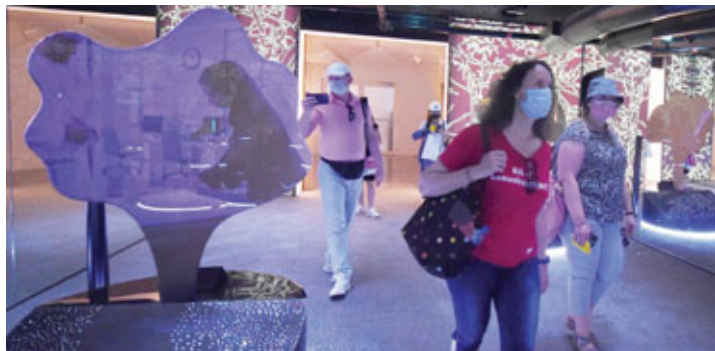
OMAN’S PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI RECEIVES OVER HALF A MILLION VISITORS

As many as 518,312 people visited Oman’s pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai between 1 October and 4 December 2021.

It is worth noting that young Omani competencies carried out the design, manufacture and implementation of devices, equipment and technologies that are used in telling and reviewing the content of the pa-

vilion’s story. The Sultanate seeks, through its participation in Expo 2020 Dubai, to embody the achievements of Oman civilization throughout history, as well as highlighting its current achievements, renewed renaissance and future aspirations under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

-ONA





ROUND-UP

Eshraqa's Stemazone initiative wins MoCSY's Youth Proficiency Award

Initiated by Eshraqa, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Khimji Ramdas, Stemazone is an exclusive and sustainable educational programme that introduces Omani children to the amazing world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) fields

MUSCAT: Khimji Ramdas Eshraqa's Stemazone initiative has won the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth (MoCSY)'s Youth Proficiency Award which recognises and honours significant initiatives that are innovative and exemplary.

The virtual event was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth on the occasion of Oman Youth Day.

Initiated by Eshraqa, the Corporate Social Responsibility Arm of Khimji Ramdas, Stemazone is an exclusive and sustainable educational programme that introduces Omani children to the amazing world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) fields.

Nailesh Khimji, Director - Eshraqa/Khimji Ramdas, said, "Youth Proficiency Award brings recognition for initiatives

that have transformed learning through innovative means. As a private-sector organisation, we are delighted that the award has brought visibility to our effort. This recognition gives us a boost to put in more hard work and dedication. Stemazone is a first-of-its-kind initiative that focuses on factors enhancing student learning outcomes. This is just a beginning for Stemazone, and we have much more to achieve."

Eshraqa's partnership with MoCSY through the Children's Museum and Ministry of Education (MoE) implies a pioneering approach towards a larger cause intended towards inspiring young Omanis to enter STEAM fields from an early age. On behalf of Khimji Ramdas, DAI global company designed and is implementing the stemazone flagship CSR initiative.

Workshops held as part of the Stemazone initiative have been conceived to be active and engaging



sessions of creativity for kids. They are designed interactively, with a focus on developing children's skills and knowledge on coding, electronics, 3D design, IoT, smart cities, and design thinking. The sessions also aim to build confidence,

teach public speaking, and imbibe leadership, teamwork, and collaboration skills. The workshops and camps offer an ideal ambience for students to problem-solve, collaborate, test ideas, and create. The sessions help participants think criti-

cally and creatively while fostering their curiosity along the way.

In addition, an online learning platform (www.stemazoneoman.om) enables students to learn, attend innovative online STEAM workshops and access live webinars.

Khimji Ramdas Eshraqa works towards nation-building at the grassroots and aspires to significantly contribute towards the education sector by building infrastructure that will lead to enhancing knowledge, skills, and capabilities.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Badr Al Samaa extends helping hand to Cyclone Shaheen victims

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals has always been at the forefront in supporting the communities at the time of crisis. Cyclone Shaheen left beyond a trail of destruction involving houses, roads, commercial establishments, livestock and above all the distress in families of the affected areas.

The government of the Sultanate, many social organisations, companies and individuals came forward yet again together as one team after COVID-19 to fight one more challenge.

Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals under its corporate social responsibility is committed to providing the best possible support and care to the deserving. Under its CSR programme, Badr Al Samaa distributed household electronic items like refrigerators, TVs, washing machines, ACs, mi-

crowave ovens in large quantities. The office of Wali of Suwaiq led by Deputy Wali of Suwaiq, Mohammed Bin Abdulsattar Al Kamali helped Badr Al Samaa to reach the deserving with the aid.

Mohammed Bin Abdulsattar Al Kamali expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals for its support in this noble cause. He said Badr Al Samaa has always been at the forefront when the communities are in distress and need not just with the healthcare services but much beyond that.

Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals also organised a free multi-speciality preventive health screening camp for hundreds of victims of cyclone Shaheen and screened them for many health conditions. Badr Al Samaa contributed in their capacity to ensure

that the Cyclone Shaheen should leave no health complications in the community.

Speaking on this occasion, the managing directors of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals Abdul Latheef and Dr P A Mohammed in a joint statement said that being the largest healthcare provider and one of the oldest organisations in the sultanate, Badr Al Samaa's share of responsibilities towards the communities are much bigger and the healthcare group has always been in the front-line to tackle all the challenges. They said these initiatives for the cyclone Shaheen affected are small contributions of Badr Al Samaa for a bigger cause. They said that they will keep on taking up more initiatives till the time, the problem is completely streamlined and the people will get back to their normal lives.

WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Gazoo Racing celebrates WEC World Championship win at Bahrain

MUSCAT: Gazoo Racing (GR) completed its history-making hypercar season in style with a one-two victory in the 8 Hours of Bahrain on a day of destiny for the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) Drivers' Championship crown.

An emotional finale to the season saw Kazuki Nakajima bring the curtain down on his glittering endurance career in style, with victory in the No. 8 GR010 Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) he shares with teammates Sébastien Buemi and Brendon Hartley.

Meanwhile, Le Mans winners Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and José María López retained the Drivers' Championship title by finishing second during the sixth and final round of the season in No. 7 GR010 HEV. Kobayashi is now Japan's first two-time World Champion on four wheels, while López becomes only the second Argentinian to win five FIA World Championships.

On a day of new milestones, GR became the first team to win every race in a WEC season. The team extended its unprecedented winning run to nine in its 70th event since first entering the series in 2012. The last two events of the season took place over two consecutive weekends in Bahrain following the cancellation of round five in Fuji due to ongoing travel restrictions related to COVID-19. Victory during the first weekend of the Bahrain double-header meant Toyota had already secured its fourth Manufacturer's Championship title before the final race began.

Despite clean sweeps in all-round five sessions, the GR010 HEVs played catch-up during the



opening laps of the season finale. However, some exciting wheel-to-wheel racing put the team back in front and they never looked back. As the race moved into the night, the No. 8 GR010 HEV established an ever-stronger grip at the front. Nakajima took the wheel for the final stint and his last laps in the WEC. A journey that started with the roll-out of the TS030 HYBRID in January 2012 ended when Nakajima took the chequered flag 7.351secs ahead of López, whose second place delivered another world title to the No. 7 GR010 HEV crew.

Akio Toyoda, President, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "First of all, congratulations on the team championship! We won all six races in the first year of Hypercar and were able to run through with the tremendous efforts of the drivers and team. I am really grateful that these two cars have become champion cars. To Kamui, Mike, and José, congratulations on winning Le Mans and the Drivers' Championship. It is very nice! Thanks to the partners who sup-

ported the battle in the new Hypercar class and the fans who continued to support us. Thank you for fighting with us this season."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars.

Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat’s Al Jawhar Privilege Banking offers unrivalled benefits

Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the ‘VISA Xperience App’ on their smartphones

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat’s Al Jawhar Privilege Banking opens a world of opportunities and unrivalled benefits to its customers making it one of the most popular premier banking options in Oman. As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat is keen to provide a banking experience that is in line with customer expectations and global banking trends.

Speaking about the various benefits and privileges available to customers, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, said: “Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers enjoy an excellent banking experience based on Recognition, Re-

wards and Solutions. The bank is continuously launching new products and services in response to customer feedback and global banking trends. We look forward to warmly welcoming new customers to our unmatched Privilege Banking services, which are in line with the bank’s customer-centric vision.”

Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the ‘VISA Xperience App’ on their smartphones. They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of RO 800, the chance to win a fixed salary prize of RO 500 every month for



a year as well as other exclusive and high-value Al Mazyona prizes that are especially reserved for them in 2021 Al Mazyona scheme. Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers who maintain a minimum balance of RO 10,000 in their accounts are automatically entered into the monthly draws for 20 prizes of RO 5,000 each.

Al Jawhar customers will also be excited to know about the draws for 10 special prizes of OMR 20,000 each, which are reserved

for the min the upcoming End-of-Year draw.

It should also be noted that Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit cardholders receive 1% cashback as a reward for their local and international purchases.

They can also make high-value purchases from a number of local merchants and pay for these purchases in 12 monthly instalments at 0% interest through the bank’s Easy Payment Plan.

Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Cred-

it Cardholders can access 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to the lounges at Muscat and Salalah airport. Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit Cardholders are also eligible for a complimentary Dragon Pass and a ‘Meet and Greet’ service with a 15% discount at over 450 global destinations. Al Jawhar VISA credit cards allow customers to enjoy the best in class complimentary travel insurance which include includes travel accident insurance as well

as insurance for lost baggage and money, cancellation, travel delay, delayed baggage, personal liability, legal expenses and loss of passport and access to free medical and legal referral services worldwide.

Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers can access the bank’s vast range of services through a number of channels including Internet and Mobile Banking, ATMs, CDMs and branches across the country, in addition to the contact centre, which is available 24/7.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

be’ah closes first cell in Al Multaqa Engineered Landfill in Al Amerat



MUSCAT: Oman Environmental Services Holding Company “be’ah” has completed the closure of the first cell in the Al Multaqa Engineered Landfill in Al Amerat. This landfill cell closure is the first of its kind in the region.

Landfill cell closure is carried out when a cell reaches its full capacity. The process ensures long-term protection to environmental and human health from leachate, odour and gases.

be’ah carried out the final closure following international best practices wherein the process is rolled out in a phased manner. As a new cell is constructed the previous cell is closed using engineered capping and gas extraction systems.

The company stopped receiving waste and halted operations in the cell after it reached its capacity. It then proceeded to cap the cell by placing protective layers on top of the intermediate cover. The layers were then covered with soil and riprap.

The next step was gas extraction and flaring. Landfill gases consist mainly of CH₄, a greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming.

To reduce the harmful impacts from emitted gases on the environment and public health, gases are extracted from closed landfills for either treatment or re-use.

These gases are commonly re-used in electricity generation

and are flared in case they cannot be reused.

Active extraction within the cell is also necessary to prevent the build-up of gas pressure. Gas is extracted using wells installed in the cell which are connected to pipes that deliver it to the flare system which has a capacity to burn off 2,000 m³/hr.

The system’s flare unit is specifically designed for the combustion of landfill gases and the generated quantity of the gas from the cell. be’ah has ensured that every component of this system – control, gas monitoring and calibration – meets industrial standards.

be’ah also ensured that the final cell cover was compliant with

US-EPA design requirements. The company will continue environmental monitoring such as groundwater and vegetation checks in and around the closed landfill site for 30 years.

The post-closure phase of the decommissioned landfill includes long-term care to minimise its impact on the surrounding environment. Landfill cover material will be allowed to settle and regrade as necessary while cave-ins will be filled to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water.

Sites of decommissioned landfills have potential future uses like recreational parks, golf courses, playgrounds etc, depending on their shape and the terrain.

PROMOTION

Win free gold coins at Malabar Gold & Diamonds Festival

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of 260 retail outlets spread across 10 countries has launched the ‘Malabar Gold & Diamonds Festival’ in Oman. The festival brings unprecedented op-

portunities to win free gold coins with jewellery purchases.

Customers can get a free 1g gold coin on diamond jewellery purchase worth OMR 400 and free half gram gold coin on diamond jewellery purchase worth OMR 250. The above offers will be run-

ning till 25 December across all outlets in Oman.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled the latest collection of jewellery in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. These designs have been

incorporated as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds’ namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewellery and Precia - Gem Jewellery.

SPREADING AWARENESS



Mazoon Electricity gives safety tips when using water heater

MUSCAT: With the advent of the winter season and as part of its plan to spread awareness about electrical safety among customers, Mazoon Electricity Company, the leading electricity provider in Oman, has stressed that the maintenance of the electric heater is one of the most important preventive measures against the dangers of electrocution.

Mazoon Electricity has urged customers to seek the assistance of licensed electricians to install an electric heater and apply all safety precautions while installing electrical connections. Asking customers to ensure the safety of the electric heater connections to avoid shock, urged them to guarantee that the appliance has proper earthing.

As a safety measure, Mazoon Electricity also explained the importance of turning on the heater well before use and switching it off before using the water.

These awareness efforts come

Mazoon Electricity has urged customers to seek the assistance of licensed electricians to install an electric heater and apply all safety precautions while installing electrical connections

within the framework of the company’s objective to spread safety awareness among customers to exercise safe practices when using various electrical appliances.

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لوس أنجلوس

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