



AL NU'MANI BIDS FAREWELL TO SAUDI ARABIA AMBASSADOR

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received Eid Mohammed Al Thaqafi, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty as his country's ambassador to the Sultanate, on Sunday. **>A5**



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SUPREME COMMITTEE

Land border closure extended by a week until February 1



MUSCAT: The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus has decided to keep the Sultanate's land borders closed for one more week till 6 pm on Monday, 1 February 2021.

The decision has been taken on the recommendations of the specialised technical team on the spread of the new COVID-19 strain and in a bid to protect all individuals of society against the disease. The Supreme Committee has followed-up, as part of its ongoing convening, updates of the pandemic and means to protect society against it, as well as ways to curb its spread.

The Supreme Committee is following up and assessing the epidemiological situation in the Sultanate and the remarkable increase in the number of infected cases and those admitted to the ICU and hospitals' wards, in addition to the lenience observed among some individuals in im-

The Supreme Committee is following up and assessing the epidemiological situation in Oman

plementing precautionary measures approved by the authorities concerned.

The committee is also following up the global updates of the pandemic and the growing increase in the infected case of the new variant of the virus in many countries, as the committee will, accordingly, take the appropriate decisions to protect members of the Omani society against this virus. **-OMA**

The Ministry is interested in high-tech surgeries to save people's lives, Al Saidi tells Majlis

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More rapid-response emergency services, advanced life-saving surgical procedures, and better quality of care to patients are some of the key initiatives of the Ministry of Health's 10th Five-Year Plan.

Under the plan, a number of new projects and expanded programmes are to be implemented, although they are dependent on the state's economic status.

"The Ministry of Health increased the number of accident and emergency units to four," said Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, the Minister of Health.

"Steps are underway to set up accident and emergency units at the hospitals of Izki and Yanqul. The ministry is interested in high-tech surgeries to help save people's lives," he added.

"The number of cardiovascular



lar surgeries reached 1,190 in 2019, and 22 kidney transplant surgeries have been performed since 2016."

Clear growth

"There has been a clear growth in the quality of care provided to patients in healthcare institutions," the minister said. 118,000 surgeries were performed in ministry hospitals in 2019, compared to 110,000 in 2016.

Speaking during the second annual sitting of the sixth term of

the Majlis Al Shura, the minister added that the Omanisation rate across medical and paramedical posts stands at 72 per cent. There are more than 39,400 people employed by the Ministry of Health.

At the end of 2019, there were 261 healthcare establishments in the country, with 5,049 beds for patients. 22 of these are polyclinics and 189 are health centres.

This is in addition to 27 private hospitals and 1,254 health establishments operating without pharmacies.

The Ministry of Health has four referral hospitals offering tertiary healthcare to the Sultanate's population. They are the Royal Hospital, Khoula Hospital, Al Nahda Hospital and Al Masarra Hospital, which have 1,639 beds, with occupancy standing at 70.7 per cent.

The nine referral hospitals in Muscat Governorate have 23,178 beds, with occupancy standing at 56.2 per cent.

Sohar Hospital has the highest occupancy rate in the Sultanate (79.6 per cent). **>A2**

MINISTRY OF LABOUR DECISIONS

More expat jobs to be replaced by Omanis

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A number of professions in the private sector, including in finance and accounting professions have been reserved for Omani nationals only through two decisions issued by the Ministry of Labour.

Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, the Minister of Labour, issued decision no. 8/2021 that regulates the practice of some professions and activities, and decision no. 9/2021 that regulates the profession of driving.

According to the ministerial decision no. 8/2021 the reservation extends to "financial and administrative professions in insurance companies and companies operating in insurance brokerage activities, the professions of selling, accounting, money exchange, administration and arranging goods in the shops operating in malls and account auditing professions in car agencies."

Included in the list are "all pro-



fessions selling new and used vehicles, all accounting professions in the activities of selling new and used vehicles in car agencies, and the activity of selling spare parts for new vehicles affiliated with cars agencies."

Article two states, "Non-Omani workforce licences and work practice licenses issued for the professions and activities specified in Article one shall be valid until their expiry date." The ministry added that "the decision shall take effect six months after the date of publication of the decision on January 20, 2021."

Occupations including the

driving of vehicles to transport fuel, agricultural and food materials will be restricted to Omanis only, the Ministry of Labour announced.

The decision states, "Practising the profession of driving vehicles of any kind in transportation of fuel, transportation of agricultural materials and transportation of foodstuffs are restricted to Omanis only."

"It is permissible to authorise recruitment of one expatriate worker to transport agricultural materials and foodstuffs as a distributor of goods for only small and medium enterprises owned by Omanis who are full-time managers, are registered with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, and are insured with the Public Authority for Social Insurance, provided that the vehicle is commercial and registered in the name of the institution. These decisions will also take effect six months after the date of its publication," the ministry added.



An enchanting getaway: The sulphur spring of Bidbid

A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

App to help patients in inaccessible areas

1 Patients in inaccessible areas can now consult doctors remotely through a mobile application to be launched on Tuesday. The 'Your doctor beside you' also features a number of services to help patients and their families understand ailments they need to deal with. **>A2**

WORLD

Protest in Russia for Navalny's release

2 Tens of thousands took to the streets in Russia to protest against the arrest of opposition activist Alexey Navalny. Rallies were organised in several cities of Russia and violence was reported from several parts including Moscow and St Petersburg. **>A7**

MARKET

50,000 tonnes of cooking oil produced

3 The annual production volume recorded by the Omani Vegetable Oils and Derivatives Company in 2020 has touched 50,000 tonnes of vegetable oils (cooking oil) such as palm oil products, sunflower oil, corn oil, and other vegetable oil products. **>B1**

ECONOMY

Retail sector must look for innovative ways to attract customers



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Retailers have been asked to look for creative ways to attract customers to help them generate business and stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With many shops in the country closing during the pandemic, some did make the transition to online shopping, while those companies that already had e-commerce operations paid more attention to them, said Maimunah Al Shebani, a board member of the Middle East Council of Shopping Centres.

"The long-term impacts of COVID-19 and the economic slowdown on the retail market remain to be seen," she said.

"No one really knows what the world will be like after that coronavirus pandemic. The only surety

is that things are bound to be different. To survive in these tough times, retailers must increasingly look to evolve their business models, and enhance their multichannel retailing capabilities. Due to the coronavirus, retailers must find new ways to reach customers, as the new channels will likely stay in place after the pandemic is over," she added.

Al Shebani, who is also the founder of The Retail Agency, recently put out a report on how the pandemic had impacted the country's retail sector. With shops required to shutter for long periods due to the coronavirus, business owners are among those who have been most affected by the disease.

"Due to safety concerns, increased trust in, and the convenience of online shopping, this trend

will continue to grow. Retailers with no existing online or delivery channel will struggle to survive during this challenging time. As the experience of past crises shows, retail as a segment is usually the first to show a dramatic decline, but it also rebounds quickly," explained Al Shebani.

Pandemic

Al Shebani, added that the retail sector in Oman had been facing problems before the pandemic as well, owing to unfavourable economic conditions, low purchasing power and oversupply of retail space. COVID-19, however, had a very strong impact on this sector. "For some, it has been just about survival, but for others, it may have presented opportunities," she explained.

"There is no doubt that this year has brought unprecedented uncertainty, complexity and change to the industry. While these changes continue to reshape the retail landscape, COVID-19 has given the sector time to reflect, restructure and improve."

Al Shebani added, "Interestingly, COVID-19 has accelerated key fundamental trends that were already influencing the retail sector in Oman. Rather than stop these trends in their tracks, the recent shifts in retail fundamentals has made these trends more acute and urgent. Uncertainty is the name of the game when it comes to how the next 12 months will play out. However, it is clear that the retail sector is evolving and will never be the same."

>A2

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12.24pm
Asr.....	3.32pm
Maghrib.....	5.54pm
Isha.....	7.07pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.31am

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New app to aid patients in inaccessible areas

The ‘Your doctor beside you’ features a number of services to help patients and their families understand ailments they need to deal with

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Patients in remote areas as well as those who cannot access healthcare can now consult with doctors remotely through a mobile application which will be launched on Tuesday.

The ‘Your doctor beside you’ features a number of services to help patients and their families understand ailments they need to deal with, including the medical facilities available to them, a list of doctors available for remote consultation, guidelines for patient home care, and many others.

The first of the seven sections, titled ‘Health Facilities’, provides users information on all government and private healthcare fa-



LAUNCH: The smartphone application will be officially launched on Tuesday, January 26, under the patronage of Redha bin Juma Al Saleh, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

cilities in the country, including hospitals, clinics, optometrists, dentists, labs and pharmacies.

The second section is called ‘Consult your Doctor’ and contains a list of medical practitioners that patients and their families can consult with, either through voice or video calls. Doctors can use this service to explain patients’ ailments to them and advice on treatment options they can follow.

Patients can, through the third available option, request from doctors a home consultation. Called ‘Your Doctor Beside You’, this option contains a list of medi-



cal professionals in the area available for a home consult, or wherever else the patient might be.

Families of patients as well as their home carers would do well to explore the fourth section, titled ‘Home Healthcare’ that also contains procedures that support health workers such as nurses, physiotherapists and other related specialists can adhere to. It also provides options for continued care and follow-up consults.

The fifth section, ‘Life Coaching,’ allows users to have a confidential conversation with a life coach to help identify their personality, define their goals, and

develop a plan to achieve them by drawing a clear path to discover and refine their talents and skills, with the aim of making fundamental changes to their professional and personal life.

The sixth section, called ‘Emergency Cases’, concerns quickly providing help to patients by showing them the nearest available healthcare facility, which includes access to paramedics, doctors, or ambulance, arranged by the proximity of the patient to these services.

The seventh section, ‘Health Education,’ includes important instructional videos for emergencies, which guides users in following the right behaviour in such cases, helps increase people’s medical awareness, and contains important public announcements from the Ministry of Health or the World Health Organization.

“Your Doctor Beside You” aims to train families in basic skills to help them take care of their patients, in the present and future, thereby helping enhance the latter’s safety and comfort. This also helps ensure quality care at home, leading to shorter stays and avoiding repeated visits to hospitals.

This application will also contribute to providing home healthcare to the patient after surgeries, once they’ve been discharged from the hospital, and care for patients who are bedridden and suffer from bed sores.

Meeting held to end trade barriers



MUSCAT: The Sultanate yesterday participated, via video conferencing, in the meeting of the GCC Commerce Ministers.

The Sultanate was represented by Qais Mohammed Al-Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The meeting discussed measures that impede the flow of goods in intra-GCC trade.

It also discussed a number of topics, most importantly the dis-

parity of many commercial systems among the GCC countries, which resulted in procedural problems for exporters and importers, and the failure to mandatory enforcement of the commercial agency to the movement of goods between GCC countries.

The GCC commerce ministers agreed at the end of their meeting to unify trade systems to facilitate the flow of goods and to enhance intra-GCC trade. -ONA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

< FROM A1 Integrated centre

Speaking about the number of COVID-19 infections in the country, he said the total number of reported infections in the country amounted to 133,044, among which 10,685 required admission to hospital, and 2,650 needed urgent care in intensive care units. 1,521 patients, though, have passed away from the disease.

The minister cautioned that despite all the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Health to keep the situation under control, within the constraints posed by economic conditions in the country since 2015, there are still some serious challenges facing the development of healthcare in the Sultanate. The challenges include limited financial resources and the shortage of human capital, among

other problems, he affirmed. “The Ministry of Health is currently setting up plans to establish an integrated centre for the treatment and rehabilitation of patients suffering from addiction, in Muscat Governorate,” said Al Saidi. “It is expected to be completed at the end of 2023,” added the minister.

He added, “The need for health services is steadily increasing, which imposed additional burdens on healthcare resources. There is the necessity of an additional programme to train nationals in the field of public health and epidemiology to support the existing healthcare system with a generation of Omanis who are capable of dealing with the latest developments in this field.”

RETAIL SECTOR

< FROM A1 People cautious about spending

Other economists in the country seemed to agree with her analysis.

“People are extremely cautious about spending, and are concerned about their financial situation,” said Dr CK Anchan, a

trade analyst in the country. “People want to save money instead of spending more, even if it means choosing to buy cheaper alternatives, or holding off on non-essential purchases.”

Ramanuj Venkatesh, another analyst, said, “The current challenges in the retail sector will actually give those working within a wealth of experience, because situations like these will enable

them to learn the ropes faster. This is where effective communication – word of mouth is still the strongest form of sharing ideas – across all available platforms helps appeal to a larger audience.”

Announcement

Honda Recall Campaign

Date of the campaign : 25 January 2021
Campaign type : Safety
Campaign section : Automobile

Product Description :

Vehicle Type	Model	VIN No		No
		From	To	
Accord	2018 YM	1HGC1665JA600042	1HGC1669JA611688	470
Accord	2019 YM	1HGC1642KA600001	1HGC1647KA605209	661
Accord	2020 YM	1HGC1665LA601100	1HGC1615LA601361	14
Accord	2018 YM	1HGC2631JA600020	1HGC263XJA601330	110
Accord	2019 YM	1HGC2635KA600006	1HGC2639KA600459	105

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2,001 VIEWS
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Morning Minute video on new British schools

The Morning Minute video on new British schools had 2,001 views and 112 likes on Instagram

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

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Two new British schools opening in

Morning Minute video

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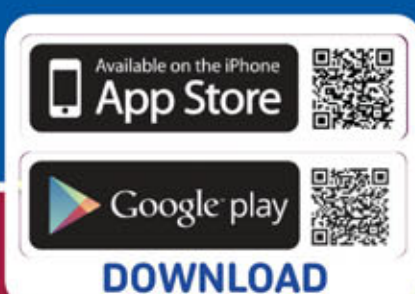
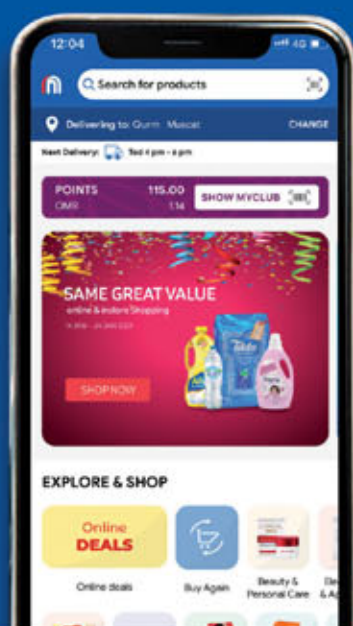
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MEETING

Al Nu'mani bids farewell to Saudi Arabia ambassador

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received Eid Mohammed Al Thaqafi, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty as his country's ambassador to the Sultanate, on Sunday.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the cooperation extended to him during his duty from all officials in Oman. He also praised the bilateral relations binding the two countries.

Gen. Al Nu'mani thanked the envoy for the efforts he exerted in serving the existing ties between his country and the Sultanate while carrying out his duty, wishing him permanent success. -ONA



FAREWELL Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office with Eid Mohammed Al Thaqafi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), on Sunday. -ONA

OPAZ

Magazine highlights free zones

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) yesterday released the 22nd Issue of *Duqm Economist Magazine*, featuring a number of projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) and the free zones in Salalah, Sohar and Al Mazunah.

Having the picture of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik along with the title "His Majesty calls for the development of economic zones and major projects" on the front cover refers to the meeting of the Council of Ministers, chaired by His Majesty the

Sultan on December 15 in which His Majesty approved the launch of Oman Vision 2040.

In the editorial, Eng. Ahmed Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of OPAZ and General Supervisor of the Magazine, stressed on the importance of the special economic zones and free zones in the Sultanate's development plans.

He commended the various achievements marked over the past years.

"The recorded achievements marked all the zones an attractive destination for investors from within and outside Oman. Hence,

this year OPAZ is planning to increase the gains made by the zones to the national economy," Eng. Al Dheeb commented.

Duqm Economist Magazine dedicated a number of pages for the main story, titled "Duqm: a tourist icon amid a number of investment projects" in which 8 key tourist destinations in Duqm or nearby have been featured. These breathtaking landmarks include Rock Garden, Hamar Rock, Resorts' Beach, where Crowne Plaza Hotel, Park Inn Duqm Resort, and other under construction projects. -ONA

OMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ODB approves loans worth OMR68 million

MUSCAT: Oman Development Bank (ODB) granted more than 11,800 development and emergency loans, worth OMR68.8 million in 2020 compared to OMR60.75 million in 2019, registering an increase of 13 percent.

In 2020, the bank implemented a loan deferral programme to alleviate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the beneficiaries of its services.

This programme benefited about 2,800 borrowers. The bank launched orientation programmes for entrepreneurs and these were followed by more than 4,400 interested persons in the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sector.

ODB indicated that the emergency loan programme, which was approved by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, accounted for 28 percent of the volume of granted loans. The number of beneficiaries exceeded 8,000 projects with a total value of approximately OMR19.2 million.

The working capital loans constituted the largest value-share of the loans, with a total value of OMR13.9 million granted for 420 loans, out of more than 3,784 regular development loans, with a value of about OMR49.53 million, followed by the micro-loans that exceeded last year 3,100 loans with a total value of OMR13.4 million.

The total value of loans granted to large companies surpassed OMR12.5 million for 18 development loans. The number of loans granted to the SME sector reached 192 with a total value of OMR9.6 million. The bank granted 41 seasonal loans with a total value of OMR190,000.

The bank granted last year 3,000 industrial loans to the manufacturing sector, with a total value of OMR22.4 million, followed by the professional and public services sector which obtained the largest number of loans with 5,588, worth more than OMR17.1 million.

The tourism sector came third in terms of the value of approved loans in 2020.

The bank granted 470 loans for tourism projects with a total value of OMR8.7 million, followed by the fisheries sector with 1,277 loans with a total value of OMR8.1 million.

The loans granted to the educational sector amounted to more than 1,151 with a total value of OMR6.9 million.

The bank granted 569 agricultural loans to the agricultural and livestock sector, with a total value of OMR3.9 million. It granted 44 loans to the health sector, with a total value of OMR1.4 million, and 16 loans to the mining sector, with a total value of OMR300,000.

-ONA

LEGAL TENDERS

CBO issues uncut sheets of banknotes

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman announced that the 6th Series Uncut Sheets of One Rial, Half Rial and 100 Baisa are up for sale starting from January 24, 2021. The banknotes in the sheets are legal tenders for their face values and the sheets are available for sale at the CBO as per the following prices: One Rial 40 Banknotes = OMR80, Half Rial 50 Banknotes = OMR50 and 100 Baisa 60 Banknotes = OMR12. -ONA





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ELECTION

Portugal votes in presidential election amid COVID surge



LISBON: Portugal's presidential election will still go forward on Sunday despite surging coronavirus cases and record fatalities.

Polls indicate center-right incumbent Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will win another term, although observers are watching how a far-right challenger could perform.

Portugal remains under a strict national lockdown after the country of 10.8 million recorded its worst daily coronavirus death toll and number of new infections on Saturday. Fatalities now stand over 10,000.

Closing arguments

In his final campaign speech, Rebelo de Sousa urged voters to back him to avoid a second round of elections.

This, he said, would "spare the Portuguese people from the election being stretched out over three crucial weeks" — time that could be better spent slowing the pandemic, said the former minister and co-founder of the center-right Social Democratic Party (PSD).

Though current opinion polls predict the 72-year-old president will win up to 70% of the vote, lower turnout could impact those assumptions. However, the other seven candidates are all polling in the single-digit percentage range. While not the head of state, Portugal's presidents have the power to dissolve parliament and call for fresh elections — a pivotal constitutional role with a minority government in power. **aw**



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HUSHAN MINE



Rescuers free 11 gold miners after two weeks in China

BEIJING: Rescue workers on Sunday freed 11 people who had been trapped hundreds of meters below ground in a gold mine in northern China's Shandong province.

They were among 22 miners caught in a blast in the Hushan mine in Qixia, a major gold-producing region, on January 10.

The first man was brought to the surface at around 11 a.m. and was in an "extremely weak" condition, according to a post on state media CCTV's Weibo microblogging site.

Video footage showed him being lifted out of the mine shaft with a black blindfold across his eyes. He was covered in a blanket before being carried away by rescue workers and taken to hospital for treatment.

Hours afterwards, another three miners were rescued from a

different part of the mine. Three more were later pulled to safety from the same section. The rest were rescued shortly after.

They were from a group of 10 miners who had been in contact with rescue teams, while the first man had been trapped in a different section of the mine.

Major rescue effort

On Thursday, officials had warned it could take another two weeks to clear "severe blockages" before they could drill shafts to reach the 10 men.

But rescuers cleared an air ventilation shaft on Sunday and were able to free them earlier than expected. Rescue teams have had no contact with a further 11 miners, state news agency Xinhua reported last week. One miner is known to have died from head injuries. **bw**



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Thousands protest in Russia demanding Navalny's release

Russian police arrested more than 2,000 people and used force to break up rallies around the country

MOSCOW: Tens of thousands took to the streets in Russia on Saturday to protest against the arrest of opposition activist Alexey Navalny.

Rallies were organised in several cities of Russia. However, violence was also reported in several parts including in Moscow and St Petersburg as protesters clashed with police. Russian police arrested more than 2,000 people and used force to break up rallies around the country, Al Jazeera reported

The OVD-Info protest monitor group said at least 2,131 people - including 300 in the capital Mos-



cow and 162 in Saint Petersburg - had been detained across Russia, a number likely to rise. It reported arrests at rallies in nearly 70 towns and cities.

Some 4,000 protestors were gathered in Moscow's Pushkinskaya Square, about a mile north of the Kremlin, on Saturday, police told Sputnik.

"Around 4,000 people have gathered in Pushkinskaya Square in Moscow for an unsanctioned event," the police said.

Scuffles broke out when riot police began to get targeted by projectile water bottles and eggs, leading to several detentions.

At least three officers were sprayed with white paint after protesters threw a can at the riot police, a Sputnik correspondent said. A police source told Sputnik that 39 officers had been injured in Moscow protests, all of them lightly.

The protests broke out after Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic, was

jailed this week upon returning from Germany where he was recovering after being poisoned by a nerve agent.

With the court's order on Monday, Navalny will have to remain in prison till February 15 and a different court has been set to decide whether to convert his suspended three and a half year sentence into real jail time, Al Jazeera reported.

He had arrived in Germany five months ago in a coma after being poisoned by Novichok, a military-grade nerve agent developed by Russia during the Soviet years. Several Western officials along with Navalny himself have openly blamed Russia for the poisoning, while the Kremlin has denied the allegations.

Navalny was placed on the country's federal wanted list during his time in Germany at the request of the Federal Penitentiary Service FSIN's, which had accused him in December 2020 of violating probation terms in a fraud case that was dismissed by Navalny as "politically motivated". Now the FSIN alleges that Navalny has been in violation of the terms of his suspended sentence by failing to show up for scheduled inspections. **ANI**



Chinese 'El Chapo' arrested in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM: One of the world's most-wanted fugitives, the 56-year old billionaire Tse Chi Lop, was arrested at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, police announced on Saturday.

Often compared to drug lords like Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman or Pablo Escobar, investigators accuse Tse's syndicate of dominating the \$70 billion (£57 billion) -a-year Asia-Pacific drug trade.

Law enforcement believe it is funneling tons of methamphetamine, heroin and ketamine to at least a dozen countries from Japan to New Zealand. But methamphetamine is its main business, police say.

He was arrested at the request of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) without incident during a stop-over on a flight from Taiwan to Canada.

The syndicate Tse is suspected of running is known to its members as "The Company", though others refer to it as "Sam Gor" - or Brother Number Three in Cantonese - after one of Tse's nicknames, according to investigative reporting by Reuters and the Australian newspaper, The Age.

The publication also reports that suspected members of Tse's crime organization may have high level links to governments across Asia, having invested in large infrastructure ventures under the Chinese Communist Party's Belt and Road Scheme, a massive economic project that aims to build trade and transport links from East Asia to Europe.

Links to government officials suspected

Drugs hidden in teabags

The cartel is suspected of often concealing its drugs in packets of tea. Police intelligence sources estimate the syndicate is responsible for up to 70% of all narcotics entering Australia.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conservatively estimates the syndicate's methamphetamine revenue in 2018 at \$8 billion a year, but says it could be as high as \$17.7 billion.

"The word kingpin often gets thrown around, but there is no

Germany fears attempts to sabotage COVID vaccination drive

BERLIN: The German government has warned of suspected attempts to disrupt the coronavirus vaccination campaign by foreign intelligence groups as well as conspiracy theorists, according to a media report.

"Several suspected attempts to spy on German vaccine manu-

facturers have already become known," newspapers of the Funke media group quoted the Interior Ministry as saying. The statement was in response to a Green party inquiry. The ministry added that the danger of cyberattacks was "classified as high."

The report said facilities for re-

search, production, and approval of vaccines are considered potential targets for espionage and sabotage by foreign intelligence services.

The ministry also warned of possible disruptive action by conspiracy ideologues. Former TV chef turned conspiracy theorist

Attila Hildmann, for instance, wrote on his Telegram channel: "the syringes in vaccination centers resemble the bombs of the Dresden bombing," and told his followers that protests are pointless and that they must instead take targeted action "against injustice." **DW**

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Title holders Arsenal knocked out after losing to Southampton

Southampton defeated Arsenal 1-0 after Gabriel registered an own goal for the Gunners and this proved to be the deciding factor in the game

SOUTHAMPTON: FA Cup title-holders Arsenal were knocked out of the tournament on Saturday after losing to Southampton in the fourth round here at St Mary's Stadium. Southampton defeated Arsenal 1-0 after Gabriel registered an own goal for the Gunners and this proved to be the deciding factor in the game. Gabriel's error came in the 24th minute of the match and with this, Southampton gained a lead. After this, no more goals were registered and the hosts wrapped up a 1-0 victory. Both Arsenal and Southampton just had two shots on target and this clearly indicates that neither



FA CUP: With this win, Southampton progressed to the fifth round of the FA Cup and now the side will take on Wolves.

team was able to press for attacking moves throughout the match. Gunners enjoyed 62 per cent of ball possession as compared to Southampton's 38, but the visitors were not able to score any goal, and as a result, they were knocked out. With this win, Southampton has progressed to the fifth round of the FA Cup and now the side will take on Wolves in their next match. Wolves and Southampton will take on each other in the fifth round of the FA Cup on February 10.

Had a dream to win it again: Arteta After losing to Southampton in the FA Cup, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said that he is disappointed as they had a dream of winning the tournament again.

Arsenal's defence of the FA Cup is over after Gabriel's first-half own goal was enough to give Southampton a fourth-round victory here on Saturday. "I am disappointed because we wanted to continue in the competition.

We had a dream to do it again - like we did it last year - step-by-step, but that dream today is over. As well I am disappointed with the way we conceded the goal in an area where we know we should not be doing that and giving the lead to the opponent," the club's official website quoted Arteta as saying. "At the same time, I cannot fault the effort of the players, how they tried, how they improved throughout the game and tried to go for the goal in the second half with the way we did it. But it was not enough and we conceded a goal that we shouldn't. We created the chances but we did not hit the target," he added. With this win, Southampton progressed to the fifth round of the FA Cup and now the side will take on Wolves. Wolves and Southampton will play against each other in the fifth round of the FA Cup on February 10. Analysing the match, Arteta said: "I think we gave them control of the game with our unforced errors. We made those ourselves without them creating any big chances. These are things that we have to improve, it is part of the way that we are evolving as a team, understanding which areas we have to exploit and which areas we have to be more secure in certain situations. It is part of it." **ANI**

FOOTBALL

TEST SERIES

Jurgen Klopp feels Liverpool can use Burnley defeat to turn things around

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp feels that defeat against Burnley can give them the much-needed push to turn things around, saying that "sometimes you need a really low point to then change things properly". In the Premier League clash, Liverpool suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Burnley. Klopp's side has now gone five top-flight matches without a win and four without a goal. "We lost the game [against Burnley] and it was a really low point, it is not that I thought, 'Oh, who cares?' It is not because of the series [of unbeaten league games at Anfield], which was nice as well. It was a game we lost and when I think back I cannot find a reason why



we lost that game. But we lost it, with all the things that happened with the penalty, the chance we had and all these kind of things," the club's official website quoted Klopp as saying. "It happened - and sometimes you need a really low point to then change things properly. And that is for sure what we will try

and we will go for now, that is 100 per cent. If we would have won [against Burnley] in a bad game, like somehow 1-0, the world would have said: 'OK, it is not the football they usually play but they are back on the results path.' But in the long term that would not have helped. [Thursday] can be a real help if we use it," he added. The Burnley defeat had also ended Liverpool's long unbeaten home run in the Premier League. It was the Reds' first loss at Anfield in the league since April 2017, ending the club-record unbeaten streak at 68. The club is currently preparing for the FA Cup fourth-round clash with Manchester United, slated to take place on Sunday. **ANI**

Really want to play my best cricket, says Faf du Plessis

KARACHI: South Africa's Faf du Plessis said he really wants to play his "best cricket" as the team prepares for the Test series against Pakistan. The 36-year-old is in line to play his 68th Test but first in Pakistan when the two-Test series starts on Tuesday at the National Stadium. "I am intentional in making sure I really enjoy my cricket. If that comes through in performances or the way that I speak, then I am glad that it is happening," ESPN Cricinfo quoted du Plessis as saying. "I am batting well at the moment, feeling good and I really want to play my best cricket. I also want to put in some good perfor-

mances in the subcontinent. It is really important for me to do well overseas," he said. The second Test between the two teams will be played at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, from February 4, before they travel to Lahore for three T20Is on February 11, 13 and 14 at the Gaddafi Stadium. Du Plessis also feels having Babar Azam back is massive for Pakistan. "Having Babar back is massive for them. I would say he is up there with the top three batters in the world at the moment. His last two seasons, in all formats, have been nothing short of remarkable," he said. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

OFA

Ayaan helps Muscat to a thrilling victory; comfortable wins for Maniz, Ideal, Safara

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat CT once again rode on Ayaan Khan's match-winning talent to beat Al Turki NMC in a Premier Division thriller at OC Turf 1 in Amerat on Saturday. The tournament's two most experienced sides tested each other to the limit before Muscat managed to prevail for a nail-biting win. Al Turki found the going tough against Muscat's potent attack, crawling to 214 for 9 in 50 overs, Suraj Kumar (43), Karan Sonavala (37) and Akshay Patel (36) being its main scorers. Ganesh Chandrashekar picked up 3 for 42 while Ayaan and Sandeep Goud took two wickets each. Muscat's response was equally erratic as from being 51 for 1 it slumped to 82 for 6 before Ayaan started to take control and stamp his authority on the game despite wickets still falling around him. His 65-run ninth wicket partnership with Ganesh (28 off 46) put Muscat in the driver's seat before Jay Odedara removed Ganesh in the 44 th over. With Muscat still requiring 12 runs and only one wicket in hand, Ayaan decided to take on Al Turki's ace spinner Ajay Lalcheta, hitting him for a four and a six to steal 14 runs from his first five balls and seal a sensational one-wicket win for his side. Muscat and IT Works now lead the table with 10 points each from six games followed by Al Turki



Ayaan Khan and Ganesh Chandrashekar of Muscat CT-23-1-2021

which has 8 points from six outings. **Brief Scores** (Premier Division): Al Turki NMC 214 for 9 in 50 overs (Suraj Kumar 43 - 2x4, 2x6, Karan Sonavala 37 - 3x4, 2x6, Akshaykumar Patel 36 - 2x4, Ganesh Chandrashekar 3-42, Ayaan Khan 2-28, Sandeep Goud 2-38) lost to Muscat CT 217 for 9 in 44.5 over (Ayaan Khan 91 not out - 8x4, 2x6, Shoaib Khan 31 - 3x4, Meh-

ran Khan 3-24) by 1 wicket. **Tahir steers Maniz Azad to victory** Tahir Ali's superb all-round performance helped Maniz Azad International to a 57- run victory against Design Group Engineering Consultants in a C Division T20 League game at Muscat Municipality ground 1 on Friday. Invited to bat first, Maniz Azad scored 153 all out in 19.2 overs, Tahir topscoring with a whirlwind 48 off 24. Satham Hussain and Nishan Padmakumara were the pick of Design Group bowlers, taking three wickets each. Design Group failed to fight, folding up for a dismal 96 in the 18 th over. Parvez Beg (33) and Muhammed Althaf (29) were its main scorers. Adnan Ahmed claimed 3 for 6 while Adnan-ul Haq, Zaheer Abbas and Tahir Ali bagged two wickets each. **Brief Scores** (C Division): Maniz Azad International 153 all out in 19.2 overs (Tahir Ali 48 - 9x4, Satham Hussain 3-12, Nishan Padmakumara 3-25, Parvez Beg 2-18) defeated Design Group Engineering Consultants 96 all out in 17.5 overs (Parvez Beg 33 - 4x4, Muhammed Althaf 29 - 1x4, Adnan Ahamad 3-6, Adnan-ul Haq 2-9, Zaheer Abbas 2-15, Tahir Ali 2-22) by 57 runs. **Vijesh stars in Ideal win** Vijesh Vijayakumaran struck a solid 57 off 39 and then took two wickets to guide Ideal Technology to an exciting 28-run win over Spania & VDD in a D Division T20 League encounter at Muscat Municipality ground 3. Vijesh top scored with 57 while Noman Mohammed contributed 38 as Ideal posted 162 for 6 on the board. Spanio was then dismissed for 134 in the final over thanks to

brilliant bowling by Biji Sunder, who claimed 3 for 29, and Ummer Mahmood, Sooraj Raj and Vijesh who all bagged two wickets each. **Brief Scores** (D Division): Ideal Technology 162 for 6 in 20 overs (Vijesh Vijayakumaran 57 - 6x4, Noman Muhammed 38 - 3x4) beat Spanio & Vdd 134 all out in 19.1 overs (Jeason Jacob George 38 - 6x4, Biji Sundar 3-29, Ummer Mahmood 2-16, Sooraj A Raj 2-19, Vijesh Vijayakumaran 2-22) by 28 runs. **Shadab, Adeel shine for Safara** In another D Division clash, splendiferous by Shadab Kazi and Adeel Anwar were the highlights of Safara International's 4-wicket victory against Jotun CT at Muscat Municipality ground 4. Jotun scored a challenging 174 for 7 helped by vital knocks by Vineesh Raj (63) and Prajeesh (47). Sandesh Pusalkar took 2 for 38. Safara's response was led by opener Adeel's swashbuckling 50 off 21 balls that included 3 sixes and Shadab Kazi's vital 55 not out off 40 as it surpassed the total in the 19 th over, scoring 175 for 6. Joy Abraham bagged 3 for 33. **Brief Scores** (D Division): Jotun CT 174 for 7 in 19 overs (Vineesh Raj 63 - 6x4, 1x6, Prajeesh 47 - 6x4, 1x6, Sandesh Pusalkar 2-38) lost to Safara International 175 for 6 in 18.2 overs (Shadab Kazi 55 not out - 6x4, Adeel Anwar 50 - 7x4, 3x6, Joby Abraham 3-33) by 4 wickets.



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The draw ceremony of the Round Eight of His Majesty the Sultan Football Cup was held on Sunday at the Conference Hall of Oman Football Association (OFA) at Seeb Stadium. According to the draw, Al Nahda will play against Al Etihad; Seeb will face Saham; Dhofar will meet Al Musana and Ibri will play against Al Suwaiq. The draw ceremony was attended by a number of members of the Oman Football Association (OFA), representatives of sponsoring companies and media persons. The OFA Competitions Committee will fix the timing and venues for the matches proposed to be on February 5 and 6.

BAHRAIN-GCC TRADE

Bahrain-GCC trade reached \$5.7 billion in 2020, accounting for 25 per cent of Bahrain's global bilateral trade for the year (\$20.8 billion). Bahrain exports surged 12 per cent in final quarter of 2020 buoyed by thriving manufacturing sector.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM index closed at 3,730.436 points, down 0.46 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.20 per cent at 533.083 points. Oman Cement, up 8.27 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 9.65 per cent, was the top loser.

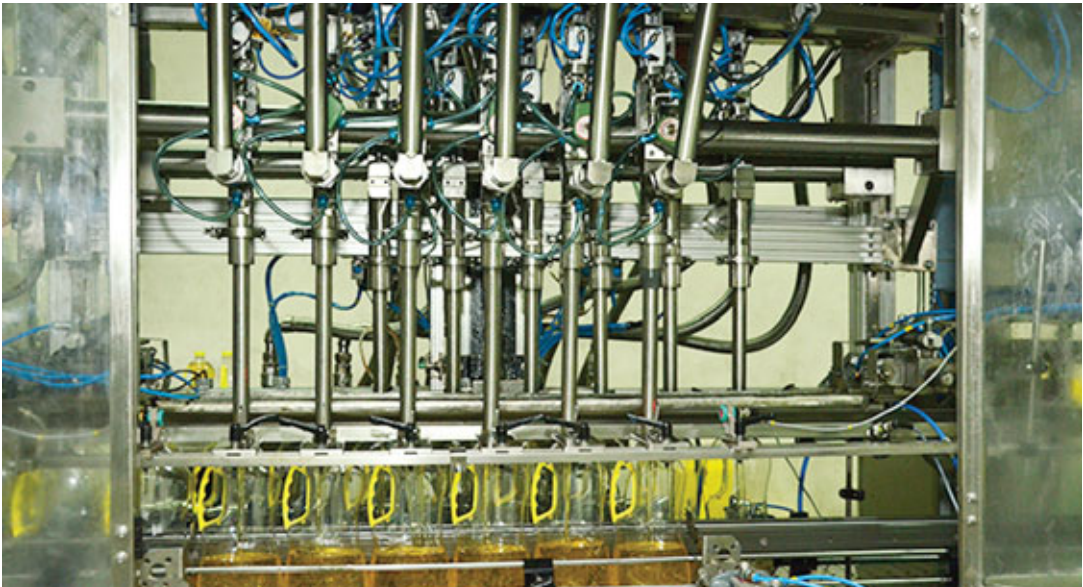
Omani Vegetable Oils firm's annual production touches 50,000 tonnes



The company utilises advanced technologies in the oil production process with high-quality specifications

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The annual production volume recorded by the Omani Vegetable Oils and Derivatives Company in 2020 has touched 50,000 tonnes of vegetable oils (cooking oils) such as palm oil



products, sunflower oil, corn oil, and other vegetable oil products, informed Eng. Mohammed bin Ahmed Jaboob, Commercial Manager at Omani Vegetable Oils and Derivatives Company.

The company's products are widely available in the market under the popular names of Al Safa, A'Saadah, Salalah, Taibah, Sahi, Bahjah, Diyah, Sunlife, and A'Safwah in sizes from 750ml to 20 litres.

"These products are available in major commercial stores, supermarkets and retail companies. Additionally, the company adopts the multi-channel distribution

method throughout the Middle East and Africa and undertakes significant efforts to expand its business to meet the needs of customers in the emerging markets," Jaboob pointed out.

He added that the company utilises advanced technologies in the oil production process with high-quality specifications. The company has highly qualified competencies and experts in the field of food manufacturing to supervise the overall process.

Moreover, the company ensures the implementation of product quality measures to guarantee that the products meet the customer's sat-

isfaction requirements. The Omani Vegetable Oils and Derivatives is a HACCP Certified company, follows stringent GMP practices and certified food safety management systems by SGS Europe.

It is worthwhile to mention that the factory was established in 2005 in Raysut Industrial City in Dhofar as an initiative of Dhofar Cattle Feed Company, Dhofar Insurance Company, and Dhofar International Development and Investments Holding Company. The Omani Vegetable Oils and Derivatives Company has its subsidiaries and branch offices in Muscat, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

SAP

Sultanate's government-led digital drive tops 2021 technology trends



Waheed Al Hamaid, Managing Director, SAP Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's government-led digital transformation ranks as the top technology trend of 2021, supporting innovative mega-events and taking citizen services to a new level, global technology company SAP announced.

More than four-fifths (89 per cent) of public sector senior executives agreed that data sharing helps them to improve how they connect with citizens, according to a recent Oxford Economics and SAP survey "The Public Sector Transformation Imperative of 3,000 senior executives from around the world.

"The Omani government has advanced digital transformation amid the pandemic to better serve citizens," said Waheed Al Hamaid, Managing Director, SAP Oman. "With 89 per cent of public sector executives agreeing on the impor-

tance of data sharing, the top three goals for Oman's public sector organisations in 2021 will be to share data to improve citizen experiences, gain real-time data insights, and enhance their employees' digital skills to drive innovation."

For the public sector, the top three lessons that make a digital "have" and not a digital "have-not":

1. Employee and citizen experiences will close the gap with the public sector.

Thanks to government initiatives such as Oman Vision 2040, Oman's public sector will continue to lead data-driven innovation to enhance citizen experiences.

Among public sector leaders in the survey, 89 per cent said data sharing improves how they connect with citizens, 83 per cent said data sharing improves their innovation of existing products or services, and 82 per cent said data sharing helps them to exceed per-

formance goals.

Digitising hiring and onboarding processes can create better employee experiences. Over half of public sector respondents (56 per cent) said employee satisfaction has the greatest influence on organisational strategy, well above the 35 per cent cross-industry average.

2. Data insights will point the way toward actionable insights.

Real-time data insights can help organisations to enhance operational efficiency and craft strong policy. Healthcare has been a standout during the pandemic, with providers using data analytics to target coronavirus hotspots, optimize hospital and staff capacity, and rollout the vaccine.

There is potential for more sharing data among partners to deliver greater benefit. Among public sector respondents, 81 per cent were effectively sharing employee data internally, but only 22 per cent

with partners and 74 per cent were effectively sharing citizen data internally, but only 26 per cent with partners.

3. Digital skills capabilities will streamline and expand mission-critical services.

Already, many Middle East organisations have embraced collaboration and flexible work policies to enhance employee experiences. But more can be done to enhance employee skill sets and collaboration across different departments.

Among public sector respondents, few have implemented the processes needed to improve data sharing. Only about one-third (33 per cent) have invested in new technologies to analyze data, and 33 per cent have retrained employees to work with data. This skills shortage was cited by 61 per cent of respondents as being a barrier to meeting strategic change initiatives.

CLARIFICATION

Oman Arab Bank issues statement

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With reference to Oman Arab Bank's (the bank) disclosure of 20/01/2021 on the employment termination of Chief Financial Officer Daren Lee Warner, the bank has noticed that some news sources and social media platforms have made an association between that disclosure and the suspicion of forgery and embezzlement previously disclosed last December, the bank's Chief Executive Officer Rashad Al Musafir, said in a statement on Sunday.

In this regard, the bank would like to clarify that it did not disclose any information about any such connection between the two events, and further advises the public on the necessity of relying on official sources to obtain truthful news in order to avoid any news misinterpretation, the CEO added in the statement.

TECHNOLOGY

First magnetic survey to unlock Oman's mineral potential held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ESBAAR, an Omani provider of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Autonomous Systems has completed its first magnetic survey of Liwa, Shinas, Mahadah and Samail covering an area of over 1,000km linear distance using drones equipped with magnetometers.

The survey of this very challenging terrain will provide accurate details of possible mineral seams, map geological features and highlight areas of interest for further study in hope of identifying key strategic areas for mineral deposits.

Sara Al Mazyadi, a project manager at ESBAAR, said, "This technology is fairly new to the Omani market and by utilising ESBAAR's resources and experienced team of licensed drone pilots, we hope to demonstrate to mining companies how we can boost their exploration activities by adopting this new technology.

"Using AI and drone technologies is not only safer and more



ACCURATE DETAILS: The survey of this very challenging terrain will provide accurate details of possible mineral seams, map geological features and highlight areas of interest for further study in hope of identifying key strategic areas for mineral deposits. - Supplied picture

cost-effective in hard-to-reach areas but is faster compared to traditional methods." She went on to explain, "We have been assisting clients to accelerate their business innovation, driving efficiency to solve challenges and work smarter for the benefit of the entire country

and its people."

A home-grown company established in 2017 by Omani entrepreneurs, ESBAAR has been supporting government and private entities in the oil and gas, mining, logistics, utilities, construction and security industries.

APPOINTMENT

Awassr appoints chairman, a member of Board of Directors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing the company's vision to upgrade digital communication services in Oman and to continue its march as the first provider of specialised high-speed Internet services over broadband in Oman, Awassr welcomes Dr Hamad bin Salem Al Rawahi as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Ahmed bin Ali Al Balushi as a member of the Board of Directors.

Dr Hamad Al-Rawahi has an extensive experience of more than 30 years and in various sectors during which he held many leadership positions, the last of which was the position of CEO of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, as he had a great impact on the growth and development of the telecommunications sector in the Sultanate and was the main contributor in many strategic tasks, whether at the local or international level.

Ahmed bin Ali Al Balushi has also



been appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of Awassr Company due to his experiences in various sectors, as he currently holds several positions, most notably the position of CEO of Mwasalet Company, which is the leading company in the field of public transport in the Sultanate of Oman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Maritime College and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bus Manufacturing Project in the Duqm Special Economic Zone "Karwa Motors".

Since 2015, Awassr has been lead-



ing the transformation of the digital experience landscapes in Oman, as it has made a quantum leap in the speeds and high-quality services provided, focusing on being caring, smart, simple and agile. As it has introduced in the Sultanate, high-speed speeds of up to 1,000 Mbps for residential facilities and 10,000 Mbps for the government and business sectors, using the best technologies in the world, with this the company has acquired a major share of customers who live within the scope of the high-speed broadband network in the Sultanate.

MSM index ends lower

Services index was up by 0.03 per cent before closing at 1,627.992 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
10,547,034	926,696.....	474.....	20,387,595,106.....	6	14.....	21	41

OM0000004768	MADINA TAKFUL	185,110	157,804	63	0.083	0.087	0.083	0.085	0.083	0.002	2,410	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAT KAPU	26,216	1,331	2	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.001	2,041	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	33,734,372
OM0000003521	GULFAR COMPANY	4,908,182	283,826	135	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.001	1,823	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.100	15,368,974
OM0000001301	GHAFER CHATTLE	27	26	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	7,842,450
OM0000000910	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,455	959	1	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.057	0.100	27,300,000
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	4,433	656	4	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.147	0.148	0.100	24,040,601
OM00000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	4,684	4,289	2	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	10,750,000
OM00000001567	OMAN PACKAGING	89	27	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.032	0.034	0.100	18,844,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	323	94	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.292	0.292	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	86,464,395
OM00000002200	AHL BANK	8,000	968	5	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.121	0.121	0.125	0.125	0.100	10,869,553
OM00000002200	WAT DIRECT	28	19	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	10,869,553	
OM00000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,050	44	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.100	9,945,450
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	31,652	3,039	10	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	144,000,000
OM00000004420	PHOENIX POWER	39,600	2,094	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.100	144,000,000	
OM00000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	22,750	8190	4	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.100	36,000,000
OM00000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	10,700	3,786	3	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.000	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.100	36,000,000
OM00000007043	ARABIA PALCO ONS	1,140	128	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	36,000,000	
OM00000007811	MUSANDAM MARINE	14,992	4,588	1	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.000	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.100	21,538,340
OM00000005000	AL MADA MARKTING	10,000	6,480	1	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.652	0.004	0.615	0.648	0.648	0.652	0.100	44,712,000
OM00000005000	MAD COLLEGE	8,000	1,184	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.000	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.648	0.100	44,712,000
OM00000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	7,680	6,523	7	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.092	0.093	0.001	1,075	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.100	9,200,000
OM00000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	70,550	559	3	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.001	1,136	0.085	0.085	0.088	0.100	17,027,213
OM00000006979	AL SUWADI POWER	6,554	91,06	1	0.093	0.093	0.0									

Bahrain-GCC trade hits \$5.7bn in 2020

ing the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to \$1.41 billion (BHD532 million) for the same quarter of the previous year. Meanwhile, the country's trade balance – the difference between exports and imports – improved by 18 per cent in Q4, recording a deficit of \$1.16 billion (BHD435 million) compared to \$1.41 billion (BHD530 million) in the same quarter of the previous year.

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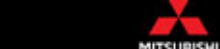
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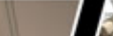
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Contact: 92999419
d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

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

Contact whatsapp: 99477009
Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

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

CONTACT: 92821932

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION/CEO OFFICE/OPS/HR /CORPORATE COMMUNICATION/ADMIN/MKTG

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

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman [Currently available in Oman]. Experience in Engineering / Construction, Manufacturing, Trading Concern & Structural Steel Projects. Materials Management with administrative skills. Looking for suitable placement and ready to join immediately with D/L & NOC.

Contact: 78235621/bsda@gmail.com

Senior Software Test Engineer

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

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

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

Mob: 95073054
Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

Finance Manager / CFO

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

Contact: 99884291 / 99741875
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

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

Contact 95972625

MicroMasters in Supply Chain Management, B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering 3 years industry experience as a Sales Engineer, Valid Oman DL.

Contact: 99137115
Email: adimurali7@gmail.com

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

Contact 94634053

Finance/Accounts Manager

Indian male (MBA Fin) with 20 yrs working exp as Accounts & Finance Manager (Strategic planning, Procurement, Finance, Accounting, HR Admin, Audit, Tax, VAT) seeking suitable post. Valid Oman DL. NOC available.

Contact No.99705790
email: thoms_mat@yahoo.com

Graduate Civil Engineer

From India with over 11 years Project Management Experience with Consultant and Client in Oman with local release & driving license seeks suitable opportunities.

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

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JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Indian 28/Male Diploma Electrical Engineer, 4.5 yrs. Exp. (2 yrs. (Exp.) in Dubai) as an Electrician. Seek job Contact no 79572738.

Indian Female Structural/Civil Engineer having 25 years of experience including 18 Years Gulf Experience, on employment visa is seeking for suitable placement. Ready to join Im-

BE Civil engineer having 13 years oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact no: 72132426

Landscaping and Irrigation Engineer with 9+ yrs total exp, 6 yrs in oman, looking for suitable job. Contact no. 72100025

Omani is looking for job. UK graduate since 1991. B.Engg+MBA, experience PDO, Diwan, AbuDhabi, group of companies as GM. Contact/Whatsapp 94174443

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

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

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

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

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

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

mediately with necessary documents. Contact: 92731684/79858363

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

MBA, B.Sc and CA (Intermediate) with 18 years of experience (12th year in Oman) in Retail, FMCG, Leasing and Property management sectors. Immediate joining. DL. NOC is available.

M: 9641 6394 / Mail: scms.acc133@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

IT

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

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

LOGISTIC

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

MEDICAL

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing, painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837, 98937266

Driver plumber Electrician, looking for job. Contact 96750080

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Civil Surveyor, 10 yrs experienced land surveyor. Experience in building, pipeline, Oil & Gas. Contact 99451321

MANAGER

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

Planning Manager (B.Tech-Civil)17+ yrs Exp (Oman-8 yrs) Planning ,QS , Budgeting , Costing, Tendering, Claims, ERP. NOC Immediate join. Contact : +96891170802. Email: roven.aravind@yahoo.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Sri Lanka male in Oman seeking a job as procurement, store manager & operation. Degree SCM -ERP, with NOC, Tele 98878815

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

Indian male 12 years experience in purchase store management and Inventory looking for suitable job with NOC, Oman DL Gsm 97099785. Email rajakmani66@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ROUND-UP

Z-Corp organises Microsoft Office 365 online training session for employees



The online training session focused on main Microsoft office 365 applications Office 365 - desktop, web and mobile, collaborating, saving, and sharing files using OneDrive for business

MUSCAT: With a vision to upskill and improve employee's knowledge and productivity by applying best practices, The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp) in collaboration with Microsoft-Oman has organised a Microsoft Office 365 online training session for its employees. The main objective of the session was to impart a good working knowledge of some of the key Office 365 components.

Microsoft teams
The Microsoft Office 365 online training session focused on main Microsoft office 365 applications Office 365 - desktop, web and mobile, collaborating, saving, and sharing files using One Drive for business. It also centred on core features of Microsoft Teams and demonstrated how participants can collaborate with their colleagues.
Around 65 employees participated in the hands-on session and experienced many features that Office 365 offers.

Around 65 employees participated in the hands-on session and experienced many features that Office 365 offers.

The purpose of the online training was also to allow access to files anywhere in the organisation, enable easy collaboration and reduce capital spend and enhance email capabilities and teach about advanced security features.
Waleed Al Yarubi, Head of HR at the Al Zubair Group said, "Our employees learnt how to create and manage a digital workplace using the features available in

Office 365. This was a highly informative session and was designed to give users a taste of what they can do within Office 365. We believe the training helped our colleagues learn, practice, and do better work."
Abed Hajjiri, the Modern Workplace Solution Specialist Microsoft said, "We were able to guide the Z-Corp employees through successful training and show how to work through Office 365. They learnt how to collaborate using shared files as well as how to use collaboration tools."
Farah Al Zidjalian employee said, "We were able to sharpen our skills with instructor-led training solutions. This training was ideal for a digital-first world. We are delighted to participate in the training provided by experienced IT professionals and have access to skilled resources."
Job training
In today's ever-changing marketplace, the importance of job training has never been greater. Z-Corp believes that workforce training is an indispensable way to keep organisations competitive. Deeming that training presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge base of all employees. The organisation deems it is fruitful for both employers and employees.
Over the past many years, Z-Cop has invested heavily in employee training and development. Employee training has become a vital business strategy for the company to retain employees and to create a skilled workforce for the future.

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Bank Muscat offers high-value prizes for its Premier Banking customers

The bank's Asalah and Al Jawhar customers will be particularly pleased to know that a large number of high-value prizes worth over OMR5.6 million have been exclusively reserved for them in this year's scheme



With a record 7,470 prizes totaling over OMR11 million to be given away during the year, the country's biggest savings scheme was launched at a special event held at the bank's head office at Airport Heights recently.

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, in line with its vision "To serve you better, everyday" and commitment to partnership in promoting a strong savings culture in Oman has encouraged all its Premier Banking customers to save more and take full advantage of the attractive prizes reserved for them in the Al Mazyona 2021 savings scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, Bank Muscat, said: "The bank is pleased to launch the 2021 Al Mazyona scheme with a large number of high-value prizes reserved for its Premier Banking customers. We have been continuously innovating over the past three decades on the basis of feedback from our customers. We are also keenly supporting the nation and the bank has been keenly developing the Al Mazyona programme over

the years given the positive impact among members of society as well as its support for the economy."

Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, added that the number of prizes has gone up this year including exclusive prizes for Premier Banking customers. Asalah and Al Jawhar customers have many opportunities to win high-value prizes throughout the year through regular monthly prize draws as well as mid-year and end of the year draws. He said that the bank is also continuing to develop the services and benefits offered to our Premier Banking customers.

The bank's Asalah and Al Jawhar customers will be particularly pleased to know that a large number of high-value prizes worth over OMR5.6 million have been exclusively reserved for them in this year's scheme. Customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR30,000 in their Al Mazyona accounts will be automatically entered into the prize draw for two mega prizes of OMR250,000 each in the special Mid-year draw as well as the End of the Year drawing. High savings Asalah Priority Banking customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR30,000 are eligible for 10 monthly prizes of OMR25,000 each, 10 mid-year and 10 end of year prizes of OMR50,000.

'TOYOTA FOR SURE'

Exclusive benefits on Toyota ending soon

MUSCAT: Toyota enthusiasts have a real good opportunity to make the most of. With the ongoing Toyota For Sure exclusive benefits across the Toyota range. Owning a Toyota has never been this easy. From hatchback to sedans, SUVs and more, Toyota's expansive range of vehicles always has something for every kind of customer. So head to the nearest Toyota showroom to avail the exclusive benefits before it ends on January 31, 2021.

Customers looking to own a Toyota vehicle can benefit with a cash gift from OMR500 up to



OMR5400, Interest 0 per cent up to 2 years or 1.99 per cent up to 4 years or 2.99 per cent up to 5 years, Service from 2 years / 20,000km up to 5 years / 50,000km (whichever is earlier) and one-year comprehensive

insurance. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details, please).

NEW BRANCH

BankDhofar Salalah Industrial branch offers best customer experience

MUSCAT: With the aim of providing top-of-the-line experience to its customers, BankDhofar has opened its revamped Salalah Industrial branch. The new branch translates BankDhofar's vision to provide unparalleled customer experience through its various channels.

On the launch of the new branch, Talib Mohammed Al Hajri, Acting AGM & Head of Distribution Network, at BankDhofar noted, "At BankDhofar, customers' satisfaction is our priority, thus, we exert our efforts to enrich their banking experience through various touchpoints. Our new branches, which are customer-centric, guarantee the best experience for our customers from the moment they step into the branch. We are glad to launch the new Salalah Industrial branch, which will provide a convenient banking experience for our customers in that area."

Salalah Industrial branch was designed using world-class layouts and customer experience principles and combining the two with traditional Omani culture of hospitality. Placing customer ex-



perience as the bedrock of the design, the branch affords customer with privacy, hospitality and a personalised experience from the moment they step in into the branch, while being served and when they leave.

The new branch is the latest addition to the expanding net-

work of BankDhofar branches in Governorate of Dhofar, including; Salalah branch, Saada branch, Taqa branch, Mirbat branch, Salalah Gardens Mall branch, Salalah commercial District branch, Salalah-Al Gharbiah branch, Raysut branch and Dhofar University Booth.

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ELECTRICITY TARIFF

Mazoon Electricity organises workshop

MUSCAT: To disseminate information on the newly announced electricity tariff, Mazoon Electricity Company, the leading electricity provider in Oman is organising workshops in various governorates of Oman.

The workshops are part of a wide awareness programme planned to educate about the new tariffs using different channels and targeting different stakeholders. The first of the workshops was held on January 24 at the Omani Women's Association in Suwaiq. The second workshop will be held on January 27 at Nizwa Sports Club in Nizwa.

Four main workshops to be held in the four governorates affiliated with the company's services will be attended by governors and members of the Municipal Council. These workshops will closely identify the objectives and details of the initiative to reform subsidies in the electricity sector.

The objective of the workshops is to spread awareness, educate customers and provide important and accurate information about the reformed electricity tariff. A new tariff for electricity consumption will be gradually applied to all consumer groups from January 1, 2021.

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