

OMAN POST, ASYAD EXPRESS ENTER TANZANIAN MARKET

Asyad Group, represented by Oman Post and Asyad Express, announced its entry into the Tanzanian market by signing a memorandum of understanding with Tanzania Post. **>A5**



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HM THE SULTAN SENDS GREETINGS TO DENMARK

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Queen Margrethe II of Denmark on her country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the Queen and to her country's people further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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NEW DISCOVERIES TO BOOST OMAN'S CRUDE OIL OUTPUT



Oman's crude oil and gas reserves stand at 5.2 billion barrels and 24 trillion cubic feet respectively

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals, has announced about new oil discoveries made by companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman.

He hoped that the finds will



Dr. Mohammed Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals

augment production by 50,000 to 100,000 barrels over the next three years.

Dr. Mohammed told Oman News Agency (ONA) that his ministry is pressing ahead with the development of the excavation field so that Oman could

sustain its current rate of output from crude oil and condensates and keep pace with market trends over the future.

The minister explained that the existing projects in the oil sector will contribute to the output, and these include the Jibal Khaf project and a project undertaken by Shell company to develop block No. 10. The efforts also include a bid to explore block 12 through Total company and block 77 through Italy's IDI company.

Dr. Mohammed expressed optimism that conditions in the oil and gas sector will continue to improve over the next few years.

He pointed out that Oman's crude oil reserves stand at 5.2 billion barrels, while gas reserves stand at 24 trillion cubic feet. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Pandemic gave a boost to e-learning

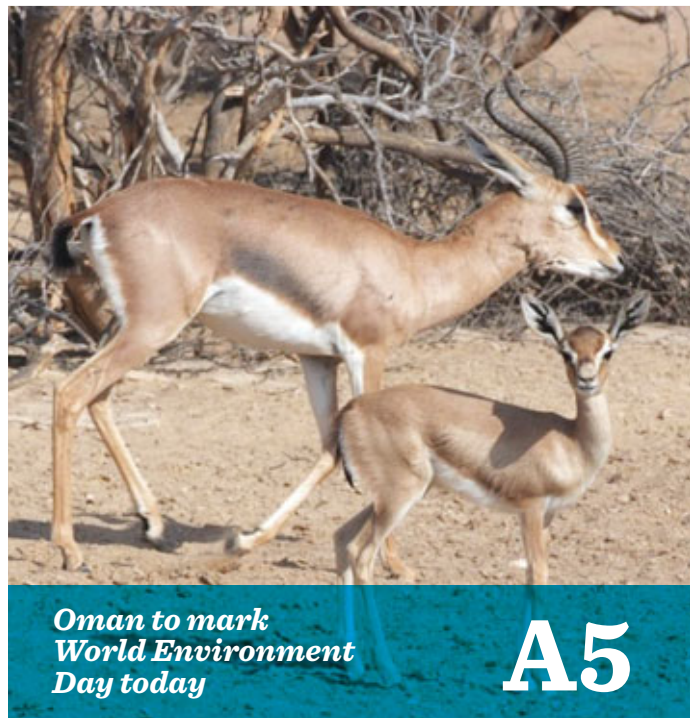
1 Oman has witnessed a rapid transformation in activating e-learning during COVID-19, said a senior official at the Ministry of Education's Directorate-General of Educational Supervision. **>A4**

WORLD Two peacekeepers killed in Mali: UN

2 United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the killing of two Egyptian members of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, a spokesman for the international body said. **>A6**

MARKET CBO's foreign assets up 9.5 percent

3 The foreign assets of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) increased by 9.5 percent to reach OMR7.25 billion at the end of March 2022 compared to OMR6.62 billion during the same period in 2021. **>B1**



Oman to mark World Environment Day today

A5

CIVIL AVIATION

More than 80% rise in air traffic across Oman airports

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the air traffic increasing by 89 percent across Oman airports, the Sultanate plans direct flights to many international destinations in the coming months.

The incoming and outgoing international flights through the various airports of the Sultanate of Oman at the end of March 2022 recorded 10,672 international flights, a remarkable growth of 81.9 percent compared to the same period in 2021, when it stood at 5,865 flights.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicated that the number of incoming and outgoing domestic flights from Muscat, Salalah, Sohar and Duqm airports increased by 25.3 percent compared to 2021 reaching 2,914 flights from 2,326 flights the year before.

The number of arrivals and departures through airports recorded a remarkable increase of 89 percent at Muscat, Salalah,



Sohar and Duqm airports reaching 1,746,259 passengers by the end of March 2022. The number of departures through airports by the end of March increased by 60 percent compared to the same period last year.

International air traffic through Muscat International Airport witnessed an increase in the number of flights by 74.4 percent, and the total number of international flights passengers (arrival, departure and transfer of flights) increased by 79.1 percent,

from 707,03 passengers at the end of March 2021 to 1,266,551 passengers by the end of March 2022.

Salalah Airport recorded a remarkable increase in the number of flights by 52 percent, bringing the number of incoming and outgoing international flights through the airport to 724 by end of March 2022, an increase of 138.2 percent. The number of domestic flights through Salalah Airport increased by 18.2 percent to 915 flights, compared to 774 flights during the same period in 2021. **>A4**



FLOATING TENDERS

Oman Airports Company announces the following tenders:

Tender REF.NO	TENDER TITLE	DOC'S FEE OMR	Last date for DOC'S DISTRIBUTION	TENDER SUBMISSION DATE
PC-220506	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 3 Phase, 415V Power Cable at Muscat International Airport	25	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022
PC-220508	Provision of Photography Services for Oman Airports	25	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022
PC-220507	Supply and Delivery of Automatic Doors Spare Parts	25	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022
PC-220509	Provision of L3 Maintenance Service For Radio Repeaters	25	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022
ITC-220502	Enhancement of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) at Muscat International Airports	100	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022
ITC-220503	Supply of New Vehicles	100	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022
ITC-220504	Modification works for District Cooling plant at Salalah Airport.	100	0 th June 2022	30 th June 2022

Tenders Collection: Specialized companies may obtain Tender Documents/ Specifications from Procurement Department upon receipt of complete payment of tender fees by credit card and receive scanned copy of deposit Receipt along with a copy of Company Commercial Registration Certificate to Email: (FinanceTenders@omanairports.com) provided with company name, tender number & contact person as a mandatory.

OAMC Bank Account Details:
Account Name: Oman Airports Management Co. S.A.O.C.
Account No: 0423010849180012
Name of Bank: BANK MUSCAT
Branch: Corporate Branch, CBD Area, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Required Bond: All participating Companies must provide a bank guarantee, issued by locally registered bank, for the sum of not less than 1% of the Tender value, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, valid for 90 days from the date of submission of the Tenders.

Submission: All Bids shall be submitted as per the instructions mentioned in the Tender documents and late bids will not be entertained.

All Technical Queries shall be sent to:
oamctenders@omanairports.com

The committee is not bound to accept the lowest tender

Any payment received after last date of documents distribution will not be refunded

Headquarter Address:
Muscat International Airport
South Forecourt Building, First Floor
Oman Airports Management S.A.O.C
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Note: All Correspondence / Clarification / Enquiries send an e-mail:
oamctenders@omanairports.com

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AL MOUJ MUSCAT IMPACT

A recognition of Al Mouj Muscat’s significant contribution to socio-economic impact for the Sultanate of Oman as the first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC) a multi-faceted business and partnership model that has proved itself to be a blueprint and benchmark for future projects. This inspiring destination has delivered unrivalled benefits to stakeholders and here we detail how this has been achieved.

LONG-TERM GROWTH THROUGH LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

Al Mouj Muscat was established in 2006 and its success has been the result of partnership committed to delivering the aims of Oman’s vision. A joint venture between OMRAN, Tannia and Majid Al Fut-taim, a company that has invested in Oman since 2001, Al Mouj brought together the public sector’s long-term strategic direction with the private sector’s expertise in retail, leisure, hospitality and communities. This combination of clear purpose and proficiency in delivery ensured that Al Mouj Muscat redefined urban living as an engine for growth.

Over the next sixteen years, it created a remarkable property portfolio, luxury hotels, golf course, marina, 20,000sqm of retail and office space, world-class amenities, and landscaping that protect and enhance the environment. With \$3.5 billion in total development costs, the majority of which has been invested in local companies and supply chains, it has generated 777% asset growth, as well as attracting \$884 million in foreign direct investment, and is home to residents from 85 nationalities. This has put Al Mouj Muscat on the global map as a residential location and destination for visitors.

This mix of assets has generated significant growth and opportunities as Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, explains: “Our commitment towards creating a ‘positive socio-economic impact’ that is fully aligned with the country’s national directives and priorities has been embedded in the Masterplan for Al Mouj Muscat since inception. Guided by our sustain-

ability framework we laid the foundation to deliver and to continue delivering long-term returns to stakeholders and the future generation who will live, work and enjoy what Al Mouj Muscat has to offer.”

DRIVING TOURISM GROWTH

By creating Oman’s premier lifestyle and leisure destination, Al Mouj Muscat has accelerated growth in the tourism sector. Record numbers of visitors are drawn to this oceanfront community, with the annual figure of 3.9 million set to grow.

Undoubtedly, travellers value Al Mouj Muscat’s commitment to creating memorable experiences. By investing in outstanding amenities, such as its 400-berth Gold Anchor Marina and its award-winning 18-hole golf course, Al Mouj attracts visitors who spend more time and money at the destination.

These achievements have led leading hotel operators to invest in Al Mouj Muscat because of quality, its proximity to the International Airport, and its business potential. The Kempinski Muscat and Mysk by Shaza currently offer 582 rooms. The 5-star St Regis Resort is in opening phase and will offer 440 rooms, along with the Rotana which will have 251 rooms. Three further luxury hotels are in planning phase, which will bring the total number of keys to over 2,000. By carefully curating a mix of cultural, adventure, leisure and luxury experiences, Al Mouj will continue to attract discerning local, regional and international tourists to the Sultanate.

Carsten Wiegandt, General Manager of the five-star Kempinski Hotel Muscat, explains why the destination is optimal for prestigious brands: “The

entire philosophy of Al Mouj is key. Its focus on excellence and its intelligent blend of amenities cleverly serves recreational travellers, residents and our business model.

“Travellers have told us that Al Mouj Muscat has created the perfect balance of authentic culture, natural beauty, unique leisure opportunities and a true sense of community. This is an active strategy that allows our sector to be confident that we can partner in growth.”

DRIVING EMPLOYMENT AND ONGOING OPPORTUNITY

As all economies and communities benefit from diverse job creation, Al Mouj is committed to boosting employment, along with Omanisation and its impact on both counts is significant. Currently, it has created over 2,200 jobs and is on track to secure permanent roles for 5,500 on project completion.

Its determination to support the Sultanate’s Omanisation targets is clear as 71% of Al Mouj Muscat’s employees are Omani, significantly higher than 45% mandated for the real estate sector. With 40% of leadership positions filled by women, it also has an ongoing training programme designed to upgrade the skills and capacities of its Omani workforce. As it invests in future leaders, its impact will continue to benefit the nation.

Harwa Al Lawati, Head of Customer Experience at Al Mouj Muscat, says: “Al Mouj Muscat is committed to our national interests at every level. We promised to not only create jobs but also opportunities for employees to develop their abilities.

“We have incredibly talented individuals working across highly diverse roles

and our management systems support us to measure and improve performance. It is a holistic approach to creating efficiencies and opportunities to advance that will continue to have an impact far beyond our own organisation.

“We can be confident this generation will go on to use their impressive skills to lead organisations and champion future prosperity for Oman.”

SECURING INWARD INVESTMENT

All economies seek inward investment. It provides capital for expansion and further raises the profile of a nation on the world stage. As an ITC, Al Mouj Muscat provides non-Omanis the option to purchase a freehold for a property and the destination’s superb lifestyle has attracted residents from 85 nations and secured \$884 million in foreign direct investment.

Ahmed Al Massan, CFO of Al Mouj Muscat, comments: “We have a long-term commitment to delivering lasting value to our community and to the Sultanate. Along with remarkable asset growth, and \$31 million in tax contributions, our growth strategy has yielded sustainable returns that have attracted significant foreign direct investment. Whether in residential or commercial real estate, we are a business-enabling environment, here to create durable partnerships that secure sustainable prosperity for Oman.”

PARTNERING WITH SMES

The government has put in place policies designed to stimulate the growth of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as

they play a critical role in robust and expansive economies. With 57% of Omanis expecting to set up a business in the next three years, creating the optimal conditions for growth is an area that Al Mouj has focused on, and its impact is evident.

Each day, visitor expenditure in its 85 retail outlets, cafés and restaurants drive opportunities for local business and stimulate job growth. Al Mouj’s success at generating footfall, combined with its support for the retail sector through specific marketing initiatives, has resulted in a 95% occupancy rates, despite the challenges of Covid-19.

In total, 150 SMEs are now connected to Al Mouj and benefit from its multiple features. First, location. With 3.9 million visitors and 8,000 residents, there are high number of customers spending on products and services. Its location offers businesses access to regional and international markets as well as cross-border trade, which has facilitated the operations of 30 SMEs within Al Mouj. A further 120 SMEs utilise its trading platforms, hugely benefitting from events hosted by the community such as Souq Es Sabt. Adding to the eco-system of support is access to investment and training, such as in customer service and booking systems for sea tour operators.

Aisha Al Kharusi, owner of fashion brand Junoon Kanga, recognises the impact of an organisation that understands enterprise: “Al Mouj has put in place everything that entrepreneurs need to succeed. First, its wide-ranging lifestyle, retail and leisure offering drives considerable footfall.

“Add to that its determination to support enterprise, whether through training or by providing a

platform through its own marketing or a year-round calendar of events. Al Mouj’s strategy has been to unlock opportunities for enterprise, and it is an approach that will continue to fuel growth.”

DEVELOPMENT THAT DELIVERS

Setting the standard for its reputation as an unrivalled location is Al Mouj Muscat’s diverse portfolio of properties, from chic marina-side apartments to ultra-premium ocean-side villas. With 2,500 properties delivered and 75% of the project complete, the project has reached a critical mass, achieving the aims it was set in 2006.

Quality has become synonymous with Al Mouj, an essential component in establishing the destination’s global reputation and appeal. Badriya Al Suqri, Construction Engineer at Al Mouj, is part of the team committed to excellence in the design and build of every property: “Al Mouj is passionate about achieving the highest standards. We take responsibility for every aspect of our homes, from initial soil investigations through to final landscaping. Our attention to detail matters as beyond creating a strong aesthetic appeal, our homes have a direct impact on wellbeing and harmonious living.

“I am involved on site every day, managing contractors and working with consultants. Each home has a distinct character, knowing that we are creating dream homes is what drives us. It is why people from all over the world have invested in homes at Al Mouj and why I am so proud to work here.”

Discover more about Al Mouj Muscat and its impact on Oman at impact.almouj.com



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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Oman and Tanzania sign pact to boost postal services

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, represented by Oman Post and Asyad Express announced entering the Tanzanian market through signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shirika La Posta Tanzania (Tanzania Post Corp-TPC) to boost postal services and e-trade solutions between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Nasser Ahmed al Sharji, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Post and Macrice Daniel Mbodo, chairman of the corporation.

The MoU is on exchange of expertise and skills in the field of supply chains of the e-trade including the expertise of the two sides in the treasury solutions in Tanzania.

The MoU also dealt with issuance of joint postal stamps to document the historic and cultural ties between the Sultanate

and Tanzania and sale of postal stamps and possessions through the e. stores of Oman Post and TPC.

Nasser Ahmed Al Sharji, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Post and Asyad Express said that the strategic partnership with TPC is the first step towards expanding the international door-to-door delivery services and the launch

of new services in African markets. The MOU would open new trade opportunities between the two countries through offering packages of e. trade and logistics services in the Tanzanian markets, one of the fastest growing and emerging markets, he added.

— DNA

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman](https://timesofoman.com/oman)

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

60,251 REACH



His Majesty issued a directive to provide subsidy from May to August.

Story on more power subsidy for summer months in Oman welcomed

A story on additional power subsidy for summer in Oman reached 60,251 people and had 4,316 link clicks on Facebook.

854 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video news wrap in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute video news wrap in Hindi had 854 views and reached 6,100 people on Facebook.

926 VIEWS



The Maghrib Minute video news wrap in English

The Maghrib Minute video news wrap video in English had 926 views and 46 likes on Instagram.

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Oman to mark World Environment Day

MUSCAT: Oman, represented by the Environment Authority (EA) will celebrate the World Environment Day 2022 on Sunday.

The day is marked to initiate changes in the policies and choices to enable living in harmony with the nature in a more environment-friendly manner and sustainability.

The theme of the World Environment Day 2022 reflects the three crises of the earth, which are the climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the risks of pollution and waste.

Only One Earth, was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference which has seen the initiation of the UN Environment Programme.

— DNA



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TENDER NOTICE

S.#	Description
1	Supply of interactive smart boards for classrooms
2	Repair and repaint work of compound wall
3	Design, supply and installation of shade area for play field
4	Installation of automatic sliding gate
5	Supply of portable security cabin
6	Supply and fixing of material to cover the badminton court

- Competitive tenders are invited from establishments specialized in each area. The collection of tender documents from school will commence from 05/06/2022 after a payment of R.O. 10/-
- Tender submission is on or before 15/06/2022.
- The completed tender in all aspects should be dropped in the box kept in school office.
- A separate tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to: The Chairperson, Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Al Maabela.

The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



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الشركة العامة لخدمات المياه والصرف الصحي
Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company
Member of Nama Group

TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/ 2448993/ 2022	Construction of Water Distribution Networks to Compensated Houses in North Al Batinah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/6/2022	18/7/2022
T/2448994/ 2022	Requirement of Technical Manpower for Maintenance Works at Pumping Stations and STPs in Muscat Governorate for 24 Months	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/6/2022	18/7/2022
T/ 2449009/ 2022	Completion of Balance Work and Refurbishment (Rehabilitation) for Sewerage Network System at Ibra (Phase II)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/6/2022	18/7/2022

The tender documents can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC) e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from the date of publication of this announcement until 16/6/2022. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through Supplier Login.

Applicants who are not registered with OWWSC shall register from <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> to have the login credentials of Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through OWWSC e-tendering page (Supplier Login).

All participating Companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope to OWWSC's Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 3:00 pm on the bid submission date. Bid Bond must be obtained from a Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of OWWSC.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through OWWSC e-tendering page not later than 3:00 pm on the date specified above.

For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om or Email to: tender@owwsc.nama.om



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Queen Elizabeth II misses church service and Epsom Derby

Queen Elizabeth, who ascended to the throne in February 1952 after the death of her father, is the longest-serving British monarch

LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II did not attend a church service on Friday after experiencing "some discomfort" during the first day of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, which marks her 70th year on the throne, Buckingham Palace said.

The Palace later confirmed the queen would also miss Saturday's 243rd Epsom Derby, which she normally attends. The prestigious horse race will be the focal point of the third day of Jubilee celebrations, together with a pop concert outside Buckingham Palace.

As with the service, she will watch the Derby on television.

Queen Elizabeth, who ascended to the throne in February 1952 after the death of her father, is the longest-serving British monarch. In April, the queen turned 96-years-old.

What happened on Friday during the Jubilee?
UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was met with boos and jeers when he arrived at St. Paul's Cathedral with wife Carrie for the service of thanksgiving. Others in the crowd



PLATINUM JUBILEE: The prestigious horse race will be the focal point of the third day of Jubilee celebrations, together with a pop concert outside Buckingham Palace.

responded to the audible sound of displeasure with the prime minister with cheers and applause.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle also attended the church service Friday, entering the church together holding hands and walking down the long hall of the cathedral ahead of other senior royals. Many in the crowd turned to watch the pair, who abandoned royal duties two years ago in favor of life in California.

The queen, Buckingham Palace said in a statement late Thursday, had to "reluctantly" pull out of Friday's celebrations.

"Taking into account the journey and activity required to participate in tomorrow's national service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, Her Majesty with great reluctance has concluded that she will not attend," the statement read.

Prince Andrew, the Duke of

York, was also not present at the church service because he tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this week.

The queen thanked the British people in a written message, saying she continued to "be inspired by the goodwill shown to me...as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm."

Platinum celebrations kick off

Thousands of people flocked in front of Buckingham Palace in London on June 2, which marked the first of a four-day celebration to honour the queen's seven-decade rule.

The queen kicked things off by taking part in the annual Trooping the Color event, a military parade that takes place annually in June to celebrate Britain's sovereigns.

She also appeared on the famous balcony of the Buckingham Palace

after the parade to greet a sea of cheering supporters. Along with other members of the Royal Family, the queen then observed a fly-past from the balcony.

Later in the evening, the queen took part in a beacon lighting ceremony, despite not feeling well.

The Buckingham Palace said in its statement Thursday that the queen "greatly enjoyed today's birthday parade and flypast." It is not fully clear whether health complications will impact her attendance in other events planned through the weekend, though her health has been a matter of concern recently. Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who flew over from California, watched the queen's birthday parade on Thursday. They maintained a low-key presence through Thursday's Jubilee events, and are expected to attend the church service Friday. **AW**



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PEACEKEEPING MISSION

Two Egyptian peacekeepers killed, 2 others injured in Mali: UN

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday condemned the killing of two Egyptian members of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, a UN spokesman said.

Two other peacekeepers were injured when their armoured personnel carrier hit an improvised explosive device outside of the town of Douentza, in the Mopti region, said Stephane Dujarric, the chief spokesman for Guterres. "They were going from Douentza to Timbuktu. They were escorting ... from what I understand ... civilian trucks," the spokesman said as quoted by Xinhua News Agency.

Since May 22, there have been six attacks on the UN mission convoy, the spokesman said. A terrorist assault on a convoy near the town of Kidal, in the northern part of Mali, killed a Jordanian peacekeeper and injured three colleagues on Wednesday.

The secretary-general wishes a prompt recovery to the injured peacekeepers, Dujarric said, adding that the peacekeepers are fulfilling the Security Council mandate in extremely challenging conditions.

"The Head of the UN mission in Mali, El-Ghassim Wane, also condemned the new attack,"



Dujarric said.

"He also condemned the attack in the Kayes region earlier this week, in which two members of the Malian Red Cross were killed," he said.

The spokesman said that despite the deadly attacks, "UN colleagues are continuing their mandated work. As an example, the UN Peacekeeping Mission helped to rehabilitate two bridges in the Mopti region, which had been destroyed in earlier attacks. The restoration of these two bridges will bring relief to the people of the region and will facilitate the resumption of travel, commerce and activity, including between Mopti and Bandiagara."

He added that in the Kidal and Gao regions, peacekeepers assisted the populations of Anefis and Tanbankort towns as part of their ongoing support in the North. **AW**

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

India delivers 3.3 tonnes of medical supplies to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: In line with its "neighbourhood first" policy, India again came forward to help Sri Lanka during its economic crisis as High Commissioner to Colombo, Gopal Baglay on Friday handed a total of 3.3 tonnes of essential medical supplies to the 1990 Suwaseriya Ambulance Service.

Baglay said that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was apprised of the looming shortage of medical supplies faced by the Foundation during his visit to the Suwaseriya Headquarters in Colombo in March 2022.

"Another promise to the people of #SriLanka delivered!!! During his visit in March, EAM @DrSJaisankar was apprised of shortages of medicines faced by @1990SuwaSeriya. High Commissioner handed over 3.3 tonnes of medical supplies today to help the vital lifeline run smoothly,"



Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka tweeted.

Responding to the urgent need for medical supplies, the High Commission said that the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Gharial was specially deployed for this purpose.

In addition to Suwaseriya Foundation, medical supplies for General Hospital Hambantota, Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya and

Teaching Hospital, Jaffna have also been carried onboard INS Gharial, *Daily Mirror* reported.

"More than 25 tonnes of drugs and medical supplies which were donated by the Government and people of India during the last two months are valued at close to SLR 370 million. This is in addition to the economic assistance of around USD 3.5 billion and supply of other humanitarian supplies such as rice, milk powder, kerosene etc," the statement added.

Earlier, on May 27, Acting High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka Vinod K. Jacob handed over a consignment of over 25 tonnes of medical supplies to Minister of Health, Keheliya Rambukwella in Colombo. Taking to Twitter, the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka said that the consignment is valued at close to 33.5 million USD. **AW**

STAFF REDUCTION

Tesla to cut staff as Elon Musk says he has super bad feeling about economy

CALIFORNIA: Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, wrote in an email to executives of the electric car-maker announcing a 10% reduction in staff and a worldwide pause on hiring, Reuters reported on Friday.

The reported email comes on the heels of Musk facing backlash over a message to staff demanding they return to the office. It also comes amid a tumultuous and gloomy global economic outlook amid Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.

In the email carried the subject line "pause all hiring worldwide" and was sent late on Thursday.

Musk wrote that he has a "super bad feeling" about the economy, but did not elaborate.

Neither Tesla nor Musk immediately

commented on the Reuters report. Tesla shares were down 3.4% in premarket trading following the report.

Earlier in the week, Musk made headlines for another email to staff announcing a 40-hour in office requirement for all employees.

"If you don't show up, we will assume you have resigned," he wrote in that email.

What is the potential jobs impact?

Numerous jobs to work at the company in Germany and elsewhere including Tokyo and Palo Alto remained posted on LinkedIn Friday.

The Tesla "Gigafactory" outside Berlin in Grünheide already

has one third of its hiring targets met, public broadcaster RBB24 reported last month citing the Brandenburg state government. The factory was opened in March in a ribbon cutting attended by both Musk and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Brandenburg state Economy Minister Jörg Steinbach (SPD) told state lawmakers that there are "just over 4,000 employees hired so far" at the plant. In the initial expansion phase, Tesla had planned to introduce 12,000 jobs to build half a million cars annually for the European market.

Earlier in the week, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon said a "hurricane" of challenges is currently confronting the US economy. **DW**



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CHAOS AT FINALS

UEFA apologises to fans for Champions League final chaos in Paris



PARIS: UEFA has apologised to fans for the chaos that marred Champions League final between Real Madrid and Liverpool in Paris.

The start of the match was delayed by more than 30 minutes. Around 2,700 supporters with tickets were blocked from entering the Stade de France, and police sprayed tear gas on fans, including women and children.

“UEFA wishes to sincerely apologize to all spectators who had to experience or witness frightening and distressing events in the build-up to the UEFA Champions League final... on a night which should have been a celebration of European club football,” it said in a statement on Friday.

“No football fan should be put in that situation, and it must not happen again.”

European soccer’s governing body on Friday also set out the terms of reference for the “independent review” it had commissioned earlier this week.

“The Review will engage with UEFA and all relevant stakehold-

ers, including, but not limited to, fan groups... the finalist clubs themselves, general spectators, the French Football Federation, the police and other public national and local authorities, and the stadium operator,” it added.

Liverpool chief executive Billy Hogan on Friday reiterated a call for an investigation.

“We’ve written to UEFA again today and we’ve raised specific questions ... that we’d like them to clarify around the details of this investigation,” Hogan said.

“We just feel it’s incredibly important that we get this investigation going, frankly that we get it launched immediately and that there are clear specifics around the process and how it’s going to work.”

Real Madrid on Friday demanded an explanation for the way fans were treated saying the ugly scenes outside the stadium were “far removed from the values” of the sport.

The club asked, “who was responsible for leaving the fans helpless and defenceless.”

“Football has transmitted to

the world an image far removed from the values and objectives that it must always pursue.

What Macron said about reimbursing fans

In an about-turn, the French government earlier this week said it was “sad and sorry” that fans missed out on the final. France had initially blamed fans and counterfeiters for chaos at the stadium.

“I have asked the government to clarify what happened, to determine the responsibilities and to explain them in detail to our compatriots, the British and the Spanish,” French President Emmanuel Macron said.

He added ticket holders who were blocked from entering the stadium must be reimbursed “as fast as possible.”

“I have a thought for the families who have been pushed around, who have not been able to access the seats they had paid for. This is why I hope that we can compensate them as soon as possible,” Macron said. **bw**

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OCEAN ADVENTURER

83-year-old Japanese man crosses the Pacific on a sailboat



SAN FRANCISCO: The 83-year-old Japanese ocean adventurer Kenichi Horie has sailed successfully from San Francisco in the United States to Japan on a solo, non-stop voyage, apparently becoming the oldest person ever to achieve the Pacific crossing in this way.

His two-month-long trip in his 6-metre (20-foot) yacht Suntory Mermaid III ended when he arrived in the Kii Strait off western Japan early on Saturday morning. He covered some 8,500 kilometres (5,282 miles) during the voyage.

Horie made the crossing in the other direction in 1962, when he was 23, setting a record as the first and youngest person in the world to sail alone across what is the largest and deepest ocean on Earth.

That trip brought him some notoriety, as he did the crossing

without a passport, meaning that he entered the US illegally.

In April, while still at sea, he blogged that during his 1962 trip, he “was constantly anxious” and worried that he would be caught.

“But this time it’s different, I was sent off by many people and have their support through tracking systems and wireless radio. I couldn’t be more grateful,” he said of his trip this year.

Despite the aid, he wrote on Friday that he was exhausted after fighting an adverse current for three days.

Horie is also known for sailing around the world solo in 1974 and traveling longitudinally around the world between 1978 and 1982.

The latest expedition was the first he had undertaken since 2008, when he sailed from Honolulu to the Kii Strait on a wave-powered 31-foot boat. **bw**

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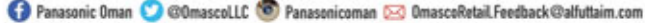
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FRENCH OPEN

Iga Swiatek clinches second French Open title, beats Coco Gauff in final

PARIS: World No. 1 Iga Swiatek clinched her second French Open title on Saturday after she registered a dominating straight-sets victory over No.18 seed Coco Gauff in the women's singles final of Roland Garros 2022 here at the Philippe Chatrier court in Paris.

The flawless Swiatek needed one hour and eight minutes to dismantle Gauff 6-1, 6-3. The opening of the set saw Swiatek totally dominating the 18-year-old American. Striking seven errors off that wing in the first three games alone, Gauff found herself down a double break at 4-0, and though American got on the board was overwhelmed by Swiatek's cleaner hitting as she dropped the opening set in just over 30 minutes. A sloppy game from Swiatek helped Gauff carve out a 2-0 lead to start the second set, but Swiatek steadied to move through the next five in a row.

The American teenager served to stay in the match, the No.18 seed



dug out of 15-30 with a forehand winner and an ace, and though she was again two points from defeat when Swiatek struck a clean backhand return, Gauff escaped.

Gauff gritted out a tough hold for 5-3, forcing Swiatek to serve for the championship, but the

World No.1 was up to the task, as she has been all season. On the first championship point, Gauff sent a service return long, and the Polish star lifted her second French Open title with a stunning and dominating win over Gauff by 6-1, 6-3. **ANI**

BOLD CLAIM

I don't follow records, records follow me: Cristiano Ronaldo makes bold claim

MANCHESTER: Manchester United star forward Cristiano Ronaldo has boldly claimed that records follow him everywhere and added that he doesn't chase milestones.

Ronaldo has caught the eye at Old Trafford even in a disappointing season, scoring 24 goals across all competitions and netting various individual awards.

He is grateful that the fans have been behind him from that memorable first game back and admits he was 'nervous' prior to hitting a brace in a 4-1 thrashing of Newcastle United in M16.

"What I have to say to the fans is they are amazing," Cristiano told United's official website.

"Even when you've lost the game, they always support us, they're always with us."

It's been another strong season for Ronaldo personally, despite United's issues on the pitch.

He set a new international goalscoring record the week after his transfer to the Reds was announced and is currently on an astonishing 115 goals for Portugal.

In December, he scored against Arsenal to pass 800 career goals

and then, on his way to a hat-trick versus Tottenham in March, he surpassed Josef Bican as FIFA's all-time record goalscorer in competitive matches.

The 37-year-old has been used to setting such incredible numbers during his career, but now he's fixed his sights on adding to the silverware he collected during his first spell at United, between 2003 and 2009.

"The records [are] coming in a natural way," he added. "I don't follow the records, but the records follow me so it's good." **ANI**

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FOREX RESERVES RISE

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves for the week ended May 27 rose by \$3.854 billion to \$601.363 billion led by a sharp increase in the country's foreign currency assets, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



FHO FROM SEPT 26-28

The 15th edition of Food and Hospitality Oman (FHO) will be held from September 26-28, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat, Oman.

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CBO's foreign assets rise 9.5% to OMR7.25bn by end of March

The total volume of local liquidity increased by 3.6 per cent to reach OMR20.54 billion at the end of March 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, which amounted to OMR19.85 billion, the NCSI data revealed

MUSCAT: The foreign assets of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) increased by 9.5 per cent to reach OMR7.25 billion at the end of March 2022 compared to OMR6.62 billion during the same period in 2021.

The total volume of local liquidity increased by 3.6 per cent to reach OMR20.54 billion at the end of March 2022 compared to

the same period in 2021, which amounted to OMR19.85 billion, the data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) reveal.

The narrow money supply (M1), which consists of total cash outside the banking system in addition to current accounts and demand deposits in local currency, increased by 5.5 per cent to reach

OMR6.7 billion by March 2022, compared to OMR5.69 billion during the same period from 2021.

On the other hand, the total private sector deposits with commercial banks and Islamic windows in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 2.4 per cent to reach OMR17.49 billion at the end of March 2022, compared to OMR17.89 billion during the same period in 2021.

The NCSI data indicated that the total loans and financing of commercial banks increased by 2.8 per cent to reach OMR27.95 billion at the end of March 2022, compared to OMR27.19 billion during the same period in 2021. The average interest rate on total loans witnessed a decrease of 0.3 per cent at the end of March.

The effective exchange rate index of the Omani Rial witnessed an increase of 4.2 per cent to record 108.3 points, compared to 103.9 points in the same period in 2021. -ONA



SUPPORTING OMANI ENGINEERS

Nama Group to sponsor three-day energy conference from June 6 to 8

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to support Omani engineers in the energy field, Nama Group will sponsor a three-day conference at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) being held from June 6 to 8.

The conference, which will present 10 papers by Nama, aims to create an effective platform that contributes to building national cadres and competencies and exchanging technical expertise. The conference also aims to help young Omani professionals and engineers interested in the energy sector to be constantly informed of the latest developments in the energy and renewable energy sector.

In addition, the conference will provide the opportunity to com-

municate with the most prominent experts in the field of electricity and energy locally and globally.

It is worth mentioning that the conference will highlight the effective role of the electricity sector

in the Sultanate and sustainable plans for the production, transmission and distribution of electricity. It will also shed light on accelerating the development of a sustainable environment and the

demand for energy and water in the Sultanate of Oman.

During the conference, a number of experts will present working papers that include the latest technologies in the field of production, distribution and transmission of electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart networks and their applications and asset management.

On the sideline of the conference, there will be an exhibition displaying the latest and best methods used in the field of energy and renewable energy, which contributes to the exchange of experiences and the promotion of the company among the relevant authorities to achieve the vision of Oman 2040.



EQUITY MARKETS

Global stock markets decline and US yields rise after strong employment data

NEW YORK: Global equity markets fell as US Treasury yields reached two-week highs on Friday after data showed the American economy generated a greater-than-expected number of jobs in May, signalling the Federal Reserve will likely continue raising interest rates in its effort to curb inflation, Reuters reported.

The Labour Department's closely watched employment report showed the US economy added 390,000 jobs in May, with the unemployment rate holding steady at 3.6 per cent for a third straight month, beating most analyst estimates.

Traders were hoping the jobs report would reveal stronger signs of weakness in the US economy that would help persuade the Fed to soften its stance on inflation and interest rates to avoid triggering a recession.

The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 50 countries, was down 1.14 per cent. The pan-European STOXX 600 index was down 0.26 per cent.

US Treasury yields advanced to two-week highs after the strong jobs data. Benchmark 10-year notes were up at 2.946 per cent, while the rate-sensitive two-year year note gained and was up at 2.6606 per cent.

On Wall Street, all three major indexes closed lower, pushed down by sell-offs in the technology, consumer discretionary, communication services, financials and industrial sectors.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1.05 per cent to 32,899.7, the S&P 500 lost 1.63 per cent to 4,108.54 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 2.47 per cent to 12,012.73.

The US dollar edged higher against a basket of currencies after the employment report. The dollar index rose 0.393 per cent, with the euro down 0.25 per cent to \$1.0718.

The Labour Department's closely watched employment report showed the US economy added 390,000 jobs in May, with the unemployment rate holding steady at 3.6 per cent for a third straight month, beating most analyst estimates

Oil prices settled higher buoyed by expectations that OPEC's decision to increase production targets by slightly more than planned will not affect tight global supply much and by rising demand as China eases COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions.

Brent crude rose 1.8 per cent, to settle at \$119.72 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate crude advanced 1.7 per cent to \$118.87. Both benchmarks were up by more than \$3 in after-hours trading.

Gold prices fell nearly 1 per cent after bullion's appeal was dented by the rise in the US dollar and Treasury yields following the strong jobs data.

Spot gold dropped 0.9 per cent to \$1,850.57 an ounce, while US gold futures fell 0.99 per cent to \$1,848.10 an ounce. -SPA

NATIONAL PETROLEUM INVESTMENT COMPANY

OQ marks first anniversary of bond listing on London Stock Exchange

LONDON: National petroleum investment company OQ celebrated the first anniversary of the listing of its securities on London Stock Exchange. OQ bonds were first registered at London Stock Exchange in May 2021 in a bid to enhance the Omani group's presence in local and international petrochemicals and alternative energy arenas. The listing will provide comprehensive solutions for OQ in the world energy markets.

Sabrina Al Bakri, OQ's CEO for Financial Affairs, said that the listing of OQ bonds seeks to meet funding requirements. "The step affirms the confidence accorded to the OQ as a global energy representative catering to international investors."

OQ's \$750 million-worth bonds generated a fourfold subscription volume, and they were rated as "BB" by Fitch. They merited the bond a maturity period of seven years at an interest rate of 5.125 per cent. -ONA



LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING: OQ bonds were first registered at London Stock Exchange in May 2021 in a bid to enhance the Omani group's presence in local and international petrochemicals and alternative energy arenas. -ONA



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Exhibition to enhance development of Oman’s food and hospitality industry

With over 250+ international companies participating from India, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, UAE, and United Kingdom, Food and Hospitality Oman is set to bring together more than 5,000+ business professionals from across Oman and the Middle East region

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 15th edition of Food and Hospitality Oman (FHO) will be held from September 26–28, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat, Oman.

FHO is Oman's biggest event for the food and hospitality industry that takes pride in being the most popular, networking and business-centric event platform for the food and beverage, agriculture and fisheries, food processing technologies, kitchen and catering equipment, hotel supplies and equipment, and restaurant and cafe segment industries.

With over 250+ international companies participating from India, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, UAE, and United Kingdom, the event is set to bring together more than 5,000+ business professionals from across Oman and the Middle East region.

The exhibition aims to enhance the growth and development of the food and hospitality industry, which contributes largely to Oman's GDP. According to the GCC Food Industry, Oman is expected to witness the fastest growth in food consumption in the GCC region, with an annualised rate of 4.2 per cent between 2020 and 2025. Higher investments by the Sultanate towards agricultural projects that



BIG EVENT: The exhibition aims to enhance the growth and development of the food and hospitality industry, which contributes largely to Oman's GDP. - Supplied picture

aim to use smart techniques in addition to hydroponics, aquaponics, and advanced technologies in irrigation and fertilisation are helping the country in increasing domestic production to significant levels. Such measures are likely to boost demand for home-grown commodities in the future.

Ashley Roberts, General Manager, CONNECT – the Organiser of FHO states, “We are confident that the business opportunities offered at FHO will foster positive meaningful engagement in the food and hospitality industries, and that will support economic growth. With FHO, we present the

right platform to network and gain insights into the evolving food and hospitality sector in Oman.”

Food and Hospitality Oman will feature over 250 exhibiting companies offering new products and innovations in featured areas on the show floor.

The main focus is on food prod-

ucts, beverages, agriculture and fisheries, ingredients and seasoning, hotel equipment supplies and services, catering and kitchen equipment, packaging systems, resort and spa facilities, interior design services, hotel decor and style, hotel and hospitality technologies, food processing technologies.

In addition, the latest spotlight is the Professional Chef Competition sponsored by National Hospitality Institute (NHI) and Oman Chef's Guild, Bed Making Competition sponsored by National Hospitality Institute (NHI), Waiters' Race sponsored by the National Hospitality Institute (NHI), and Oman Barista Competition.

The co-located workshop aims at assisting the broad range of food and beverage professionals in understanding the best practices and solutions for ensuring food safety and other areas related to the food industry.

The workshop will attract experts from food and beverage (F&B) manufacturers, processors, producers, retailers, catering & restaurant services, packaging and processing technology providers, vendors and government representatives to discuss the latest policies regulations, innovative approaches and technological advancements for assurance of food safety and quality in the Sultanate.

OIL OUTPUT

Opec+ raises oil production amid soaring prices

VIENNA: The 23-member Opec+ alliance agreed to increase oil output amid soaring energy prices.

The oil group announced it would raise production by 648,000 barrels per day in July and August to ease the burden on consumers.

The alliance initially planned to increase output by 432,000 barrels per day over three months until September. Elevated energy prices have raised fears that the global economy may soon experience a major recession.

The move to increase production is a reversal from the height of the pandemic when the cartel slashed output.

Opec+ justified the decision by citing increased demand for oil due to countries emerging from COVID-19 lockdowns. Output from Opec+ has fallen by about 1 million barrels per day after the West began imposing sanctions on Russia over its assault on Ukraine.

The US praised the move to increase supply, according to a White House statement.

Rising energy prices are hurting



US President Joe Biden's Democratic Party ahead of critical congressional midterm elections in November.

Saudi Arabia, a major oil supplier and a key player in the Opec+ alliance, earlier resisted calls from

the White House to boost supply.

In addition, the EU's announcement to introduce a partial embargo on Russian oil caused prices to rise further this week, with Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate hitting two-month highs.

Russia has also cut off the gas supply to some EU countries, such as Poland and Bulgaria, worsening the energy crisis.

Germany has slashed the price of public transport to help citizens cope with the surging prices. -aw

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

India's forex reserves rise above \$600 billion mark again

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves for the week ended May 27 rose by \$3.854 billion to \$601.363 billion led by a sharp increase in the country's foreign currency assets, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

Second consecutive week

The country's forex reserves have risen sharply for the second consecutive week after falling for 10 straight weeks.

The forex reserves had jumped by \$4.23 billion during the week ended May 20.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, all the components of the forex reserves rose during the week ended May 27 led by a sharp jump in the foreign currency assets.

India's foreign currency assets,

which are the biggest component of the forex reserves, rose by \$3.610 billion to \$536.988 billion during the week under review, the RBI data showed.

The foreign currency assets had increased by \$3.825 billion in the previous week.

The value of gold reserves rose by \$94 million to \$40.917 billion during the week under review.

The value of gold reserves had increased by \$253 million during the week ended May 20.

India's reserve position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by \$18 million to \$5.019 billion, and the value of India's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund rose by \$132 million to \$18.438 billion during the week ended May 27, the RBI data showed. -ANI



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CYBERSECURITY SOLUTIONS

Trend Micro named Leader in Forrester Wave: Endpoint Detection and Response

MUSCAT: Trend Micro Incorporated, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, announced it has been named a Leader in The Forrester Wave: Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR), Q2 2022. The report provides recognition of Trend Micro's focus on innovation, customer-centricity, and endpoint security.

As one of only three security vendors named a Leader in EDR by Forrester, Trend Micro received 5 out of 5 scores in nine of the criteria including investigation capabilities, ATT & CK alignment, extended capabilities, and innovation roadmap. The company's strengths illustrated in the report align with Forrester's stance on the value of high-quality analysis, building upon the ongoing efforts of delivering on customers' current and evolving detection and response needs.

"In the modern threat landscape, it is vital that organisations have in-depth insights, and acute foresight and are equipped with future proof solutions protecting every digital journey they embark on," said Dr Moataz Bin Ali, Area Vice President and Managing Director, MEA, Trend Micro.

"Trend Micro continues to secure enterprise operations through its XDR solutions that offer comprehensive threat detection and response across digital environments from a single platform. The recognition by Forrester Wave is truly an hon-

our and a testament to the efforts and the perseverance of our teams. It motivates us to continue to work harder as we strengthen enterprises' security posture and encourages us to set new benchmarks in the region."

The report follows Trend Micro's recognition as a Leader in The Forrester New Wave: Extended Detection and Response (XDR) Providers, Q4 2021, The Forrester Wave: Endpoint Security Software as a Service, Q2 2021, and The Forrester Wave: Enterprise Email Security, Q2 2021. The report also states that Trend Micro continues to innovate significantly beyond its public perception, and customers highlight that its interoperability between different parts of the portfolio is a key differentiator.

As per the Forrester Wave findings, "Analysis is the most time-consuming part of the incident response process. To improve the

analyst experience, organisations should prioritise vendors that provide relevant, the streamlined context for investigation and threat hunting by linking events together, providing timely threat intelligence, and leveraging dynamic risk scoring for processes, MITRE ATT&CK techniques."

Trend Micro continues to meet evolving cyber security demands as reflected in the Trend Micro Annual Cybersecurity Report for 2021. The company's solutions have protected the Mena region from 436 million email threats and over 80 million URL victim attacks. Additionally, it identified and blocked more than 20.5 million malware attacks. Moreover, shielding the hybrid environment, Smart Home Network (SHN) solutions protected devices and networks from a total of nearly 18 million (17,976,951) SHN inbound and outbound threats, and over 33.5 million SHN events.

TECHNOLOGY

iPhone users can now add vaccine records to Apple Health, checkout steps

WASHINGTON: iPhone users can keep their COVID-19 vaccination card in Apple Wallet and use it to confirm that they have been fully vaccinated.

Demonstrate

According to Mashable, customers and visitors must also demonstrate that they are up to date on their doses, even if these criteria only apply to personnel in particular instances. It's also more important than ever to double-check your vaccination status if you're going internationally.

The printed record, on the other hand, does not need to be maintained in your wallet or purse: you can immediately store your vaccination card on your phone to prevent it from being destroyed or lost.

If you have an iPhone, you may keep your COVID-19 vaccination card in Apple Wallet and use it whenever you need to show that you've been fully vaccinated. (You may also back up your data via the Health app.) You may now keep your Apple Watch card close at hand thanks to the WatchOS 8.1 update.

Note that before you begin, make sure your iPhone is running the latest recent version of iOS, which is iOS 15.1. -ANI



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1

Understanding triggers. Asthma triggers can cause symptoms and if left untreated, could lead to an asthma attack. Common asthma triggers include respiratory infections, allergens, irritants, exercise and emotions. Indoor triggers found at home, school and workplaces include tobacco smoke, dust mites, pests such as cockroaches and mice, pets, mold, cleaning chemicals, dust, gases, vapors and fumes. Common outdoor asthma triggers include pollen, wildfire smoke, ozone and particle pollution.

2

Reducing home triggers. People spend over 90% of their time indoors and most of that time is in their home. Whether you rent or own your home, you can make these changes to improve the quality of the air you breathe:

Run the bathroom fan after showers and use the kitchen fan while cooking to control moisture and other air pollutants

Use vacuums with good filtration.

Properly store food and other items that attract pests

Make your home (and vehicle) smokefree

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10 OMANI SAILORS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM THE ‘SAIL FREE’ PROGRAMME

OMAN’S NATIONAL PARASAILING TEAM TO COMPETE IN EUROPE



IN PARTNERSHIP with bp Oman, Oman Sail and Oman Paralympic Committee has prepared the Oman national parasailing team to compete in three upcoming international championships in Europe. Through extensive training in line with safety standards, 10 Omani sailors have been selected to compete from the ‘Sail Free’ programme.

This achievement is a result of the ‘Sail Free’ programme – launched in December 2019 – with the aim of introducing people with disabilities (specially with physical impairment) to the sport of sailing. The team will compete in the Belgian Sailability Cup, France Hansa Class Championship and 2022 Hansa UK National Championships, representing Oman, with the aim of achieving high rankings as well as gain vital development, skills and experience for their future athletic career.

The team members include Ali Al Ghasaini, Zaher Al Atbi, Ghalya Al Jabri, Raiyan Al Mujaini, Hassan Al Lawati, Sami Al Sulaimi, Adil Al Siyabi, Muayad Al Sheriyani, Sultan Al Wahaibi and Hamad Al Subhi.

Shamsa Al-Rawahi, bp Oman social investment manager, commented: “In line with our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion agenda, the ‘Sail Free’ programme has offered the unique opportunity for people with disabilities to compete in local, regional and inter-

national championships. I’ve seen the programme develop them beyond the skills of sailing. The programme has instilled confidence and capacity building skills to overcome challenges, chase their dream and work together as one team. We wish the team the best of luck and look forward to continue supporting this unique initiative.”

Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said: “The progress of the Sail Free team has been consistently excellent so far. The opportunity to compete at three major championships this summer is vital to the ongoing development of the sailors. We have tailored our coaching scheme ahead of these events to prepare our sailors, and it’s time to put it to the test. We are very proud of our sailors for continuing to grow as athletes and as inspiring individuals, and we have high hopes for the future of Sail Free as well as Oman’s ongoing participation in para sailing.”

Dr. Mansoor Al Tauqi, President of the Oman Paralympic Committee, added: “Over the years, the Sail Free programme has introduced over 200 participants aged from 16 to 30 from communities across the country to the sports of sailing. Our partnership with bp and Oman Sail has helped equip sailors with athletic skills, resilience and problem-solving skills, laying the foundation for truly believing themselves in all aspects of their life and their sports career”.

“

The progress of the Sail Free team has been consistently excellent so far. The opportunity to compete at three major championships this summer is vital to the ongoing development of the sailors. We have tailored our coaching scheme ahead of these events to prepare our sailors, and it’s time to put it to the test. We are very proud of our sailors for continuing to grow as athletes and as inspiring individuals, and we have high hopes for the future of Sail Free as well as Oman’s ongoing participation in parasailing.

Dr. Khamis Al Jabri
CEO of Oman Sail





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ROUND-UP

‘Mall of Muscat Festival’ concludes

The 2-month-long campaign included elements like a unique digital Shop, Spin and Win activation stand where close to 5,000 customers instantly won free shopping vouchers worth OMR 50,000 from the participating brands like Oman Aquarium, Matalan, Fabyland, Xtreme Zone, Novo cinema, H&M, Bath & Body Works, Cinnabon and many more

MUSCAT: Oman’s most luxurious mall, Mall of Muscat concluded its highly successful 3rd Anniversary tactical sales and marketing campaign ‘Mall of Muscat Festival’ on May 28 by attracting over 600,000 visitors from not only Muscat but the neighbouring governorates as well.

The 2-month-long campaign included elements like a unique digital Shop, Spin and Win activation stand where close to 5,000 customers instantly won free shopping vouchers worth OMR 50,000

from the participating brands like Oman Aquarium, Matalan, Fabyland, Xtreme Zone, Novo cinema, H&M, Bath & Body Works, Cinnabon and many more.

As part of this campaign, Mall of Muscat hosted a unique Vibrant Night Bazaar during the month of Ramadan which created a positive vibe in the community and resulted in phenomenal footfalls and business for its participants. The product mix in the bazaar targeted both adults and children and also included engaging enter-



tainment activities such as Drum circles, and roaming acts as an additional attraction for the visitors. For the kids, every weekend during the 2-month-long campaign was packed with free entertainment and fun activities like the magic show, hula hoops and indoor Foosball which helped to attract more families to the mall.

For Eid, the mall did a block-

buster musical concert and mind-boggling acrobatic chair balance shows. To top it all, in addition to all the amazing activities and entertainment, most of the tenants in the stores had amazing offers and discounts, some exclusively for Mall of Muscat.

Speaking to the press about the Mall of Muscat Festival, Hussain Jamal - Head, Mall Operation, Mall

of Muscat said such campaigns add a unique value to our valued customers and helps the mall to further strengthen the personal bond and brand loyalty to the mall which in turns supports its valued retail partners to improve their business and their connection with customers. We thank all our valued customers and retail partners for supporting us in celebrating our

three-year journey in a meaningful way. We are also now gearing up for an exciting Summer, Marketing Campaign which will be launched soon, which will bring more exciting activities to the mall to sustain the positive momentum created due to the recent marketing campaigns and are hopeful for the continued trust and support of our valued customers and retail partners.”

TALENT MANAGEMENT

Bank Nizwa admits 2nd cohort of high potential staff in its leadership development programme

MUSCAT: In line with its agenda to foster human capital and growth, Bank Nizwa has commenced its leadership development programme for another year.

The High Potential programme, HiPo, is a part of Bank Nizwa’s talent management, which focuses on finding and developing ‘A players’ or individuals with the highest leadership potential and who are of considerable interest to firms, to fill future leadership roles. Due to its popularity and high demand the first time around, the management decided to continue the skill enhancement initiative for the second batch of high achievers at Bank Nizwa.

Bank Nizwa’s HiPo programme is in collaboration with the internationally acclaimed John Maxwell Leadership, which is renowned for its groundwork in value-based leadership principles. During the six-month course of the programme, participants will undergo coaching, training and assessment sessions to assist them in refining their areas of development, consequently preparing them for future leadership positions in Bank Nizwa. At the end of the programme, participating employees will receive certificates from Maxwell Leadership.

“In today’s competitive labour market, succession planning should be a key component of every company’s personnel management and growth strategy. Building a pipeline of professionals ready to



assume the escalating amount of responsibility and leadership in a company is critical to its success, particularly in the ever-changing digital industry,” said Haifa Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager HR - Chief Human Resources Officer. “Employees are the driving force behind the Bank’s success. Bank Nizwa believes that employees are the major asset for the organisation and efforts were centred on advancing their capacities and capabilities to become tomorrow’s leaders in Islamic banking. As a result of this aspiration, the Bank witnessed higher achievements and stronger performance,” she added.

The LDP - Leadership Development Programme strives to provide learning opportunities to people who have proven the ability to thrive in leadership positions in the bank, with the goal of uplifting high-potential work

ers and bridging the gap between them and the senior management team. Maxwell Leadership’s expert team assessed all staff members to maintain integrity during the selection process. A batch of 13 employees was chosen and admitted into the programme. The group went through a comprehensive course that began with a business simulation and ended with training in 10 distinct leadership modules.

Finally, they were given real-life projects to complete and present to Bank Nizwa’s management team. The projects will be funded for execution as a token of appreciation and recognition for the group’s efforts. The LDP will be an ongoing process at Bank Nizwa, with people being selected and taught at regular intervals to ensure that all workers have an adequate opportunity.

Bank Nizwa’s strategic training

programmes focus on continuing to improve all workers’ abilities by delivering high-level training in all functional categories throughout the Bank’s numerous divisions and branches. The bank provided access to a vast amount of courses to equip our employees with different sets of knowledge and skills, either technical that focus on Islamic banking training, product development, sales leadership, risk management, wealth management, corporate and retail banking, or soft skills, through an e-learning platform and various other opportunities. These cutting-edge training programmes reflect the most recent advances in banking technology; they also encourage workers to participate in specialised activities to strengthen their qualifications and expertise, as well as their work values and ethics, in keeping with Bank Nizwa’s vision and goals.

DRIVING ADVENTURE



All-electric Nissan Ariya to embark on world-first expedition from North Pole to South Pole

YOKOHAMA: Nissan announced its partnership with British adventurer, Chris Ramsey, to undertake the world’s-first all-electric driving adventure from the magnetic North Pole to the South Pole.

Departing in March 2023, the daring ole to Pole expedition will see Ramsey and team in a Nissan Ariya e-4ORCE travel over 27,000 kilometres across several regions and continents with predicted temperatures ranging from -30 degrees C to 30 degrees C. Ramsey will be the first person to drive from pole to pole in a vehicle of any type as he makes his way from the Arctic through North, Central and South America, before crossing to Antarctica.

The route will negotiate some of the world’s most extreme, brutal, and yet beautiful scenery. From snow-covered glacial landscapes to treacherous mountain climbs and vast desert dunes; Pole to Pole driven by the Nissan Ariya will take followers through breathtaking and uncharted territory.

“We’re proud to announce our partnership with Chris Ramsey and the Pole to Pole expedition team,” said Nissan Executive Vice President Asako Hoshino, global head of marketing and sales. “The all-new, all-electric Ariya crossover SUV enables you to go further, easier and in comfort. And with e-4ORCE control technology providing enhanced stability and traction on a variety of surfaces, we know it will be the perfect partner for Chris and his team on their challenging all-electric journey.”

This high-profile, challenging and exhilarating adventure supports Nissan Ambition 2030, the company’s long-term vision to empower mobility and beyond with electrification as a central

focus. The vision aims to deliver exciting vehicles and technologies that empower customer journeys and society.

In preparation for the freezing Arctic and Antarctic conditions, Ramsey’s expedition Nissan Ariya e-4ORCE will be modified with a custom rugged exterior fit for the trek across extreme terrain with upgraded wheels, tires and suspension. A second, unmodified Nissan Ariya e-4ORCE will act as a support vehicle throughout the Americas.

e-4ORCE is Nissan’s most advanced all-wheel control technology that accurately manages power output and braking performance for smoothness and stability. The system enhances driver confidence by tracing the intended driving line over a variety of road surfaces, including wet and snowy roads, without the need for changes in driving style or input.

This isn’t the first all-electric expedition for Chris Ramsey. He’s been adventuring in electric vehicles for over a decade. In 2017, he and his wife, Julie, became the first team to complete the Mongol Rally in an all-electric vehicle. The pair travelled over 16,000 kilometres through multiple locales over 56 days in his own Nissan LEAF.

Chris Ramsey, founder of Pole to Pole, commented: “Our mission is to show that electric vehicles can tackle the harshest of environments – from the bitter cold of the poles to the hot and humid jungles of South America, and illustrate that they are exhilarating to drive whilst meeting the daily demands of drivers around the world. It’s fantastic to see such an important and innovative global brand partner with our expedition.”

SERVICE

Get your INFINITI summer ready with right care

MUSCAT: Taking care of your INFINITI vehicle is important year-round and particularly during the summer. As temperatures begin to rise in the region, cars require even more attention and care as the summer heat can cause some issues. Experts at INFINITI urge owners to be aware of special care practices to keep their cars running smoothly and safely this summer.

Owners are advised to check the vehicle’s oil brakes and power steering regularly. Basic maintenance services, such as oil changes, are recommended to be done before the summer.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, “INFINITI is renowned for its after-sales service with the aim of providing its owners with a great ownership experience which is exclusive and rewarding. Our service experts are eager to assist you with your vehicle maintenance and repair needs at all times. INFINITI Oman strives to offer an excellent retail and customer service experience to every INFINITI owner. A crucial point of differentiation for the brand amongst competitors is the top level of customer service it delivers. INFINITI Oman ensures that only genuine INFINITI parts



are used, and highly trained technicians will complete the service and maintenance.”

Auto specialists say since the car’s AC system will be used considerably during the summer months; it is vital to ensure that its system is working at the optimal level. AC filters need to be checked frequently, and quick action needs to be taken if these filters are unclean. They also say it is necessary to ensure that tyres are suitably inflated to endure the ris-

ing temperatures. Under-inflated tyres can cause them to overheat, making them weaker, and more susceptible to damage. Tyre pressure should be tested at least once a month during the summer.

Since the summer sun can cause a car battery to heat up and it may lead to internal rundown and ensuing battery failure. If the battery is more than three years old, it is a good idea to have it tested to determine how much longer the battery will last, experts insist. As

the car and battery are under pressure during the summer, due to the huge use of AC and increase of evaporation of fluids, it is important to have a closer eye on the battery during summer.

There are value added services available at INFINITI service centres which are useful during summers. The services are engine cleaning, AC aircomatic treatment, evaporator cleaner, AC cool ultra and window film. A clean engine compartment makes a used car look newer and better maintained. A clean engine even runs a little cooler because removing the gunk formed by dirt, oil and grease allows engines to run cooler.

The aircomatic treatment is water based, which cleans the evaporator from pollen, nicotine, bacteria, microbes and refreshes the air. The evaporator cleaner foams up to fill the evaporator core, where it removes contaminants, thus providing better air flow, cooler cleaner air. AC cool ultra improves AC efficiency by improving mechanical components performance of AC system.

Window film reduces the interior temperature by rejecting infrared rays from sun and heat which enters through window glasses.



ROUND-UP



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Shams Global Solutions and bp Oman conclude 3rd Solar Decathlon contest

The competition aimed to highlight the skills and talents of Omani Youth contributing towards Oman's future development of renewable and sustainable energy solutions

MUSCAT: In partnership with bp Oman, Shams Global Solutions concluded the third Solar Decathlon, a nationwide competition as part of the 'Shams Oman' programme at the German University of Technology in Oman. This year's Solar Decathlon focused on designing the best improved and most efficient energy storage solutions for solar photovoltaic systems.

The competition aimed to highlight the skills and talents of the Omani youth contributing toward

Oman's future development of renewable and sustainable energy solutions. The competition targeted university students from various universities such as Sultan Qaboos University, German University of Technology, University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Shinas and Ibra, with a total of 39 students taking part. Through the qualification stages, 6 teams out of the total 13 teams advanced to compete in the final event comprising 22 university students.

This Solar Decathlon is part of the 'Shams Oman' programme which involved a series of theoretical and practical solar energy



training courses for Omani professionals, renewable energy competitions for university students, and finally, solar energy presentations and workshops for the school

students, contributing to the certification of solar practitioners and enriching the students with knowledge about sustainable energies and solar power.

Shamsa Al-Rawahi, bp Oman Social Investment Manager, commented, "Through this programme, we were able to raise awareness about the impact of us-

ing solar power and renewable energies within Oman. This reflects our ambitions in energy and sustainability at bp to reimagine energy for our people and planet, and to strive towards new technologies and capabilities in innovative zero carbon energy solutions in Oman."

Michael Tsang, Co-Founder of Shams Global Solutions, further added, "For the last several years Oman has demonstrated a clear vision towards implementing renewable energy projects in order to support diversification in the economy. With this event, we are hoping to provide an opportunity to showcase Oman's best and brightest ideas related to solar power."

The first decathlon focused on designing solar training facilities using eco-friendly building concepts, and the second decathlon focused on designing automated solutions for cleaning solar photovoltaic panels. Through the three Solar Decathlons, the total number of participants was 109 students, with a total of 82 participants qualifying for the final phase, and the total number of jury members was 12.

NEW BRANCH

Lulu Exchange relocates its Rustaq branch, opens at Jalan Bani Bu Ali

MUSCAT: With a progressive outlook to diversify its network across the Sultanate of Oman, Lulu Exchange – a leading provider of cross-border payments and foreign currency exchange, has relocated its Rustaq branch to a brand-new space at Jalan Bani Bu Ali inside the Lulu Hypermarket.

Lulu Exchange, which is known for its qualitative offerings and contribution to the country's payments ecosystem, opened a new branch to optimise service excellence and diversify its network so as to reach closer to the people it serves.

The branch was inaugurated in a hybrid opening ceremony by Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali Al Ghazali, Director, Lulu Exchange. The opening was attended online by Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Financial Holdings, Richard Wason, CEO, Lulu Financial Holdings and other senior management.

Congratulating the team on the



opening, Mohammed Al Ghazali said that Lulu Exchange continues to be resilient and stay above the competition thanks to its focus on growth and efficient team building. He thanked the government, Central Bank and Ministry of Labour for their support to the company and said that Lulu Exchange is setting new benchmarks daily, in line with the country's initia-

tives to drive greater Omanisation of human resources.

Adeeb Ahamed was equally appreciative of the company's growth in the country and said that the branch relocation comes at a time when Lulu Exchange is optimising service quality and customer experience for underserved locations. "We are committed to growing our network in a

way that drives financial inclusion and makes our services accessible to a wider cross-section of Oman's people," he added.

Lulu Exchange has strategic partnerships with global payment networks and caters to countries world over with direct online remittance arrangements to countries in the MENA, Indian sub-continent and APAC markets.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Ahli Islamic expands its network by opening new branch in Al Mabelah

MUSCAT: With a keen vision to continue to strengthen its network in the Sultanate in an endeavour to better reach its growing customer base, Ahli Islamic announced the opening of its new branch in Al Mabelah in Al Seeb.

As part of its ambitious growth strategy, the bank, with its steadily increasing number of branches in different governorates, seeks to provide personalised Sharia-compliant banking solutions that meet the banking needs of different segments of society.

Speaking about the opening of the new branch, Yousuf Salim Al Rawahi, DGM - Head of Ahli Islamic said, "At Ahli Islamic, we always strive to be close to our customers. We will remain committed to enhancing the banking experience for our customers by facilitating easy access to all our services. Expanding our branch network



is one of the bank's key strategies to meet its customers' needs and exceed their expectations.

"As a customer-centric bank, this also helps us strengthen our relationships with our existing customers. The opening of a new branch is in line with our vision to expand our market presence, meet our growth objectives and spread awareness about Sharia-compli-

ant finance solutions."

"While we remain committed to our goal of being the leading Islamic bank in the Sultanate, we also ensure that we continue to deliver the high-est standards of service which are based on the principle of 'partnership' with our customers," he added.

Like all Ahli Islamic branches, the new branch in Al Mabelah is also characterised by state-of-the-art

design, advanced infrastructure, elements that reflect the brand value and a team of highly qualified employees eager to meet the varying banking needs of all its customers. It also has a well-spaced waiting area.

Customers can also access the best banking services through this branch, including opening various types of accounts, as well as bank card products and financing solutions for individuals, companies and SMEs, in addition to other banking services and products.

As the fastest growing bank in Oman, Ahli Islamic is committed to delivering a seamless and secure customer-oriented banking experience through its network of branches as well as its mobile and Internet banking facilities. The bank is also keen to provide sharia-compliant banking solutions that are tailored to the different banking needs of customers.

ICONIC SYMBOL OF STRENGTH



Reach new heights with Toyota Hilux

MUSCAT: Toyota Hilux is an iconic symbol of strength, power, capability and dependability. For many years the Hilux has proven its might on all terrains both as a workhorse and a regular pick-up.

Customers in Oman, interested in making the most of this popular pick-up have two options to choose from. The rugged Hilux with J-Deck and the sporty 4.0 Litre V6 Hilux Adventure with the A Deck. The 4.0 Litre V6 Toyota Hilux Adventure is powered to get your pulse racing.

The Toyota Hilux rises above expectations, to deliver some of the finest on-road and off-road experiences ever. The Hilux is two vehicles in one: a work truck through the week and a family vehicle on weekends, thanks to added comforts and safety features. Indeed the Hilux models are stunning in design and features. Their performance & safety parameters are amongst the best and the strong frame and suspension impart toughness for any demanding task.

Apart from this, high-quality materials are used to ensure high durability. The distinctive Toyota grille renders the Hilux instantly recognisable. A tough deck protects cargo and increases carrying capabilities, while wheels are fitted with wide tyres for a better grip.

The Toyota Hilux Adventure packs the legendary Hilux ruggedness! Every Toyota Hilux Ad-

venture comes with high-end features that start with the mighty 4.0 Litre V6 Engine packing a mighty punch with 235 HP & 38.3 Kg-m Torque. It has an Auto Disconnect Differential to keep the tempo going.

Equal importance has been provided to the technical superiority and safety features of the Hilux 4x4. The noteworthy features include a 2.7 Litre Petrol Engine that is available in 5-speed Manual Transmission and 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, outputting 164 HP.

The Hilux is not only a tough vehicle but also an advanced pick-up with stylish cues hitherto found only on SUVs. The front of the Hilux gives a sense that the vehicle is wider than it is. This is achieved by the horizontal bars that make up the Grille and Sleek Headlamps that wrap around the front of the Fenders. The Hilux sports a thick, chunky Front Bumper sculpted like an SUV, Front Fog lamps, Alloy Wheels, apart from Side Stripes that adorn the vehicle.

The Hilux's interior continues the concept of "Tough and Emotional", and reflects the same attention to detail as the exterior with SUV vehicle styling, accents and ornamentations. The key features that keep you comfortable are the Auto Air conditioner, Multi-Information Display (MID), 8" Navigation and many more.



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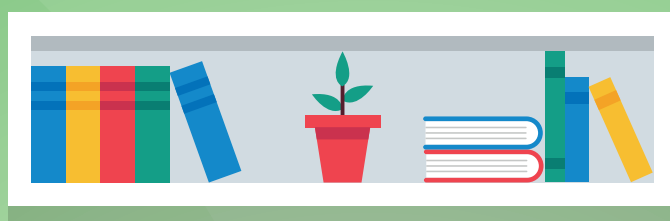


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TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST

884mn USD

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT



Total assets
2006 - 2020

744mn
USD

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID IN TAX
31mn
UNITED STATES DOLLARS

777%

ASSET GROWTH SINCE 2006

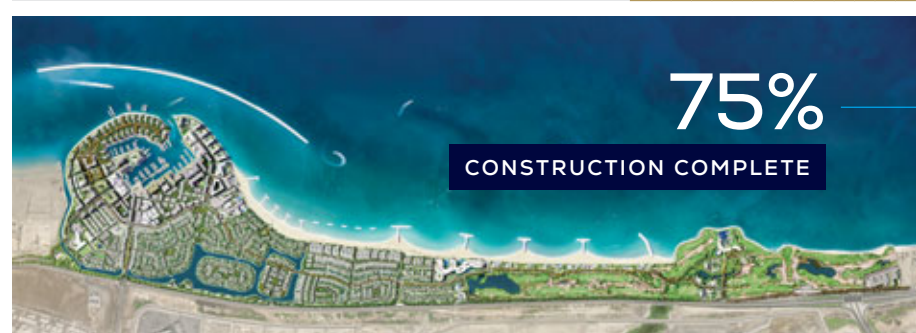
12mn
USD



176 CSR
INITIATIVES

*Corporate Social Responsibility

PROGRESS



75%

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

OVER 8,000 PEOPLE FROM 85 COUNTRIES CALL THIS HOME

Key community achievements to date



2,500
properties
delivered



400-berth
marina
operational



Multi award
winning
Al Mouj Golf



Community
centre and
Masjid



9 parks with
8 kids play
areas



Marsa Plaza
leisure and
entertainment

SME
DEVELOPMENT

150 SMEs operate at Al Mouj Muscat

HOTELS
& TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT

2 Kempinski mysk

Operational today

Kempinski Hotel Muscat ★★★★★
Mysk by Shaza ★★★★★



2 ST REGIS Rotana

Opening phase

St Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort ★★★★★
Al Mouj Rayhaan by Rotana ★★★★★



3 More planned



440 keys
251 keys

2,000 + keys post completion

RETAIL
& DINING

85+



Retail & culinary
experiences

95%



Retail
occupancy



4mn



Visitors
each year

20k



sqm of vibrant
urban retail



JOB
CREATION

2,200

Current permanent
jobs created

5,500

Permanent jobs on
project completion

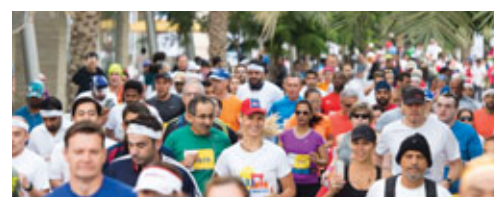
Current
Omanisation
rate

71%

Women in
leadership
positions

40%

SPORTS
TOURISM



Athletics

Al Mouj Muscat
Marathon



Cycling

Tour of Oman



Golf

European Challenge Tour
Oman Open



Sailing

America's Cup World Series
Extreme Sailing Series
Tour of Arabia

ENVIRONMENT

40,000
sqm

Artificial
coral reef



District cooling plant

The power saved prevented the release of:

14,781

metric tonnes
of carbon
dioxide

=

3,138

total emissions
from vehicles

50%

Over
265k sqm of green spaces



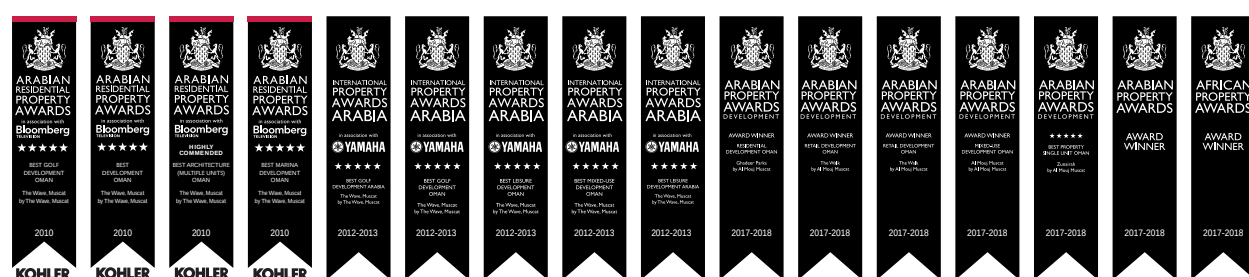
173

species of
birds spotted



Over 3,000
trees planted

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