

**ROYAL COURT ADVISOR TAKES
PART IN ABE'S FUNERAL**

Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sheikh Salim Mustahail Al Mashani, Advisor at the Diwan of Royal Court, took part in the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as a representative of the Sultanate of Oman. **>A5**



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**HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN,
UAE PRESIDENT HOLD
OFFICIAL TALKS**

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held an official session of talks at Al Alam Palace on Tuesday.

>A5



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‘OMAN HAS A UNIQUE STATUS IN THE HEARTS OF UAE LEADERS, PEOPLE’



Sheikh Mohammed expressed his pride over the close fraternal relations that bind him with His Majesty Sultan bin Tarik

MUSCAT: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has affirmed that the historically deep-rooted relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE assume a special significance, and that these relations are a manifestation of a uniform social and cultural texture.

The UAE President pointed out that Oman-UAE relations stem from profound bonds where a broad base with family ties overlaps with shared interests.

In a statement on the occasion of the state visit he began in Oman on Tuesday, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed expressed his deep delight to be in Oman which, he said, is accorded a unique status in the hearts of UAE leadership and people.

Sheikh Mohammed expressed his pride over the close fraternal

relations that bind him with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The UAE President commended the sincere approach of communication pursued by the leaderships of the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman.

In this context, Sheikh Mohammed recalled the special relations between the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, stressing that the current leaderships will follow suit of their predecessors' tradition.

The UAE President added that “economic and commercial relations between the two countries will continue to grow and prosper during the forthcoming period, with wide prospects for the utilization of available resources and opportunities.”

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed voiced his enthusiasm to work hand in hand with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to enhance relations along all fronts, starting with the establishment of firm grounds for future cooperation that will bring about bounty and prosperity to the peoples of the two countries.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed said that the UAE will join hands with all GCC brethren, on top of them Oman, to consolidate the common march of action. The UAE President said he looks forward to working more closely with His Majesty the Sultan “for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity of our region, its people and its steady growth.” -ONA

More stories on A4, A5 & A6

HM, UAE President exchange orders, mementos



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), exchanged orders and commemorative gifts at Al Alam Palace on Tuesday on the occasion of the visit made to Oman by the UAE President.

His Majesty the Sultan conferred the “Al Said Order”, Oman’s most lofty accolade, on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in commendation for Sheikh Mohammed and in manifestation of the deep-rooted fraternal relations binding the two countries.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed awarded His Majesty Sultan Haitham the “Order of Zayed”, the UAE’s most magnificent decoration, in commendation of His Majesty the Sultan and in acknowledgment of the two countries’ centuries-old fraternal relations.

His Majesty the Sultan also presented Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed with a commemorative gift, which was an Omani sword. The UAE President reciprocated the gesture, presenting His Majesty the Sultan with a replica of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. -ONA



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Dhuhr.....	12:03pm
Asr.....	3:27pm
Maghrib.....	6:03pm
Isha.....	7:13pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:43am

3-day weekend holiday on Prophet’s birth anniversary

With October 9 confirmed as a holiday, a three-day weekend is in the offing next month.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman authorities have confirmed that October 9 will be a holiday to honour Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on his birth anniversary.

A three-day weekend is in the offing next month. “On the approach of Prophet Mohammed’s (PBUH) birth anniversary, it has been decided that Sunday 13 Rabe Al Awal 1444 AH, corresponding to 9 October, will be an official holiday for employees of units of the State’s Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities and establishments of the private sector,” ONA said on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Labour explained that the employers of the private sector establishments may agree on terms to engage employees on the said holiday—if deemed necessary due to the nature of their work—provided they compensate the workers for the holiday.

Omanis express their joy on the occasion of the anniversary of the Prophet’s birthday, so, how do Omanis celebrate and what are the



most prominent celebrations?

The Prophet’s (PBUH) birthday or the birth of the Messenger is an annual commemoration on the day of the birth of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) on the 12th of Rabi’ Al Awwal, according to the Hijri calendar, as Muslims celebrate it every year in some Islamic countries not as a holiday or worship, but as joy on the birth of their Prophet (PBUH), the Messenger of God Mohammed bin Abdullah, where popular celebrations begin from the beginning of the month of Rabi’ al-Awwal to its end, by setting up assemblies in which poems are sung in praise of the Prophet, and in which lessons are learned from his prophetic biography, his merits are mentioned and food and sweets are served such as the sweetness of the birth.

Moath Al-Saidi from Wilayat Al-Khaboura in North Al Batinah Governorate said: “The Prophet’s (PBUH) birthday is a day of joy that spreads throughout the wilayat, where decorations are hung in homes and streets, people gather in mosques to sing and religious competitions are held for children and adults, whether with

songs, sermons or a question and answer session or talks about his biography, and feasts are made and sweets are distributed at the end of the celebrations.”

Moath added: “Here, every Muslim remembers how the Prophet (PBUH) sacrificed himself, his money and his family in order to convey the message that God assigned him to spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula and the world. He was a prophet of mercy, and did not die until after he was interested in the divine to the fullest.”

Yamen Al Amiri from the Governorate of Muscat also said that this is the occasion of the anniversary of the Prophet’s birth. It is a great occasion in which Muslims remember how the Prophet (PBUH) changed the course of history through his honourable prophetic biography. Talks take place in the mosque, from the first day of his birth until his death, and the great historical events that took place in it, and how he was merciful and kind to people. He calls for the one religion of God, and religious songs and lectures are celebrated throughout the month in which the Prophet was born.”

Foreign Minister receives UN Special Envoy for Yemen

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received here on Tuesday Hans Grundberg, UN Special Envoy for Yemen.

The two sides exchanged views on endeavours made towards expanding the truce in Yemen in a bid to realise aspirations of security and stability for the Yemeni people.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the UN Special Envoy and officials at the Foreign Ministry. -ONA



Stress on adventure tourism development by utilising natural resources of Oman

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism Forum kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) here on Tuesday, coinciding with marking the World Tourism Day.

The event is organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, OCEC and Oman Tourism Development Company (OM-RAN Group).

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Kamel bin Fahd Al Said, Assistant Secretary General at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers.

Said Hareb Al Obaidani, Director General of Tourism Development at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said that Oman Tourism Forum addressed means of developing adventure tourism by utilising unique natural resources in Oman to place it among the best world destinations for this type of tourism.

On his turn, Eng. Said Salim Al Shanfari, CEO of OCEC said that the forum highlights the prominent initiatives undertaken to boost Oman’s efforts in the field of



OPENING CEREMONY: The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Kamel bin Fahd Al Said, Assistant Secretary General at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers. -ONA

adventure tourism.

The first day of the forum included a discussion on the reality of adventure tourism in Oman, while Wednesday’s topics will touch on licencing procedures, security and safety requirements and the role of modern technologies in devel-

oping adventure tourism.

Oman Tourism Forum aims to attract local tour organisers, travel agencies, airlines and suppliers under one roof to display the services and offers they provide in the field of tourism in general and adventure tourism in particular. -ONA

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GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY

Oman eliminates mother-child transmission of HIV, syphilis

MUSCAT: In a high-profile ceremony, the Sultanate of Oman will on Wednesday receive the World Health Organization (WHO)'s certification for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis in the East Mediterranean Region (EMR). The ceremony will be held under

the auspices of Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health. Oman has thus met the goals of the global health strategy (2022-2030) aimed at eradicating mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2025 in 50 countries, and achieving the same goal in 100 countries by 2030.

Oman's accomplishment will motivate other countries in the GCC and the region to follow suit

Oman's accomplishment was the outcome of many factors, among them the country's enlightened leadership committed to achieving and sustaining the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. This is in addition to the merging of primary health care institutions that provide care to mother and child in all the governorates across Oman, the establishment of a high-quality network laboratories and the existence of advanced HIV-treatment systems. Other factors behind this tremendous milestone also include the presence of a streamlined electronic system in all government and private health establishments, multi-sectoral cooperation and the formation of a national committee and technical working groups. Oman's accomplishment will motivate other countries in the GCC and the region to follow suit. -OMA



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UAE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN OMAN

MUSCAT: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) arrived on Tuesday on a two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq led the welcoming party for the UAE President.

When the jet touched ground at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the guest at the foot of the ramp, welcoming him and wishing him and his official delegation a pleasant stay in Oman.

When the guest's jet entered the Omani airspace, it was escorted by a squadron of military aircrafts till its arrival at the Royal Airport.

Along with His Majesty the Sultan, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed was received by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court (Head of the Mission of Honour), Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the UAE, Mohammed bin Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and members of the mission of honour.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed headed to the hall, flanked by two rows of the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO).

After a short break, the motorcade of the two leaders left the Royal Airport, heading to Al Alam Palace for the official and popular reception.

As the motorcade passed Mus-



cat Gate, a group of Royal Camel Corps lined both sides of the road, welcoming the guest. Then, a cavalcade from the Royal Cavalry and the RGO Cavalry escorted the motorcade till the National Museum's building, to the accompaniment of a mounted military music band.

Upon the arrival of the official motorcade at the yard leading to Al Alam Palace, a popular recep-

tion was held, with the participation of more than 600 male and female citizens. A cluster of folklore bands lined the passage, chanting lyrics in a manifestation of warm welcome to the guest.

When the official motorcade arrived at the internal courtyard of Al Alam Palace, a welcoming tune was played by the RGO band, in an atmosphere of fanfare and ambience. After that, His Majesty the

Sultan accompanied Sheikh Mohammed to the Dais of Honour where the National Anthem of the United Arab Emirates was played while the artillery fired a twenty-one gun salute for the guest.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying the UAE President, wishing them a pleasant stay. On his turn, the UAE President shook hands

with some members of the Royal Family, Chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police (ROP).

After that, His Majesty the Sultan and the guest proceeded to the hall where they took Arabian coffee.

The UAE President is accompanied during the visit by an offi-

His Majesty the Sultan accompanied Sheikh Mohammed to the Dais of Honour where the National Anthem of the United Arab Emirates was played while the artillery fired a twenty-one gun salute for the guest.

cial delegation comprising Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Ministry of Presidential Court, Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, Ali bin Mohammed Al Shamsi, Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme National Security Council, Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Khalifa bin Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State, Jabr bin Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Minister of State, Mohammed bin Hassan Al Suwaidi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company (ADQ), Mohammed bin Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials. -ONA





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His Majesty the Sultan, UAE President hold official talks



The two leaders exchanged views on the regional and international developments, as well as matters of common interests

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held an official session of talks at Al Alam Palace on Tuesday.

At the outset of the session, His Majesty the Sultan reiterated his welcome to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, being an eminent guest of the Sultanate of Oman, wishing him and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay.

In his turn, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed expressed his utmost thanks and appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for the warm welcome and hospitality. The session reviewed the deep-rooted and historical relations binding the two countries and means of promoting them to serve the Omani and Emirati peoples and meet their aspirations.

The two leaders exchanged views on the regional and international developments, as well as matters of common interests.

The official session of talks was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Fatik bin Fahr Al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court (Head of the Mission of Honour), Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Oufi, Head of the Private Office, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Oufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of



Oman to the UAE.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the UAE side by Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Ministry of Presidential Court, Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, Ali bin Moham-

med Al Shamsi, Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme National Security Council, Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Khalifa bin Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State, Jabr bin Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Minister of State, Mohammed bin Hassan Al Suwaidi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company (ADQ) and Mohammed bin Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, UAE President held a closed-door session. -ONA



FUNERAL

Delegated by HM, Royal Court Advisor takes part in Abe's funeral



TOKYO: Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sheikh Salim Mustahail Al Mashani, Advisor at the Diwan of Royal Court, took part in the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as a representative of the Sultanate of Oman. The funeral was held in Tokyo.

As part of the funeral service, Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan received Sheikh Salim Mustahail Al Mashani, Advisor at

the Diwan of Royal Court. During the meeting, Al Mashani conveyed condolences and sympathies of His Majesty the Sultan to the Japanese leadership and people on the demise of the former premier.

On his turn, Kishida asked Sheikh Salim Al Mashani to convey his appreciation and thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's noble sentiments. He also expressed his best wishes to His Majesty and the Omani people. -ONA



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HIS MAJESTY HOSTS DINNER IN HONOUR OF UAE PRESIDENT



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik hosted an official dinner at Al Alam Palace guesthouse on Tuesday evening in honour of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The dinner was attended by members of the Royal Family, ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police, as well as ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries, members of the State Council and Shura Council, undersecretaries and some ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry.

-ONA



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His Majesty the Sultan also presented Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed with a commemorative gift, which was an Omani sword. The UAE President reciprocated the gesture, presenting His Majesty the Sultan with a replica of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

UAE PRESIDENT MEETS OMAN'S TOP OFFICIALS



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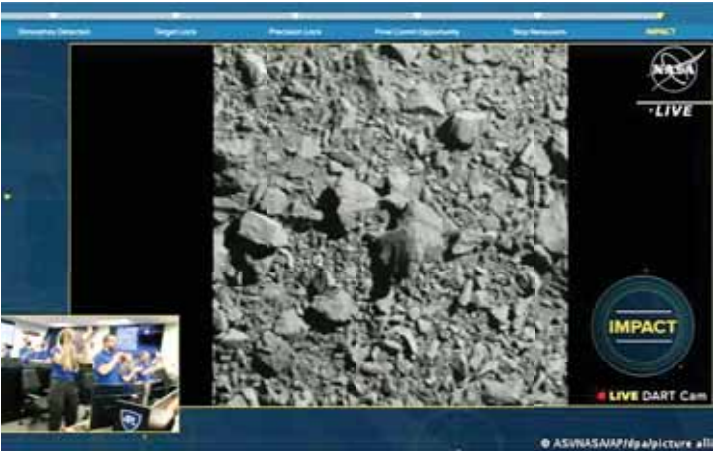
WORLD





NASA’s DART spaceship crashes into asteroid in planetary defence test

Impact occurred at 7:14 p.m. Eastern Time in the US, 10 months after the vessel had launched towards the harmless asteroid



WASHINGTON: NASA's DART spaceship on Monday struck the asteroid Dimorphos, in a test designed to ascertain whether a similar action could in future be used to deflect an asteroid or a comet that's bound for Earth.

Impact occurred at 7:14 p.m. Eastern Time in the US (2314 GMT/UTC), 10 months after the vessel had launched towards the harmless asteroid. "We're embarking on a new era, an era in which we potentially have the capability to protect ourselves

from something like a dangerous hazardous asteroid impact," said Lori Glaze, director of NASA's planetary science division. Video footage from the spacecraft and images of NASA's ground control team responding to the direct hit were broadcast live online.

The abrupt cancellation of DART's radio feed, coupled with still images of the asteroid's surface from very close range roughly one second before impact, served as evidence of it having hit its target at around 14,000 miles per hour (22,500 km/h). **But did it work?** The experiment is the first of its kind. It will take some time to learn whether the successful impact also meaningfully altered Dimorphos' trajectory. A tiny satellite called LICIACube separated from DART a few weeks ago. It is supposed to make a close pass of the site to capture images after the collision of what's known as the ejecta, the rock and debris thrown off the asteroid in the impact. Ground satellites will be able to log whether or not Dimorphos' orbit of another asteroid, Didymos, has been altered by the

impact as NASA hopes it will be. "Now is when the science starts," said NASA's Glaze. "Now we're going to see for real how effective we were." It could take days or even weeks to chart Dimorphos' new trajectory. The mission, which cost \$325 million (roughly €340 million), is the first attempt to shift the position of any object in space simply using the kinetic energy of an impact. **Dress rehearsal for a real Earth deflection** There are currently no known asteroids, comets or other "near-Earth objects" (NEOs), to use NASA's terminology, that are on a collision course with Earth. However, scientists warn that a significant number of such objects are likely yet to be discovered. There would appear to be few alternatives available should such a

rock be Earth-bound, with deflecting its course just enough to make it miss the planet being the most likely means of defense, and one already explored by Hollywood in films like "Armageddon." The alternative, trying to blow up a large space rock, runs the risk of turning one large impact into hundreds or thousands of smaller ones — by shattering the NEO and having the fragments rain down on the planet instead. **One step ahead of the dinosaurs** "The dinosaurs didn't have a space program to help them know what was coming, but we do," NASA's senior climate advisor Katherine Calvin said, referring to the mass extinction more than 60 million years ago believed to have been caused, or at least partially caused, by a major asteroid impact in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. **mw**

NO RESTRICTIONS

Canada to drop all COVID-19 travel curbs from October 1

ONTARIO: The Canadian government is dropping its COVID-19 border measures for all travellers from October 1, Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos announced on Monday. Foreign travelers will no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination or test on arrival. Quarantine policies for arriving travelers will also be scrapped. "We are able to do this because tens of millions of Canadians rolled up their sleeves and got vaccinated," Transport Minister Omar Alghabara said. More than 90% of Canadians over 12 have been vaccinated. Mask mandates will be lifted

on trains and planes. The government would also no longer require passengers to have pre-board tests for cruise ships. The health minister said the government was prepared to reinstate restrictions if needed. "Obviously we have no hope to reintroduce some of these measures, but, if we need to protect the safety of Canadians, we will have to," Duclos said. The country has passed the peak of omicron infections, and the aviation and travel industries have been pushing the government to relax the rules. Most European countries, including Germany, dropped entry

requirements related to the coronavirus before the summer travel season began. The United States still requires foreign nationals to be vaccinated when entering the country. No change in the mandate was expected in the US in the near term. Earlier this year, cross-border truckers organized a "Freedom Convoy" against vaccine mandates in Canada. The horn-blasting demonstrators targeted the Canadian capital city, Ottawa, and other parts of the country, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoking emergency powers to quell the protests. **mw**

HIGH FOOTFALL

High number of Indian tourist gives boost to Singapore tourism

SINGAPORE: A high footfall of Indian tourists into Singapore is set to give a flip up to the country's tourism ahead of the F1 Grand Prix beginning September 30. Around 40 per cent of the spectators at the Grand Prix are foreigners, no doubt many will be from India. Indians at the moment,

make up the second largest group of visitors to Singapore by country of origin. Up till August, Singapore received a total of 2.96 million visitors. Out of these, 378,490 are from India. Indonesia is the largest source of foreign visitors to Singapore till August at 588,870. Malaysia is in third place with 264,170,

followed by Australia (258,670) and Vietnam (177,510). July and August, saw about 725,000 foreigners entering Singapore each month, the highest so far this year. At this pace and if global travel continues to pick up, Singapore expects to reach approximately 6 million visitors by the end of the year.

Invitation to Tender

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

Tender Reference No	Title of the Tender
DISC/W/TENDER/MAN/2022/010	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF REVERSE OSMOSIS WATER DESALINATION PLANTS AT ANDAT, HALOOF MASHELA, TOWSNAT & KUBOOT

Tender Fee	RO 1,575.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender documents from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents
Experience	minimum of three (3) years experience in the maintenance and operation of Desalination Plant, out of which at least two (2) years in Reverse Osmosis Sea Water Desalination Plant
Pre-qualification	The tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The tenderer must show previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 11 th October 2022
Site Visit	12 th & 13 th October 2022
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 19 th October 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 26 th October 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 3 rd November 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

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



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Dhofar Integrated Services Company

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
مقرها: صالة العرض المصحية ١ - صالة - محافظة ظفار - الرقة المبحر، ٢٠٠٧٧٧٠٠
P.O. Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, 23rd July Street, behind West Salalah Health Center
Salalah, Sultanate of Oman - Tel Free: 80077700
info@disc.nama.om www.disc.nama.om



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Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
177/2022	General maintenance work for al-wafa center for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the wilayat of buraimi	Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Sunday 17-10-2022 02:00 PM	Sunday 6-11-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Wednesday 28/9/2022

❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.

❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry"

www.mosd.gov.om

Al-Zubair, Schiller, Jeffries round off GT World Challenge season

The crew currently holds fourth position in the Drivers' Championship standings

Times News Service

BARCELONA: Oman's Al-Faisal Al-Zubair, German team-mate Fabian Schiller and Zimbabwe's Axcil Jeffries round off their maiden season in the 2022 Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS – Endurance Cup at the final round in Barcelona this week-



FANATEC GT: The highlight of the season was their memorable Silver Cup victory at the Paul Ricard circuit in France back in early June.

end. The Al-Manar Racing by HRT Mercedes-AMG GT3 crew have adapted well to the new racing discipline and currently hold fourth position in the Drivers' Championship standings, the highlight of the season thus far being their memorable Silver Cup victory at the Paul Ricard circuit in France back in early June.

The early leaders in the championship will be looking for a strong performance at the 4.7km Catalunya circuit to round off a season that has seen Benjamin Goethe, Thomas Neubauer and Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer top the standings and win the title in their Team WRT Audi R8.

The Al-Manar Racing trio could still overhaul the Attempto Racing Audi R8 crew of Nicolas Schöll, Alex Aka and Marius Zug and claim the runner-up spot in the rankings. Al-Zubair said:

"This is the last race of the season and I am looking forward to it. It is Barcelona and this is a track that I really enjoy as well. It's crazy to think how fast the season has gone and that we are already here after five rounds. It will be difficult, like all the other rounds of the GT World Challenge. But, nonetheless, we have proved that, not only the car, but the team have been quick this year and we can probably get a good result to round off the year. Hopefully, the balance of performance is on our side. Let's hope we can end the season on a strong note."

Forty-nine cars line-up at the start of the weekend's action, which gets underway for the 18 Silver Cup runners with free practice from 09.00hrs to 10.30hrs on Saturday (October 1) morning. This precedes pre-qualifying on the circuit from 13.40hrs.

CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

OCC set to host Asian Amateur Chess Championship

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Chess Committee (OCC) is set to organise 2021-22 Asian Amateur Chess Championship which will be held in Muscat from September 29 until October 5 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher.

The organising committee said that 204 players representing 23 countries confirmed that they will take part in the championship and the players are from: Bahrain, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and the hosts Sultanate of Oman.

Ahmed Darwish Al Balushi,



Chairman of OCC, affirmed that the organising committee completed all the technical and logistics preparations.

"Special thanks to all the committee members and to the officials at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for their sup-

ports and hard works towards hosting the Asian chess event.

"OCC has been awarded the rights to host the prestigious event after meeting all the requirement of the Asian Chess Federation. Oman have a capable sporting infrastructure, logistics

arrangement and the qualified human resources to host the Asian event. We are looking forward to organise a successful edition of the tournament," he added.

Many top ranking men players will attend the major chess event including Lebanon's Mahmood Masarani, Junaid Suhai from Pakistan, Awlad Ihasan from Iran. UAE's player Roudha Essa al Sarkal will lead the top ranking players in the women category. Palestine's Sawan Eman will be second ranking player while Qatar's Salma al Khalaifi will participate as the third ranked player.

The chief of OCC exhorted national team players to compete for top places.

"The national chess team will represent Oman in the event featuring ten players from men and

women teams. Salim Al Amri, Salim Shamas, Manaa Al Kathiri, Ameen Al Ansi, Abdulrahman Al Zadjali and Anas Al Darwashi will be in men squad.

The women team squad comprises Anat Al Ayessai, Afraa Al Balushi and Al Anood Al Ghafri. The national players are currently in domestic preparatory camp under the watchful eyes of the Iranian and Yemeni coaches Basheer Al Qudaimi and Mersad Khuda Shash.

"The training sessions at Al Amal club focuses on raising the technical level of the players and equipping them with updated strategies of attacking. We are confident of top performance in the tournament. The event will be a great opportunity to develop their world ranking," he said

FOOTBALL

Italy reach Nations League finals

BUDAPEST: Italy pipped Hungary to a place in the Nations League finals with an assured win over the hosts in Budapest.

Marco Rossi's Hungary side had gone into the fixture at the Puskas Arena only needing a draw to reach the last four of the competition.

However, a defensive lapse allowed Giacomo Raspadori to roll the ball into an empty net and put Italy ahead.

Federico Dimarco sealed victory for the European champions after the break when he tapped in Bryan Cristante's cross.

The result means Italy finish top of Group A3 with 11 points from six games. **ONA**

CRICKET

GlamHomes plans big for growth of cricket in Oman



Times News Service

MUSCAT: GlamHomes Cricket Team, which is going to participate in the A-Division league of the Oman Cricket, starting from 15th of October, 2022 organised a launch event in the presence of Indian Ambassador Amit Narang, the chief guest of the event.

The event was attending by the top management of more than 50 corporates. The team is managed by B&M Events and its owner Imran Behlim was all praise for the growth of the team.

GlamHomes is the new title sponsor for the team from this season and its owner Idris Solanki suggested that he had big plans to invest for the development of this team. "Cricket is my passion and we have a very good side. I expect the best of players in Oman to drop a sweat, just with the thought of playing with us. We are a very balanced side and we expect to dominate," he said.

The India's Ambassador said: "I am more than impressed by the growth of cricket in Oman in the last 5 years. Already a lot of international teams have started to consider Oman just like their home ground. Should International franchises come into Oman, it would be a massive boost. Our best wishes to the entire team and we hope that, this

upcoming season is a major factor for growth of this team."

GlamHomes looks to go international

The team management announced at the event that they had contacted many International franchises last year, in an effort to unite with them. Currently, the team is focused in implementing these suggestions, so that it can be the first ever international franchise in the future.

Benefits of going International

Pranav Mehta (Team Co-Owner) suggested that, a tie up with these international franchises would be a massive boost for us. Not only in terms of us being able to interest bigger sponsors, but with the addition of their players, who would give us a massive boost cause of their experience. This tie up, would make us a specialized cricket club and hence we will target to participate in the intracub championships, which are already a popular aspect in our neighboring countries. The most important aspect is that, our players would get a lot of exposure and self-belief.

Ahmed Khan (Team Co-Owner) suggested that, from my perspective, Globalisation and diversification is of prime focus to

major organisations in this world. These big league franchises have a lot to gain with these tie ups.

What all franchises are interested?

It all started with one Indian and one Pakistani franchises. But the news has spread quite quickly and now we have 2 Indian, 2 Pakistani and 1 Bangladeshi franchise as well. There is a 6th franchise as well, but we haven't been able to have a clear conversation with them. Pranav Mehta added, I wouldn't be wrong in stating that, last season, we were the only team current playing International franchise cricket. Namely, Inzamam Ul Haq, Kashif Ali and Dean Foxcroft. All these 3 players were actively involved with Kashmir Premier League and Pakistan Super League.

Captain Ahmed Khan said that the event was a grand success with it being graced by local audience. This is definitely the first of its kind and should the team be able to get any kind of success, then it will definitely help boost local cricket. We are very optimistic about being a big stepping stone to development and interests of international franchises in Oman, and we are working very closely under the guidelines of the parent body Oman Cricket, when it comes to hard ball cricket.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$84.24, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 22 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$84.46. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,493.54 points, up by 0.8 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.59 per cent at 479.9 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 6.67 per cent, was the top loser.

Falling rupee, stock markets to impede India's growth

As the currency comes under further pressure, the Indian authorities have also been raising interest rates that could help support the rupee by reducing the rate differential against the dollar



“

This is shown by the Indian central bank's reduced growth projections during which the stock market could go into consolidation. This is particularly true while inflation remains high and central banks continue tightening their monetary policy

Farah Mourad
Senior Market Analyst at XTB Mena

VINOD KUMAR PK
vinodkumar@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: With the Indian rupee at an all-time low and the stock markets falling an industry expert said that like other countries, India could enter an economic slow-down phase.

“This is shown by the Indian central bank's reduced growth projections during which the stock

market could go into consolidation,” said Farah Mourad, Senior Market Analyst at XTB Mena.

“This is particularly true while inflation remains high and central banks continue tightening their monetary policy. As a result, the rupee could continue to depreciate against the dollar while the latter is supported by the Federal Reserve,” she added.

As the rupee comes under further pressure, the Indian authorities have also been raising interest rates that could help support it by reducing the interest rate differential against the dollar.

“Such an operation was executed successfully by the Russian central bank to shore up its currency after the invasion of Ukraine. Establishing settlements in rupee for

India's large oil imports could also reduce pressure on the currency. A more stable currency could help attract foreign investors to the stock market and shore up prices,” she further said.

Although Indian expats in Oman and other GCC countries can enjoy a higher exchange rate for the rupee, Farah Mourad cautioned that the lower exchange rate

would mean that imported goods cost more in India. “This is particularly in the case with oil and its derivatives and crude prices have climbed sharply in dollar terms and this is exacerbated by the fall of the rupee,” she added.

When asked about the fair exchange rate of the rupee-dollar, she said that the market exchange rate of the rupee is determined through offer and demand and global economic conditions. At the moment, these conditions are in favour of the US dollar which is seeing its value appreciate. “However, the rupee could see the tide turn in its favour when the Federal Reserve ends its tightening cycle, leaving room for the economy to grow and demand Indian goods to expand,” she added further.

Elaborating on the US Fed's aggressive rate hike and its implications for Oman and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Farah Mourad, said, “The tightening of the US monetary policy is extending to Oman and other GCC countries as well, as growth and global trade are set to slow down.”

“At the same time, lower growth could result in weaker demand for energy which is the main export in the region. In this regard, oil and natural gas prices could continue declining, impacting fiscal

revenues and companies' results,” she added further.

The central banks around the world are raising their interest rates to fight inflation, and among them is the Federal Reserve. And just like the Fed, central bankers are adamant about reducing inflation at all costs even if the economy slows down. This economic slowdown is expected to impact all economies including India, which could see its exports to the US, Europe and China shrink. The United States is India's largest export market and a significant decline in activity there could have a large impact on Indian industries.

When asked if this move put further pressure on the Indian stock markets, she said that the interest rate hike has effectively eroded investors' confidence, who could seek refuge in safer assets and avoid international markets like Indian stock markets. In this regard, foreign investors have been massively exiting Indian equities and could continue to do so as risk aversion increases.

“This would result in fewer inflows to support current price levels. At the same time, the economic slowdown could pressure companies' margins which in turn could make local investors more cautious toward stocks,” she added.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR32mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR32 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 182 days, from September 28, 2022, until March 29, 2023.

The average accepted price reached OMR98.309 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.305 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.39054 per cent and 3.44885 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations



with CBO is 3.75 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 4.25 per cent.

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

tionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

SHARAKAH FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH PROJECTS

New members join Sharakah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sharakah Fund for Development of Youth Projects, made by the Royal Decree of 1998 for supporting the SME sector in Oman, welcomes two new members to its board.

As a continuation of its efforts for continuous support to the SME sector to align with Oman's 2040's vision, Sharakah welcomes the two dynamic and experienced senior bankers, Hassan A. Shaban and Kamal H. Al Maraza to its Board of Directors.

Hassan A. Shaban, General Manager - Chief Government & Alliance Banking Officer, National Bank of Oman (NBO), has more than 30 years of experience in various organisations like OCCI, Majan International Bank, and currently with NBO for almost 20 years. He has served in various capacities which span across fields like corporate affairs and government relations, public relations, marketing & branding, wealth management, and training.

While at OCCI, he had the opportunity to work in South Africa as well as Taipei, Taiwan. He has in-depth knowledge of the SME sector of Oman.

Kamal Uddin Hassan Al Maraza, General Manager & Chief Islamic Banking Officer - Maisarah Islamic



Banking Services of Bank Dhofar has more than 23 years of experience ranging in Credit, Corporate Banking, Trade Finance, SME Financing, etc. He has worked in various banks such as HSBC Bank Middle East, Bank Sohar and Bank Dhofar. Primarily, he spent the past 13 years playing a crucial role in areas such as strategic planning and execution and business transformation in the bank.

“We are delighted to welcome Hassan A. Shaban and Kamal Uddin Al-Maraza to our Board of Directors. They bring a wealth of relevant experience in key areas including their expertise in the SME sector of Oman.

“Their presence will further en-

hance Board's capability to serve the Omani SME echo system, which plays a vital role in attaining Sharakah's objectives, missions, and vision,” commented Hani Al Zubair, Chairman, Sharakah.

It is vital to highlight that Sharakah's Board constitute of members with diverse and relevant experience and they with their expertise and guidance have steered the organization to grow and achieve its objective over the past 22 years of supporting and establishing successful and sustainable Small and Medium Enterprises. To further promote the concept of entrepreneurship in the sultanate in line with Oman's 2040 vision.

OIL

Oil prices rise over 1% after falling to 9-month low

NEW DELHI: Oil prices rose more than 1 per cent on Tuesday after declining to nine-month low a day earlier, amid the hint that the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec+), the producer alliance, may go for output reductions to prevent further collapse in prices. There were also indications of a possibility that the European Union may put a price cap on Russian oil.

During the last trading session, the prices of oil had dropped to the lowest levels under the pressure of a surging dollar that makes greenback-denominated crude oil more expensive for buyers using other currencies, and rising interest rates, which might trigger recession and lower oil demand. In the previous two trading sessions, Brent plunged 7.1 per cent while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude slumped 8.1 per cent. Officials from major producers reacted to the past days of declines by indicating they may take action to keep price stability. - **ANI**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Oman Oil partners with Opal to offer exclusive benefits to petroleum operators

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) and the Oman Society for Petroleum Services (Opal) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will offer all companies listed with Opal access to the OOMCO World loyalty app which is loaded with exclusive benefits.

OOMCO will also partner with Opal to deliver campaigns, workshops and events throughout the year to bring the industry together and accelerate advances in petroleum services.

OOMCO World was recently named Best App at COMEX 2022 and this partnership offers even more value for every transaction made through the app by allowing customers to earn loyalty points that can be redeemed for fuel cards or offer at a wide range of retailers across Oman.

Tarik Al Junaidi, CEO of OOMCO, said, “As part of OOMCO's commitment to go ‘beyond the pump’, our partnership with Opal adds value to the everyday lives of employees working within the petroleum industry. Opal has become the voice of the industry by representing 450 members, made up of Oil & Gas companies, including Producers & Operators, Contractors and Suppliers, while

OOMCO continues to transform the industry by offering innovative products, providing much more than fuel, and we are very proud to introduce this new way of rewarding Opal members.”

Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaie, CEO of Opal, said, “This agreement strengthens the relationship between OOMCO and Opal as well as the role of Opal in enhancing the petroleum industry. We are delighted to offer these exclusive benefits to all member companies and their employees, and we look forward to working closely with OOMCO to maximise the impact of our campaigns and events to ensure operators in Oman remain at the forefront of national plans for economic growth.”

With over 130,000 registered users, the OOMCO World app is the culmination of the company's digital transformation and its aim to become the most customer-centric marketer in the GCC. OOMCO World is fully integrated with the OOMCO network of service stations, mega stations and stores, and enables customers to complete tasks such as online top-up, viewing and redeeming of loyalty points, unlocking badges, locating service stations and much more quickly and conveniently.

MARKET



MSX index ends higher

Oman REIT Fund, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 6.67 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,493.54 points, up by 0.8 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.59 per cent at 479.9 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 6.67 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 661 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.43 million, with more than 15.59 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 26 advanced, 7 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR932,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR70,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,166.6 points, up 0.71 per cent. Prices of

Oman Arab Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment, Ominvest, Bank Dhofar and HSBC Bank Oman were up by 2.46 per cent, 2.41 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.47 per cent and 1.32 per cent respectively. Takaful Oman was the only loser for the day down by 6.67 per cent.

Industrial Index closed at 6,183.93 points, up 0.62 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Voltamp Energy, Oman Fisheries, Gulf Mushroom Products and Raysut Cement were up by 8.22 per cent, 4 per cent, 3.81 per cent, 3.24 per cent and 2.63 per cent respectively. Oman Chlorine was the only loser for the day down by 1.15 per cent. Services Index was up by 0.63 per cent before closing at 1,606.18 points. Prices of National Gas, Ooredoo, Phoenix Power, Al Jazeera Services and Sembcorp Salalah were up by 3.85 per cent, 3.02 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 2.22 per cent and 1.67 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,493.54	4,457.97	4,493.54	4,457.71	35.83	0.80
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,166.60	7,117.50	7,166.60	7,115.87	50.72	0.71
Industry Index	6,188.82	6,147.83	6,183.93	6,145.94	37.99	0.62
Services Index	1,608.53	1,596.17	1,608.18	1,596.17	10.01	0.63
MSX Shariah Index	479.90	477.35	479.90	477.11	2.80	0.59
MSX TR INDEX	5,667.40	5,622.54	5,667.40	5,622.21	45.19	0.80
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,459.04	7,457.87	7,459.04	7,445.97	53.08	0.71
SERVICES TR IDX	1,670.31	1,657.48	1,667.87	1,657.48	10.39	0.63
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,422.95	6,380.42	6,417.88	6,378.45	39.43	0.62

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
15,591,806	3,434,122	661	23,184,736,945	26	7	14	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

OM0000003968	OOREDOO	304,582	121,977	24	0.388	0.410	0.388	0.410	0.388	0.012	3.015	0.410	0.400	0.410	0.100	266,887,134
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	100	28	1	0.276	0.276	0.276	0.276	0.270	0.006	2.222	0.276	0.270	0.276	0.100	16,892,379
OM0000001539	OMINVEST	43,310	14,532	3	0.356	0.356	0.356	0.356	0.350	0.006	1.818	0.356	0.350	0.356	0.100	224,570,793
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	85,000	6,905	7	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	7,290,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	82,000	8,995	11	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.917	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	103,350	91,391	14	0.884	0.892	0.880	0.892	0.884	0.008	0.905	0.892	0.888	0.892	0.100	669,000,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	282,922	72,196	19	0.258	0.260	0.250	0.252	0.247	0.005	0.800	0.252	0.250	0.252	0.100	31,474,296
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,768,745	1,009,185	42	0.572	0.574	0.570	0.574	0.570	0.004	0.702	0.574	0.574	0.574	0.100	215,335,957
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	647,000	211,750	13	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.249	0.001	0.402	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	406,486,589
OM0000001325	OMAN INVST& FIN.	72,064	9,097	9	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.100	29,862,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	208,265	81,223	6	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.100	85,800,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	5,577	748	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	253,455,471
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	321,208	18,901	12	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	11,600,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	37,268	3,466	3	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.100	24,055,547
OM0000003005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,038	457	1	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.000	0.000	0.440	0.438	0.470	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	382,282	182,909	22	0.480	0.480	0.474	0.474	0.480	-0.006	-1.250	0.474	0.470	0.474	0.100	112,058,340
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	382	20	1	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.049	0.053	0.100	11,778,720
Total		17	4,545,263	1,833,801	189											

Parallel Market

OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	200	13	2	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.060	0.006	10.000	0.066	0.061	0.066	0.100	31,098,301
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	18,432	1,389	4	0.073	0.079	0.073	0.079	0.073	0.006	8.219	0.079	0.075	0.079	0.100	6,387,150
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	37,296	3,877	3	0.088	0.104	0.088	0.104	0.100	0.016	4.000	0.104	0.100	0.110	0.100	8,465,886
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	110,563	14,945	12	0.132	0.136	0.132	0.135	0.130	0.005	3.846	0.135	0.135	0.136	0.100	11,475,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	620,300	67,541	44	0.106	0.110	0.106	0.109	0.105	0.004	3.810	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	19,846,545
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	66,800	16,952	7	0.250	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.247	0.008	3.239	0.255	0.255	0.263	0.100	10,609,344
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	500	98	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.190	0.005	2.632	0.195	0.192	0.195	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,875	229	2	0.122	0.125	0.122	0.125	0.122	0.003	2.459	0.125	0.118	0.125	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	428,707	36,237	36	0.084	0.086	0.084	0.085	0.083	0.002	2.410	0.085	0.085	0.089	0.100	10,359,375
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	6,213	568	3	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.328	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	64,354,464
OM0000002804	ASAFKA FOODS	15,200	4,294	17	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.276	0.006	2.174	0.282	0.280	0.282	0.100	33,840,000
OM0000004735	SEBACORP SALALAH	191,450	11,678	13	0.061	0.064	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.100	58,228,889
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	1,005,267	136,719	8	0.136	0.138	0.135	0.138	0.136	0.002	1.471	0.138	0.124	0.136	0.100	413,496,498
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	745,720	114,343	17	0.154	0.154	0.153	0.154	0.152	0.002	1.318	0.154	0.153	0.159	0.100	308,043,170
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	359,955	29,294	18	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	90,000	8,730	4	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	6,570,825	1,091,846	215	0.165	0.168	0.165	0.165	0.164	0.001	0.610	0.165	0.165	0.168	0.100	33,492,764
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	154,630	12,391	12	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	2,685,716
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	154,000	9,906	14	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	10,000	1,450	2	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	13,050,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	228,820	10,798	17	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	50,604	2,024	2	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.038	0.040	0.100	18,576,254
OM0000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	20,000	9,000	2	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.450	0.440	0.400	0.100	45,000,000
OM0000007910	AMMAN REAL ESTATE	15,000	1,410	3	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK	3,130	1,900	2	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.900	-0.008	-0.889	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.100	84,740,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	700	335	3	0.472	0.518	0.472	0.518	0.524	-0.006	-1.145	0.518	0.472	0.518	0.100	35,277,695
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	40,914	1,521	12	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.036	0.038	-0.002	-5.263	0.036	0.036	0.037	0.100	24,295,947
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	33,662	1,414	2	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.045	-0.003	-6.967	0.042	0.042	0.045	0.100	10,500,000
Total		28	10,980,773	1,599,440	465											

OMAN BANKS ASSOCIATION

Seminar organised on financial inclusion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Banks Association (OBA) in cooperation with the Central Bank of Oman organised a seminar on September 27, at Sultan Qaboos University College of Economy and Political Studies about financial inclusion.

The event was attended by a group of students and teachers. The agenda items were as follows: Brief about the Oman Banks Association, Financial Technology (FinTech), Banking Deposits Insurance Scheme (BDIS). A team from the Central Bank of Oman and an Expert in FinTech participated as speakers in this seminar, this seminar aimed to introduce and educate young people on the fundamentals of the Omani economy, and the role of the banking sector in economic development to enhance the financial culture in this segment of society.

These events come as part of several activities organised by the Oman Banks Association to celebrate Arab Financial Inclusion



Day, and to contribute towards achieving universal access to financial services for all segments of society in the Sultanate of Oman, launching initiatives, and organising events and activities that promote financial literacy, and financial inclusion.

Oman Banks Association is organising a campaign for financial inclusion through several activities

ties to raise awareness about the banking sector and the role played by banks in economic growth.

Oman Banks Association is a non-profit professional association created to represent the banking sector, promote Omani banking activities, coordinate with regulators on matters of policy and strategy, and support banking excellence in Oman.

UAE-BASED HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Burjeel Holdings to list its shares on Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

Times News Service

ABU DHABI: Burjeel Holdings has announced its intention to list 11 per cent of its share capital in an Initial Public Offering (IPO) on the main market of the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX).

The UAE-based healthcare services provider opens for subscription on 30 September and closes on 4 October. Shares of the company, which operates three top hospitals and medical centres in Oman, will start trading on the ADX on 10 October.

The IPO announcement follows hot on the heels of the acquisition of a 15 per cent stake in Burjeel Holdings by Abu Dhabi-based International Holding Company IHC, which is the UAE's largest company by market value. Burjeel Holdings is set to be the first privately owned firm to go public in the UAE this year.

According to the issued prospectus, the company plans to offer about 550.7 million shares, including 350.3 million existing shares to be sold by VPS Healthcare Holdings, which owns 79.8 per cent of Burjeel Holdings. Of the offered shares, 10 per cent are to be allocated under the first tranche and 90 per cent under the second tranche.

The company's planned listing will provide investors with an opportunity to gain exposure to one of Mena's leading private healthcare service providers with a vision to ensure quality healthcare and clinical excellence across the region, it said in a release.

In 2021, the group treated 105,000 in-patients and 4.8 million out-patients across its network, which includes comprehensive service offerings for oncology, women and child, orthopaedics and spine, cardiac science and bariatrics, representing an in-patient market share of approximately 17 per cent and an out-patient market share of approximately 12 per cent as at June 30.

It has a diversified portfolio of 16 hospitals, including the flagship facility Burjeel Medical City, and 23 medical centres, across the UAE and Oman. In Oman, there is a Burjeel hospital in Muscat and Burjeel Medical Center in Al Azaiba. The Group also has Lifeline hospitals and medical centres in Salalah, Sohar and Lifecare Medical Center in Darsait.



LIFESTYLE

A study has shown that drinking a small amount of protein before meals helps people with type 2 diabetes control their blood sugar. Results from continuous glucose monitoring revealed that glucose levels were much better controlled when taking the whey supplement before meals.

PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT HELPS CONTROL TYPE 2 DIABETES

In a study, which holds potential for dietary management of the condition, people with type 2 diabetes drank a pre-made shot before meals which contained a low dose of whey protein. They were monitored for a week as they went about normal daily life.

To compare the potential benefits of whey protein, the same participants also spent a week drinking a control shot that contained no protein in order to measure the

results against each other.

Results from continuous glucose monitoring revealed that glucose levels were much better controlled when taking the whey supplement before meals. On average, they had two hours extra per day of normal blood sugar levels compared to the no protein week. In addition, their daily blood glucose levels were 0.6 mmol/L lower compared to when they consumed the supplement without any protein.

Dr Daniel West, Senior

Lecturer and Principal Investigator working within the Human Nutrition Research Centre and Diabetes Research Group at Newcastle University, UK said: "While previous studies for a few hours in the lab have shown the potential for this dietary intervention, this is the first time that people have been monitored as they go about normal life.

"We believe the whey protein works in two ways, firstly, by slowing down how

quickly food passes through the digestive system and secondly, by stimulating a number of important hormones that prevent the blood sugars climbing so high.

"As we see growing numbers of people around the world developing diabetes, investigating the potential of alternatives to drugs such as food supplements becomes more important."

18 people with type 2 diabetes consumed a small drink -- in a 100 ml shot- with 15

grams of protein 10 minutes before breakfast, lunch and dinner over seven days and remained on their prescribed diabetes medication. Continuous glucose monitoring automatically tracked blood glucose levels over the course of the week.

Newcastle University PhD student, Kieran Smith, who oversaw the glucose monitoring and analysed the data, said: "People were able to stick to the regime and liked the idea of having a conveni-

ent, tasty, small pre-made drink that could be carried with them and taken before meals."

The team intend to further explore the benefits of non-medical interventions running the study on a larger scale and for a longer period of up to six months. They also plan to look at alternative proteins, such as those that come from plant sources like peas, fungi and potatoes to open up options for vegan and religious dietary needs. **ANI**

ROUND-UP



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ahlibank wins ‘Best Bank in Oman’ award

The prestigious award was bestowed on ahlibank in acknowledgment of its exceptional performance and substantial contribution to the local and regional banking industry

MUSCAT: In recognition of its continuous endeavour to adopt a culture of innovation and excellence across all operations that cater to individual and corporate customers, ahlibank received the coveted ‘Best Bank in Oman’ Award at the recently concluded Arab Banks Awards and Commendations of Excellence 2022.

The event was organised by the World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB), at a high-profile award ceremony held in Istanbul, Turkey, recently.

On behalf of the bank, the award was received by Jumana Aflah Al-Hashmi, Deputy Head -Marketing & Corporate Communications. The prestigious award was bestowed on ahlibank in ac-



knowledge of its exceptional performance and substantial contribution to the local and regional banking industry.

Where the bank achieved growth in the total revenues of retail banking services, doubled the size of its assets, also expanded its branch network, and recorded an increased financial performance throughout the year. Furthermore, it has also made significant progress in building its retail and corporate business lines through funding small and large-scale projects; and ramping up efforts to develop the potential of young Omanis and provide them with a platform for accelerated growth.

Conveying appreciation to WUAB for the top recognition and expressing the Bank's delight in the impressive win, Al-Hashmi of ahlibank said, “This is, indeed, a momentous occasion for ahlibank.

We are pleased to be recognized by the top banking organisation in the Arab world; it is a validation of our growing credentials as a highly preferred bank in the country. We have found our niche in the local market in a concise period, reaping benefits from our assiduously crafted growth strategy. Our vital financial metrics and performance indicators are proof of our consistent growth and overwhelming success in meeting and exceeding our customer needs. Today, our customers are guaranteed enhanced banking experiences with our suite of innovative products and services and our strategic digital transformation drive.”

“The ‘Best Bank in Oman’ Award, on a major Arab platform, is a testament to our customer-centric approach to banking, which has helped us push the envelope, so to say, in presenting products

and services that are on par with global banking standards. Our sustained growth is thanks, in no small measure, to the trust reposed by our customers in our products; we have, in turn, honoured this trust and loyalty by increasingly offering personalised banking solutions to different segments of society, including young adults, ladies, and retirees. We will continue to deliver exceptional banking experiences to our customers and achieve more awards that recognise our service-oriented approach to business,” she added.

ahlibank has recently won several local and regional awards; however, this new achievement attests to its impressive first and second-quarter performance this year. The second quarter results, in particular, saw the bank netting a profit of RO 15.8 million, an increase of 18.6 percent over the same period last year. Whether Net Loans, Advances, Financing, or Total Assets were recorded, the Bank witnessed growth in all its performance metrics, demonstrating its robust growth throughout the year.

The WUAB, a sister organization of the Union of Arab Banks, is a nonprofit Arab forum of more than 500 bankers in the Arab region and around the world. One of its key aims is to facilitate a platform for networking among Arab bankers and finance professionals along with their foreign counterparts, thereby strengthening relations with international markets and enhancing the position of the Arab banking and financial industries worldwide.



IDdesign Oman celebrates 20th anniversary with launch of new collection

MUSCAT: Acknowledged as a pioneer in innovative, high-concept design, IDdesign is pleased to announce that it is celebrating 20 years of its luxury furnishing journey in the Sultanate. This milestone has been marked with the launch of a new collection of luxury furniture and accessories designed for a glamorous and contemporary lifestyle.

The IDdesign universe is characterised by furniture and home accessories that have been hand-picked and designed with the well-known Scandinavian sense of detail and quality in mind.

Shedding light on the brand's 20 year legacy of excellence, exceptional craftsmanship, and customer satisfaction, Marios Stylianides, General Manager, Oasis Lifestyle stated: “Over the past two decades, IDdesign has established itself as a leading European furniture brand in Oman, receiving exceptional love and warmth from our customers. Our philosophy combines elegance with comfort and innovation, so each piece is created with the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship by European designers and artisans. The unique combination

of materials used by us, and our high quality production standards transform furniture into enduring daily companions.”

“The passion of our team and the loyalty of our customer-base have been deciding factors of our growth and success; and for us continuing to drive IDdesign to the next level. Just like our new anniversary collection, we have introduced great designs over the years, some that are looking into the future, others that fit right into today's trends and finally some that simply last year after year. This mix has what has positioned us well in the industry here in Oman”, he added.

IDdesign's stylish showrooms are located at the Markaz Al Bahja Mall (First Floor) in Muscat and on Al Tatawoor Street 244 (2100 Central Business District) in Salalah; both outlets are home to an extensive collection of contemporary furniture, accessories, lighting and art pieces. The showrooms' welcoming spaces offer customers a unique shopping experience, and aim to provide them with a host of design inspirations, with new decor and furnishings updated periodically.

BREATH-TAKING PROPERTY

Cove Rotana Resort, Ras Al Khaimah combines comfort and exclusivity alongside personalised service



MUSCAT: Ras Al Khaimah's introduction to renowned Arabian hospitality comes in the form of a breath-taking property known as The Cove Rotana Resort.

The Cove Rotana Resort can be best defined as an escape into another world where scenic charm embraces the uniqueness of Arabian culture. The enchanting resort is located on a water inlet on the Ras Al Khaimah beachfront overlooking the sparkling waters of the Arabian Gulf. With its village style design and paths leading down to the ocean water- it is dubbed as the “Santorini of the Middle East”.

Rooms, Suites, and Villas at The Cove combine comfort and exclusivity alongside personalised service and attention to detail that make each stay more memorable than the last.

The resort offers travellers 349 stylish and cosy rooms as well as 76 one-, two- and three-bedroom villas ideally designed to accommodate families or a group of friends with 2- and 3-Bedroom villas being equipped with their own plunge pool. Paying homage to Nubian architecture, the ceilings in both the villas and rooms boast a one-of-a-kind arch design that brings character and depth into the space. Guest rooms also offer stunning views of the Arabian Gulf from private balconies. All rooms include



attractive and contemporary accessories with modern day amenities.

An exclusive oceanfront resort catering to those who seek a greater level of leisure, relaxation and comfort, The Cove provides guests with recreational facilities such

Bodylines Leisure & Fitness Club-a gymnasium with state-of-the-art equipment, Jacuzzi, steam, sauna rooms and 7 massage rooms. Leisure activities include water sports activities of every kind, Flippers Kid's Club to keep the little ones



entertained, 2 temperature-controlled infinity pools along with 600 meters private beach.

With 7 dining experiences, guests are spoilt for choice. From casual fine dining at our award-winning Basilico Restaurant to a

vast buffet of tempting cuisines at Cinnamon all-day dining not to mention several bars that offer laid-back meals, light snacks and refreshing drinks in a variety of inspiring locations.

The 5-star resort presents pleas-

ures of graceful living, beautiful scenery, pristine waters, and a multitude of activities. With an excellent choice of restaurants, bars and lounges, all come together to create an irresistible oasis of enchantment in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.



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ROUND-UP



Mercedes-Benz offers exclusive benefits package with new C-Class

Until November 10, customers will receive a complimentary four years/60,000km service package when they drive away the iconic C 200 or C 300



MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman is unlocking a world of limitless comfort with an exclusive package on its all-new C-Class. Until November 10, customers will receive a complimentary four years/60,000km service package

when they drive away the iconic C 200 or C 300. The package includes four years of Mobilo on-road assistance service, three years unlimited mileage warranty, and free registration for the first year. The all-new C-Class demonstrates innovative prowess with

innovative comfort highlights, latest-generation digital elements including driver assistance, smartphone integration, built in safety systems and the COMAND Online premium navigation system that takes the strain out of driving and allows the driver to be fully connected and able to focus on enjoy-

ing this extraordinary vehicle. Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer, Mercedes-Benz Oman, said: "The all-new C-Class is a dynamic, luxurious vehicle that continues to captivate drivers across the world and sets new standards in providing ultimate comfort, agility, and power. The latest mod-

els have elevated the levels of luxury and cosiness, creating a space to feel good, while placing the latest innovations at customers' fingertips. The new control and display concept allows drivers to be completely aware of their surroundings at all times and trust in the ultra-modern technical advances and safety features that make the C-Class Sedan a perfect car for families as well as a luxurious driving experience. Our fantastic benefits package, combined with our excellent aftersales care, offers customers complete peace of mind from the moment they choose their dream vehicle and for a long time afterwards." The C-Class Sedan is the first classic model series from Mercedes-Benz in recognition of its timeless design, comfort and luxury, while continuing to set a new standard for progress. Its dynamic proportions, a combination of reduced lines and sculpted surfaces, including the exclusive details of short front overhang, long wheelbase and rear overhang, all features

that are unmistakably Mercedes-Benz. Inside, inspired by the new S-Class, each element adds convenience and digital integration, embodying the development of contemporary luxury, ensures the C-Class is in tune with the needs of the modern Mercedes driver. Other technical refinements include the second generation of MBUX (Mercedes-Benz User Experience) and Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive systems, such as DIGITAL LIGHT, rear-axle steering, and Active Stop-and-Go Assist are available as optional extras. Blending sportiness and luxury in a contemporary form, the all-new C-Class makes each drive an oasis of relaxation in every situation. Whether doing the daily commute or taking a leisurely weekend drive with the family, customers are sure to find the perfect car to fit their lifestyle and exceed their expectations. The offer extends throughout the new Mercedes-Benz C 200 and C 300 stock range (for the 2022 & 2023 model years).

ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

Muscat Hospitality Academy to meet Oman's vision on skill development

MUSCAT: Muscat Hospitality Academy (MHA) launched by Heart of Hospitality (HOH), has partnered with the Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) Group, Switzerland — the world's leading source of hospitality education and advisory services, has opened its first Vocational Education and Training, 'VET' by EHL, licensed training institute in Oman. With the collaboration and support of the Ministry of Labour and the National Training Fund. MHA is spearheading vocational education in hospitality, upholding the Nation's vision and booming prospects in the Oman Tourism industry per se.



Muscat Hospitality Academy (MHA) in partnership with EHL Group, Switzerland, sets the standards in excellence for Vocational Education and Training in Hospitality, offering the next generation an exciting opportunity to build their career in the hospitality industry, both within Oman and globally. The academy will initially focus on various level programs in four key specialisations — culinary, F&B service, rooms, and hotel administration. MHA has identified industry experts to deliver the VET by EHL program in Oman who then successfully move to the intensive - VET by EHL 'Train-The-Trainer' Programme. The programme aims to equip experts with EHL's renowned facilitation techniques to deliver the four pathways at a global standard. EHL conducts regular audits in line with their international standards for quality assurance. MHA's vision is to support Oman's national imperative in driving tourism as a key enabler for economic sustainability and

development. MHA is driven by its mission of becoming the market leader in Vocational Education and Training standards in Oman to unlock a brand's full potential through its human capital. The Director & Regional Head at EHL Advisory Services for South Asia, Middle East & Myanmar, Aman Aditya Sachdev shares, "The VET by EHL Swiss Professional Diploma Program is based on the principles of the world-renowned Swiss Competency Framework. It has been developed over two years with the involvement of EHL subject matter experts, faculty members, and feedback from the global hospitality industry. The objective is to prepare the youth for frontline job roles in the hospitality industry at global standards. Students of the VET by EHL programme in Oman will be at a significant advantage with future employers, in global mobility and their career progression." Amina Al Zadjali, the Managing Director for Muscat Hospitality Academy, emphasises that the timing is perfect for the launch of

the VET by EHL programme in Oman, "There are currently over 300 Hotels and Resorts within the Sultanate of Oman and several new developments to open in 2022 and 2023 - creating a current demand of approximately 12, 400 hospitality staff required within the next 12 months. "The current capacity to train hospitality staff within the Sultanate of Oman will not meet the current demand and therefore we need to rapidly increase the capacity to train Omanis for job opportunities within this growing sector. We aim to focus on entry-level to supervisory level training for 2022/2023 and will introduce additional higher level training programs from 2023 - creating life-long career training opportunities within the hospitality sector in partnership with EHL - the World's No.1 Hospitality School. Muscat Hospitality Academy's curriculum, training material and methodology of training is 100% EHL, delivered by EHL certified facilitators." "Our Learning Management

System (LMS), which is an on-line software application/web-based technology used to train, and assess students - is directly linked to the EHL system in Switzerland and provides detailed analytics and feedback for our facilitators and students which will be an essential part of the VET by EHL Professional Programmes." Amina continues, "We have partnered with the best in the world and have seen the results Vocational training delivers, which is not only adopted in Switzerland but also in countries such as Singapore, Germany, Australia and, The United States of America - all of which have highly successful systems. Year after year, EHL achieves top positions in university rankings and industry awards based on academic quality, reputation among employers, and contributions to research. For the last four years in a row, EHL was ranked number one among hospitality management universities worldwide, according to the QS World University Rankings (in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022)." "When it comes to students, we are seeking individuals who are passionate about hospitality and service excellence - who wish to pursue and dedicate their career to one of the fastest growing industries in the world. We can also share that we have had very positive support from the hospitality sector within Oman and are excited to welcome the first batch of Omani students in October this year. All our Omani students, upon successful completion of the Foundation and Intermediate VET by EHL Professional Programmes, will be guaranteed employment with leading Hotels and Resorts throughout Oman."

AMBITIOUS PLAN



Al Sharqiyah University establishes centre for scientific research and innovation

MUSCAT: Al Sharqiyah University has established a centre for scientific research, innovation, and technology transfer which was approved by the Board of Trustees in its fourth meeting for the year 2021/2022. Reflecting its vision, the centre seeks to be a leading centre for scientific research and development management that contributes to capacity building and promoting innovation to support the achievement of Oman 2040 vision. The centre also seeks to develop and strengthen the relationship between scientific research, innovation and technology transfer through high-quality applied research that contribute to the national and international social and economic development. It adopts an ambitious strategic plan with clear performance and governance indicators, which aims to support the efforts of A' Sharqiyah University to obtain presence and excellence both nationally and internationally by improving its position in the global rankings of higher education institutions in line with Oman 2040 vision. The Centre for Scientific Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer aims to support and enhance the funded research programs which are offered by the university to enable its researchers to participate in highly recognized international conferences. It seeks to conduct

international research visits to encourage building cross-border scientific relations and to benefit from global expertise in scientific and applied research fields of institutional and national priority. The centre also seeks to market research outputs and convert them into specialized, practical, mature, high quality and applicable scientific solutions based on an integrative and coherent approach which serve the local and international market. The university also offers a funded program to support the emerging research projects and a program to provide financial incentives to encourage the publication of research outputs in various distinguished scientific journals. The University researchers submit competitive research proposals for research grants from national funding programs under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation, such as the Strategic Research Programme, the Competency-Based Institutional Research Support Programme, and 'Ejad' Programme in cooperation with the industrial and service sectors in the Sultanate. The research output of A' Sharqiyah University has remarkably increased in quantity and quality, which will strengthen the university's position locally, regionally, and internationally.

SUPER SPORTS CAR



Maserati Project24: Even more unique and customisable

MUSCAT: Consisting of a limited number of super sports cars, this project raises the Trident's performance to become the epitome of exclusivity. Each car is unique and differs from all other models. Project24 is the most custom-built level in Fuoriserie

(the brand's customisation programme, to make the very best of its potential). Taking the specifications of the MC20 as a starting point, Maserati becomes extreme and reaches a new level of adrenaline on the track.

LULU FINANCIAL HOLDINGS

LuluFin MD Adeeb Ahamed receives long-term residence visa in Oman

MUSCAT: Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Holdings, has been granted Oman's long-term residency card for expat investors. Adeeb Ahamed received the investor residency card from Qais Mohammed Moosa Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion, Government of Oman. "I am humbled and delighted to receive this honour today. I thank His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the government and people of Oman, for bestowing this recognition on me," Adeeb said, after receiving his residency card, adding, "Oman is blessed with a robust economy, and it has been a privilege to invest in its growth." Launched in late 2021, the Investor Residency Visa is part of the



country's economic recovery plan to attract global talent and boost investment to Oman, in line with the Oman Vision 2040. Adeeb is a prominent entre-

preneur whose investments have immensely contributed to the sultanate's financial services and cross-border payments sector. Abu Dhabi based Lulu Financial

Holdings - which has a presence in 11 countries globally, operates a slew of Lulu Exchange branches apart from digital payment solutions, in Oman.



ROUND-UP



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Hyundai’s STARIA takes MPV mobility to new heights in Oman

Characteristic of the STARIA is its distinctively futuristic exterior, making it look quite unlike anything else on the road



MUSCAT: Hyundai’s strikingly futuristic STARIA multipurpose vehicle (MPV), with its spacious and uniquely designed interior, is unlocking new possibilities and comfort levels for families and businesses in the Sultanate of Oman. On the outside, the STARIA evokes the streamlined profile of a spaceship. On the inside, revolutionary space optimisation features allow second-row passengers to swivel their seats and sit face-to-face with family members, friends or colleagues in the third row, creating lounge-like settings unmatched in the MPV industry. And in the goods carrier version, flexible storage and unloading solutions make

the STARIA the ideal business partner for tradespersons providing delivery and other services. Characteristic of the STARIA is its distinctively futuristic exterior, making it look quite unlike anything else on the road. The front is embellished with horizontal daytime running lights (DRLs) and a positioning

lamp, which together run across the width of the vehicle. Further accentuating its stylish silhouette is a pair of low-set headlamps. Given the brand’s potential to appeal to different customer segments, the STARIA has been launched in Oman with four variants: STARIA 3-seater goods carrier, STARIA – 7 seater Luxury, STARIA 9-seater Premium, and STARIA 11-seater in Comfort and Premier trims. Leading the line-up is the STARIA 7-Seater Luxury featuring tinted brass chrome treatment, applied to the Hyundai emblem, grille, headlamp bezels, front and rear bumpers, wheels, side mirrors and door handles to emphasize the vehicle’s premium and modern look. Panoramic side windows enhance visibility, allowing passengers to feel as if the outdoor settings are an extension of the vehicle interior. At the rear, a wide window framed by elongated vertical tail lamps adds to its distinctive look. Powering the STARIA Premium

is a G6DIII 3.5-L MPI powertrain mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission, delivering an estimated power output of 272 PS and 33.8 kgf-m of torque. But it’s the MPV’s cruise-ship inspired interior innovative design architecture that places the STARIA in a league of its own. Additional features in the STARIA Premium promise to elevate the passenger’s mobility experience. The 9-seat Premium model’s individual seats in the second row can swivel 180 degrees to face passengers in the third row, instantly converting the MPV into a mobile office for corporate executives. Families too can engage in face-to-face conversation amid luxurious settings. Adding to the lush interior atmosphere across the Premium variants is a 64-color ambient mood lamp, further enhanced by the Bose sound system. Generous legroom makes way for ample cargo space when all the seats are pushed together, thanks to the versatile long sliding seat function. This feature

also makes the MPV the perfect choice for activities that require a lot of space, such as camping gear, golfing equipment, and so on. The STARIA Premium is also big on convenience, as reflected in the Smart Key & Button Start, Dual Power Sliding Door on 9 and 11-seater, and Dual Tilting & Sliding Power Sunroof (on the 11-seater Premier variant). The brand has also secured the highest level of vehicle safety. It comes with options to add as many as six airbags, while all seats have three-point seat belts and headrests. Safety is further bolstered by smart features on the 9 and 11-seater Comfort and Premier variants such as Forward Collision Avoidance Assist (FCA) and Blind-Spot Collision-Avoidance Assist (BCA), ABS, Electronic Stability Control, Hill Assist Control, surround view monitor & smart cruise control. The STARIA line-up is exclusively distributed in the Sultanate of Oman by OTE Group.

C-SUITE LEADERS

Appointments at NLGIC and RSA Middle East



MUSCAT: A team of C-suite leaders has been appointed to lead NLGIC and RSA Middle East businesses (NLGIC Group) following the recent purchase of RSA Middle East BSC (c) by National Life & General Insurance Company (NLGIC), a flagship insurance subsidiary of Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest). The new leadership team, which oversees the NLGIC Group companies - National Life & General Insurance Company (NLGIC), RSA Middle East BSC (c) (RSA Middle East), Al Ahlia Insurance Co. (Al Ahlia), Al Alamiya for Cooperative Insurance Co. (Al Alamiya), NLGIC Support Services Private Limited (NSSPL), and Inayah TPA, – comprises seasoned industry professionals with extensive local and global knowledge. The central focus for the leadership team is to drive the shared vision of two dynamic and award-winning companies as they come together to build the region’s leading multi-line insurer. Martin Rueegg, Regional CEO of RSA Middle East, has been appointed Group CEO of NLGIC Group. As NLGIC and RSA Middle East’s operations are brought under one umbrella, Martin will direct and lead the business’ operations across key GCC markets, including Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, State of Kuwait and Kingdom of Bahrain.

S Venkatachalam, CEO of NLGIC, has been named Regional CEO of Health, Life and Supply Chain for the NLGIC Group. In this newly created role, he will help expand the product line across the region and drive long-term business strategies and initiatives to maximize the growth and profitability of the insurance business in the Middle East. Dr Dhafir Awadh Al Shanfari has been appointed Group Chief Operating Officer for the NLGIC Group, leading the functional governance and operational practices and working closely with the group CEO and regional leadership team to drive the strategic and operational plan that supports the company’s vision and goals. Dr Dhafir held various leadership positions in the public sector, including CEO of Omani Authority of Partnership for Development and CEO of the Public Authority for Privatization and Partnership, as well as being a key member of several reputable councils and committees in Sultanate of Oman. Furthermore, the board of Al Ahlia Insurance - RSA Middle East’s subsidiary in Oman - has announced that Hanaa Fahad Al Hinai, currently Deputy CEO for UAE and Bahrain at RSA Middle East, has been appointed CEO of Al Ahlia Insurance, with a particular focus on growing the business in line with the company’s purpose, values and strategic priorities.

OUTSTANDING BANKING EXPERIENCE

BankDhofar facilitates customer feedback

MUSCAT: Central to its incessant commitment to provide an unparalleled banking experience, BankDhofar continues to implement best international practices in customer service, addressing customers’ feedback and facilitating communication access via diverse channels. Iman Musallam Al Amri, Head of Customer Feedback at BankDhofar, reiterated the bank’s pledge to offer an outstanding banking experience through cutting-edge products, state-of-the-art services and customised financial solutions. “We have been maintaining a certain level of service quality that aims at fulfilling the banking needs

of our customers and matches their expectations. We take their input prudently, thoroughly analyse their feedback and consider it while designing new products and solutions to meet their respective requirements,” she noted. “We welcome customers’ feedback via the official channels we made available. All that is taken in consideration constructively in order to enhance the quality of our services in line with the market demands,” Iman Al Amri added. BankDhofar, the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman, manifests strong presence in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Treasury and Project Finance. The

bank caters to customers’ needs and requirements, and sets the standard for the best customer experience through innovative products and creative solutions. Following best international banking practices, providing an outstanding customer experience, in addition to its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, have placed BankDhofar at the top of the list of best banks in the region. Furthermore, BankDhofar has maintained a high level of Omanisation ratio and it strives to offer Omani nationals sound career, training and development opportunities.



HEALTHCARE



AdLife Hospital inaugurates Society Health Week

MUSCAT: In celebration of the second anniversary, it was an honour for AdLife Hospital to inaugurate The Society Health Week under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Humaid Al Ghabshi – Wali of Al Amerat. With the attendance of Dr Saleh bin Salim bin Humood Al Rahbi – Diwan of Royal Court Advisor, Dr Thomas Alexander K. – Chairman of Al Adrak Group, Shura Council representatives, And The Municipality of Al Amerat representatives. Adlife Hospital, 55-bed multi-specialty hospital promoted by Al Ardak Group, is located at Amerat, an emerging residential destination for nationals. In the last 2 years of operations, the hospital has served more than 100,000 people and has had more than 1000 inpatient admissions, 500 surgeries and more than 100 deliveries. The hospital started an outpatient department in Sept 2021 with all major specialities. Today

the hospital boasts more than 25 doctors in various clinical specialities, 70 nurses and more than 100 support staff. The hospital has 55 inpatient beds, 3 Intensive Care Beds, 2 state-of-the-art Operating rooms, 24x7 Emergency services, in house Pharmacy, Labour suites and a special baby care unit. The hospital has the latest medical technology like CT scans, laparoscopic surgery system, Endoscopy unit, ventilators, incubators and critical care ambulances. Adlife Hospital has also provided employment opportunities to more than 50 Omani Nationals of Amerat. Adlife Hospital is also running a clinic and PCR lab in Azaiba and a Visa Medical facility in Barka. In a gesture of gratitude to the people of Al Amerat, the hospital has announced free consultations from September 25 to 29 for all specialities as its second-anniversary offer to the Society of Al Amerat and soundings.

EXPANSION

Largest Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Abu Dhabi opened at Mazyad Mall



DUBAI: With an impressive network of over 285 outlets spread across 10 countries, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers in the world, launched its largest showroom in Abu Dhabi, UAE at Mazyad Mall, Musaffah, on September 24. The showroom was inaugurated by Yusuff Ali M.A, Vice Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman & Managing director of Lulu Group, in the presence of K P Abdul Salam, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group, Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Ashraf Ali M.A, Executive Director of Lulu Group, Mayankutty C, Senior Director of Malabar Group other Malabar Gold & Diamonds management team members, customers and well-wishers. Spanning across 5000+ sq. ft, the

new showroom at Mazyad Mall is the brand’s 12th and largest showroom in Abu Dhabi, showcasing over 30,000 jewellery designs from 20 countries in gold, diamond, precious gemstones, and platinum, across various sub-brands such as Mine, Era, Viraaaz, Ethnix, Precia etc. “The new showroom at Mazyad Mall will be our largest store in Abu Dhabi, aiming to provide our customers with a phenomenal jewellery shopping experience. The outlet will provide a plethora of over 30,000 jewellery designs curated from over 20 countries to ensure a one-stop jewellery shopping destination for our customers in Abu Dhabi and we hope to further their shopping experience with the extra amenities, including a spacious lounge and customised jewellery designing facility,” said Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director – International Operations, Malabar Gold.



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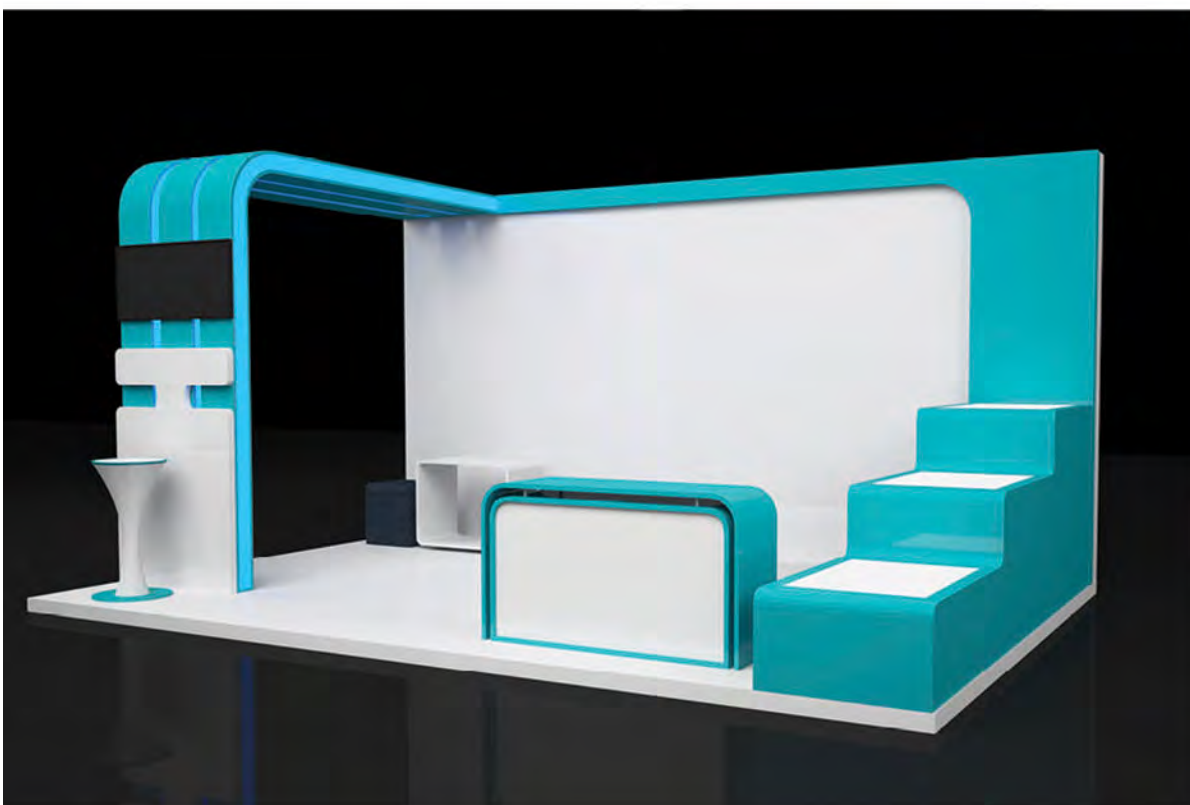
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