

HM SENDS CONDOLENCES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Jair Bolsonaro of the Federative Republic of Brazil on victims of the floods that swept Brazil's northeastern state of Pernambuco. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Bolsonaro, families of the victims and the Brazilian people, wishing the injured a quick recovery. - **ONA**



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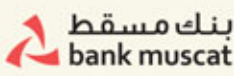
HM GREETES QUEEN ELIZABETH II

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth, on the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne. His Majesty the Sultan expressed his best sentiments to the monarch, wishing her good health, happiness and success in leading the British people towards wider horizons of progress and prosperity. His Majesty the Sultan hoped that the strong ties of friendship between the two countries will continue to grow and prosper. - **ONA**



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OFFICIAL OPENING

Sayyid Asa'ad presides over IFJ opening

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan presided over the official opening ceremony of the 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday.

During the ceremony, Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said opened the photography exhibition accompanying the event. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Hiring expatriates

1 Starting today, firms can hire expat workers for 85% less than before. **>A3**

WORLD Handgun freeze

2 Canadian Prime Minister has proposed freeze on handgun ownership. **>A6**

MARKET Port of Salalah rank

3 Salalah Port ranked 2nd in Container Ports Performance Index. **>B1**

**OMR70 MILLION TO ENHANCE FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS
FOR THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

**TO WRITE OFF DUES OF ALL OF THE HOUSING LOANS PROGRAMME
BENEFICIARIES WHO RECEIVE OMR450 MONTHLY SALARIES**

**WAIVER FOR ALL VEHICLES (PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL)
FROM PAYMENT OF FINES AND RENEWAL FEES**

HIS MAJESTY PRESIDES OVER CABINET MEETING

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to end the mission of the Supreme Committee

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Al Baraka Palace on Tuesday.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks

and praise to the Almighty Allah for the riches with which He endowed Oman and its noble people. His Majesty the Sultan also thanked the Almighty for the mercy He bestowed on humanity through the improvement of coro-

navirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

He prayed to Allah "to vest all in garments of health" and to have mercy on the departed souls of those who succumbed to the disease.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan commended the efforts undertaken by the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from COVID-19 pandemic. He lauded the committee's good planning and mechanisms that, he said, helped curb the pandemic.

His Majesty the Sultan gave

directives to end the mission of the committee and instructed the Ministry of Health to take appropriate measures to address the lingering disease in coordination with the authorities concerned.

In this context, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his deep appreciation for the self-denial shown by medical and paramedical teams, as well as all health workers and staff of other establishments (including civil, military and security establishments), public institutions, private sector establishments and

agencies of the media.

His Majesty the Sultan valued the cooperation of citizens and residents and their prompt response to health instructions and precautionary measures to address the pandemic. He, in particular, praised citizens' and residents' "fortitude as they endured the "exceptional conditions", noting that "this stance played a great role in the success of the disease containment procedures and in the stability of the health situation". Then, His Majesty reviewed local conditions. **>A4**

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Dhuhr.....	12:10pm
Asr.....	3:29pm
Maghrib.....	6:54pm
Isha.....	8:15pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:54am

4-DAY EVENT

Sayyid Asa'ad presides over opening ceremony of IFJ's 31st Congress

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan presided over the official opening ceremony of the 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday.

The conference will last for four days. The inaugural ceremony was attended by a number of their highnesses, ministers, undersecretaries, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Sultanate, officials and international journalists.

During the ceremony, Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said opened the photography exhibition accompanying the event organised



by the Oman Journalists Association.

The exhibition displays photos depicting the cultural and heritage potentials of the Sultanate, the

developments witnessed under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

The ceremony included a moment of silence in memory of late

journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, reporter of Al Jazeera TV Channel in Palestine.

Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Araiimi. Chairman of Oman Journalist Association gave a speech in which he appreciated the world's trust vested in the Sultanate for hosting this event.

He also spoke on civil freedoms cemented by the Basic Law of the Sultanate which reaffirmed the compliance of institutions and individuals with such freedoms.

He also stated that the Sultanate supports all international agreements which guarantee the safety and protection of media and press work.

He said that the Sultanate's hosting of the conference stems from the confidence of the International Federation of Journalists vested in the Sultanate coupled by

OJA efforts in expanding the international alliance among journalists worldwide.

A documentary was shown on the history of press and journalism in the Sultanate of Oman since the establishment of the first newspaper in East Africa and the developments witnessed in the world press.

The opening ceremony also saw the announcement of the Sultanate's proposal for the competition of the best international news photo.

His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad honoured the sponsors of the event including the government establishments and private sector companies.

The event concluded with a commemorative gift to His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad, the sponsor of the ceremony.

HM sends condolences

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Ilir Meta of the Republic of Albania on the death of former Albanian president, Bujar Nishani. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Meta, the deceased's family and the people of Albania. -ONA

SALALAH AIRPORT

Emergency exercise

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Airports will carry out an emergency exercise at the Salalah Airport which will involve the movement of ambulances, emergency services and police cars to and from the airport on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, between 08:00 and 11:00 AM.

31ST CONGRESS

IFJ Congress commences at Oman Exhibition Centre

MUSCAT: The 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) kicked off on Tuesday at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

The 4-day event is hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by Oman Journalists Association (OJA).

The Congress' agenda cover a spectrum of topics, particularly discussing various social phenomena and holding the constitutive meeting of the Federation of Asia-

Pacific Journalists (FAPAJ).

The FAPAJ comprises representatives of journalism of unions from Asia and the Pacific.

The Sultanate of Oman proposed to the IFJ in 2019 to establish a federation for journalists that represents journalism unions of Asian and Pacific countries.

The event also included several presentations given by regional representatives on the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on journalism and newsrooms.



Meanwhile, the IFJ Gender Council also held its meeting yesterday. This meeting reviewed the council's initiatives throughout the last three years.

It is worth noting that this event receives wide international coverage.

As many as 350 journalists, representing associations from over 100 countries are taking part in the event, in addition to 50 journalists and media personalities who represent newspapers, radios, television channels, and e-newspapers

from all over the world.

As part of the 31st IFJ Congress (International Federation of Journalists) meetings, the Asian and Pacific Federation of Journalists (APFJ) was announced and its executive office elected.

APFJ's presidency

India's Sabina Inderjit won the APFJ's presidency seat, while Oman's Salim Hamad Al Jahwari won overwhelming majority as vice-president of the APFJ. -ONA

OMAN AND THE WORLD: A MUSICAL JOURNEY

Musical arts exhibition, music library to open at ROHM today

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) will open the doors of a brand-new Music Library and Exhibition of Musical Arts on Wednesday.

The exhibition is titled: "Oman and the World: A Musical Journey". The House of Musical Arts aims to provide an extensive resource for educational enrichment.

The Exhibition of Musical Arts explores the unique story of music across the world. Told from the perspective of Oman's musical traditions, it has been specially curated as the first of its kind, an incredible immersive and interactive audio and visual experience.

Visitors of the exhibition can discover how music brings people together, how it developed around



the world and what it means to all people. The exhibition comprises six sections on music's history, namely Nature, Science, Instruments, Community, Connections, and Performance.

The visitors can delve deeper

into the unifying language of music and discover more about great artists from Oman and the region.

Oman and the World reflect how the arts enable people to celebrate shared heritage to consolidate the principles of love, peace, and tolerance among the world's peoples.

The newly created Music Library allows visitors to browse music scores from across the globe.

Music and opera are the core of the collection, but information on stage design, costume design and other stagecraft subjects is also available, along with children's books on artistic topics.

The opening of the Exhibition of Musical Arts and Music Library marks another landmark moment in the history of the ROHM. -ONA

ENVIRONMENT

Oman participates in UN forum



STOCKHOLM: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, took part today in the 4th UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment (UN-SPBF) in Sweden.

The two-day forum discussed a

range of topics, namely the role of science, technology and policies in solving issues related to the environment and the climate.

Oman's delegation is led by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority. -ONA



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Visa fees for expat workers slashed from today in Oman

The Ministry of Labour has revised its earlier decision and reduced the expat recruitment fees by more than 80 per cent to give the private sector a boost

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: Starting today, companies that wish to hire expatriate workers can do so at less than 85 percent of the cost they previously used to. The Ministry of Labour has drastically cut visa fees for expatriate workers, following the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

For a smooth transition, the on-line services used to process expatriate manpower permits were temporarily suspended on Tuesday, 31 May. Experts say that the hike in the recruitment fees to the employment of expatriates had an undesirable effect on the economy of the private sector.

Although there are no official statistics available, experts say the private sector lost millions of Rials when the recruitment fees of expatriates were increased to encourage companies to hire Omanis.

“First, we welcome the govern-



ment’s decision to reverse the decision. The previous decision to put a steep hike in the employment of expatriates took away millions of rials from the retail market. About 300,000 expatriates left, because companies could not afford the hike when the pandemic was already taking an adverse effect on their businesses,” Ahmed Al-Saifi, a retail business expert, told Times of Oman. Other experts say that the local retail market is hugely supported by expatriates who spend their money on items ranging from food, medicine, rental, clothes to fuel.

The fees of expatriates recruitment was hiked ten fold from roughly 200 rials to about 2,000 rials, depending on the job positions, to encourage employers to recruit more Omanis. Last month, the ministry of labour revised this decision and reduced the fees by more than 80 per cent to give the private sector a boost to encourage employers to employ foreign workers.

“I applaud the announcement of the ministry of labour’s decision

to cut down the expatriate hiring fees. That will bring back the lost revenues to the private sector to the level it was before. Also, we must understand that, more spending in the private will open more doors for recruitment of Omanis when companies start making bigger profits when expatriates are back to spend their money in the retail market,” Rashed Al-Hajri, another retail expert, said.

Landlords acknowledge that expatriates support the rental of their properties.

“More than 70 per cent of my tenants are expatriates. That means rented properties heavily depend on foreign workers. I am relieved with the decision to reverse the recruitment fees of expatriates to the level it was before,” property owner Said Al-Jawhari, told Times of Oman.

“I am very relieved of the new rule. We can now rehire our expatriates which we let go because of higher recruitment fees,” Mustafa Hussein, owner of a real estate company based in Barka, told Times of Oman.

“Good news not only for expats but for the economy and the companies. The high fees proved to be a deterrent to many businesses and I am happy the ministry has changed all that,” Said Al Asmi, CEO of Flash Video Productions, said.

Government officials said decision to cut down the recruitment fees of foreign workers was in the best interest of the country.

“That decision was reversed because we saw that spending in the retail sector was effected. We estimate that about 35 per cent of the spending power in the private sector comes from expatriates. Also, each rial they spend, 5 per cent of it goes to the VAT. So, not only now the profitability of the private sector will increase, but the government will see its VAT revenues going up,” a government official, who declined to be named, told Times of Oman.

Earlier, the Ministry of Labour said in a statement: “His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gives his royal directives to reduce the fees for issuing and renewing licences for the recruitment of expat workforce, in line with the application of the government services pricing guide, as of June 1, 2022.”

First-class worker fees are to be reduced from OMR2,001 to OMR301 for two years, and to OMR211 for companies meeting their Omanisation targets. Second-class worker fees are to be slashed from between OMR601 and 1,001 to between OMR 251 and OMR176, the latter in case of companies meeting their Omanisation requirements. Third-class category fees are to be cut from between OMR301 and 361 to OMR201, and OMR141, if Omanisation rates are met.

Embassy of Italy offering grants to Omani students

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of Italy in Muscat has announced its offer of grants in favour of Omani students with the aim to further foster cooperation with the Sultanate in the cultural, scientific and technological fields, as well as to promote Italian language and culture.

Scholarships for Omani students for a total of 18 months are on offer for complete study courses. Scholarships are also being offered for research or training programmes in government or legally recognised Italian educational institutions for a period of study of six or nine months.

Grants for Italian advanced language and culture courses are awarded for a period of three months.

Interested candidates can read more details and submit the online application form at <https://studynitaly.esteri.it>



Italy is home to the first and oldest university in the world and every year attracts thousands of new international students thanks to courses fully held in English, which open the doors to students who are not familiar with Italian yet

Deadline

Applications will be evaluated by a committee set up by the Embassy of Italy. Grantees will receive a 900 Euros monthly allowance. The deadline for applications is June 9, 2022 at 4pm (Muscat time).

Any further information can be sought from the Cultural Office of the Embassy of Italy (email: mascate.culturale@esteri.it and 2469 5131).

Italy offers a broad variety of global, top-class universities, covering all sectors of research, from medicine, engineering, architecture and physics to literature, arts, music and social sciences.

Italy is home to the first and oldest university in the world and every year attracts thousands of new international students

thanks to courses fully held in English, which open the doors to students who are not familiar with Italian yet.

Job prospects

Specialising in Italy gives professional opportunities in highly advanced sectors of industry and services. Learning Italian can also open job prospects to young Omani students, who can benefit from the presence of a number of Italian companies in the Sultanate as well as a growing number of tourists visiting Oman every year.

To support the professional growth of Omani students the Italian Government also finances Italian language courses at Sultan Qaboos University.

WORLD TOBACCO DAY

Quit smoking now for your own good and for your dear ones too

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passive or second hand smoking is a terminology used for people who do not smoke but who are indirectly exposed to smoke from others’ cigarettes, pipes, cigars, shisha, etc.

Smoking is one of the major concern worldwide. Policies are being made and implemented by various governments to stop people from smoking in public and encouraging smokers to smoke in designated areas or zones only. Reason being, passive or second hand smoking has more harmful effects on people who don’t smoke rather an active smokers.

Passive smoking

People who have prolonged exposure to passive smoking can have various hazardous effects. “In adults it can lead to cardiovascular disorder and can lead to high blood pressure, stroke or heart attack. It can also spread infection of lungs, COPD, asthma, lung cancer, cancer in sinuses, bronchitis, throat cancer, etc. In children, it may cause respiratory disorders, like infections, Asthma, different types of cancers like lymphoma, etc.

“Children who are exposed to smoke during their early stages of life are more likely to develop lung related ailments as compared to unexposed children. In pregnant women who are exposed to passive smoking there is high risk of pre-



Dr Suresh Kumar, Internal Medicine, Al Hayat Hospital, Ghubra

mature delivery, chances of miscarriage or sudden infantile death syndrome (SIDS). There are also episodes where exposed women have given birth to babies with cleft lip or cleft palate or both,” a doctor said.

According to Dr Suresh Kumar, Internal Medicine, Al Hayat Hospital, Ghubra, it’s always better to avoid places where you can be exposed to passive smoking. In case you have a colleague, partner, friend or a relative who smokes, either ask them to go and smoke in

designated areas or distance yourself, the children and elderly people from them to avoid the harmful effects of passive smoking.

Take a pledge

“On this world tobacco day, let’s take a pledge not only to help our loved one’s quit or reduce smoking but also make others aware about the harmful effects of passive smoking. Let’s build a healthy future together and shift our focus on wellness from illness,” he added.

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

30,344 REACH | Oman

Take a drive to Nizwa and visit Wadi Tanuf for some freshness and solitude.

We Love Oman story on Tanuf village

We Love Oman story on Tanuf village reached 30,344 people and had 1,246 link clicks on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

500 VIEWS

A Times TV video on Finnish Education System

A Times TV video on Finnish Education System had 500 views and 22 likes on Instagram.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,200 VIEWS

Morning Minute video on Omani employees

The Morning Minute video on Omani employees had 1,200 views and reached 5,700 people on Facebook.



OMAN



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AS PER HM'S ROYAL DIRECTIVES

<FROM A1 HM praises role of Omani media for public awareness

As per His Majesty the Sultan's Royal directives to alleviate the direct impact on citizens from financial policies undertaken to run the State's Fiscal Sustainability Scheme and, in pursuance of support for small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs and, to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19, the Council of Ministers presented a number of initiatives and economic and social procedures to the tune of OMR130 million to meet the following objectives:

- To provide OMR70 million to enhance financial allocations earmarked for the Housing Assistance Programme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning during the current Five-Year Plan.
- To write off outstanding dues of all beneficiaries of the Housing Loans Programme who receive OMR450 monthly salaries (waiver applicable to Omani citizens).

- To provide 15 per cent additional electricity consumption subsidy for subscribers who have two or less accounts during the summer months from May to August 2022.
- To extend the dispensation of the Occupational Security Benefit till the end of December 2022 for citizens whose services are terminated within the Sultanate.
- To provide an additional package of subsidies in support of small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and insolvent persons.
- To alleviate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the package includes a number of subsidies and payment of overdue of entrepreneurs as follows:
- Waivers for borrowers from Oman Housing Bank's "Emergency Loans Portfolio".
- Waivers for entrepreneurs who are holders of Riyada Card—for beneficiaries of Emergency

- Loans—issued by the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Waivers for SMEs from fees and fines payable against delays in loans payable to the Lender Portfolio (Al Rafd Fund earlier) until the end of this year (2022).
- Waiver for all vehicles (private and commercial) from payment of fines and renewal fees for the years 2020 and 2021.
- Payment of overdue of entrepreneurs and owners of SMEs who face prison charges, following persecutions on account of bad cheques (cheques drawn on insufficient funds).
- Postponement of lawsuits against individuals/establishments not abiding by provisions of loan agreements signed with the Lenders Portfolio (Al Rafd Fund earlier) until the end of this year (2022).
- The departments concerned will draft the mechanisms regulating

the above-mentioned procedures in a manner that reflects positively on citizens.

After reviewing the results of the State Budget over the past four months of this year and the Closing Account of the Fiscal Year 2021, His Majesty the Sultan issued directives to continue channeling the financial surplus (resulting from returns of oil prices) towards growth and economic recovery.

This involves increasing spending on priority development projects and cutting down the volume of the State's Indebtedness.

His Majesty the Sultan also hailed the efforts undertaken by the authorities concerned to contain the probable fallbacks of staple food supplies due to the political situations in the world.

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to sustain efforts and give priority to all matters of relevance to food security.

In light of results of Assessment

of Performance Indicators for the first quarter of this year (and streamlining of procedures) which covered all government establishments and the governorates, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to government departments to continue this scheme in order to promote performance and achieve high levels of satisfaction among beneficiaries from public services.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan spoke about the role of the sector of education and vocational training in supplying the labour market with skilled national workers.

In this context, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to devise an integrated executive plan to develop this sector in cooperation with international institutions. He also called for the development of the Technical Education sector to help provide the labour market with technical expertise.

His Majesty the Sultan also extolled the role of Omani media and

Omani media personnel in raising public awareness among segments of society, besides documenting elements of Omani culture. His Majesty the Sultan affirmed his support for the media and media personnel as they perform their noble mission to contribute to the achievement of the supreme national objectives and consolidate the concepts of tolerance and harmony.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan reviewed Oman's bilateral relations with Arab and friendly countries. He affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's continued cooperation with all countries in a manner that achieves the interests of the Sultanate and the common interests of all.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan touched on other aspects of concern to the Sultanate and its citizens, praying to the Almighty Allah to grant success to all and realise further progress and prosperity to this dear homeland. -OMA





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NEW AGE BANKING SUMMIT OMAN

‘Oman’s central bank working to issue its own digital currency’

MUSCAT: The 7th edition of New Age Banking Summit Oman explored transformations in the financial economic system during the digital era and amid new strategies and innovative products and services to reach clients through digital platforms.

The summit also touched on efforts against cyber dangers.

The opening ceremony of the was held under the patronage of Tahir Salim Al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

Al Amri said that the CBO is working to issue its own Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

Work is also underway to open banking API services and overcoming challenges that face the digitisation sector, he added.

Al Amri pointed out that many central banks are studying the possibility of issuing their own CBDs and the CBO is committed to supporting innovation in the financial sector.

He also stressed the impor-



FUNCTION: The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Tahir Salim Al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO). – **ONA**

tance of investing in cybersecurity technologies and to overcome challenges in this field.

Ali Hassan Mussa, CEO of Oman Banks Association (OBA) said that the summit aims to bring together banks, other related enti-

ties and global tech companies to discuss developments in this field internationally and locally.

The event saw the participation of experts and officials from Oman and other countries.

Two agreements were signed

on the sidelines of the summit between Oman Data Park and Bank Nizwa. The first agreement is on setting up infrastructure for artificial intelligence (AI) services, while the second deals with data centre services. – **ONA**

NIGERIAN DEFENCE DELEGATION VISITS MSC

A team from the National Defence College in the Republic of Nigeria visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC) on Monday. The delegates listened to a briefing about the MSC and its role in maintaining maritime security in Oman’s regional waters. – **ONA**



OMAN METEOROLOGY

Rain expected in some parts of Sultanate

MUSCAT: Rainfall is predicted over parts of the Sultanate of Oman from Wednesday June 1, 2022 till Friday, June 3, 2022, the Oman Meteorology said in its weather forecast.



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Invitation to tender for the design and development of Multipurpose playground
Tenders are invited from suitably qualified and experienced organizations for the services of lead design consultant for sketch design through to construction documentation

Tender No	Scope of Work
ISAS/- Tend/05/2022	Indian School Al Seeb is inviting tender from qualified Consultants to Design, Approvals and Supervision of the Project- Multipurpose Playground and Parking Shade. Tender Fee : NIL Date of Joint Site Visit : 1st June 2022 – 5th June 2022 (8AM – 2 PM) Last date of Technical Report with Tender Drawings & BoQ : 12th June 2022

All the above tenders are to be addressed to The Chairman, Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb, must be submitted in a plain envelope sealed with red wax, indicating the tender reference on the envelope and without showing any identity of the company on the envelope. Quotations drop into the school Tender box at the office time.
Tender documents are available in the below link or can be collected from School office <https://www.indianschoolseeb.com/tenders>
The school reserves the right to reject any Tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



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The company invites offers for the following tender:

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1.	22479	Supply of Cable Flexible 4 core x 120 mm sq.	R.O. 52.500	17th June, 2022 5 PM	21st June, 2022 2359 Hours
2.	22492	Supply of Motor 3 phase, 6.6 KV 4200 , RPM 994	R.O. 52.500	17th June, 2022 5 PM	21st June, 2022 2359 Hours
3.	22496	Supply of Grinding Aid	R.O. 52.500	17th June, 2022 5 PM	21st June, 2022 2359 Hours

1. All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board participate and get the specifications and conditions of the tender from the website; <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

2. Tenders Bond to be applied as per Esnad system procedure on the given website before the specified time of Submission. Tender Bond will be of not less than (1%) of the Total Tender Value of the highest offer (incase have multiple offers), valid for (90) days from the offers submission date and addressed to Chairman of the Tender Committee. Please note that without Tender Bond will not complete the submission of tender process as per Esnad procedure.

3. The tender clarification and queries will be directly on the tender itself on Esnad system.

4. OCC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid, and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reason.

For Clarifications on e-Tendering, you may contact via
Telephone : 24402200
Email Id: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om



Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz GLE/GLS (167 platform)
Model year: 2019-2022
Date of Campaign: 01.06.2022
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:





Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
23	WINI673611A216462	TO	WINI673611A581535	AMG GLE 53 4M+ Coupé
26	WDC1671591A002133	TO	WDC1671591A128465	GLE 450 4MATIC
3	WDC1679591A109150	TO	WINI679591A581522	GLS 450 4MATIC
1	WINI679871A527289			Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC
1	WINI679891A538054			AMG GLS 63 S 4MATIC+
1	WINI679861A248429			GLS 580 4MATIC

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain GLE and GLS (167 platform) vehicles the bolting of the 48V ground connection under the passenger seat might be fastened with an insufficient torque.
In this case, the cable lug of the ground line might not be fixed correctly. Subsequently, the electric resistance of the connection might increase. In combination with the high electrical currents potentially flowing through this connection, the temperature in this area might rise.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company will check the bolting of the ground connection on the affected vehicles and correct it, if necessary. The expected workshop visit for the check and, if necessary, rework of the ground connection bolting will take up to 1.5 hours and will be free of charge

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 01.06.2022 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:
Toll free number: 800797777 on all working days between 08:00 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 01.06.2022.

Mercedes-Benz





Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENT

Auction of an expired Equipment in sealed envelopes

Sultan Qaboos University announces its desire to sell expired equipment and accessories in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- Interested parties can view the devices and their accessories in auction stores of Technical Services Department and receive the bidding form on Sunday and Monday, 5-6/06/2022, from 09:00 to 11:00 am. The auction date will be 8/6/2022 at 15:00 pm.
- Deposit of cash R.O. One Hundred (R.O.100) must be paid in the Auction data as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the items, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for Auction of an expired equipment and putting the envelope in the bid box.
- The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- Those who win the bidding will be informed by calling them. The remaining sum must be paid directly, and they will be responsible for moving their items on Sunday and Monday, 12-13/06/2022 from 08:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- The devices are sold in their current condition, and SQU is not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold items. If the equipment has not been taken within the mentioned period, an amount of R.O. Twenty (R.O. 20) will be imposed for each day after 13/06/2022.

Note:

- Prices are sorted according to groups and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through Visa Card.
- Entering the auction stores through Gate No. (2 & 3).
- For more information, please contact: 99770531 – 99639609.**





Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University announces their desire to sell used furniture and their in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- ❖ Interested parties can view used furniture in auction stores and receive the bidding on Sunday and Monday 05-06/06/2022 from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.
- ❖ Deposit of (200) Omani riyals in cash as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- ❖ Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the used furniture, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for selling used furniture, and put the envelope in bid box.
- ❖ The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- ❖ Those who win the bidding will be contacted. They must pay the remaining sum, and they are responsible for moving their items on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 07,08, 09/06/2022 from 09:00 am to 04:00 pm.
- ❖ The used furniture are sold in their current condition, and SQU is not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold material if the moving is not completed after the end of the sale, and (10) Omani riyals will be imposed for each day after 12/06/2022.

Notes:

- Prices are sorted according to groups and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through visa cards.
- Entering the auction stores through Gate No. (2).
- **For more information, please contact 24141272.**



GUN CONTROL

Trudeau announces handgun freeze in new gun control proposal

OTTAWA: Following recent mass shootings in the United States, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a proposed freeze on handgun ownership in Canada that would effectively ban their importation and sale.

This new regulation comes in the backdrop of the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas that left 19 children and two teachers dead.

The new measures include implementing a national freeze on handguns to prevent individuals from bringing newly acquired handguns into Canada and from buying, selling, and transferring handguns within the country.

The legislation involves a new "red flag" law that would enable courts to require that individuals considered a danger to themselves or others surrender their firearms to law enforcement.

"The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced the introduction of new legislation to further strengthen gun control in Canada and keep Canadians safe from gun violence. Bill C-21 puts forward some of the strongest gun control measures in over 40 years," the Canadian government said.

Trudeau said in a statement that one Canadian killed by gun violence is one too many. **ANI**



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MONKEYPOX

UK health security agency detects 71 new cases of monkeypox

LONDON: The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has detected 71 new human cases of monkeypox in the country, local media reported on Monday.

All of the new cases have been identified in England, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the UK since May 7 to 179, according to Sky News. Earlier, the UK Health Agency said that despite new cases, the risk to the population remains low.

However, the health agency has advised those in contact with the cases to self-isolate for 21 days.

In addition, the UKHSA has stocked a safe smallpox vaccine and is offering it to human close contacts diagnosed with monkeypox to reduce the risk of symptomatic infection and severe illness.

Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms very similar to those seen in the



past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. It is caused by the monkeypox virus which belongs to the orthopoxvirus genus of the Poxviridae family.

Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding. The incubation period of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range from 5 to 21 days. **ANI**

PLANE CRASH

Black box recovered from crashed Tara Air plane in Nepal

KATHMANDU: Nepali Army is preparing to bring 12 bodies to Kathmandu on Tuesday after the mortal remains of all the 22 victims were recovered from the Tara aeroplane crash site that took place in the Mustang district of Nepal on Sunday morning.

Notably, two bodies have been brought to the base station in Khabang-Mustang today while black box has also been recovered from the crash site. "Bodies (are) being retrieved from the crash site, and 10 bodies have already been brought to the base station in Khabang-Mustang. Two bodies are being brought down to the base station, and also the black box has been recovered. Depending on the weather condition the bodies will be flown to Kathmandu via Pokhara. Possibly, the search and rescue operation will come to an end if the weather permits," Nepal Army Spokesperson told ANI over the phone.

Earlier, on Monday, the Nepali Army took 10 bodies to the base station after recovering 21 bodies.

"Till now we have recovered 21 dead bodies. 10 bodies are carried back to the base station with the help of a Mi-17 helicopter in Khabang," said Teknath Situala, the Spokesperson at Tribhuvan



International Airport in Kathmandu who has been overseeing the rescue and search operation told ANI.

"Because of bad weather conditions rescue operation was very difficult, even with 50-60 rescuers has been deployed. Three helicopters are also stationed which have been engaged in retrieving the bodies located by the rescuers from the accident site to the nearby base station," he added further.

Operated by Tara Air, a domestic air service provider, the turbo-prop aircraft en route to Jomsom from Pokhara crashed at an elevation of 14,500 feet at the base of Manapathi peak in Mustang District on Sunday. Search operation for the missing body is continuing in the Himalayas which as per the officials are engulfed by a thick blanket of fog reducing the visibility. **ANI**

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SPORTS



Women’s national futsal team to train with Genoa FC in Italy

The women’s futsal team has also received financial support for this training opportunity from Al Mouj Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s women’s futsal team has received an exclusive invitation to train and enhance its skills with Genoa FC in Italy, reflecting the Oman Football Association’s Board of Directors’ resolve to strengthen partnerships that will advance opportunities for the national team.

The team is currently preparing for the West Asian Championship, and this invitation follows the visit from officials of Genoa FC to the Sultanate last March. During this time, representatives discussed cooperation opportunities across sports and culture, youth exchange programs, women’s sports development programmes and other sports-related programmes, in coordination with the Omani-Italian Friendship Association and the Embassy of Italy in the Sultanate of Oman.

This invitation to host the women’s team camp is an outcome of this visit and the efforts of the



EXCLUSIVE INVITATION: The team is currently preparing for the West Asian Championship, and this invitation follows the visit from officials of Genoa FC to the Sultanate.

Omani Football Association to promote National Sports.

The Italian Serie A club will provide training grounds and professional training tools, and, in addition to organizing friendly matches, it will support technical aspects of the women’s national team to ensure optimal preparation for the next stage of its development.

The women’s futsal team has also received financial support for this training opportunity from Al Mouj Muscat. This reflects

Oman’s premier lifestyle destination’s ongoing commitment to social responsibility, especially with regard to developing youth through sports. Sport a key theme for Al Mouj as it continues to contribute to sustainability and a positive social impact in the Sultanate.

The Oman Football Association expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the Omani-Italian Friendship Association for its coordination efforts. Its thanks also go to Her Excellency Federica Favi, the Ital-

ian Ambassador to Oman and her team for supporting this opportunity along with other various initiatives in the field of cultural and sports exchange between the Sultanate and Italy.

The OFA is deeply grateful for the support provided by Al Mouj Muscat, ensuring that the team to compete in the upcoming tournament.

The organization also very much appreciates the kind invitation extended by Genoa FC, and is confident that this cooperation will yield positive mutual results.

Takeover of Chelsea Club by Todd Boehly group completed

LONDON: Chelsea Football Club announced on Monday that the ownership transfer of the club to the consortium led by Todd Boehly has been completed.

“The consortium led by Todd Boehly, chairman and CEO of Eldridge, and Clearlake Capital Group, L.P. (together with its affiliates, “Clearlake”), today announced the completion of the ownership transfer of Chelsea Football Club (“Chelsea FC” or “the Club”),” said an official statement from the club. The consortium also includes Hansjorg Wyss, founder of the Wyss Foundation, and Mark Walter, co-founder and CEO of Guggenheim Capital. Walter and Boehly are owners of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Los Angeles Sparks. The transaction has received all necessary approvals from The Government of the United Kingdom, The Premier League, and other authorities.

Under the terms of the agreement, Boehly and Clearlake will share joint control and equal governance of the Club. Boehly will serve as Chairman of the holding company.

“Boehly and Clearlake are committed to investing in key areas that will extend and enhance Chelsea’s competitiveness, including the redevelopment of Stamford Bridge, further investment in the Academy, the Women’s Team, and Kingsmeadow stadium. The owners will also continue the important work of the Chelsea Foundation,” added the statement.

“We are honoured to become the new custodians of Chelsea Football Club,” said Boehly. “We are all in - 100 per cent -- every



minute of every match. Our vision as owners is clear: we want to make the fans proud. Along with our commitment to developing the youth squad and acquiring the best talent, our plan of action is to invest in the Club for the long-term and build on Chelsea’s remarkable history of success. I personally want to thank ministers and officials in the British government, and the Premier League, for all their work in making this happen.”

Behdad Eghbali and Jose E. Feliciano, Clearlake co-founders and managing partners, said, “We are excited to commit the resources to continue Chelsea’s leading role in English and global football, and as an engine for football talent development. We also want to thank the authorities for all their work throughout the process. As pioneers in sports and media investing, we are thrilled to partner with Todd and the rest of the consortium to meaningfully grow the Club as a global platform. Together, we will expand the Club’s investment across infrastructure, technology, and sports science to support the incredible Chelsea football and commercial teams - all with the goal of leveraging this growth to fuel even more on-pitch success.” **ANI**

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Benzema named UEFA Champions League Player of Season

NYON: Real Madrid star forward Karim Benzema has been named as the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League Player of the Season.

The Real Madrid striker took the award after topping the scoring charts with 15 goals and driving his team to glory during their run of breath-taking comebacks. The French striker was a talismanic figure for Madrid as he drove them on to a record 14th European title, and his fifth since he joined from Lyon in 2009.

Not only did Benzema hit double figures for Champions League goals in a single season for the first



time in his career, but his final tally of 15 also earned him the top spot in the competition scoring charts.

Remarkably, a joint-record ten of those goals came in the knockout stage, beginning with a decisive late hat-trick against Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16.

He followed up with another treble away to Chelsea and then buried the extra-time winner to oust the holders in Spain, before a trio of goals against Manchester City in the semi-finals - including the extra-time penalty that capped

a jaw-dropping comeback.

Although Benzema did not add to his haul in the final, he now stands joint third with Robert Lewandowski in the all-time European Cup goals table.

Mohamed Salah named PFA Fans’ Player of the Year

Liverpool FC’s star forward Mohamed Salah has been voted as PFA Fans’ Player of the Year for 2021-22.

The Egyptian retains the award after football supporters recognised his stellar Premier League campaign for Liverpool. Salah

claimed his third Golden Boot, alongside Tottenham Hotspur’s Son Heung-min, by netting 23 goals from his 35 outings in the top flight.

The No.11 also picked up the league’s Playmaker prize for his 13 assists in the season - one more than teammate Trent Alexander-Arnold, who was also shortlisted for the PFA prize.

Salah came out on top in a fan poll to claim the accolade for the third time in his career, with Kevin De Bruyne, Phil Foden, Conor Gallagher and Declan Rice the other nominees. **ANI**

FRENCH OPEN

Daniil Medvedev, Tsitsipas knocked out of French Open

PARIS: It was another day of big upsets. World number two tennis player Daniil Medvedev was knocked out of the French Open by Marin Cilic in the last 16 on Tuesday in straight sets.

Former US Open champion Cilic eased to a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win on Court Philippe Chatrier. Medvedev followed fourth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas out of the tournament.

“It was one of the best matches of my career from start to finish,” Cilic said in his on-court interview.

Cilic, ranked 23, will face Russia’s Andrey Rublev in his third career Roland Garros quarter-final.

Denmark’s Holger Rune stunned fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to enter men’s singles quarter-final while Russia’s Veronika Kudermetova beat Madison Keys to set up quarter-final clash with compatriot Daria Kasatkina.

The 19-year-old Holger Rune won the opening set 7-5 but the 2021 French Open finalist made a comeback in the second set winning it 3-6 but the Dane went on to win the next two sets 6-3 6-4. Rune will now take on Casper Ruud in the quarter-final who defeated Hubert Hurkacz. The eighth seed Ruud becoming the first player from Norway to enter a grand slam quarter-final with 6-2 6-3 3-6 6-3 win over Hurkacz.

In women’s singles Veronika Kudermetova came from a set down to beat America’s Madison Keys to



set-up a quarter-final against compatriot Daria Kasatkina.

The 29th seed Kudermetova beat 22nd seed Keys 1-6 6-3 6-1 to enter the quarter-final of a grand slam for the first time.

On the other hand, World No.20 Kasatkina defeated Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-2, 6-2.

Bopanna-Middelkoop pair advance to semi-finals

India’s Rohan Bopanna and Netherlands’ Matwe Middelkoop progressed to the semi-finals of the ongoing French Open 2022 after defeating the duo of British Lloyd Glasspool and Finland’s Harri Heliövaara in the quarter-finals

of the men’s doubles category.

Reeling at 0/3 in the final-set tie break, Bopanna and Middelkoop held their nerves and captured 10 consecutive points, winning the match by a margin of 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10-3) on Monday. The duo will face El Salvador’s Marcelo Arevalo and Netherlands’ Jean-Julien Rojer in the semi-finals.

Arevalo and Rojer overcame a fighting effort from Rafael Matos of Brazil and David Vega Hernandez of Spain and recorded a 7-6(6), 6-3 win in the quarter-finals of the men’s doubles category.

The El Salvadorian-Dutch pairing will be playing their maiden major-semi final together. **ANI**

CRICKET

Pakistan’s home ODI series with West Indies shifted to Multan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced that the one-day international (ODI) series between Pakistan and West Indies has been shifted from Rawalpindi to Multan.

As per ESPNcricinfo, the decision comes due to political uncertainty in the country’s capital Islamabad, which is adjacent to Rawalpindi.

The ODI series will kick-start from June 8 onwards and three one-day internationals will take place in the series. It is a part of the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup Super League. Multan was kept as a backup option for the series by the Pakistan Cricket Board, with former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan potentially planning protest rallies in the capital in the coming days. After a rally on May 25, possibilities are more such rallies take place over



the coming days.

Multan remained the only viable option to host the series, with pitches being relaid in Lahore and Karachi, and the Arbab Niaz Stadium in Peshawar undergoing renovation.

The games will start at 4 pm in the afternoon and a training camp will be carried out by Pakistan from June 1-4 in Lahore, before

the squad moves to Multan. West Indies team will arrive in Islamabad on June 6 and will travel to Multan on a charter flight.

ODIs have been carried over from the series scheduled last year in December. Only three T20Is could take place before a COVID-19 outbreak in the West Indies camp forced the postponement of ODIs. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Lewandowski confirms intention to leave Bayern Munich

WARSAW: Polish striker Robert Lewandowski has officially confirmed that he wants to leave football club Bayern Munich this summer.

“One thing is certain today - my story with Bayern is over. After everything that has happened in recent months, I cannot imagine

further good cooperation,” Lewandowski said during a news conference on international duty. Bayern Munich’s sports director Hasan Salihamidzic said earlier this month that Lewandowski informed the club’s boss that he wanted to leave.

Lewandowski emerged as a

winner of FIFA’s best male player award and has won several prestigious titles since joining Bayern in 2014, including eight Bundesliga trophies for a total of 10 having won two with ex-club Dortmund.

He also won the Champions League with Bayern in 2020. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2022 reaching \$113.76, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.92 from the price of Monday, which was \$110.84. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,116 points, down by 0.54 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.28 per cent at 463.23 points. United Finance, up 5.38 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 4.46 per cent, was the top loser.

Arcapita exits US student housing investment

Arcapita implemented a robust plan that maintained occupancy at near 100%, including during the pandemic, and drove rent growth resulting in an NOI CAGR of 11 per cent



sities, has proven to be resilient despite the pandemic. During the hold period, Quarry Trail experienced both strong occupancy levels and rent growth driven by pent-up demand for an on-campus experience from both domestic and international students.

Brian Hebb, Managing Director of US Real Estate, said, "We are very pleased with the performance of our student housing investment. Tier 1 public universities in the US are seeing growing enrollment and housing needs, while institutional capital allocations toward the sector increase. We continue to view student housing favourably as a component of our US rental housing focus."

Following the investment in January 2020, Arcapita and RCP executed their business plan driven by comprehensive amenity and unit renovations and enhanced marketing initiatives that ensured occupancy was maintained near

100 per cent, despite challenges posed by the pandemic. Net operating income grew at a CAGR of 11.7 per cent since the acquisition, and the projected five-year IRR was achieved in two years.

Arcapita's management team has completed over \$15 billion in US real estate transactions over the past 25 years. The firm's US real estate investment strategy has predominantly focused on acquiring high-quality income-generating real estate assets in attractive locations that are supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals. Currently, Arcapita holds investments in various real estate segments, including in the rental housing and industrial sectors.

Stamford, CT based Realco Capital Partners (RCP) is a student housing-focused investment manager. Since 2009, RCP has bought and sold 2.7mm square feet of student housing at major universities in the US.

CONFERENCE

Agenda finalised for another edition of Green Hydrogen Summit Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: International visitors and delegates attending the 2nd Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) conference and exhibition, due to take place in Muscat later this year can look forward to a carefully curated conference agenda that aligns perfectly with the broad objectives of Oman's future green energy-focused economy.

The conference agenda, focusing on high-impact segments of the green hydrogen economy, is the product of two days of animated deliberations by members of the GHSO Technical Committee who gathered together recently amid the spectacular settings of Jabal Akhdar, one of Oman's most popular tourist hotspots.

The mountaintop conclave was made possible courtesy of generous funding support from United Finance, a leading non-banking financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman.

GHSO 2022, which will be held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) Muscat from December 5 - 7 continues to garner local and international interest in light of the Sultanate's leading position as a potential frontrunner among green hydrogen producers.

Taking part in the discussions were: Prof Dr Ing Michael Modigell, former rector of GÜtech (Chairman), Dr Khalil Al Hanashi of Energy Renewal (PDO); Basil El Zein -Integration Manager, Shell; Olav Carlsen, CEO - Hydrogen Rise; Dr Rashid Al Abri - Head of Sustainable Renewable Energy Center SQU; Talal Al Wahaibi,



Associate Professor at Engineering Department, Al Sharqiah university; Dr Ruth Prelicz, Geo-strategic Advisor - AHK; Cédric Roux, Green Hydrogen Technical Manager - TotalEnergies; Eng Faiza Al Harthy, Energy Sector Head, Oman Vision 2040 Implementation & Follow-up Unit; and Nasser Al Rizeiqi, Hydrogen/ New Energies Specialist - Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

As Oman's signature platform for green hydrogen, this year's edition of the GHSO Conference & Exhibition will focus primarily on the nation's strategy to develop a world-class industry that, on the one hand, meets the energy requirements of the Sultanate's future low-carbon economy, and on the other, serve as a major global supplier of the carbon-neutral fuel.

Accordingly, expert presentations spread over the two-day summit will offer high-level perspectives on, among other themes, Oman's energy transition, underlying policies and reg-

ulatory frameworks, the vision of a green hydrogen hub in the Sultanate, current and future renewable/green hydrogen projects, ICV and localisation opportunities, technological developments and R&D prospects. For the first time, a session dedicated to student research in the green energy space will be one of the highlights of the summit.

Organised by Birba Energy in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the forum has already received sponsorship support from a number of leading energy companies, developers and technology providers. Oman Society for Petroleum Services (Opal) and Asyad Group have signed up as strategic partners. Also backing the event are leading global organisations notably the International Energy Agency (IEA), Green Hydrogen Lab, Arab - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, AKH German Industry and Commerce, and world hydrogen leaders.

CONTAINER PORTS PERFORMANCE INDEX

Port of Salalah ranked second most efficient port in world



LEADING TRANSHIPMENT HUB: Port of Salalah has been operating since November 1998 and is recognised globally as a leading transshipment hub positioned among the world's top ports that continue to play a vital role in the economic future of the Sultanate of Oman. - OMA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Port of Salalah has bagged second place in the world in the Container Ports Performance Index (CPPI) Report for 2021. The report was issued by the World Bank and Standard & Poor's Global Market Intelligence.

Standard & Poor's Global Market Intelligence has identified the top 100 container ports around the world and collected data on the time-footprint of performance through 164,500 port visits, which included 257.4 million container movements for 826 container terminals in 371 ports around the world based on data availability.

Stressing the importance of achieving this distinction, Mark Hardiman, CEO of Salalah Port, said, "It is an important indicator to measure the efficiency of the port's handling of customer ships without delay and noted that Port

of Salalah plays a key role in the global supply chain by maintaining a smooth flow of goods.

Scott Silman, Operations Manager at Port of Salalah said, "This achievement is the culmination of the transformations that have lasted for four years using LEAN learning tools and the Port's 'Mode of Work' approach to increase performance and productivity at work."

Despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, the Port of Salalah managed to achieve the record container volume of 4.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2021.

Port of Salalah has been operating since November 1998 and is recognised globally as a leading transshipment hub positioned among the world's top ports that continue to play a vital role in the economic future of the Sultanate of Oman.

The port is partly owned and

managed by APM Terminals, one of the largest container terminal operators in the world.

Strategically located at the major East-West Shipping Lane, the Port of Salalah is viewed as the region's best-located port to access the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and East Africa.

Port of Salalah is made up of a Container Terminal with seven berths of up to 18m draft and a General Cargo Terminal of twelve berths of up to 16m draft, with infrastructure to handle the world's largest container vessels, as well as bulk cargo, bunkering and warehousing.

Excellent infrastructure and a proven track record for efficient operations at the Port of Salalah complement its strategic location. In Oman, it is among the top publicly-traded companies, as well as the largest private sector employer in the Governorate of Dhofar.

TREASURY BILLS

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR30mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman raised OMR30 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from June 1 until August 31.

The average accepted price reached OMR 99.610 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.610 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 1.56429 per cent and 1.57041 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 acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). - OMA

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MSX index ends lower

United Finance, up 5.38 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 4.46 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,116 points, down by 0.54 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.28 per cent at 463.23 points. United Finance, up 5.38 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 4.46 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Dhofar were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Renaissance Services were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 644 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR546 million, with more than 26.28 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 6 advanced, 15 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers of OMR211,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,557.93 points, down 0.54 per cent. Prices of United Finance

and National Bank Oman were up by 5.38 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, National Finance, Bank Muscat, Sohar International Bank and Dhofar Insurance were down by 3.23 per cent, 2.52 per cent 2.22 per cent, 1.82 per cent and 1.58 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,029.73 points, down 0.41 per cent. Construction Materials was the only gainer up by 4.49 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, National Aluminium, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products and Raysut Cement were down by 4.46 per cent, 3.06 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.62 per cent and 1.19 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.07 per cent before closing at 1,581.89 points. Prices of OIFC and Oman Oil Marketing were up by 0.7 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. There were no losers for the day.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,138.57	4,114.32	4,116.00	4,138.28	-22.28	-0.54
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,595.15	6,554.60	6,557.93	6,593.75	-35.82	-0.54
Industry Index	6,056.89	6,027.10	6,029.73	6,054.67	-24.95	-0.41
Services Index	1,581.89	1,580.84	1,581.89	1,580.84	1.05	0.07
MSX Shariah Index	463.96	463.23	463.23	464.52	-1.29	-0.28
MSX TR INDEX	5,213.29	5,182.74	5,184.85	5,212.92	-28.07	-0.54
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,895.86	6,852.86	6,856.34	6,893.79	-37.45	-0.54
SERVICES TR IDX	1,630.08	1,629.00	1,630.08	1,629.00	1.08	0.07
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,286.03	6,255.12	6,257.84	6,283.73	-25.89	-0.41

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
26,287,732	5,459,368	644	22,375,603,965	6	15	25	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 31

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

OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	366,000	52,684	23	0.144	0.144	0.143	0.144	0.143	0.001	0.699	0.143	0.144	0.100	34,128,000	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	228,000	45,724	19	0.200	0.205	0.200	0.201	0.200	0.001	0.500	0.205	0.204	0.205	0.100	326,815,218
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	2,000	680	2	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.338	0.338	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.338	0.340	0.100	33,800,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	9,800	4,077	1	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.000	0.000	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.100	91,520,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	496,207	133,747	21	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.268	0.260	0.286	0.100	16,525,154
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	10,000	920	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	8,280,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	34,724	30,136	4	0.868	0.868	0.864	0.864	0.868	0.000	0.000	0.864	0.864	0.880	0.100	651,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	4,527,775	1,901,666	45	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	95,292,200
OM0000003969	COREDOO	14,549	4,668	3	0.320	0.324	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.324	0.308	0.334	0.100	308,302,154
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	150,281	76,634	5	0.510	0.512	0.510	0.510	0.510	0.000	0.000	0.512	0.510	0.512	0.100	28,050,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	54,401	16,776	5	0.312	0.312	0.308	0.308	0.310	-0.002	-0.645	0.308	0.308	0.310	0.100	205,856,551
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H.	19,192	1,382	6	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.071	0.079	0.100	14,400,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	35,750	13,027	8	0.384	0.386	0.380	0.380	0.379	0.000	0.000	0.386	0.380	0.386	0.100	45,462,857
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	4,234,153	458,872	22	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.108	0.120	0.100	322,928,727
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,790,458	1,473,851	129	0.532	0.532	0.524	0.528	0.540	-0.012	-2.222	0.524	0.526	0.530	0.100	1,981,688,824
Total		15	12,973,270	4,214,843	294											

Parallel Market

OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	35,000	3,430	2	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.093	0.005	5.376	0.098	0.094	0.098	0.100	34,216,152
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	605,094	56,418	34	0.090	0.096	0.090	0.093	0.089	0.004	4.494	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	5,812,500
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	10,433	8,471	3	0.808	0.812	0.808	0.812	0.808	0.004	0.495	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.100	49,755,300
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	200	29	1	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.140	0.143	0.100	12,240,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,476	640	1	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.143	0.000	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,000	111	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.112	0.100	224,035,032
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	847,600	104,666	28	0.124	0.124	0.121	0.123	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.121	0.123	0.100	22,395,643
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,932,700	142,612	50	0.074	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	22,728,828
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	800	500	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.100	8,433,324
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,325,550	117,667	67	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.087	0.097	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	12,000	9,744	3	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.000	0.000	0.812	0.780	0.812	0.100	77,140,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	567	58	3	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.103	0.104	0.100	8,384,483
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	248,226	23,581	12	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	332,000	16,700	6	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.051	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,000	644	2	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.322	0.000	0.322	0.100	23,369,480
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	276,000	19,320	30	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.100	32,983,047
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	2,000	282	1	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.100	10,648,602
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	124,289	20,581	6	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	-0.001	-0.418	0.238	0.238	0.100	9,900,054	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,461,200	622,597	23	0.115	0.115	0.114	0.114	0.115	-0.001	-0.870	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.100	341,584,064
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	83,250	7,776	10	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	16,275,000
OM0000004148	RAYSUT CEMENT	7,751	12,885	9	0.168	0.168	0.164	0.166	0.168	-0.002	-1.190	0.166	0.164	0.166	0.100	33,200,000
OM0000001085	DHOHAR INSURANCE	10,140	1,896	1	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.190	-0.003	-1.579	0.187	0.187	0.000	18,700,000	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	174,000	18,905	9	0.107	0.109	0.107	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	21,922,597
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	45,000	5,220	3	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.119	-0.003	-2.521	0.116	0.113	0.116	0.100	62,782,733
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD	173,300	16,406	13	0.097	0.097	0.094	0.095	0.098	-0.003	-3.061	0.094	0.094	0.097	0.100	3,189,288
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	40,000	2,400	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000002804	A'SAFFA FOODS	113,303	17,020	9	0.150	0.155	0.150	0.150	0.157	-0.007	-4.459	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.100	18,000,000
Total		27	11,937,879	1,239,168	329											

COOPERATION PROTOCOL



Pact inked to analyse bill of quantities for government tenders

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) signed a cooperation protocol programme with the Secretariat General of the Tender Board to study and analyse the bill of quantities for a number of government tenders.

In its first stage, the programme provides for the establishment of a link with locally made products and eventually develops a database of products and services of

companies and production units (factories) based in industrial cities, after checking their adherence to quality standards.

The linking task will be undertaken by Madayn through its Industrial Innovation Academy.

The cooperation protocol was signed by Eng Badr Salim Al Maamari, Secretary-General of the Tender Board, and Hilal Hamad Al Hasni, CEO of Madayn. -OMA

INFORMATIVE

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A seminar on cyber resilience and data risk management was inaugurated by Davis Kallukaran, Managing Partner of Crowe Oman at the Park Inn Muscat.

Welcoming the attendees, Davis said, "Online criminal forums, had existed for many years, but today those networks are thriving in part because of the unique circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. They look more like a corporate network now. This is a real threat."

Vivek Sripram of Happiest minds initiating the first session on cyber resilience and the role of vulnerability management said, "Network vulnerabilities are unfortunate and inevitable. Technological advances and software development result in a continuous cycle of new vulnerabilities and weaknesses in cyberinfrastructure. This, however, doesn't call



for panic. Instead, organisations must manage their vulnerabilities as effectively as possible and boost their cyber resilience to avoid potential attacks."

Priya Kanduri who was the lead faculty for the second session on Digital Risk Management said, "In an era of uncertainty and advanced

cybersecurity threat environment, digital risk management has become an essential part of business management. Organisations need to build a robust risk protection framework that ensures sustainability and drives more business value for the organisation. Digital risk management powered by Governance, Data Security, Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence can help the organisation streamline their business processes, improve efficiency, gain better insights from data and also identify & remediate threats quickly."

Jose Chacko, Partner Forensic and technology at Crowe Oman facilitated the speakers and proposed the vote of thanks. Earlier Afrah Al Ghafri, initiated the proceedings and Muzeebur Rehman, Cyber security consultant at Crowe moderated the discussions. The seminar was attended by IT departmental heads of major corporates and government institutions.

BRITISH BUSINESSES

UK business confidence ticks higher in May: Survey

LONDON: Sentiment among British businesses edged higher in May, except for consumer-facing companies that are most exposed to the growing cost-of-living crunch, a survey showed.

The Lloyds Bank Business Barometer rose in May to 38 per cent from 33 per cent in April, its first increase since February, despite worries about a slowing economy, Reuters reports.

Other surveys - like the closely-watched S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) gauge of business activity - have pointed to a sharp slowdown in the economy in May.

The Lloyds survey brought mixed news on inflation pressures. While the proportion of companies planning to raise prices eased by a percentage point to 57 per cent, pay intentions remained strong. -BNA

OMAN DATA PARK

ODP signs MoU with Bank Nizwa to focus on data centre services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Data Park (ODP), the Sultanate's first IT-managed and cloud services provider, took part in the seventh edition of the New Age Banking Summit - Oman 2022 on May 31, at Al Bustan Palace, - A Ritz Carlton Hotel Muscat, under the patronage of Tahir Al Amri, Executive President, Central Bank of Oman as the Chief Guest of the Summit.

During the summit, ODP has signed a MoU with Bank Nizwa that focuses on data centre services. This partnership further attests to Bank Nizwa's keen focus on embracing digitalisation and technological innovation to deliver distinct, elevated and customised services to its customers.

Treating data as a quintessential element to gaining a better insight into customer preferences, Bank Nizwa has continued to invest in its data management systems to deploy innovative solutions for the benefit of its clients.

Ever since its inception, Bank Nizwa has entrusted its data management to Oman Data Park (ODP). ODP, in return, has ensured that its data centre has remained abreast with deploying the highest level of safety, security and efficiency in data hosting.

Commenting on the MoU at this summit,



HOW MOVEMENT CAN SPARK CONNECTIONS AND HELP MANAGE OSTEOARTHRITIS PAIN

If you're coping with pain, such as joint pain caused by osteoarthritis (OA), you may feel like you've been sitting out on life. Pain can make you reluctant to participate in activities that you enjoy and miss out on connecting with those you love. But experts will tell you that if you can move, even just a little more than you do now, you will

reap benefits well beyond the physical. "Movement is not just a powerful and effective tool for pain management," says personal trainer Pete McCall, NASM-CPT, PES, and Voltaren spokesperson based in the US. "Movement also brings people together. Getting out and moving with others can help reduce pain, but more importantly it will also help you stay motivated and feel connected."

BUT HOW CAN YOU START, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'VE BEEN SEDENTARY FOR A WHILE?

"Start slow," says McCall, "and listen to your body. Mild aches after engaging your joints for the first time in a while may be expected, but if you experience persistent or sharp pain, connect with your healthcare provider. It's always a good idea to consult your doctor before starting any new exercise program."



HERE ARE TIPS FOR INCREASING YOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL TO HELP WITH PAIN MANAGEMENT AND FEEL MORE CONNECTED WITH OTHERS

1 START WITH LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE

Walking, swimming and biking are all low-impact exercises that are easier on your joints - and that you can do with other people. Start with short sessions at a comfortable pace, gradually increasing the number of times you exercise per week, along with the length of time and intensity of your workouts. Don't feel the need to push too fast too soon. The key is to build consistency over time.

2 WARM UP FIRST, AND COOL DOWN AFTER EXERCISE

You should always begin your exercise session with gentle movement and stretching to help you ease into your physical activity and prevent injury. After working out, take time to cool down by reducing the intensity of your exercise, then ending with stretches.

3 CONSIDER WORKING WITH A PERSONAL TRAINER

Starting an exercise programme with an experienced personal trainer can help you customize your workouts for your individual needs and comfortability level. Sometimes just talking through your pain and concerns with a trained professional can be very helpful.

4 JOIN A COMMUNITY CENTERED AROUND MOVEMENT - OR CREATE ONE

Whether it's an exercise class, yoga centre or walking club, getting together with others who are also focusing on their well-being can be encouraging and even fun. If you don't find the kind of group or class you want in your area, consider starting your own! Ask like-minded friends or family members to join you for regular walks, outdoor games or visits to your community pool to help keep you on track and turn exercising into a social event.

5 SEEK PAIN RELIEF OPTIONS

If you have osteoarthritis, a degenerative disease that affects the joints, you may experience pain, stiffness or swelling in areas such as your hands, wrists, knees or ankles. Consult a doctor for right diagnosis.

6 DON'T SIT OUT ON LIFE

If you see an opportunity to try a new sport, join a dance class, go on a nature hike or participate in a charity walking event - say "yes" to movement. Not only could it help relieve some of your pain, but it will make you feel that sense of connection to others that will boost your mood and encourage you to keep going on your wellness journey.

"You may be surprised by where movement can take you," says McCall. "I've never had a client say they regret getting started - only that they wish they'd started sooner."

IN-PICTURES



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Caterpillar fungus harvested in Tibet
Herdsmen hunt down caterpillar fungus in Biru County of Nagqu, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Xinhua



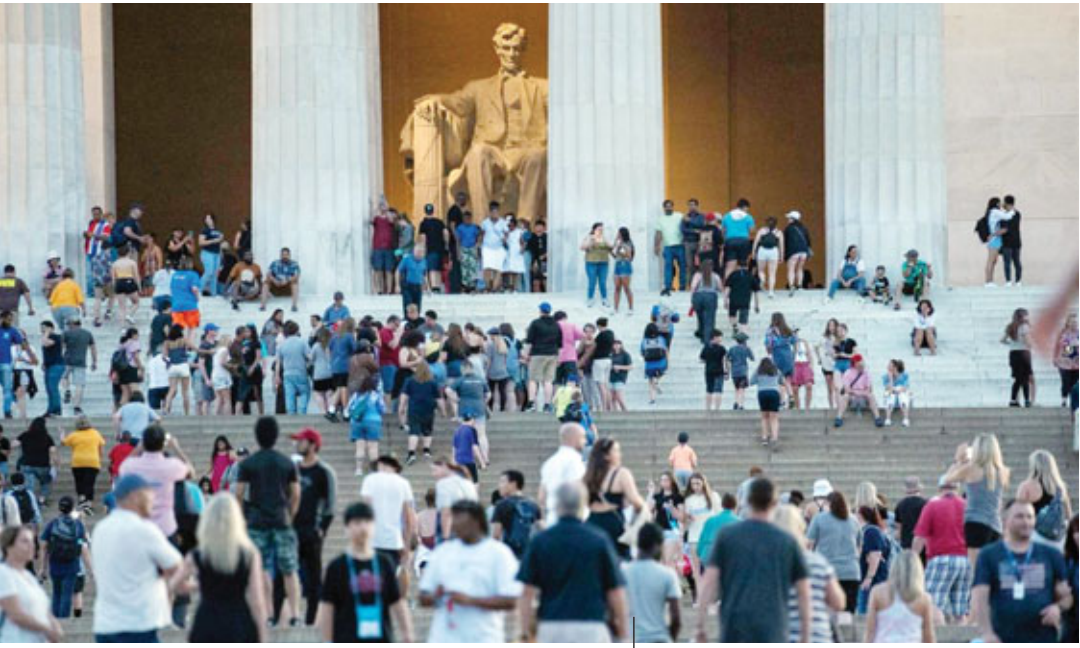
Children attend activities celebrating upcoming Dragon Boat Festival
Children attend activities celebrating the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival at a farm in Huzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province. The Dragon Boat Festival would fall on June 3 this year. Xinhua



Chinese vaccines help protect Cambodian children against COVID-19
Children play at a public playground in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Xinhua



Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 Success Party
Bollywood actors Kartik Aaryan, Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra and Tabu pose for a photo at the success party of their movie 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', in Mumbai. ANI Photo



US experts warn of COVID surge from Memorial Day weekend gatherings
People visit the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the United States. The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Centre reported a seven-day average of 119,725 COVID-19 cases as of Saturday. Xinhua



Biden says Second Amendment “was never absolute” in gun control push
People mourn for victims of a school mass shooting at Town Square in Uvalde, Texas, the United States. At least 19 children and two adults were killed in a shooting at Robb Elementary School in the town of Uvalde, Texas, on May 24. Xinhua



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ROUND-UP



Grenadier: A built-on-purpose 4X4 with serious off-road capability

Learning from the best off-roaders of the past and partnering with world-leading suppliers, INEOS Automotive has designed a true utilitarian workhorse that's comfortable, practical, durable and reliable, meeting the expectations of the 21st century 4X4 driver

MUSCAT: Designed, engineered and built to world-class standards, the Grenadier is a built-on-purpose 4X4 with serious off-road capability that prioritises function over form. It features award-winning engines, a ladder-frame chassis, a permanent four-wheel drive, up to three locking differentials and solid beam axles.

Learning from the best off-roaders of the past and partnering with world-leading suppliers, INEOS Automotive has designed a true utilitarian workhorse that's comfortable, practical, durable and reliable, meeting the expectations of the 21st century 4X4 driver. A simple model line-up provides the basis for buyers to easily select and configure their perfect Grenadier with a wide range of options and accessories.

A workhorse vehicle with comfort and refinement as standard

The Grenadier Station Wagon has five seats and is configured to of-



fer the optimum balance between payload and passenger carrying capability. The standard specification Grenadier is a blank canvas ready to be configured for the exact needs of customers. It is built for those needing a stripped-back, no-nonsense workhorse, but still with the comfort, refinement and standard features that today's drivers expect.

High-spec Belstaff editions for every adventure

In addition to the standard specification Grenadier, INEOS Automotive also offers two pre-configured vehicle editions that reflect Belstaff's and INEOS Automotive's shared philosophy for producing authentic, uncompromising products that are engineered to last. Creating premium outerwear since 1924, Belstaff is known for its iconic waxed cotton jackets and its pioneering and progressive spirit.

The Grenadier Trialmaster and Fieldmaster Editions have both been curated with specific purposes in mind and are built to

take on the outdoors.

Customisation for all

All versions of the Grenadier are uncompromising, highly capable 4X4 vehicles. Even the standard Utility Wagon models offer everything most users will need: peerless off-roading capability, refined on-road driveability, and a functional, modern, comfortable interior. But every customer is unique, so every Grenadier can be customised to suit the specific role they will play for their owner.

Simplified ordering process

Order books and an enhanced online configurator are live now. While thousands of reservists around the world have priority to secure their build slot, anyone in Oman can configure and order their Grenadier.

The online configurator at ineosgrenadier.com takes customers through the build of their perfect Grenadier, step-by-step. Once they've settled on their configuration, a deposit payment of \$2,500

- refundable until the vehicle contract is signed - secures a build slot.

Customers can also contact MHD ACERE via a dedicated Grenadier Whatsapp number (+968 7111 1504) and email: enquiry@mhd.co.om

Award-winning BMW Power

The Grenadier has been developed to be refined on the road and extraordinarily capable off-road. Reliable and durable engines and a proven transmission have been tuned and calibrated specifically for the Grenadier. Whatever its intended use, Grenadier owners need unquestionable reliability from the powertrain. So, INEOS Automotive hand-picked the best suppliers from the automotive industry and took their quality components through an arduous testing regime of 1.8 million kilometres, in all climates, in all conditions, and across all terrains.

The Grenadier is powered by a choice of two straight-six, 3.0-litre BMW engines. The B58 petrol (standard) and B57 diesel (avail-

able on special order) powertrains have a proven track record, regularly appearing in the top 10 world's best engine lists since 2016. They have been used in everything from sports cars to SUVs.

The two power units bring BMW's sophistication and refinement to the Grenadier, but they have been enhanced by INEOS Automotive's engineering team. As well as providing powerful acceleration on the tarmac, they also deliver peak torque at low revs - sustaining it through the rev range - for optimal off-road performance.

The carefully calibrated characteristics help the driver confidently manage the vehicle's momentum and grip without stressing the engine, ensuring full control when tackling tricky terrain. The refined turbo petrol engine produces 286PS (210kW) and 450Nm (332 lb-ft) of torque, while the twin-turbo diesel generates 249PS (183kW) and 550Nm (406 lb-ft), for even greater pulling power. Start/stop is built-in, increasing range and preserving air quality

when the vehicle is stationary.

The Grenadier's engine is paired with an eight-speed automatic gearbox from industry leaders, ZF. With an impressive track record since hitting the market in 2008, and with generational updates to improve performance, ZF8HP transmissions enjoy wide use in the automotive industry.

Comprehensive after-sales support

After 1.8 million kilometres of testing and development, INEOS is confident in the Grenadier's durability and reliability. So, it provides the peace of mind of a comprehensive warranty. Complete vehicle warranty provision in the Mena region is for five years with unlimited mileage. Globally, the Grenadier will come with a three-year paint warranty, and a three-year warranty for accessories, and the ladder-frame chassis and body components will have a 12-year anti-perforation warranty.

World-class build quality

INEOS Automotive's Hambach plant is a state-of-the-art 210,000m² facility. It employs a highly experienced direct workforce of 1,000 and has an excellent track record for the quality of its output. Its location within the German automotive cluster gives it excellent access to supply chains, automotive talent and sales markets. Since acquiring Hambach from Mercedes-Benz in January 2021, INEOS has invested over €50m in addition to the €470m invested in 2019. The Grenadier line includes a new semi-automated paint shop, a new fully automated body shop, and a new quality centre.

Hundreds of Grenadier production prototypes are now being built at Hambach. These are being used for final test rounds including crash testing for certification and to validate the assembly process and build quality. The Hambach workforce is going through 20,000 hours of training as it prepares for the start of production.

Hambach is on-track to begin launch series production in July 2022.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Bank Muscat continues its attractive offer on personal financing

MUSCAT: The availability and equality of opportunities to access financial services is of great importance for individuals to realise their dreams and life goals and for stronger and more sustainable economic growth and development of a nation's economy.

In line with its efforts to improve financial inclusion in the Sultanate and its customer-centric vision, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate has announced the continued availability of reduced interest rates starting at just 4.75 per cent for select customer segments, who are not at present availing any financing facilities from the bank. New customers can also avail of the attractive offer by applying for financing facilities or transferring their existing financing to Bank Muscat.

Omani nationals in government and quasi-government institutions and selected private sector entities under Tier 1 companies are eligible for this special offer, which has attractive interest rates for financing up to OMR200,000. Customers can also enjoy lower interest rates starting from 4 per cent on short term personal financing. To take advantage of this offer, which is open till 30 June, eligible customers may visit their nearest Bank Muscat branch and submit the required documents including a salary assignment letter and ID card.

As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate for the last four decades, Bank Muscat has the largest banking network in Oman with 146 retail banking branches and over 800 ATMs, CDMs and FFM. Its range of digital banking chan-

Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate has announced the continued availability of reduced interest rates starting at just 4.75 per cent for select customer segments, who are not at present availing any financing facilities from the bank. New customers can also avail of the attractive offer by applying for financing facilities

nels including Internet Banking and Mobile Banking are helping customers meet the vast majority of their financial needs 24/7. The bank offers various financing options aligned to ever-evolving customer needs, intending to facilitate a high standard of living for people in Oman.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Ooredoo partners with Evina to enhance cybersecurity for mobile payments



DIGITAL INNOVATION

NBO'S merchant app is helping businesses take their payments to next level

MUSCAT: Helping businesses meet the needs of its customers, today and in the future, the National Bank of Oman's (NBO) merchant app has transformed the payments experience.

Easy-to-use

As people prefer to do payments digitally, the easy-to-use mobile-based platform allows merchants to receive payments simply by scanning a QR Code on the customer's mobile phone and E-wallet or by requesting payment from their customer through the mobile number, whether they are in-store or shopping from home.

Broader market

From taxi drivers, gas delivery services and water tankers, to restaurants, street vendors, and markets, business owners of all kinds can

enhance their digital capabilities, reach a broader market, and simply do better business.

Falling in line with the government's requirement for commercial outlets to switch to electronic channels as part of its cashless payment scheme, the app allows merchants to provide a seamless buyer journey.

Business connectivity

With no set-up fees or monthly charges, accessing the mobile-based solution is as easy to obtain a business license and then stopping by the nearest NBO branch. The latest in a line of digital innovations, the merchant app is helping NBO meet the needs of a constantly evolving market while bringing new levels of connectivity to business and retail customers across the country.





ROUND-UP



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Omantel recognised at Comex 2022 awards

Omantel winning the ‘Excellence in Telecom’ category recognises its market leadership in connectivity, solutions and infrastructure

MUSCAT: Omantel remains the leader in telecom and ICT by the virtue of several factors including innovation, creativity, tech-based solutions, savings and productivity. These factors have once again led to Omantel winning the ‘Excellence in Telecom’ category at the Comex 2022 Awards held during the recent Comex Week in Muscat.

The award measures achievements made by contending companies in innovation, customer service, sustainable approaches, vision and strategic manoeuvres that have led to enhanced service delivery.

“The award recognises Omantel’s expanding coverage, its tech solutions bouquet and its infrastructural might, which collectively are leading Oman’s telecom landscape. Telecom is so much more than just communication and phone connections. It is a constantly evolving ecosystem that needs to be nurtured and ex-



panded. Omantel has been playing this part for years and continues to excel in everything that it stands for – the people and the economy of Oman, said Aladdin Baitfadhil,” Omantel’s Chief Commercial Officer, who received the award.

Omantel has been bringing competitive pricing, new products and services, market leadership and operational excellence. Omantel’s most important stakeholders, its customers, benefit from the Company’s superior service, unmatched coverage, affordable bundles, privacy and much more. Its telecom affiliates benefit from great supply chain management and prudent ICT infrastructure investment.

Omantel was the strongest contender for the award, given its accomplishments, especially in the past two years, which have been

difficult due to the pandemic. The company continued to stride ahead with its evolved offerings as an integrated telecom service provider covering the needs of people and economic sectors and thus, helping them bounce back with more resilience.

These innovative solutions turned the tide towards a more digitally enhanced society with ICT forming the backbone for a stronger, more sustainable future for Oman. Omantel’s ICT repertoire encompasses three broad segments, which are Data Centre Services, Software Services and Managed Services.

Omantel has been deploying 4iR technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, Smart cities, blockchain, and most recently, the 5G network. The company was the first telecom

operator in Oman to launch 5G for mobile phones in 2021.

The award also is a nod to Omantel’s initiatives on Intelligent Public Infrastructure, Smart Building Management Solutions, Digital Banking and Healthcare Services Infrastructure, High Performance Computing, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics, Deep Learning and Smart Contracts.

Omantel is the Sultanate’s first and leading integrated telecommunications and ICT services provider, enabling the digital society to flourish, allowing new ways of doing business and delivering a world of information, news and entertainment. While striving to ensure optimum customer satisfaction, Omantel plays a key social role to provide the required support and subsidy to all sectors of the Omani society.

ENTERTAINMENT



WOW Cinema opens in Barka

MUSCAT: Oman’s homegrown theatre brand WOW Cinema is now open at Barka Grand Centre in Barka. The six-screen multiplex is part of Grand Entertainment LLC, a subsidiary of Al Tamman Investments. Bringing all the latest blockbusters, WOW Cinema is set to enhance the entertainment landscape in the Batinah region.

WOW Cinema features a variety of theatre experiences for movie lovers. Featuring a state-of-the-art expansive cinema lobby, the multiplex features Kids, and a one-of-its-kind cinema concept created for the little ones. WOW XL provides cinemagoers with the chance to watch all the latest motion pictures on a larger screen that measures 16.20m x 6.77m with the latest Dolby-Atmos sound system.

For those looking to watch movies in the lap of luxury, WOW Gold Class provides all the facilities that include exclusive Gold Class Lounge access, in-seat service, and reclining seats to elevate the cinema experience. WOW Gold Class also doubles up

as a fine space to host private parties and get-togethers.

Adding to the charm of movie watching is WOW SKY where movie aficionados will be able to watch the latest flicks from the comfort of their cars soon. WOW Cinema will soon host exclusive screenings and previews. The cinema halls are also equipped to host corporate training and events.

“WOW Cinema has been conceptualised to redefine the movie-watching experience. We are thrilled to open the first homegrown multiplex in the Batinah region and thereby bring a world-class cinema experience to the people there. We intend to open more movie theatres in the country soon, at various strategic locations,” says Tushar Bajpai, Business Head, Grand Entertainment.

Al Tamman Group (www.altamman.com) is a key player in the Sultanate’s retailtainment sector with defining project concepts like Holoverse and Funtopia under their portfolio. With the introduction of WOW Cinema, the company has diversified its offerings.

RECOGNITION

Bank Nizwa wins awards at Comex

MUSCAT: In recognition of its efforts in driving digitalisation and enhancing customer experience, Bank Nizwa, the leading and the most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate, was awarded the ‘Best Bank in Mid-Size Banks’ and also received the ‘Excellence in Mobile Banking’ award at the New Age Banking Summit (NABS) 2022 held on the May 31 at Al Bustan Palace – a Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker Tahir Al Amri, Executive President, Central Bank of Oman, bestowed the accolade to Bank Nizwa.

Bank Nizwa participated as the Strategic Partner of NABS, wherein the Bank’s IT and Operations General Manager, Mujahid Al Zadajly contributed as a panellist, deliberating the topic ‘The Future of Banking and Financial Services’. During the panel discussion, participants shed light on future prospects, digital developments and innovations that will shape customer behaviours, business models and the long-term structure of the financial services industry.

“We are thrilled to be commended for our efforts and winning these prestigious accolades at NABS 2022 is yet another step forward for the bank as we continue to focus on our digital transformation, reaping the fruits of our hard work and dedication as well as aligning ourselves with the Sultanate’s ongoing digitalisation agenda,” commented Mujahid Al Zadajly, General Manager of IT and Operations on the win. “Our aim is to continually improve our Digital services portfolio, which is why the digital app was meticulously designed. The commitment we have to the future of financial services and the rapid digitisation of the sector indicates that we



constantly work to incorporate the latest technological upgrades into our products and services, offering customers a cutting-edge alternative to conventional banking and enhancing their lives,” he added.

The Bank Nizwa mobile app expanded the bank’s customer-centred digital service capabilities and reflects the bank’s ‘digital-first’ strategy. The app has a comprehensive set of features, including the ability to manage personal finance and investment accounts, as well as internal and external cash transfers. Users may use the app to locate branches and ATMs, produce full account statements, make payments and order cheques without having to visit a branch. With the convenience of the app, users can instantly and securely manage their finances 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Bank Nizwa’s FinTech efforts are seen today in the bank’s attempts to integrate technology with Islamic banking, allowing clients to bank from the comfort of their own homes. Its commit-

ment is to maintain healthy customer relationships across every banking channel by developing trust, relevance and convenience. Advanced security mechanisms secure these channels, ensuring that all private information is kept safe. To suit consumers’ banking demands, the bank created a user-friendly mobile app in accordance with current market trends and expectations based on actual client needs. The bank brought innovations and new capabilities, aided by increased use of big data and improved customer research.

As part of its transformation strategy, Bank Nizwa continues to broaden its range of services and practical solutions to better serve its customers. The bank is also embracing digitalisation to simplify and improve clients’ interaction with banks. In addition to offering new digital products and reshaping the customer experience, the bank has worked on digitising its existing retail banking products, making them more convenient for customers.

“REWIND” BY POH YUN RU

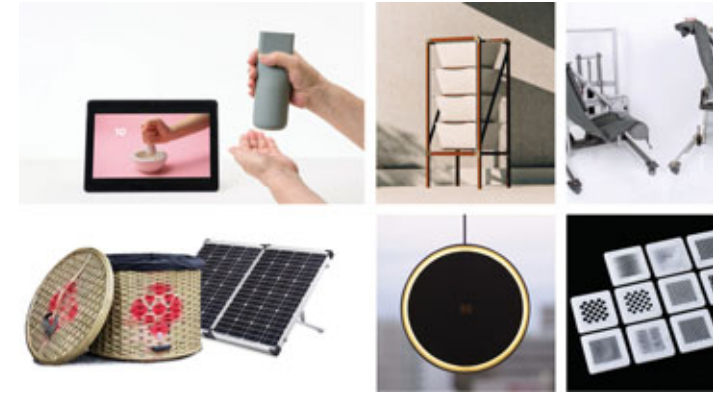
Lexus announces Design Award Grand Prix winner

MUSCAT: Lexus recently announced that “Rewind” by Poh Yun Ru has been selected by the judging panel as the Grand Prix winner of the 2022 Lexus Design Award, the award’s tenth edition that attracted 1,726 entries from 57 countries.

The Lexus Design Award was established in 2013 with the mission of supporting and nurturing creators early in their careers to help shape a better future and create happiness for all through design, while articulating the Lexus brand’s three core principles: Anticipate, Innovate, and Captivate. The Grand Prix winner “Rewind” contributes to a better tomorrow by using technology to help people stimulate their memories when their recall ability is challenged.

The six finalists selected this January spent three months developing their original proposals and creating prototypes under the enthusiastic and highly skilled guidance of Sam Baron, Joe Doucet, Yosuke Hayano and Sabine Marcelis. Mentoring by the world’s leading creators was a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience for these young talents. This process facilitated the impressive evolution of the finalists’ projects, not to mention that of the Grand Prix work, “Rewind.”

Commenting on her win, Poh Yun Ru said: “I feel immensely grateful that Rewind is now a step closer to improving the lives of more people. This couldn’t have happened without the unwavering support of my mentors, my team of dedicated engineers, programmers,



healthcare experts, and users. This opportunity from Lexus Design Award to turn a project into a real-world product felt nothing short of amazing, and I feel heartened to have met and learned from so many passionate designers from around the world. It has been such a rewarding and inspiring journey, and I am excited to continue designing for a better world and a better tomorrow for all.”

In a new benefit for 2022, the finalists met one-on-one with the design world’s elite panel of judges Paola Antonelli, Anupama Kundoo, Bruce Mau, and Simon Humphries following the 10th Lexus Design Award event. After the judging session, the finalists received not only direct feedback on their work, but also career advice and tips for improvement. This beta-feature of the 10th anniversary Lexus Design Award turned out to be an extraordinarily valuable experience.

Congratulating Poh Yun Ru’s on her innovative creation, Kei

Fujita, Chief Representative of Middle East & Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: “The Lexus Design Award was created with the aim of fostering the growth of ideas that contribute to society by supporting designers and creators whose works can contribute to a better tomorrow. This year’s winner – Poh Yun Ru’s Rewind – is a work of tremendous imagination and creativity that captures the essence of what the Lexus Design Award stands for.”

Fujita added, “Breaking conventions and going beyond the boundaries of imagination are at the heart of Lexus’ approach to design, and the Lexus Design Award offers us all an opportunity to continue creating amazing new experiences that ignite the emotions. I would like to thank everyone who made this year’s award possible, along with our customers from all across the world who have helped us create amazing experiences along the way.”



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