LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

HM GREETS PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Kassym Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan on his country's Independence Day Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Kassym. His Majesty also wished the people of Kazakhstan further progress and development. - ONA

HIS MAJESTY GREETS KING OF BAHRAIN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the 50th National Day of Bahrain. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and long life for King Hamad, praying to the Almighty Allah for a blissful comeback of this occasion when the Bahraini monarch and people have achieved further progress and prosperity. - ONA

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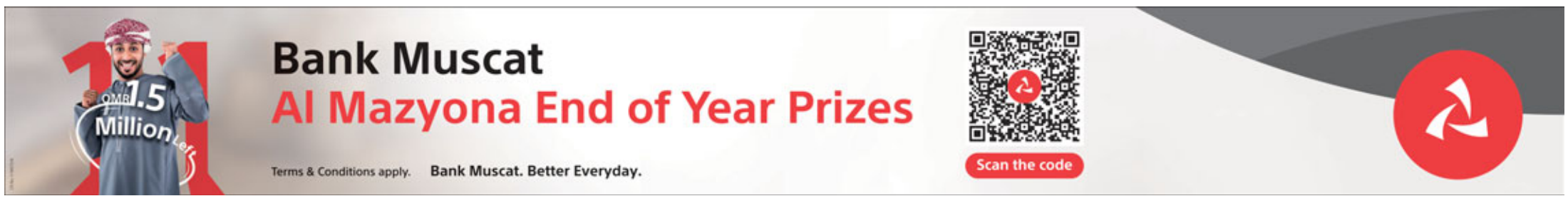

COVID-19

Supreme Committee bans social ceremonies in mosques, public places

MUSCAT: The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has issued a decision prohibiting the organisation of the wedding and funeral ceremonies in mosques, halls and other public places.

The decision was taken in pursuance of the Supreme Committee's ongoing convening aimed at getting updates on coronavirus, protection from the disease and ways to curb its spread.

The Supreme Committee also studied reports related to the epidemiological situation of the Covid-19 virus locally and internationally, particularly within the context of propagation of the new mutant variant "Omicron".

The decision, the Supreme Committee said in its latest statement, was prompted by the non-abidance of some individuals in society to the previous decisions endorsed by the authorities concerned on organising social ceremonies and the pertinent conditions to be observed, including having two-dose vaccination, wearing face masks, maintaining physical distance and operating within limited capacity (50%).

Today's decision on prohibition of social ceremonies at mosques, halls and other public places will be in place until further notice, the Supreme Committee affirmed. -ONA

HIS MAJESTY MEETS QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The meeting comes within the context of HM's current private visit to the UK

LONDON: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik met at Windsor Castle in Berkshire county yesterday with Queen Elizabeth II of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth.

The meeting comes within the context of His Majesty's current private visit to the United Kingdom (UK).

His Majesty the Sultan and Queen Elizabeth II exchanged cordial conversations and reviewed the historic relations between Oman and the UK. They also touched on cooperation between the two sides in various spheres that serve interests of the Omani and British peoples.

The meeting was attended by Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman. -ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

National Museum inaugurates expo

1 The National Museum inaugurated Splendours of Islam Gallery "Gardens of Paradise: The Language of Flowers in Iznic Ceramics" exhibition in cooperation with the Louvre Abu Dhabi. >A2

WORLD

'Another Christmas in pandemic mode'

2 Amid the sudden increase in COVID-19 cases due to the emergence of the Omicron variant, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said that the 27-nation bloc is facing another Christmas in pandemic mode. >A6

MARKET

Sohar International services to Akeed

3 As part of its efforts to support local start-ups Sohar International has acted as financial adviser to on-demand delivery service major, Akeed, on raising its equity capital from investors. >B1

INTERVIEW

Ukraine and Oman to boost trade, tourism and investment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Senik visited the Sultanate of Oman recently and was impressed by the warm hospitality extended to him and to other members of the Ukrainian delegation during the visit.

"I am impressed with the natural beauty of Oman from the very beginning of my stay here and I look forward to exploring Muscat and other places in Oman," he said. Senik made several observations regarding the political sphere, trade and economic field, and tourism. Here is the full interview of Ukraine's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Political sphere

"Ukraine considers the Sultanate of Oman as one of the major players in the Middle East. We attach great importance to the development of bilateral relations, fruitful people-to-people ties, and cooperation within international organisations.

"The Ukrainian side follows the developments in the Gulf and the entire Middle East region. In this context, Oman's contribution to strengthening peace and stability in the region, as well as its proactive role as a mediator deserve the highest praise.

"Both Ukraine and Oman share the same values. We have the same goals of promoting bilateral ties, boosting B2B, and people-to-people contacts. I remain personally committed to the further expansion of cooperation between our two states in all spheres of common interest. We should continue our efforts aimed at developing contacts between our nations, in particular through visits of high-ranking government representatives.

"During my visit, I had the honour to meet with high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman. I very much enjoyed the meeting with Undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman for Diplomatic Affairs Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Issa Al-Harthy. We discussed various aspects of our bilateral relations, outlined priorities for further development of our political agenda, trade, and investment cooperation, as well as collaboration within international organisations.

DMYTRO SENIK: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Trade and economic sphere

"Ukraine regards the Sultanate of Oman as a promising trading partner in the Gulf region. We are keen to develop economic cooperation with Oman. Despite the negative economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, our bilateral trade turnover increased by 21%. It is a positive trend but our real potential is yet to be explored. An indicator of the immense potential our countries have in trade is that over the last ten months our bilateral trade turnover has grown by 78 per cent compared to the last year.

"That is why we do our best to promote business-to-business contacts. We have good cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Oman. Over the last three years, we had a number of fruitful business events held in Muscat in 2018 and Kyiv in 2019 with participants from both Ukraine and Oman chambers of commerce and industry from Ash-Sharqiyah North and Al-Buraimi governorates.

"During the visit, I held a number of meetings focused on trade and investment cooperation. I had the honour to meet with Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources of the Sultanate of Oman Mr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones of the Sultanate of Oman Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy and his Deputy Ahmed Hassan Al Dib and Acting Deputy of Oman Investment Authority Mulham Al Jail. We discussed how practically our governments can help facilitate trade and investment cooperation in the areas of agriculture, energy, tourism, innovative and information technologies and infrastructure. Taking into account Ukraine's role as a global contributor to food security with huge agriculture potential, in addition to the recently implemented land market reform, I think our business communities should deepen cooperation in this area to ensure uninterrupted supplies of food and agriculture products. It is also worth mentioning that President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy has initiated significant changes to the Ukrainian legislation aimed at attracting foreign investors. Earlier this year, the government adopted a special incentives package for foreign investors, offering fiscal and duty incentives for those who want to invest in Ukraine to ensure a friendly and comfortable business environment." >A2

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:07pm
Asr	3:08pm
Maghrib	5:28pm
Isha	6:44pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5:22am

IZNIK CERAMICS

National Museum inaugurates exhibition

MUSCAT: The National Museum inaugurated at the Splendours of Islam Gallery on Wednesday, 15 December 2021, "Gardens of Paradise: The Language of Flowers in Iznic Ceramics" exhibition in cooperation with the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

The inauguration was under the patronage of Her Highness Dr. Mona bint Fahd Al-Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University for International Cooperation and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum. Manuel Rabaté, Director of the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum, attended the inauguration ceremony and a number of specialists from the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum.

In addition, a number of their Highnesses and Excellences in Oman, ambassadors of the Arab Gulf countries and people interested in cultural and museum affairs, also attended the function in joint cooperation between the National Museum and the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum.

The exhibition aims to shed light on the art of Iznik ceramics decorated with flowers and the special symbols it embodies related to evoking Qur'anic descriptions that recall the gardens of Paradise. The exhibition will continue for a whole year (from December 15, 2021 until December 1, 2022).

The exhibition is abounding with selected collections of Iznik Ceramic decorated with flowers that were naturally depicted on artworks, as Ottoman art in general and ceramic arts in particular passed a turning point in the 16th century. The skilled craftsmen and potters enriched their visual repertoire to include artistic representation For the harmonious flowers of roses, birch, carnations, and tulips, this pattern of the "four flowers" departs from the previous geometric patterns, and focuses on depicting the types of flowers that were growing at that time in the gardens of Istanbul.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

HM conferred with Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order

LONDON: As a Royal felicitation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and, in recognition of the historical ties binding the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth, has conferred the honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George on His Majesty the Sultan.

This conferment ceremony took place on Wednesday during His Majesty the Sultan's meeting with the British monarch atWindsor Castle, Berkshire county,within the context of His Majesty's current private visit to the United Kingdom. -ONA

HM the Sultan meets Prince Charles of Wales

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik met at Clarence House in London with Prince Charles of Wales.

The meeting discussed aspects of the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various areas in light of the advanced relations binding the two countries and their peoples.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Hinai, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the UK and Bill Murray, UK Ambassador to Oman. -ONA

ITEC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Minister lauds Oman's historic ties with India

Times News Service

MUSCAT: About 100 officials and professionals from diverse sectors participated in the 'Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation' event organised by the Embassy of India, Muscat, on December 14.

Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, Sultanate of Oman was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

The function was organised in the Embassy premises and ITEC alumni from Oman, who have participated in various training courses in India under ITEC Programme during previous years were among the officials and professionals who attended.

The function was also attended by many other officials from various Omani authorities/agencies, looking after training aspects of their employees.

In his address, Dr. Al Saidi lauded close relations between India and Oman.

He mentioned that participation of a large number of Omani nationals in various ITEC courses in India over the years had further strengthened the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, noted that over the years, ITEC Programme has received a good response in the Sultanate and hundreds of Omani Officials have taken part in ITEC courses.

The Ambassador conveyed his appreciation to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries and Organisations in Oman for their support in implementation of the ITEC Programme in Oman.

The Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was launched in September 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India for capacity building of friendly developing countries.

It has emerged as a key vehicle for India's contribution to Human Resource Development of partner countries. Under ITEC Programme, officials from more than 160 countries from Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to benefit from India's developmental experience.

The ITEC Programme offers over 14,000 courses annually covering diverse range of subjects from traditional areas like agriculture, SMEs, management, English language to IT, Science & Technology, biotechnology, etc. The skills which are being provided under ITEC Programme facilitate human resource development, capacity building, skill upgradation and empowerment.

The ambassador stressed that the Government of India is a strong partner in Oman's journey to achieve objectives of 'Oman Vision 2040' for which Government of India's ITEC programme can be a key facilitator.

Specialised training, human resource development and skill upgradation is an integral part of this journey for which ITEC is an ideal platform.

INTERVIEW

< FROM A1

Ukrainian firms seeking partners

"We have a big number of Ukrainian companies interested in establishing links with Omani partners, and I am grateful to the Omani partners for the high level of organisation of the business forum, where the delegation of leading Ukrainian companies had an opportunity to discuss prospects for cooperation with their Omani counterparts."

Hani Juma'an Ashoor Al Rajab, honorary consul of Ukraine to Oman

Sphere of Tourism

"Ukraine is interested in active cooperation in the sphere of tourism with the Sultanate of Oman. I believe that it is one of the prospective areas for our countries, which will contribute to further strengthening of our bilateral relations.

"As Ukraine abolished visas for citizens of Oman and other Gulf countries, this summer we witnessed a huge increase in tourists from the region, who enjoyed the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains, our historic and ancient cultural sites, and of course famous Ukrainian food. Taking this opportunity, I would like to invite everyone to visit Ukraine during the winter season to have a chance to look at our country from a completely different perspective."

The existing friendly and warm relations between Ukraine and Oman are an excellent foundation for further promotion of trade, investment, and tourism cooperation, encouraging cultural exchanges and strengthening people-to-people contacts. It is very encouraging that both sides have a common desire to deepen our bilateral relations, to expand the range of our interaction.

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ICONIC EVENT

Over 6,500 registrations for Al Mouj Muscat Marathon's 2022 edition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is set to return on 11-12 February 2022 at Oman's premier lifestyle destination, Al Mouj Muscat, and since registrations opened at the end of September, over 6,500 runners have already booked their place.

The positive response is a clear indication that excitement levels are incredibly high.

There are five different categories to choose from this year, ranging from full and half marathons of 42.5km and 21.1km respectively, to 5km and 10km runs and a kids' run of 1km, 2km and 3km.

Each course has been designed with different fitness and experience levels in mind.

The 2022 edition of Oman's most popular sporting event is supported by brand ambassadors Ali Al Habsi, legendary Omani goalkeeper and renowned television host, Ibtihal Al Zadjali. Both of whom will be taking part in the race themselves and encouraging runners from across Oman and the GCC region to join them.

"People across the country have recognised the important role that leading a healthy and active lifestyle can have on their wellbeing. Registering for the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon can support body and mind by setting goals, committing to a routine, and rising to the challenge," says Sayyid Aymen Al Busaidi, Vice Chairman of Sabco Group, organiers of the upcoming edition of the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon.

"The return of this iconic event offers an opportunity to join thousands of others from around the world and reconnect with a passionate community of athletes, friends, and colleagues through sport."

Registration is currently open with attractive pricing options available. There are also opportunities for volunteers to help on-site during the two-day event. For more information and to register, please visit www.muscatmarathon.om.

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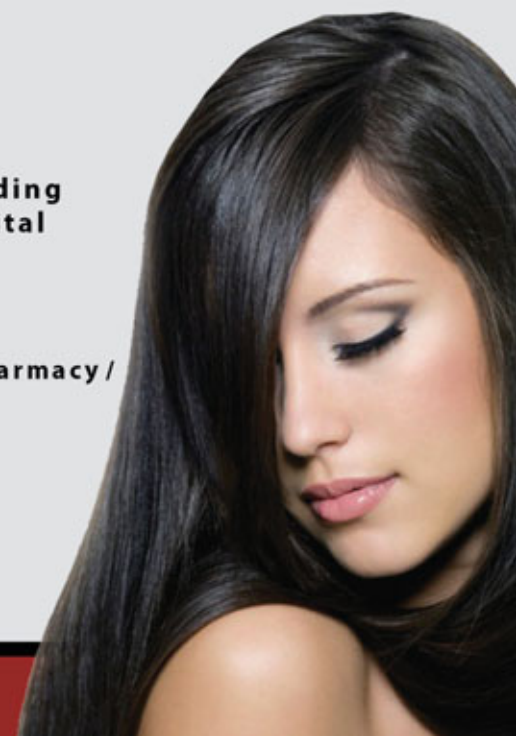

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Public Auction Announcement

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), in partnership with Worley Oman, is pleased to announce the sale of the following written-off materials on "As Is Where Is Basis" through online bidding as detailed below:

Auction Ref.	Description	Location	Viewing Date	Last Date for Document Submission	Online Bidding Date	Cheque Guarantee Amount
A2/2021/S10K	Assorted Scrap / line pipes / tubing / casing, Tanks, Vessels etc. (Quantity: 10,000 Tons)	Marmul	26-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 50,000/-** (Fifty Thousand Omani Rials) ** Bidder must provide a guarantee cheque in the amount of OMR 50,000 for each lot awarded.*
A2/2021/N10K	Assorted Scrap / line pipes / tubing / casing, Tanks, Vessels etc. (Quantity: 10,000 Tons)	Fahud	27-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	
		Yibal Khuff	28-12-2021			
A2/2021/DB**	Used Drilling bits	Nimr	26-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 10,000/-** (Ten Thousand Omani Rials)
		Fahud	27-12-2021			
		Mina Al Fahal-Muscat	29-12-2021			
A2/2021/HDPE	Used HDPE & LLRTP pipes (Quantity: 1200 Tons)	Marmul/ Nimr	26-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 10,000/-** (Ten Thousand Omani Rials)
		Qam Alam	27-12-2021			
		Yibal Khuff / Lekhwair	28-12-2021			
A2/2021/WO1**	Assorted of surplus / written- off materials	Nimr/Marmul	26-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 10,000/-** (Ten Thousand Omani Rials)
		Fahud	27-12-2021			
		Qam Alam	27-12-2021			
		Muscat (Mina Al Fahal)	29-12-2021			
A2/2021/TP**	Turbine spares parts	Muscat (Mina Al Fahal)	29-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 10,000/-** (Ten Thousand Omani Rials)
A2/2021/AG	Used Agriculture equipment and backhoe (JCB)	Marmul	26-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 5,000/-** (Five Thousand Omani Rials) **Bidder must provide a guarantee cheque in the amount of OMR 5,000 for each lot awarded.*
A2/2021/FS	Used / Scrapped Fire Tenders & Slick line	Muscat (Mina Al Fahal)	29-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	
A2/2021/IT	Used IT Equipment	Muscat (Mina Al Fahal)	29-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 5,000/-** (Five Thousand Omani Rials)
A2/2021/IFM	Used Nissan pick-up	Muscat (Ghala)	29-12-2021	04-01-2022 3:00 pm	10-01-2022	**OMR 5,000/-** (Five Thousand Omani Rials)

- This auction is open to all registered companies under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Investment Promotion with activities of buying /selling scrap or Omani smelter factories or activities covered under the scope of sale items. ** International buyers (Outside Oman) are allowed only to participate in the auctions marked with **.Those are Used Drilling bits, assorted surplus stock written- off materials and turbine spare parts.
- Bid documents, photos and details of LOTs offered for sale can be accessed via the following link: https://supplychain.requis.com/share/oman_pdo_assets
- The Value Added Tax (VAT) of 5% of the value of the bid amount must be paid by the buyer.
- All interested companies/parties must confirm their participation for the material viewing with e-mail confirmation to the "Auction Focal Point" by attaching copies of valid ID cards on or before **21st Dec 2021 (03:00pm). Prior registration for the visit is mandatory to enable the "Auction Focal Point" to organize entry permits for the visitors**.
- The "Auction Focal Point" shall communicate the visit schedule / meeting points and other logistic details via e-mail and/or phone conversations to all registered bidders.
- This auction is in line with PDO HSE Policy detailed in SP2000 and SP2001 (Policy can be viewed online through the following link: http://www.pdo.co.om/hseforcontractors/ username: pdohse01 and password: contractor01). **All HSE rules on safe handling and transportation of materials from PDO sites will be applied. Please ensure that you are familiar with the PDO HSE requirements before participating in this auction.**

The measures put in place by the Supreme Committee dealing with the spread of COVID-19 must be strictly adhered to. These include, but are not limited to the following:

I. Only two personnel from each company are allowed to attend the material viewing event as per the above schedule. Unregistered visitors will not be permitted in the material viewing and will be reported to the authorities.
II. Bidders joining the visit shall carry the evidence of vaccination certificate for 2 doses.
III. Bidders shall maintain (minimum of 1.5 metre) physical distance while adhering to COVID-19 precautionary measures including wearing mask and practicing good hand hygiene.
IV. Participants showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will not be permitted entry.

For any clarification about this auction, please contact the Auction focal point (**Tel: +968-92771252** or via **e-mail: Auctions.Focal@worley.com**).

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Artificial Coral Reef Park Project launched in Duqm

The project will bring a unique diving experience for divers and diving enthusiasts as the location is an extension of the rocks scattered around Hamar Rock

CORAL REEF: The project aims to create an attractive habitat for fish and providing an unparalleled diving experience for tourists, citizens and residents in Duqm. - ONA

DUQM: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) announced the launch of the Artificial Coral Reefs Park project in the Zone, which aims to creating an attractive habitat for fish and providing an unparalleled diving experience for tourists, citizens and residents in Duqm.

Commenting on this project, Nasser bin Mohammed Al Rahbi, from the Partnership and Development Department at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, said: "This week, we deployed a 250-metre-long pipe with artificial concrete blocks every other 10 metres near Hamar Rock in the sea of Duqm. Another similar pipe will be deployed as well in the coming days.

"This project is managed by a group of SEZAD employees in cooperation with a number of government bodies and other companies operating in the Zone. The project aims to sustain the marine environment in the Zone, enhance its biodiversity, increase fish production and create habitats for marine creatures, including corals and other species. Moreover, the project serves to activate the diving activities in Duqm", Al Rahbi explained.

On the other hand, Mohammed bin Hamad Al Mahrouqi, from the Environmental Regulatory Department in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, confirmed that no marine life was observed during the diving process that preceded the sinking of the pipe.

"The concrete blocks and pipe would create a rich environment to attract new marine life. Further, it will bring a unique diving experience for divers and diving enthusiasts as the location is an extension of the rocks scattered around Hamar Rock.

Port of Duqm

In his statement, Al Mahrouqi commended the role played by Cobra Tadjo Contracting Company to make this project a success through the contribution and support accorded by Port of Duqm Company by providing a tugboat to transport the pipes to the location, free of charge.

Al Mahrouqi urged fishermen to avoid using nets while fishing near Hamar Island to avoid causing any potential impact on the newly-created fishing and diving locations. -ONA

OCCI

Plan to add insurance, risk management syllabi to banking college curricula

MUSCAT: The Finance and Insurance Committee at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held a meeting during which it discussed updates on keeping a representative of the OCCI at the board of the College of Banking and Financial Studies, as well as adding insurance and risk management syllabi to the college's curricula.

Meeting

The meeting, held at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's premises here, was chaired by Murtadha Mohammed Al Jamalani, head of the committee, and attended by representatives of banks, insurance and fiancé companies and government establishments concerned.

The meeting also discussed "A Borrowers' Unified Life Insurance Policy" drafted by the Central Bank of Oman and the Capital Market Authority, among other issues. -ONA

SQU

SQU holds graduation of second group of 32nd batch

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr. Mahad Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour patronised on Wednesday over the graduation ceremony of the second group of Sultan Qaboos University's (SQU) 32nd batch.

The total number of graduates in this ceremony stood at 1,346 from the College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, the College of Nursing, the College of Science, the College of Economics and Political Science, and the College of Law. -ONA

HIPPOCRATIC OATH

Medicine, nursing colleges graduates of SQU take oath

MUSCAT: As many as 107 graduates of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) took the Hippocratic Oath at a passing out ceremony held here yesterday. The graduates, 40 males and 67 females, comprised the 29th batch of the Medical Department.

The ceremony also saw the graduation of 110 nurses (19 males, 91 females), who took the Nightingale Pledge as part of the 15th batch of the SQU's College of Nursing.

Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Sa'eedi was the chief guest at the ceremony. -ONA

FORUM

Higher education announces winners of 8th National Research Award

MUSCAT: The 8th edition of the Annual Research Forum organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation took place yesterday at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy in the presence of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

During the event, winners of the 8th National Research Award and the 5th Upgrade programme were announced.

The forum began with a welcoming speech by Dr. Al Mahrooqi, who stressed the importance of the National Research Award which comes in alignment with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 as it seeks to raise the quality of research and knowledge output at the national level.

Then, 13 winning research projects out of the 243 projects submitted this year for the National Research Award (NRA) were announced.

The winner projects divided in the best published research led by a PhD holder or equivalent (senior specialist or higher in the medical field) category and the best published research led by a young researcher (non-PhD holder) category.

Under the PhD category, (A Centralised Cloud Services Repository (CCSR) Framework for Optimal Cloud Service Advertisement Discovery from Heterogenous Web Portals) by Dr. Asma Al Kalbani from the University of Technology and Applied Sciences Ibri won in the information and communication technologies sector. In the energy and industry sector, the award went to (exploring the potential of solar, tidal, and wind energy resources in Oman using an integrated climatic-socioeconomic approach) by Dr. Mohamed Hereher from the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). Two teams won in the Cultural, Social and Basic Sciences sector; (management strategies for supply risk dependencies: empirical evidence from the gulf region) by Dr. Zainab Al Balushi from the SQU) and (mapping road traffic crash hotspots using GIS-based methods: A case study of the Governorate of Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman) by Dr. Amira Al Aamri. Lastly, in the environmental and biological resources sector, the award went to (investigating the efficiency of greenhouse production in Oman): A two-stage approach based on data envelopment analysis and double bootstrapping by Dr. Nawal Al Mezeini. Under the Young Researcher's category, 'Detection and Trust Evaluation of the SGN Malicious node' by Faisal Al Yahmadi from Military Technological College took the award in the Information and Communication Technologies sector.

For the education and human resources sector, the award went to (The Situation of Entrepreneurship Education and Future Technology in Omani Schools) by Yasir Al Shuhumi from the Ministry of Education. (A novel and selective multi-emission chemiluminescence system for the quantification of deltamethrin in food samples) by Iman Al Yahyai from the SQU took the award in the cultural, social and basic sciences sector, while (Operational modifications of a full-scale experimental vertical flow constructed wetland with effluent recirculation to optimize total nitrogen removal) by Buthaina Al Wahaibi. (Oman Wastewater Services Company SAOC) was awarded in the environmental and biological resources sector.

In addition to announcing the winners of the NRA, the forum also announced the three winning teams of the 5th edition of Upgrade program, which transforms the best graduation projects in the 4th Industrial Revolution technologies into successful ICT startups to bring socio-economic benefit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Upgrade is a collaborative partnership between the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Omantel, Oman Technology Fund (OTF), Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sas Center of the Ministry of Technology and Communications and the Authority for SME Development.

The winning projects of this year's Upgrade program were awarded to (Industrial IoT for Operational Efficiency Improvement) by Ahmed Al Ghadani from the National University of Science and Technology, (Development of AI based Arabic Natural Language Processing of sentiment analysis application software for national security and planning) by Ali Al Harthi and Safiya Al Harthi from the Middle East College and (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Assessment of Solar PV Modules) by Al Qaisar Al Aamri, Majid Al Omairi and Sultan Al Shabibi, SQU.

Eng. Aladdin Baitfadhil, Vice President Consumer Business Unit at Omantel, said, "Entrepreneurship constitutes one of the most important areas of focus for government efforts aimed at creating job opportunities and self-employment for Omani youth." -ONA

OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Inauguration of Khazaen Dry Port to boost regional import chain

BARKA: Asyad Group on Wednesday marked the official opening of Khazaen Dry Port, one of Oman Investment Authority's logistic investments undertaken in partnership with the private sector, with the prime aim of promoting economic diversification and consolidating the Sultanate of Oman's status a global logistics hub.

Sheikh Issa Hamad Al Azri, Governor of South Al Batinah, was the chief guest at the ceremony, which was attended by Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Transport Undersecretary at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, and representatives of government departments and private sector firms.

Eng. Al Shamakhi said the start of operations at Khazaen Dry Port, besides revolutionizing the logistic schema, will provide additional incentives to the business sector—reflecting positively on raising Oman's Ease of Doing Business Index.

Echoing a similar view, Col. Said Khamis Al Gheithi, Director-General of Customs at the Royal Oman Police (ROP), said that the Directorate General of Customs provided Khazaen Dry Port with customs service personnel well-versed in Bayan System. This will help speed up the clearance of cargo, facilitate commercial and economic practice, augment the flow of goods and cut down time and efforts—a practical embodiment of the National Logistic Strategy 2040.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Abri, Chairman of Khazaen Dry Port's board of directors—who also serves as CEO of Asyad Group's ports and facilities—said that the 100-sqm dry port will constitute an ideal storage and re-export hub for the region and the world at large.

The dry port boasts a broad range of hi-tech facilities and operates at a capacity of 70,000 containers a year and provides a wide waiting area for general containers in queue for storage, loading and unloading operations, in addition to TEUs, refrigerated containers and handling equipment, said Al Abri.

He added that the board of directors has a clear-cut operations plan in place to raise Khazaen Dry Port's capacity from 100,000 sqm in the first phase to an additional 150,000 sqm as an expansion in the second phase through the five subsequent years to meet an expected increase in the volume of operations.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Khazaen Dry Port signed two agreements, one with Naqel Express of Saudi Arabia and the other with another firm specialized in land and sea logistics, to promote customs and re-export to local and GCC markets.

Khazaen is considered the largest government-private sector partnership in the Sultanate of Oman. It is situated at 30 minutes from Muscat International Airport and 2 hours from the Port of Sohar.

The facility, which is located in the Wilayat of Barka, comprises outlets for vegetables and fruit, as well as products and services of small and medium enterprises, in addition to multipurpose residential units. -ONA

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NCSI

More than 448,393 insured employees by the end of 2020

MUSCAT: The total insured Omani employees at the end of 2020 stood at 448,393, including 193,639 in the public sector and 254,754 in the private sector, according to the statistical overview of registered employees in pension funds 2021, issued by the National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The data indicated that the number of Omani males working in the public sector reached 111,007, while the number of females stood at 82,632. The number of Omani males working in the private sector reached 187,386, while the number of females stood at 67,368.

The total number of Omani retirees reached about 119,830, including 99,085 in the public sector and 20,745 in the private sector.

The number of Omani males who retired in the public sector reached about 82,560, while the number of females reached 16,525. The number of Omani males retired in the private sector reached 17,460 and the number of females is 3,285.

The age group 35-39 constituted the largest number of active insured persons with 104,064 citizens. The age group 30-34 years, stood at 97,924 citizens and the age group 40-44, stood at 76,297 citizens.

Regarding the active insured Omani employees who are working abroad and registered in the pension funds until 2020, the data showed that the number of citizens working in the United Arab Emirates reached about 4,505 citizens, followed by 1,118 citizens in Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with 370 citizens, the State of Kuwait with 216 citizens and 89 citizens in Bahrain. -ONA

MILITARY TIES

Top SAF official meets with Iranian Armed Forces Deputy Minister

TEHRAN: Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Manthari, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) for Operations and Planning, yesterday met with Brigadier-General Seyyed Mahdi Farahi, Deputy of Iran's Ministry of Defence for Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL).

The meeting came within the framework of the 16th meeting of the Omani-Iranian Military Friendship Committee currently held in Tehran.

The Iranian Deputy Minister valued the good turnout of the Committee's meetings since its establishment in serving the armed forces of both countries.

For his part, Brigadier Abdulaziz Al Manthari thanked the Iranian side for their efforts in supporting the committee in carrying out its duties.

The meeting was attended by a number of members of the Omani-Iranian Military Friendship Committee from both sides. -ONA

IT'S NOT SMART ENOUGH TO HELP YOU DRIVE

A TIMES OF OMAN HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/HQ-182/2021	Providing of Catering Services for Local Hospitals at North Al Sharqiyah Governorate	16/December /2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 12/January/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-184/2021	Providing of Catering Services for Local Hospitals at North Al Sharqiyah Governorate	23/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 12/January /2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-187/2021	Supply of Surgical Consumables Items	23/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 12/January /2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-188/2021	Replacement of Main Water Purification Unit Reverse Osmosis (RO) at Haima Hospital, Governorate of Al Wusta.	20/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 12/January /2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-189/2021	Replacement of Sewage Treatment Plant in Wadi Al Tayeen Hospital at North Sharqiyah Governorate	20/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 19/January /2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-190/2021	Provision of Outsourcing Laundry and Ironing Services for Hospitals at Muscat Governorate	20/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 19/January /2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 50.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-191/2021	Provision of Extra Corporeal Photopheresis Treatment to patients referred by Ministry of Health	23/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 19/January /2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 26.600 Per set
MOH/HQ-192/2021	Supply of Laboratory Items (Covied-19)	16/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 22/December /2021	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-194/2021	Replacement of Treadmill Exercise System for Various Health Facilities	23/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 12/ January /2021	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-195/2021	Provision of Learning and Traninig Management System for Ministry of Health Employee	23/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 9/ January /2021	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-196/2021	Provision of Maintenance and Operation of Equipment at in Ibri Hospital and its Affilated Healt Units at Al Dhahira Governorate	23/December/2021	Before 08 am on Wednesday 19/ January /2021	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in Grade of Excellent	R.O 270.100 Per set

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: **https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om** against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Purchase and Tenders one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
Any Clarification, you may contact via
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TENDER NOTICE
ISS/001/2021-22

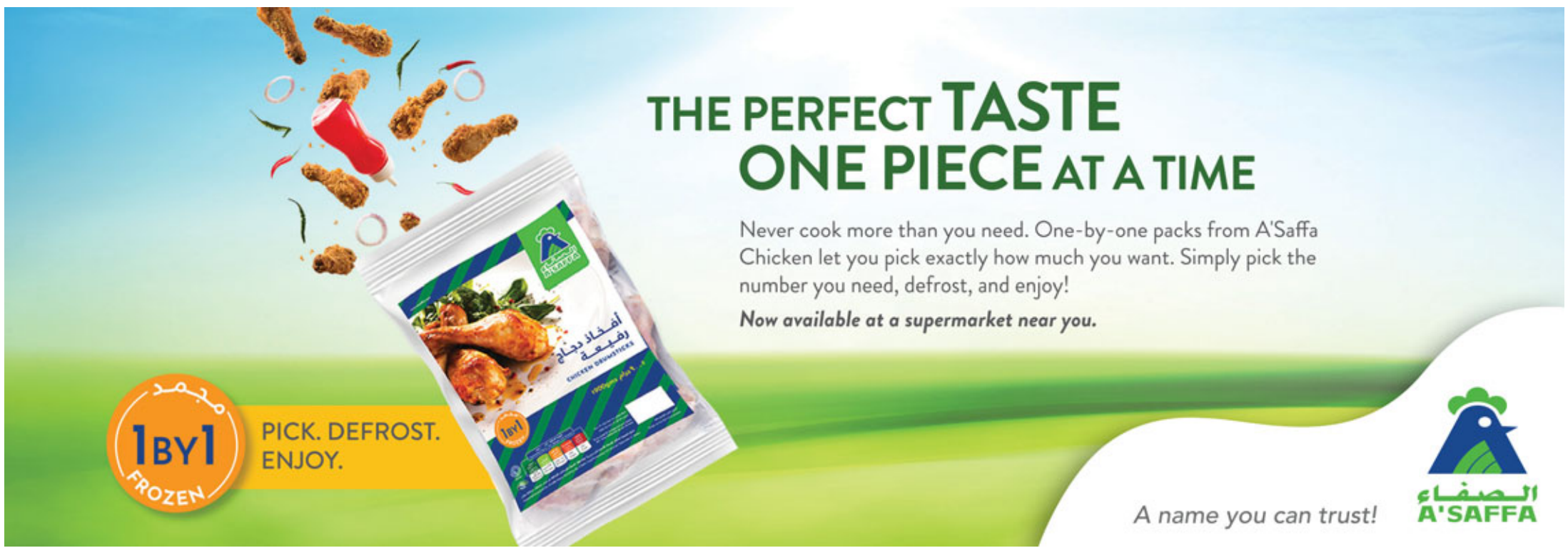
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed companies for the

PAINTING OF THE MAIN BLOCK

Interested parties shall remit the tender fee of OMR 25/- (Twenty Five Only) at the School cash counter and collect the tender document between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm on all working days from 15/12/2021 to 19/12/2021.

Indian School Salalah reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Last date of submission: 26/12/2021 before 12:30 pm



WORLD

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GRIM LANDMARK

US COVID-19 deaths surpass 800,000

WASHINGTON: Deaths from the COVID-19 in the US has surpassed the tragic numbers of 800,000 on Tuesday with President Joe Biden saying all "loved ones" left behind are remembered and the nation prays for them.

"As we mark the tragic milestone of 800,000 American deaths due to COVID-19, we remember each person and the lives they lived, and we pray for the loved ones left behind. I know what it's like to stare at an empty chair around the kitchen table, especially during the holiday season, and my heart aches for every family enduring this pain," Biden said in a statement on Tuesday (local time).

"To heal, we must remember. We must also act. That is exactly what we have done over the past 11 months. We stood up a historic vaccination program, and 240 million Americans have stepped up and gotten at least one shot," the statement added.

Emphasizing that the US has saved over one million American lives, Biden also said that it has spared families in every community across the country the incalculable loss that too many others have suffered.

"Today, more than 200 million Americans are fully vaccinated, and each day, more people are getting boosted than ever before. As we head into the winter and confront a new variant, we must resolve to keep fighting this virus together, said US President.

He added, "This means getting vaccinated and getting your booster shot, and taking other preventive measures, such as masking." ANI

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EU facing another Christmas in pandemic mode, says EU chief

In the past few weeks, there has been a surge of new cases due to the Omicron variant

BRUSSELS: Amid the sudden increase in COVID-19 cases due to the emergence of the Omicron variant, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday said that the 27-nation bloc is facing another Christmas in pandemic mode.

"We are facing another Christmas in pandemic mode. But we are more prepared to fight the virus than ever. Over 66 per cent of Europeans have received two shots. And 62 million people already had their boosters, which is the best currently available protection against Omicron," said Leyen. During her speech in the European Parliament, the European Commission chief said that the region faces a double challenge.

"For one thing, we see that COVID-19 cases have increased rapidly in Europe. There are some Member States which have the highest rates of new infections they have ever had, and with that, of course, an increasing number of illnesses, an increasing burden on hospitals and we are lamenting an increase in the number of deaths," she said.

Europe has so far reported 92,278,493 COVID-19 cases. In the past few weeks, there has been a surge of new cases due to the Omicron variant. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed that an 83 per cent surge in COVID-19 cases during the past week in Africa, driven by the Delta and Omicron variants, is causing fewer deaths than previous spikes.

With the total number of recorded cases during the pandemic standing at 8.9 million, Africa recorded more than 196,000 new cases last week, up from around 107,000 in the previous week.

WHO has said that the number of new cases is currently doubling every five days, the fastest rate this year. Although "the speed of the spread is fast, deaths remain low and even dropped by 19 per cent last week compared with the previous week", the UN health agency reported.

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa said they are cautiously optimistic that deaths and severe illness will remain low in the current wave, but slow vaccine rollout in Africa means both will be much higher than they should be.

Speaking during a virtual press conference, Dr. Moeti added that knowing that new variants could regularly emerge to spark new outbreaks globally, "vaccine-deprived regions like Africa would be especially vulnerable". -ANI

OMICRON VARIANT

Omicron virus detected in over 70 countries: WHO

GENEVA: The World Health Organization on Tuesday said that the new COVID-19 variant Omicron has been detected in over 70 countries and it was likely already present in most countries in the world.

"77 countries have now reported cases of Omicron, and the reality is that Omicron is probably in most countries, even if it hasn't been detected yet. Omicron is spreading at a rate we have not seen with any previous variant," WHO said in a tweet. The international health body also raised concern over the world as people are dismissing Omicron as mild.

"We're concerned that people are dismissing Omicron as mild. Surely, we have learned by now that we underestimate this virus at our peril. Even if Omicron does cause less severe disease, the sheer number of cases could once again overwhelm unprepared health systems" it said further.

The WHO also urged people to use proper coronavirus protocol.

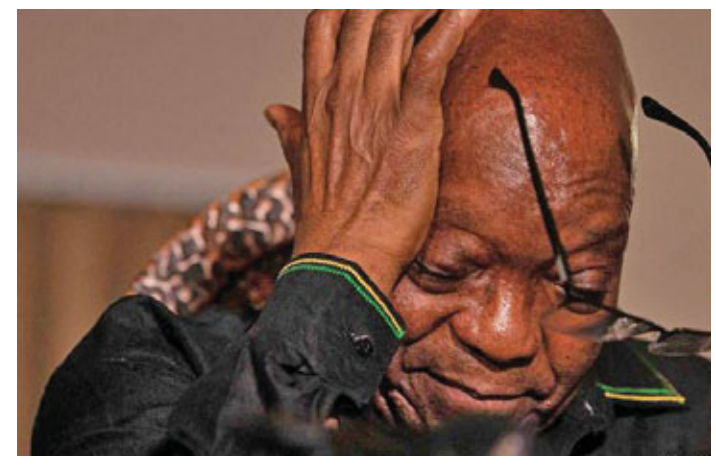
"It's not vaccines instead of masks. It's not vaccines instead of distancing. It's not vaccines instead of ventilation or hand hygiene. Do it all. Do it consistently. Do it well," the organisation said.

It also said: "The emergence of Omicron has prompted some countries to roll out #COVID19 booster programmes for their entire adult populations, even while we lack evidence for the effectiveness of boosters against this variant."

Earlier, the World Health Organization has said that it expects an increase in the number of hospitalisations and fatalities related to Omicron coronavirus strain. "As case numbers linked to a variant of concern increase globally, we expect the number of hospitalized cases and even deaths to be reported," the WHO said in a statement. The UN health agency also said that more information is needed to fully understand the clinical picture of those infected with Omicron and WHO encourages countries to contribute to the collection and sharing of hospitalized patient data through the WHO COVID-19 Clinical Data Platform, according to Sputnik. ANI

15-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE

South African court orders Jacob Zuma to return to jail



CAPE TOWN: South Africa's former president, Jacob Zuma, has been ordered to return to jail.

The Gauteng High Court in Pretoria ruled on Wednesday that a prior decision to release him on medical parole was "unlawful."

His legal team has filed a request to appeal Judge Elias Matojane's decision. Zuma, who served two terms as president between 2009 and 2019, was granted medical parole in September just two months into a 15-month prison sentence for contempt of court.

The then National Commissioner of Correctional Services Arthur Fraser released Zuma despite the medical parole advisory board's recommendation against it.

The country's official opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), asked the court to overrule Fraser's decision.

"This is a big victory for the rule of law," DA leader, John Steenhuisen, said on Twitter.

Zuma remains a controversial figure

Zuma was found guilty of contempt in June after refusing to obey a court order to appear before a commission probing corruption and fraud. The Zondo commission, named after the judge who heads it, is investigating "state capture" during Zuma's tenure. His initial imprisonment sparked a series of violent protests in which more than 350 people died.

Despite being on parole on grounds of ill health Zuma launched a new book on Sunday, Jacob Zuma Speaks.

He said he hoped the book would help "to the set record straight".

Looking healthy in a video during the book launch Zuma said there had been a lot of "untruth about the work that we have done."

Zuma faces additional charges

Zuma is also facing 16 fraud, graft and racketeering charges related to a 1999 purchase of arms from five European firms.

He was the deputy president at the time and is accused of pocketing bribes from French defense giant Thales.

The legal process has been delayed several times as his lawyers argued he was too sick to attend court. DW

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

US considers more sanctions against Myanmar's military junta

NAYPYITAW: The US is looking at additional measures to force Myanmar's ruling junta to return to a "democratic trajectory."

Speaking in Malaysia on Wednesday, the latest stop on his tour of Asia, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the situation in Myanmar had "gotten worse."

"The long and short of it is, we have to look at what additional steps, measures could be taken to move things in a better direction," Blinken said.

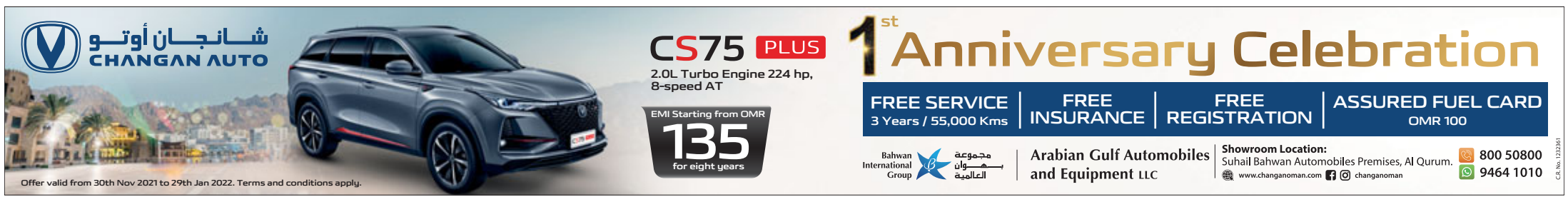
He did not say what exact steps the US might be considering, but added they are "very actively" considering whether the treatment of the Rohingya Muslims in the country might "constitute genocide."

This issue, however, comfortably predates this year's coup in Myanmar, having come to international attention during civilian-led rule.

The military seized control of the Southeast Asian country in February, ousting civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government.

The coup triggered nationwide protests, to which the junta has responded with a brutal crackdown that has left more than 1,300 people dead and seen thousands arrested.

The United Nations warned of an "alarming escalation" of human rights abuses as the military tries to crush dissent. DW



TUNISIA BEAT EGYPT 1-0, ENTER FINAL OF ARAB CUP

Tunisia beat Egypt in the first semi-final and entered the final of the Arab Cup in Doha on Wednesday. In the 94th minute of the game, Amr Al-Sulaya of Egypt deflected the ball into his own net for the only goal of the game.

RETIREMENT

Sergio Aguero says goodbye to football due to heart condition

BARCELONA: The Argentine forward Sergio Aguero announced his retirement from football on Wednesday due to a heart condition.

Aguero had been out of action after suffering chest pains during Barca's 1-1 draw against Alaves in La Liga on October 30. The 33-year-old was taken to a hospital for tests and subsequently diagnosed with a cardiac arrhythmia, after which he was ruled out for three months. However, Aguero did not make his return to the field and has now chosen to hang up his boots after an illustrious 18-year career. An emotional Aguero at Camp Nou said: "This conference is to communicate that I have decided to stop playing football."

"It is a very difficult moment. The decision I have made I have taken for my health, that is the main reason, because of the problem that I had a month-and-a-half ago. I was in good hands of the medical staff who have done their best and have told me the best thing would be to stop playing."

"So I made that decision about a week ago and I want to tell everyone I did everything possible to have hope, but there wasn't very much," he added.

Aguero has found back of the net 379 times in 663 games across spells at Independiente, Atletico Madrid, Manchester City, and Barca. He has also recorded 118 assists. -ANI

HEART CONDITION

Hurts to see that you have retired from professional football: Messi to Aguero

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain striker Lionel Messi on Wednesday posted an emotional message for his Argentine teammate Sergio Aguero, who announced his retirement from professional football.

The Argentine forward Sergio Aguero announced his retirement from football on Wednesday due to a heart condition. Aguero had been out of action after suffering chest pains during Barca's 1-1 draw against Alaves in La Liga on October 30. The 33-year-old was taken to a hospital for tests and subsequently diagnosed with a cardiac arrhythmia, after which he was ruled out for three months. "Practically a whole career together, Kun ... We lived very beautiful moments and others that were not so, all of them made us unite more and more and be more friends. And we are going to continue living them together outside the field. With the great joy of lifting the America's Cup so little ago, with all the achievements you achieved in England," Messi wrote on Instagram.

"And the truth is that now it hurts a lot to see how you have to stop doing what you like the most because of what happened to you. Surely you will continue to be happy because you are a person who transmits happiness and those of us who love you will be with you. Now a new stage of your life begins and I am convinced that you are going to live it with a smile and with all the illusion that you put into everything," he added.

Aguero did not make his return to the field and has now chosen to hang up his boots after an illustrious 18-year career.

An emotional Aguero at Camp Nou said: "This conference is to communicate that I have decided to stop playing football."

"It is a very difficult moment. The decision I have made I have taken for my health, that is the main reason, because of the problem that I had a month-and-a-half ago. I was in the good hands of the medical staff who have done their best and have told me the best thing would be to stop playing," he added.

Aguero has found the back of the net 379 times in 663 games across spells at Independiente, Atletico Madrid, Manchester City, and Barca. He has also recorded 118 assists.

The Argentine has won 17 trophies in total, 15 of which were claimed during his 10-year stay at Manchester City, where he emerged as one of the legendary forward of his generation. -ANI

SPORTS

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Removing me as ODI skipper 'logical decision', says Kohli

Kohli also said that no prior communication happened between him and the selectors before he was removed

REMOVED AS CAPTAIN: Last week, Kohli was replaced by Rohit Sharma as the white-ball skipper

MUMBAI: India Test skipper Virat Kohli on Wednesday said that he understands why he was removed as the ODI captain and termed the call as 'logical'.

Last week, Kohli was replaced by Rohit Sharma as the white-ball skipper.

"I can understand why, the reason, we haven't won an ICC tournament. Whether the decision they took is right or wrong, there's no debate. It's a logical decision which I understand," said Kohli during a virtual press conference. Kohli also said that no prior communication happened between him and the selectors before he was removed as the captain of the ODI team.

"Whatever was said about the communication that happened during the decision that was made was inaccurate. I was contacted one and half hours before the selection meeting on 8th for the Test series," said Kohli while replying to a query from ANI.

"And there was no prior communication with me since I announced the T20I captaincy decision up till December 8. The chief selector discussed the Test team to which we both agreed. Before ending the call, I was told the five selectors decided that I would not be ODI captain. To which I replied 'okay fine'," he further said.

Talking about Rohit Sharma, Kohli said: "Rohit is a very able captain, tactically very sound. We've seen that in the games he's captained for India and in the IPL with Mumbai Indians as well. So along with Rahul bhai, who is a very balanced coach and great man-manager, both will have my absolute support and my contribution in whatever vision they set for the team."

"I will be there to support that 100 per cent and continue to be a guy who can push the team in the right direction going forward in ODIs and T20Is. Well, I can't comment if me not being captain will leave a positive impact on my batting, those things no one can predict. I have taken a lot of pride in performing as a captain for the team and I've done the best that I could. I think what I know is my motivation levels to perform won't dip at all, I will always be prepared and eager to perform in the same manner," he added.

-ANI

ROYAL HORSE RACING CLUB

Royal Horse Racing Club to organise Oman Derby Cup

MUSCAT: The Royal Horse Racing Club (RHRC) will organise this Saturday the Omani Derby Cup at Al Rahba Horse Racing Track in the Wilayat of Barka.

The race, to be held under the patronage of Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, will include eight rounds, seven of them for purebred Arabian horses and a race for purebred hybrid horses.

This race is one of the most prominent horse racing events in the Sultanate of Oman. On the sidelines of the race, some equestrian sports shows will be performed by the Royal Cavalry.

The first round of the race is allocated to purebred Arabian horses for a distance of 1,600 metres.

The second round of the race is allocated to purebred Arabian horses (local production) for a distance of 1,600 metres.

The third round is allocated to purebred Arabian horses (local production) for a distance of 1,600 metres.

The fourth round is allocated to purebred Arabian horses for a distance of 2,000 metres.

Meanwhile, the fifth round is allocated to purebred Arabian horses for a distance of 2,000 metres.

The sixth round is allocated to purebred Arabian horses for a distance of 2,000 metres (Omani Derby Cup).

As for the seventh round, it is allocated to purebred horses for a distance of 2,200 metres, and the eighth round is allocated to purebred Arabian horses, for a distance of 2,200 metres. ONA

PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier League confirms new COVID safety measures for fans

LONDON: Following the introduction of the England government's "Autumn and Winter Plan B", the Premier League on Wednesday confirmed requirements for all fans attending Premier League matches.

From Wednesday, all those aged 18 and over attending Premier League matches must complete a COVID status self-declaration via their club's website ahead of matchday. This simple online process requires fans to confirm they have a valid NHS COVID pass or negative NHS COVID test within the previous 48 hours.

Supporters must be prepared to show their NHS COVID pass or proof of a negative NHS COVID test on arrival at the stadium.

Checks will take place at all Premier League grounds. Fans risk being denied entry if they are unable to show their NHS COVID Pass or proof of a negative NHS COVID test result from within the previous 48 hours, ideally as close to matchday as possible.

Fans also must wear a face covering while in indoor stadium areas and when travelling to matches on public transport. Although it is not mandatory within the stadium bowl, supporters are encouraged to wear face coverings in congested areas and in stands to protect themselves and those around them.

Supporters are also asked to not attend matches if they have any COVID-type symptoms or there is a risk of passing on COVID-19.

Premier League Chief Executive Richard Masters in a statement said: "We are doing all we can to keep fans safe and grounds open at full capacity. The safety of everyone remains our priority and since the start of the season we have been working closely with our clubs, Government and local public health authorities to prepare fans and stadium operations for the introduction of COVID certification."

-ANI

LA LIGA

Real Madrid's Luka Modric, Marcelo test COVID-19 positive

MADRID: Real Madrid CF players Luka Modric and Marcelo tested positive for COVID-19, the La Liga club announced on Wednesday.

The pair will now miss Sunday's league game against Cadiz. Modric was last seen in Real's 2-0 derby win against Atletico on Sunday at Santiago Bernabeu. With rising cases of COVID-19 in Europe, football is also being affected.

On Monday Spanish club, Valencia confirmed four cases, including their head coach and two players.

In England, the COVID outbreak at Tottenham Hotspur led UEFA to postpone their Europa Conference League game against Rennes last week. After UEFA, Premier League also then postponed the Spurs match at Brighton. ANI

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,020.59 points, down 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.37 per cent at 528.65 points. United Finance, up 4.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics down 2.44 per cent, was the top loser.

Sohar International provides advisory services to Akeed

This strategic initiative reflects Sohar International's strong internal capabilities through a well-experienced team as well as a strong network and reaches to market such investment opportunities to existing and potential investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar International has acted as the financial adviser to the popular on-demand delivery service major, Akeed, on raising its equity capital from investors.

Reiterating its strong market position, investor confidence and as part of its ongoing efforts to extend support to local start-ups and promote In-Country Value (ICV) within the Sultanate, this strategic initiative reflects Sohar International's strong internal capabilities through a well-experienced team as well as a strong network and reaches to market such investment opportunities to existing and potential investors whether locally, regionally, or internationally.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer, Sohar International, said, "At Sohar International, we have a strong purpose that puts winning at the heart of everything we do. Benchmarking across international markets, we continue to deliver institutional advisory services that are drawn from a thorough understanding of the local market and are further complemented with valuable insights that we gain from our international partnerships. The induction of fresh capital and new investors will provide further impetus to Akeed's growth plan. Aspiring to bring the best of international banking practices to Oman, Sohar International will continue to enhance its value-added services for the benefit of its esteemed clients."

The Investment Banking Advisory department of the bank provides guided assistance and asset management to both Government agencies and corporates in framing the best capital structure, raising capital and monetising assets. The bank's asset management department has all the required platforms for investors to tap the local and international markets. This includes an advisory capability for tailor-made portfolios based on risk profiling.

Co-founder of Akeed, Moosa Al Lawati said, "We are pleased to announce the round of funding for our business, and we are thankful to our investors, Phaze Ventures and IDO (Sovereign Fund) for supporting a local delivery company. Our mission has been to digitalise the restaurants and stores with state-of-the-art technology for customers. The support we receive will help us to make technological developments, create more delivery jobs and provide quality service to our customers and vendors. Sohar International has played a key role in introducing us to like-minded investors who are aligned with the vision and validated the team's potential and business opportunity."

Despite the global pandemic bringing its set of uncertainties to the financial sector, Sohar International's focus on sustainable growth, uncompromising take on servicing its clients and ability to deliver exceptional value to its stakeholders has cemented the bank's position as a trusted financial partner of choice. Backed by a team of experts well-versed in handling the complexities of a dynamic market, the bank has been able to assist its clients to better manage their funds.

Reiterating its strong market position and investor confidence, earlier this year the bank had completed the issuance of OMR6 million Perpetual Sukuk al Mudaraba Trust Certificate, by Takaful Oman Insurance - a leading Takaful company in Oman. The Perpetual Sukuk has an initial yearly profit rate of 8.5 per cent, payable semi-annually through Takaful Sukuk Specialised Purpose Company established by Takaful Oman for this specific programme.

ICAEW FORECAST

Middle East economy rebounds from pandemic related losses: Report

Michael Armstrong

Scott Livermore

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle East's economy has recovered from pandemic-related losses, aided by higher oil output and the lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions in some countries, a new report said.

According to the report, the emergence of the Omicron variant presents risks to the global economic outlook. "However, the Middle East has comparatively high vaccination coverage, especially across the Gulf, which is expected to limit the need for further tight control measures."

ICAEW forecasts the Middle East gross domestic product (GDP) growth to accelerate to 4.4 per cent in 2022, after an estimated expansion of 3 per cent this year, provided the Omicron variant does not prove too disruptive.

These results were based on the latest Economic Insight report for the Middle East, commissioned by ICAEW and compiled by Oxford Economics.

GDP in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is forecasted to rebound to pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2022 as business optimism continues to rise, with GDP growth accelerating from 2.7 per cent this year, to 5 per cent in 2022.

The oil sector, which is already benefiting from higher production quotas, will remain a key economic growth driver beyond 2022 as producers expand capacity. The price of Brent oil has eased below $80 per barrel (pb) as high COVID-19 numbers in Europe and new restrictions raised concerns around demand levels. According to the report, Brent will average around $72.5pb in 2022.

Recent data shows Saudi Arabia's budget swung back to surplus in the third quarter of this year after more than two years in the red.

In Qatar and the UAE, data already showed surpluses in the first half of the year (H1), while elsewhere in the region deficits are shrinking. As a result, ICAEW forecasts an overall GCC budget surplus next year for the first time since 2014.

For the non-oil sector, low infection rates and less disruptive COVID-19 measures have allowed mobility levels and domestic activity to return close to normal, helping fuel the economic recovery, with equity prices rising strongly. ICAEW forecasts for the GCC show non-oil growth of 3.3 per cent in 2022, following an initially estimated expansion of 3.8 per cent this year.

Michael Armstrong, ICAEW Regional Director for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, said "Although high vaccination uptake has helped regional countries avoid a Delta wave, the emergence of the Omicron variant presents new economic risks. While Middle East economies have undertaken substantial investment in healthcare infrastructure, to mitigate risks, data must be collected quickly to understand the scope of the threat – and governments must implement a dynamic response as new information comes in."

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist & Managing Director, Oxford Economics Middle East, said "The Middle East's economic recovery will continue to follow a mixed pattern given divergent growth strategies and policies across the region.

"However, the UAE's proactive approach to attracting global investment and talent, along with greater budget headroom, means it will outperform regional peers. Countries with strict workforce nationalisation policies, such as Kuwait and Oman, face the prospect of a longer, more protracted recovery."

GCC inflation will average around 2.5 per cent next year, just above the estimated average of 2.4 per cent this year, before falling back below 2 per cent in 2023.

MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT

Port of Salalah tests sea-air cargo connectivity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Port of Salalah, in close partnership with ROP customs, has successfully tested sea-air connectivity with a priority shipment destined for Qatar during the second week of December.

The shipment, a 40FT Maersk container loaded from Antwerp, upon discharge in Salalah, was successfully moved on customs bond to Muscat airport for air freight to Doha in a record time of 15 hours. This included tracking the shipment movement process from the seaport to the airport in Muscat at every step. The ROP extended extraordinary support in making this trial a successful one with seamless operation at both ends.

Sea-air, a multi-modal transport supply chain solution that combines ocean freight's cost-effectiveness and airfreight's speed in the supply chain, is more relevant now given the current reliability and high-cost challenges with ocean freight post the pandemic.

SHIPMENT: The shipment, a 40FT Maersk container loaded from Antwerp, upon discharge in Salalah, was successfully moved on customs bond to Muscat airport for air freight to Doha in a record time of 15 hours. - Supplied picture

The integrated Salalah ecosystem's solution is also one of the key focus areas of Oman 2040 vision logistics strategy.

The Port of Salalah is the fastest access point between the Middle East, India, and East Africa and markets in Europe, the Americas, and the rest of the world. Moving cargo through the largest port in Oman can save days in transit times and cut costs. With this successful execution of this solution, Salalah targets offering a viable and cost-effective sea-air product via Salalah and Muscat airports, which saves an additional two days in terms of total transit time over regional competitors.

"We were extremely pleased with the seamless operations with our shipment once handed over to Port of Salalah which helped us exceed our customer expectations," says Naushad Rehman, Managing Director, Muscat International Shipping, acting on behalf of the consignee.

"Sea-air shipments are known for their time sensitivity, the successful execution of the trial shipment of sea-air product with the cooperation from ROP customs and ASYAD. This marks a significant step in testing our system capabilities, thereby bringing Salalah on the map of global sea-air locations," quoted Mark Hardiman, CEO of the Port of Salalah.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

United Finance, up 4.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics down 2.44 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,020.59 points, down 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.37 per cent at 528.65 points. United Finance, up 4.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics down 2.44 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Ominvest Perpetual Sukuk were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 354 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR8.34 million, with more than 17.49 million shares changing hands. Out of 39 traded securities, 6 advanced, 10 declined and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR675,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR666,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR8,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,444.77 points, down 0.02 per cent. United Finance, Muscat Finance, Ahli Bank and Global Investment Holding were up 4.00 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.77 per cent and 1.67 per cent respectively. Bank Muscat, Madina Takaful and National Bank Oman were down 1.20 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 0.53 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,977.08 points, down 0.42 per cent. Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Product and NAPI were down 2.44 per cent, 1.35 per cent, 1.14 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.15 per cent before closing at 1,574.43 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,033.73	4,020.59	4,020.59	4,025.88	-5.29	-0.13
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,469.95	6,444.77	6,444.77	6,446.17	-1.40	-0.02
Industry Index	5,988.10	5,977.08	5,977.08	6,002.37	-25.29	-0.42
Services Index	1,577.86	1,574.43	1,574.43	1,576.87	-2.44	-0.15
MSX Shariah Index	529.21	528.65	528.65	530.63	-1.98	-0.37
MSX TR INDEX	4,854.01	4,838.20	4,838.20	4,844.56	-6.36	-0.13

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
17,494,864	8,344,890	354	22,023,419,912	6	10	23	39

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	64,470	3,546	9	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.001	1.852	0.055	0.054	0.056	0.100	16,893,048
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,248,991	258,494	15	0.113	0.115	0.113	0.115	0.113	0.002	1.770	0.115	0.115	0.122	0.100	224,210,609
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	3,022,912	435,467	80	0.142	0.145	0.142	0.144	0.142	0.002	1.408	0.144	0.144	0.148	0.100	34,128,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	3,000	960	1	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.350	0.100	35,000,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	6,800	5,358	3	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.000	0.000	0.788	0.788	0.800	0.100	124,110,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	203,600	62,394	11	0.310	0.310	0.304	0.306	0.306	0.000	0.000	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.100	247,178,333
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	20,785	1,975	4	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	49,280	4,189	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.093	0.100	7,650,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	16,860	11,869	1	0.704	0.704	0.704	0.704	0.704	0.000	0.000	0.704	0.704	0.708	0.100	528,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,530,000	174,560	26	0.114	0.115	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.100	340,867,101
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	519,758	221,388	18	0.426	0.426	0.424	0.426	0.430	-0.004	-0.930	0.426	0.424	0.426	0.100	100,710,660
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	8,000	2,768	2	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.350	-0.004	-1.143	0.346	0.346	0.350	0.100	43,214,694
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	499,988	245,889	25	0.496	0.496	0.490	0.492	0.498	-0.006	-1.205	0.490	0.492	0.498	0.100	1,758,641,598
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	199,127	25,447	11	0.130	0.130	0.127	0.128	0.131	-0.003	-2.290	0.127	0.126	0.133	0.100	10,880,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	815,205	391,298	29	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.492	-0.012	-2.439	0.480	0.482	0.490	0.100	26,400,000
Total	15	9,208,776	1,845,603	238												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	103,000	5,361	9	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.002	4.000	0.053	0.052	0.054	0.100	18,155,509
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	20,000	880	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.326	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.100	8,783,966
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	298,205	18,099	31	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100	12,200,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	3,650	332	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.095	0.100	11,830,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	10,000	650	1	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.100	7,921,875
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	4,294	228	2	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.048	0.052	0.100	3,710,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT.CHEMI.	3,200	304	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.087	0.096	0.100	2,016,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	2,770	247	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.100	49,793,202
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	4,000	720	1	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.100	23,760,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	19,150	1,360	2	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.070	0.073	0.100	18,004,890
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	2,030	81	3	0.041	0.041	0.040	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.000	0.040	0.100	8,619,390
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	20,594	1,959	4	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	10,000	480	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.051	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,000	49	1	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	34,291,504
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	13,773	655	6	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	645	50	1	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.069	0.077	0.100	16,890,240
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	95,000	17,960	8	0.190	0.190	0.188	0.189	0.190	-0.001	-0.526	0.188	0.188	0.190	0.100	307,303,861
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	16,600	2,307	3	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.140	-0.001	-0.714	0.139	0.131	0.139	0.100	4,666,432
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,226,314	115,274	13	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER.	86,155	6,293	8	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	14,818,011
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	10,769	787	2	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.078	0.100	69,683,752
Total	21	1,951,149	174,076	100												

BEST PRACTICES

MoU inked to explore worldwide co-investment opportunities

ABU DHABI: Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), an Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor with $243 billion assets under management, and Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate strategic cooperation between the two institutions.

As part of the MoU, Mubadala and Mumtalakat will explore worldwide co-investment opportunities. They will also exchange knowledge and best practices to enhance their respective investment and operational capabilities.

Waleed Al Mokarrab Al Muhairi, Mubadala's Deputy Group CEO, said: "We are excited to collaborate with a like-minded institution, such as Mumtalakat, who share our commitment to building long-term, sustainable relationships."

SHARE MARKETS

Asian markets hushed in countdown to Fed lift-off

SYDNEY: Asian markets were precariously poised on Wednesday as the world waited to hear from the US Federal Reserve on when it would stop buying assets and start raising interest rates, possibly piling pressure on its peers to follow.

Futures have already priced in an end to tapering by March and a first hike to 0.25 per cent in May or June, with rates approaching 0.75 per cent by year-end.

BofA's latest survey of fund managers shows they favour an end to tapering in April and only two hikes in 2022, making them more vulnerable to a hawkish outlook.

Also vital will be the ultimate destination for rates given markets are currently priced for a peak of just 1.5-1.75 per cent, a level that would likely not even top inflation.

"At its heart, there is an implied assumption that all the Fed has to do is tap the fed funds to break a mere 150bps, and the economy will slow sufficiently to break the inflation cycle," noted Alan Ruskin, macro strategist at Deutsche Bank, according to Reuters.

"Yet we have never had a cycle peak where real rates have not been above zero." -BNA

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- Receive consignment; as per MOH standards, coordinate and implement standard operating policies and local legislations.
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Disinfection & Sterilization Treatments. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289 Email: sales@oceancentre.co

Pest Control Treatments - Cockroaches, Ants, etc. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289 Email: sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning - Offices, Villas & Flats. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289 Email: sales@oceancentre.co

Cleaning & Pest Control services Contact 93688051, 97178294

Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Mundhir Al Rizaiqi Trading LLC. Contact 24810137, 99450130

MATRIMONIAL

Suitable Bride Required for a 54 year old well educated divorced Malayali Christian gentleman. The groom is a thorough gentleman, smart, tall and jovial. Employed in Oman for more than 30 years. Would prefer a bride with a good heart who will be a friend and lifelong companion. Religion/Caste no bar. Contact 93373691

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4. **DENTIST** (LOCUM BASIS)
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Please send your CV by e-mail to: info@wmc.com

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Qualification: Mechanical or Electrical Engineering. Should have knowledge of Sales /Marketing/Purchase & Procurement with 2 to 4 years Experience.

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Qualification: Graduate with minimum 2 to 4 years Experience in Insurance Industry.

Send CV to: **open.jobs@hotmail.com**
Whatsapp +968 93007200

URGENT REQUIREMENT MEDICAL

GP, Internist, Dentist, Dermatologist, Nurses (Male & Female), **Lab Technicians & Pharmacist** are required for the leading Medical Centers in Oman.

Contact: 99002172 / 96386388 & recruitcmc@yahoo.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR A LEADING ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY - BUILDING PROJECT

- **Quantity Surveyor** - 1 No
- **Planning Engineer** - 1 No
- **Fire & Safety Engineer** - 1 No
- **Electrical Engineer** - 1 No

First 03 position experience is above 10 years & Electrical Engineer - 8 years

Email: cmk_pnr@yahoo.co.in

JOB VACANCIES

DOMESTIC HELP

Full time Housemaid required for Indian family of 3. Cooking Indian food and washing is the main job. Will be a well treated family member and compensation will include salary, free toiletries, food, accommodation, weekly holiday (subject to COVID safety), free WiFi, etc. Contact: Mr. Jerry 92603674

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently required Stainless Steel Welder/Fabricator (Experience in SS finishing works including cutting, letter making and welding), ACP Worker and Sign Maker. Experience of 3-5 Years in similar field. Contact 99014231 Email: jayakrishnanapk@gmail.com

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

JOB WANTED

ARCHITECT

Landscape Architect, BLA (Honours), 27, Sri Lankan, experienced in Soft & Hard Landscape Design, Master Planning, 3D Visualizations and Site Inspections, seeks suitable placement in Oman. Contact 9550 7986 Email: duminduudara@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male, 12 years work experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/ HR/Secretary or suitable post. Holding Oman D/L &NOC. Contact 94019955, vinrai99@gmail.com

Smart Indian, male, excellent English, Double Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years Oman-EPC, Media, Hospital, Airports. Contact 99283938

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian male, 33 yrs old graduate,10 years experience as an Office Assistant with Good English communication skills, is looking for a job in Muscat. Presently in Oman seeks job. Contact 90146616 Email: sranjithraj4@gmail.com

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman driving license and 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. Contact 79256679

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Diploma Mechanical Engineer & CNC VMC operator exp 3 yrs currently in Oman. NOC available. Contact 94227542. Email dinithdas@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

MEDICAL

Urgently required well experienced **Nurses,** preferably with MOH license. Email: apexhealth21@gmail.com. whatsapp no: +968 79826868

DRIVER

Drivers for Light / SUV personal cars required. 2-3 years of Oman experience. Interested candidates can email: deosil03@gmail.com or Call / WhatsApp: 92569177

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Experienced finance professional with expertise in VAT, financial reporting, cccount payables, account receivables, salary ledger management and managing overseas export business dealings. looking for a suitable position. Contact 72771843 Email: msahammed@gmail.com

"Senior accountant, 16 yrs experience in Oman. Immediate joining. Contact 91172545

Indian Male accountant B.Com with 10+years of Exp in accounts/stores in Oman.Oman D/L available. Contact 93483691 Email: mohamed.ali581@gmail.com

Indian Male, 15 years' experience in Senior Accountant. Looking for a job. Software knows Tally & MS Office & D/L. Mobile: 96761026 Email: mehreenraiz@gmail.com

ACCA affiliate with 2 years experience. Currently in Muscat, having NOC and D/L. Contact 96595067. Email: farleymartyres19@gmail.com

Accountant, MBA-Finance and **Marketing.** With more than 4 yrs Experience in Accounts and Finance.Good working Knowledge of SAP software & Advanced Excel seeks suitable position. Contact +968 92706965 Gmail: ranjuvettom@gmail.com

Indian male, 12Yrs of experience in accounts-payables & receivables + 12Yrs in Sales Administration in a MNC, Oman, seeks suitable placement. Oman D/L. Contact 92116238. Email: ramdas16091970@gmail.com

Multi-skilled Indian male, 25+ years (8 years GCC) well experience in Accounts / Administration / HR available to join immediately with release and D/L. Contact 96251394

Bachelor Degree with 7 years of experience in the Accounting & purchasing field. 4 years of experience in Oman.seeks suitable job Available with Omani D/L. Contact 79399509 Email: suheb.a27@gmail.com

Young Indian Accountant, B.Com graduate having 3 years experience in Accounts looking for immediate placement. Contact 97092353

Senior Accountant, Indian Male, 12 Years experience in Oman, Having D/L and NOC. GSM 91469060

Senior Accountant: Indian Male, MBA Finance, having more than 12 year's GCC including Oman & Indian experience in AP, AR, Cash flow, VAT,BRS, Trade Finance, P&L, BS etc. With Valid D/L Contact 7970 2891 Email: shahoo.mhs@gmail.com

Senior Accountant, Srilankan Certified Business Accountant (CASL) with BBA Degree (Accounting specialized). 6+ years' experience, and capable of handling accounts up to finalization. Contact 79608588. Email: mmusthaq94@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Required Sales & Marketing Executive (Indian Only) with at least 4 to 6 years' experience in the Construction Field with Oman Driving License. Please forward resume to: recruit.slv.oman@gmail.com

Marketing Manager, A leading Insurance broking company in Oman requires a dynamic Techno Marketing Manager. Graduate with Insurance qualification and marketing experience in Oman may send to: info@isc-oman.com

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

DRIVER

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 95160208

Driver (light) with 10 yrs experience. Contact 96313100

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

MANAGER

Indian male, engineering graduate with 28+ years executive experience in logistics, assets, purchase, disposal, inventory management and Automobile industry in Oman. Seeking managerial/suitable position in reputed firms. Contact 98504774, Email: thomasemte@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Medical Lab Technician 12 year experience seeks job. Contact 90269108, 91371404

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

7 yrs of Experience in Procurement (Heavy Machineries) plus Accounting, Administration,Logistic Support, Mechanical engineering. Contact +968 93545741

7 yrs exp in purchase, logistics, warehouse/inventory and 10 yrs exp in commercial operations. Having D/L, Contact 98531104

Purchase, Procurement, Logistics & Stores professional, more than 25 years experience having very good knowledge in Construction, Mechanical & Commercial materials, looking for immediate openings. NOC & DL available. Contact 99276414. Email: shettigarthulsidhar@gmail.com

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

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Mechanical/MEP engineer, Indian male,26yrs with 2 yrs experience, looking suitable job. Contact 79974535. Email: safeeralipk7@gmail.com

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

Indian male (23)/Mechanical Engineer/ 1.5 years' experience in design and manufacturing/valid Oman D/L. Contact 71502536

Indian Female (B.Tech IT) on family visa actively having 7 years experience in Client services. Looking for suitable jobs. Contact 94266838, Email: ganesh.shana@gmail.com

B.E. Civil Resident Engineer 35 Yrs. Exp. 12Yrs.in Oman & 3 yrs. in Qatar rest in India. Infrastructure mainly Roads, Bridges Utilities & STP works. Seeking in Consultant firm. WhatsApp No. +91 6385754610 Email: mrk6409@gmail.com

B.E.Mechanical Engineer, 3yrs experience in India for pipe line. Presently in Oman. Contact 71089758/ Whatsapp +918962292915 Email aadilahmadrits@gmail.co

B.E. Civil Project engineer/Project coordinator (INDIAN) with 8+ years of experience. Qualified Project management (QS & QC) with a knowledge of MS office, Autocad, MS project & estimation. NOC is available, can join immediately. Contact 97389893, mohammadshkaeermlr@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer 4 yrs experience in factories and car maintenance with DL seeks job. Contact 93521100.

B.Tech Civil Engineer over 20 years experience looking for manager level job. can run medium size company individually. Contact 98036290, cmsarasu@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor Indian 30 yrs. Experience. Strong Exposure in Contracts & QS activities in all type of construction field (Especially in Oil & Gas Projects). Mob & WhatsApp No. 7905 3616

B.Tech Electrical Engineer, currently residing in oman, experienced based on project management, site supervision/renewable energy sector seeking for suitable placement. Contact (mob) 79376313, (wsp) +91 8943932532, Email: adeebalr@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: mohammedali7p7@gmail.com

Indian, 23, Civil Engineer, fresher with Oman D/L, looking for suitable job. Contact 95257524

Indian male Civil diploma,10 years of Oman experience in Site engg. looking for suitable placement. Contact 79864288

Mechanical Engineer, Male, 24yrs (Fresher) with diploma certification course in MEP, HVAC currently in Oman looking to work in any Engineering feild. Contact +968 79812894, 99177894 Email: mohdsawadkpl@gmail.com

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

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

Civil Engineer, Indian, B.E Civil, having 11+ yrs Exp. Looking for a suitable position, valid GCC D/L, Currently in Oman. Contact 95085270 Email: fasee.syed@gmail.com

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian Male (26) 5 years of GCC construction experience in an A grade firm with D/L. NOC available, Immediate joining. Contact +968 94781810

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER
BE Electronics & Communication Indian Male looking for a suitable job in Oman. Presently in Oman.
Contact 78644119
E-mail: terancefranklin25@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor
Srilankan Male Quantity Surveyor (BSc QS (Hons) reading) with 4 years of Civil & ID experience in Oman. Looking for a job.
Contact: 92187572
Email: sifathhasan1995@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Indian, 23, (B.E Mechanical), fresher PG Diploma in Oil and Gas Piping and Pipeline, QA/QC, NDT, looking for suitable job.
Contact: 79056363, 99501396
Email: rejiakhil111@gmail.com

Project Manager - Civil
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

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

OMANI HSE
Bachelor's degree in BA & IOSH.
10 years experience in HSE and O&M.
Contact +968 95555865

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

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

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

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

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 SUPPLY CHAIN
Indian Male with +25 years of Experience in Supply Chain, Purchase, Sales & Distribution, MIS, Inventory & Credit Control seeks placement.
CONTACT 94619442

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 / 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: qaisebukhari@gmail.com
Contact: 94560161

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

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

Sales operations coordinator B-com with E-commerce & Various other certifications, 5 years of Dubai and 2 years of Muscat experience, with refined skill set, Looking for new challenges. Contact +968 9676 6702 E-mail: ilyas3299@gmail.com

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

Indian B.E Civil 3yrs experience available in Oman with NOC.Looking for Sales/Purchase job. Immediate joining GSM 72651777

Indian, 24 yrs experience in consumer electronics company in Oman, looking for a suitable position. NOC available. Can join immediately. Contact 91163640

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

11 years Oman Experience in Sales Marketing and Business Development. Looking for a suitable position. Contact 91839393

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

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* Subject to space availability

FOLLOWING SUPERHERO BEHAVIOUR CAN LEAD TO HEALTHY AGEING

A new study has analysed superhero behaviour and discovered that implementing that can lead to positive health outcomes. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'BMJ'. To do this, researchers in Australia reviewed 24 Marvel movies released between 2008 (Iron Man) and 2021 (Black Widow), with concentrated periods of study during the lockdown in 2020 and 2021.

They assumed that (with the exception of Thor, who has lived for several millennia), superheroes will age and that their individual ageing trajectories will be modifiable by personal traits in much the same way as anyone else's.

First, they examined positive behaviours and health assets and found that the superheroes regularly engage in physical activity and exercise, both associated with healthy ageing, and they exhibit a high degree of social cohesion and connectedness, both associated with a reduced risk of dementia.

The superheroes also show a positive or optimistic mindset, as well as psychological resilience and a sense of purpose, all of which have been associated with healthy ageing. And with the exception of Thor and Iron Man, the superheroes do not drink heavily or smoke, behaviours associated with longer life and healthy ageing.

Next, they examined negative behaviours and risk factors and found that repeated exposure to loud noises, air pollution, and multiple head injuries puts the superheroes at increased risk of dementia, life-changing physical injury and disability. The researchers then examined the personal traits and health behaviours of five superheroes (Iron Man, Hulk, Black Widow, Black Panther, and Spiderman).

They note that both Black Panther and Iron Man are extremely wealthy and intelligent, which puts them at reduced risk of dementia. Black Panther is also vegetarian, which is known to support healthy ageing.

In contrast, Hulk's heart problems, high body mass index and almost constant anger put him at risk of several chronic diseases, while Black Widow's traumatic childhood experiences increase her risk of physical and mental illnesses.

And while Spiderman's strength, flexibility, and agility should reduce his risk of falls in old age, his nightly crime-fighting means he is unlikely to be getting the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep for teenagers of his age, which can lead to obesity, lower mental health, and higher rates of unintentional injuries.

To date, the Marvel superheroes' combined efforts focus on matters such as maintaining the safety of the multiverse, the modulation of human consciousness, the creation of artificial intelligence, and the development of technology to facilitate space travel, said the authors.

But they suggest they move their focus to deal with challenges, such as how to provide high-quality health and social care across large, ageing populations and prevent frailty and dementia.

"This would enable people across the multiverse, including superheroes, to experience a high quality of life in older age," they concluded. - ANI

LIFESTYLE

FEATURE

OMAN SAIL SETS NEW BEACH CLEAN-UP GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

MUSCAT: Oman Sail has set a Guinness World Records title for the Most Nationalities Collecting Litter. Under supervision by an adjudicator from Guinness World Records™, participants at the Youth Sailing World Championships, including sailors, Oman Sail officials, staff at Barceló Mussanah Resort and members from the OMRAN Group broke a new record with 73 nationalities collecting over 344kg of litter at Mussanah public beach on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, "During the beach clean-up it was clearly evident the global challenge of single-use plastic, Oman Sail encourages everyone to reduce or even eliminate single use plastic within their daily activities and to take the UN Clean Seas pledge, a life-long commitment to help protect our environment".

He added, "This record is a great achievement by everyone involved and also highlights just how much litter there is on beaches and in seas around the world. The Youth World Sailing Championships boasts a fleet of over 60 nations, showing how collaboration can help to restore and preserve the environment. Beach clean ups have been taking place across the country throughout our Oman Sailing Festival, and now at Barceló Mussanah Resort. We are calling on members of the public, residents and tourists across Oman to dispose of their litter appropriately and help out when needed to keep our nation beautiful and clean for future generations."

> This record is a great achievement by everyone involved and also highlights just how much litter there is on beaches and in seas around the world

Dermot Birchall, General Manager of Barceló Mussanah Resort, said, "Mussanah is blessed with a wonderful stretch of beach and incredible clear blue seas. It is our responsibility to maintain the environment and do everything we can to preserve the beauty for others to enjoy. To set a new Guinness World Records™ title whilst hosting the 50th edition of the Youth World Sailing Championships, the first to be held in the Middle East, will be part of our legacy as responsible operators and set a positive example for others to follow.

ROUND-UP

Wide range of exciting benefits on Mitsubishi Mirage or Attrage

The fun-filled Attrage or Mirage models in particular offer a wide range of benefits to customers, including cashback of up to OMR1,752, free service for up to three years, free insurance, gift vouchers and more

MUSCAT: The National Day celebrations continue with General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, thanks to its ongoing National Day promotion.

Under the new promotion, customers are offered a wide range of benefits on their brand-new Mitsubishi vehicles. The fun-filled Attrage or Mirage models in particular offer a wide range of benefits to customers, including cashback of up to OMR1,752, free service for up to three years, free insurance, gift vouchers and more.

Commenting on the Attrage and Mirage, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, "The Attrage and Mirage have proven to be excellent entry points into the Mitsubishi family. They offer a great balance of performance, reliability, comfort, and safety at an extremely affordable price point, while also being one of the most fuel-efficient vehicles on the market today."

For the duration of the two-month promotion, which ends on 13 January 2022, customers purchasing the Attrage or Mirage will receive a cashback ranging from OMR1,438 up to OMR1,752 and one-year free insurance. In addition, Attrage buyers will benefit from a 2-year/30,000km free service package, while Mirage buyers will benefit from a 3-year/51,000km service package.

To commemorate the 51st National Day of the Renaissance, every vehicle buyer will receive an OMR51 gift voucher and will be entered into a draw to win 51 grams of gold each month of the two month long promotion period.

For the 2021 model year, both the Mirage and Attrage feature revised front and rear styling. Out front, the vehicles incorporate Mitsubishi's latest Dynamic Shield grille design. This revised front bumper design gives both cars a dose of sportiness to go with its efficiency message. These improvements provide the Mirage and Attrage with a more refined, sharper look while visually tying the vehicles to Mitsubishi's current design language.

On the inside, both the Attrage and Mirage feature comfortable cloth seating and high-quality materials throughout the cabin, together with the best levels of interior room and cargo storage space available in their class.

For 2021, Mitsubishi also introduced its 7-inch Smartphone Link Display Audio (SDA) System in the Highline versions of the Mirage and Attrage.

Both models retain the 1.2-litre 3-cylinder DOHC engine, featuring the latest version of Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control (MIVEC), producing 78 horsepower and 100Nm of torque; ample power for comfortable day-to-day driving. The engine was built with efficiency at its core and teamed with Mitsubishi's INVECS-III continuously variable transmission, which offers a class-leading fuel economy of just 4.7l/100km.

The Attrage and Mirage also come equipped with a wide array of safety features. These include a Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) airbag system, four-wheel anti-lock brakes (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist, hill start assist, and Active Stability Control (ASC). Additional protection is provided to the vehicle's occupants by Mitsubishi Motors' patented high-tech Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE) impact-absorbing safety cell technology.

In addition to the Attrage and Mirage, the offer is also available on every other model within Mitsubishi's range and will run until January 13, 2022.

EXPANSION

ahlibank opens its new branch in Ruwi

MUSCAT: Enduring its vision of expansion in various governorates of the Sultanate, ahlibank has announced the opening of its new branch in Ruwi, Muscat.

ahlibank aims to enhance its presence in the market, bringing its products and services closer to its customers through a strategic expansion roadmap. The bank's consistent opening of branches in prominent locations is a part of its ambitious strategy to provide banking solutions that meet the evolving needs of its customers. The bank also looks at offering banking products and services for various segments in the society, as well as keeping pace with the trends within their modernised world.

Commenting on this occasion, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution, said, "We are pleased to announce the opening of the new branch. This milestone reflects the bank's dedication towards implementing its expansion plan that aims to make the bank's products and services easily accessible to customers.

"It further resonates with the bank's objectives of providing comprehensive and secured banking services. It is also in line with its endeavours toward strengthening its relationship with its customers by meeting their changing requirements, surpassing their expectations and cementing its leading position in the market."

The bank's expansion plan goes in line with its long-term approach to provide high-quality and efficient products and services and ensure that its customers, both individuals and companies, have easy access to them.

The new branch is characterised by its innovative design and advanced infrastructure, like other branches of the bank, in addition to having a well-trained team of banking professionals to attend to the needs of the customers and a spacious waiting area to accommodate the requirements of physical distancing. Through its branches or while banking from the safety and ease of their homes, using the bank's mobile app and internet banking facilities, ahlibank is committed to delivering a seamless customer-centric experience.

Customers in Ruwi and the surrounding areas will have access to a full range of banking services and products provided by the bank. ahlibank is committed to enhancing the satisfaction of its customers by providing wide-ranging banking services to them, using modern technologies and innovative solutions across its branch network in the Sultanate. Cementing its position as a centre of banking innovations, the bank continues its efforts to provide 'first-class' banking solutions for individuals, and corporates through a 'customer-first' approach.

PROMOTION

Win new Kia Cerato Supreme in Dream Kia campaign

MUSCAT: Kia customers looking forward to owning the Kia Cerato Supreme can now also get a chance to win it back with the most exciting offer in town from Kia.

The Cerato Supreme is available with Scratch & Win Offer, or pay only 50% for Your Car Back, Or Chance to Double Your Cash Gift Or Win Periodic Services up to 100,000 Km and yes VAT is on Us which can be used as part of Down Payment. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details.) The campaign is valid until 28th December, 2021.

Eye-catching from any angle, the Cerato Supreme utilises full LED headlights which appear as slender lines with the radiator grille to underline the redesigning of the face of the model, defining the car's sporty exterior. At the rear, strong horizontal lines add a bold appearance with depth to the fluid exterior design.

Take the wheel of the stylish new Kia Cerato and start your day feeling invigorated, relaxed and capable of anything with a powerful 150 HP 2.0L Euro 4 engine that is paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission.

Inside, the Cerato exhibits modern simplicity and practical luxury with a range of features that include a high-resolution 8-inch display screen and a 4.2-inch colour TFT LCD cluster for an improved, convenient driving experience. The model also features rear AC vents, alloy pedal, paddle shifter, power sunroof, remote engine start, providing advanced solutions to everyday inconveniences.

As a key priority in its design, the Cerato's Advanced Safety technologies satisfy the need for both safety and convenience with best-in-class features to support drivers in life.

The latest model incorporates its new Electronic Parking Brake and Auto Hold braking systems to support secure parking.

Equipped with Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Anti-Lock brake System (ABS), Driver & Front Passenger Airbags, Rear Parking Assist System, Tyre Pressure Monitoring System and more to ensure a smooth driving experience on the road.

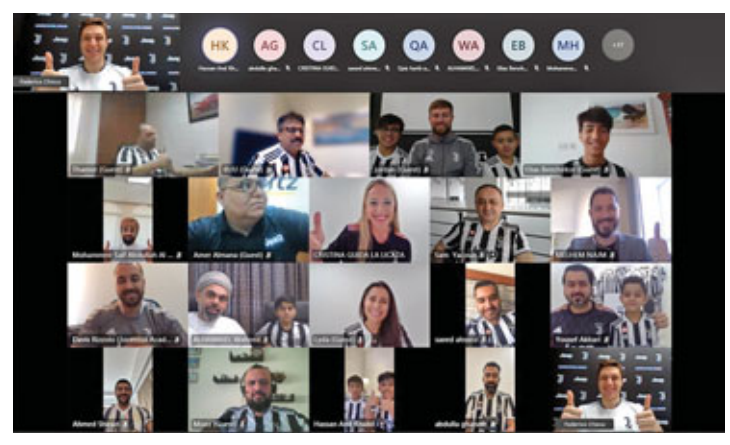
Additionally the Cerato Supreme is also equipped with Chrome Coated Beltline, Leather Wrapped Steering Wheel and TGS Gear Knob, Front Parking System, Rear View Camera, Auto Light Control, Drive Mode Select, Side Repeater Lamp in Outside Mirror, Chrome Radiator Grille and more.

DIGITAL MEET AND GREET

Jeep Oman partners with Juventus FC to introduce Jeep owners to football icons

MUSCAT: Jeep Middle East has partnered with legendary Italian football club Juventus FC to introduce Jeep owners to their football heroes through digital meet and greet sessions.

The virtual meet and greet is something unique that Juventus organises exclusively for Jeep customers. Since the pandemic has made travel difficult for many, the team has decided to launch these virtual meetings to be closer to their fans and let them experience something special – creating a one-to-one opportunity to meet with one of the players in which guests can ask a question and have a chat directly with their football hero.



This year five guests from Oman were invited to meet player meet Federico Chiesa, the young Italian winger that has joined Juventus last season.

Commenting on the occasion, Marco Melani, Managing Director of American Brands at Stellantis Middle East, said, "Jeep's philosophy is to enable Jeep owners to 'Go anywhere, do anything', which is why we make it our mission to create some of life's most extraordinary journeys for our customers. This partnership with Juventus, one of football's most iconic clubs, is one way in which we can bring these unforgettable experiences to Jeep owners in Oman. Jeep and Juventus are two icons in the history of their respective worlds, making them ideal brand partners, as both have in their DNA values such as authenticity, passion and the ability to take on any challenge, on the field, on-road and off-road."

Hatem El-Naggar, General Manager at Dhofar Automotive, the official dealer of Jeep in Oman said, "It was a truly unique experience for our customers! The name Jeep is synonymous with a relentless pursuit for being at the top of its class, and therefore it shares this passion for excellence with the prestigious Juventus Football Club. I would like to thank all Jeep fans in Oman for their wonderful interaction with this groundbreaking event and to congratulate the five winners who have received this exceptional opportunity to speak directly with the stars of the legendary Italian club."

Jeep is the authentic SUV with class-leading capability, craftsmanship and versatility for people who seek extraordinary journeys and freedom for the soul.

Jeep provides vehicles that support a lifestyle of boundless freedom, responsible adventure and are reliable, safe, fun and environmentally friendly.

The Jeep brand has been a partner with Juventus since 2012 and is proud to partner with a team that shares its passion and drive for success.

They are united not only by their iconic style – the striking black and white stripes of the Bianconeri and the signature seven-slot grille of Jeep – but also by their rich history, power and tenacity.

Founded in 1897 in Turin, Italy, Juventus Football Club competes in the Serie A, the top tier of the Italian football league system. 'Juve' has won 38 official league titles, 14 Coppa Italia titles and nine Supercoppa Italiana titles, as well as Intercontinental Cups, two UEFA Champions Leagues, one European Cup Winners' Cup, a joint national record of three UEFA Cups, two UEFA Super Cups and a joint national record of one UEFA Intertoto Cup.

ROUND-UP

Maserati Classiche programme begins

Maserati Classiche is the department that protects and promotes the preservation and originality of the company's automotive heritage

MODENA: Maserati Classiche has officially begun, following the announcement made last year at the "MMXX: Time to be Audacious" event which inaugurated the brand's new era.

The first road car to receive the Maserati certification of authenticity is a Mistral 3700.

Maserati Classiche is the department that protects and promotes the preservation and originality of the company's automotive heritage. An exclusive assistance service – dedicated to the brand's customers and collectors – now also includes a process to certify authenticity.

The first road car certified by the Maserati Classiche programme is a Mistral 3700, built-in March 1969, with the silver Auteuil livery.

This Maserati Mistral received a certificate of originality after thorough verification of the car (with over 300 checks made), matched against all the documents held by the Historical Archive.

The certification process is guaranteed by a committee of experts and is offered for Maserati cars from more than 20 years ago plus the special series, including those from the recent past such as the MC12 and the Quattroporte limited editions.

Also included in the programme is a maintenance service for in-house minor repairs and routine maintenance, as well as an on-demand Car Detailing service.

Alongside Collectors and Customers, the programme provides a service to support the preservation of the cars and the restoration of every detail to match the original. A dedicated service plan offers owners of Classiche, Youngtimer and Speciali cars follow-up in the various stages of the maintenance or restoration work done.

The next step in the Classiche Programme consists of a series of major assistance services, scheduled for 2022 and to be taken care of by Maserati itself, with the inclusion of the "Classiche" spare parts management and both assistance and support with restoration.

The primary tasks of Maserati Classiche include the manufacture of spare parts no longer available on the market, following indications taken from the original designs. The process uses the best technology there is to improve the reliability and functionality of the components, with no changes to their aesthetic appearance.

On the Maserati Classiche website, you can book your request for Maserati Certification of Authenticity and discover all the services and details of the programme, made especially for Trident-brand enthusiasts. In addition, to accompany the launch of the Maserati Classiche programme, a new Capsule Collection is also available, for fans of the brand's heritage.

The collection combines style with tradition and includes garments for men, women and "mini-me" versions. The design pays attention to the smallest details, and to customisations that reflect the hallmarks and traditional colours of Maserati Classiche.

RECOGNITION

Bank Muscat's Asalah Priority Banking wins Signature Luxury 100 Award 2021

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has won the Signature Luxury 100 award for Outstanding Premier Banking Services for Asalah Priority Banking.

The award was given at a grand ceremony in the presence of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Harib bin Thuwaini Al Said and His Highness Sayyid Muadh bin Dheyabbin Hamad Al Said.

The event was also attended by a number of dignitaries and leaders from the corporate world. During the ceremony, Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat, received the award on behalf of the bank. Signature Luxury 100 is a unique annual list of iconic luxury products and services that is drawn up after a review of many luxury products and services, which have impressed consumers and are vetted by experts.

Speaking on the occasion, Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat, said: "Bank Muscat's Asalah Priority Banking is delighted to win the Signature Luxury 100 Award and dedicates this achievement to all our valued clients for their continued support and patronage. Bank Muscat has been implementing a new premier banking strategy since 2016 and is proud to have taken Priority Banking to an exceptional level. Backed by an excellent customer service team, Asalah Priority Banking is working to further enhance its benefits for its valued clientele."

COLLABORATION

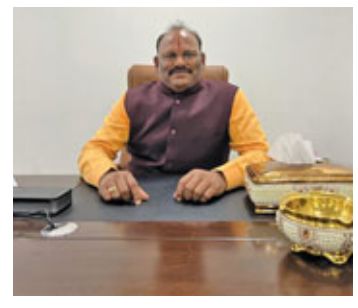
Fanus Barka Al Dhahabi to establish broiler parent farm

MUSCAT: Global consumption of poultry meat is increasing from year to year for several reasons, including the population increase and the high prices of beef, lamb and fish compared to the prices of poultry meat, as well as the closure of meat imports from time to time due to the spread of epidemic animal diseases.

The poultry sector in the Sultanate is a major source in providing the most important food commodities for local consumption, where poultry meat and table eggs come on the list of the family's food baskets in the Sultanate.

The local production has increased during the past five years from 87,000 tonnes to 135,000 tonnes, and accordingly, the per capita share of poultry meat has increased to reach about 45 kg/year.

In this regard, Al-Khansa Hilal Al Busaidi, owner of the Fanus Barka Al Dhahabi Trading Company, says, "It is clear that this sector, with the increasing demand for its products, is a good environment for investment capable of absorbing part of the national workforce and empowering the younger generations. Therefore, our company, in partnership with Udaya Project Investment SPC, will take advantage of the available opportunities and establish a broiler parent farm to produce hatching eggs and chicks using modern technologies.



Al-Khansa Al-Busaidi adds, "We thank the government agencies, especially the Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources, for providing the environment that encourages the implementation of such projects, as a lease agreement was signed with them for the use of agricultural land to establish our project. She ends her speech by wishing success for all agricultural projects to achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

On the other hand, Udayakumar Rajagopal, owner of Udaya Project Investment SPC, said, "Our company provide buttress to SME developments, which require a crosscutting strategy role in the transition and developing the industries, will invest OMR3 million in the broiler parents project as a first phase.

The project manager Dr Vikas B. Garad, adds that the import of hatching eggs for broilers has increased as a result of the increased consumption of chicken meat. At present, if we look at the Omani market, small and medium broiler farms depend on imports from abroad to meet their needs, which are estimated at 8 to 10 million hatching eggs monthly, imports are mainly from India, Europe and USA. If we are able to produce locally, it will be easier to meet the needs of the local market.

"We in the company are equipped with the expertise required for this project, and we plan to produce about 0.8 million hatching eggs per month, which represents only 5% of the needs of the local market. In addition to providing technical support, vaccinations, medicines and after-sales services for poultry farms and hatcheries. The project will also seek to enhance the presence of the Omani product in the regional markets by exporting hatching eggs to neighbouring countries," he says.

CASUAL-DINING RESTAURANT

Molten Chocolate Café opens new store in Mall of Oman

MUSCAT: After successfully opening its first branch in Mall of Muscat in 2019, casual-dining restaurant, Molten Chocolate Café has now launched its second restaurant in Mall of Oman, Muscat. This will be the sixth outlet in the GCC and the second in Oman.

At Molten Chocolate Café-the word chocolate brings joy to our hearts and smiles to our faces.

A rich and loving chocolate experience is at the heart of what makes Molten Chocolate Café the prime destination for chocolate lovers. We believe in emphasising the quality of the ingredients that we use in our desserts.

We pride ourselves on a great selection of chocolate confectionaries that are not only creative but carefully prepared to achieve the highest standard of quality and taste.

We want you to smile at every touchpoint from the taste, smell, touch and sight of our finest Belgian chocolate, rich chocolate made with 100% cocoa butter.

From flavourful breakfast, French crepes filled with delicious confectionary options and Belgian waffles covered in a variety of tempting toppings, to richly indulgent brownies drizzled in chocolate, mesmerizing Molten Specials and so much more, the menu choices at Molten Chocolate Café are things of pure, unparalleled joy, capable of putting a smile on anyone's face.

Whether you're looking for a catch-up over coffee, a Chocolate Fondue Tower with the family, or a feast of sweets with friends, you'll find the chocolate treats your dreams are made of at this perfect dessert destination.

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