

ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER MEETS KUWAIT'S AMBASSADOR
Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Dr. Sulaiman Abdullah Al Harbi, Ambassador of Kuwait to Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty. **>A5**



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HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES WRITTEN MESSAGE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia pertaining to fraternal coordination and cooperation between the two countries. The message was received by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received Abdullah Saud Al Anzi, KSA Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. **-ONA**



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OMAN, TANZANIA REAFFIRM TO PROMOTE BILATERAL RELATIONS

The two countries expressed satisfaction with the role played by the OIA through the existing projects in Tanzania

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania reaffirmed their firm and sincere desire to strengthen bilateral relations and push them to broader horizons in all spheres. This was stated on Tuesday in a joint statement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania on the occasion of the visit of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman. The text of the joint statement reads as follows:

Stemming from the friendly and historical ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania, and in response to the gracious invitation from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultan of Oman, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania paid a state visit to the Sultanate of Oman along with a high-level delegation for a period of three days, starting from Sunday, 12 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443 AH, corresponding to 12 June 2022, until Tuesday, 14 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1443 AH, corresponding to 14 June 2022.

His Majesty the Sultan and the Tanzanian President held official talks in the spirit of kinship and friendship.



The two parties reiterated their mutual firm and sincere desire to strengthen bilateral relations and encourage them to broader horizons in all fields and levels in a way that serves the mutual benefit of the two countries and their friendly people.

During the talks, issues regarding bilateral relations and ways to develop them were discussed, especially those related to economic cooperation in its various fields.

The two parties expressed their satisfaction of the outcomes reached as a result of the joint committee for cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The two parties also affirmed their keenness to hold the meetings of the committee on a regular basis, leading to the follow-up and development of the relations.

Sites in Zanzibar

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the role played by the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) through the existing projects in Tanzania, as well as the role of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism through the restoration of historical and archaeological sites in Zanzibar and the advanced stages that these works have reached.

The two sides stressed the positive and fruitful role played by the

private sector in the two countries, within the context of increasing the partnership between the two sides.

The two sides also expressed their hope that these activities lead to an increase in the volume of investments and trade and economic exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania.

During the talks, views were exchanged on a number of regional and international issues of common interest.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of increasing efforts to ensure the continuity of security and stability in the world based on collective cooperation. **>A4**

Tanzanian President concludes visit to Oman



MUSCAT: President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania concluded her official three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Tanzania President was seen off on Tuesday afternoon at the Royal Airport by His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Head of the Mission of Honour), Saud bin Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United

Republic of Tanzania, Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman and members of the embassy.

The President of Tanzania was accompanied during her visit by an official delegation comprising January Yusuf Makamba, Minister of Energy, Dr. Pindi Chana, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr. Khalid Salum Mohamed, Minister of Works, Transport and Communications, Ambassador Mbarouk Nassoro Mbarouk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Fatma Rajab, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman and some Tanzanian officials. **-ONA**



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MUSCAT



COST OF LIVING

Muscat among cities with affordable public transport

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's capital has been included in cities across the world with affordable public transport.

The list, which was compiled on Numbeo, one of the world's largest cost of living databases that relies on input from people to put together data on quality of life indicators such as housing, perceived crime rates, healthcare quality, transport quality and other statistics.

A one-way ticket on public transport in Muscat will cost commuters an average of \$1.30 or about half a Rial, a cost that is on the expensive side when compared to countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The most expensive city listed among the GCC countries is Sharjah, where public transport costs an average of \$2.18 for a one-way ticket. Dubai and Ajman (both \$1.36) and Riyadh (\$1.33) too are more expensive than Oman.

However, the Saudi Arabian cities of Dammam (\$0.80) and Jeddah (\$0.92) are cheaper when it comes to public transport. The



capitals of the remaining GCC countries also offer more affordable public transport to people.

On average, a one-way ticket on public transport in Kuwait City costs less than a dollar (\$0.98), while in Manama, Bahrain, commuters need to fork out just \$0.80.

In Doha, that cost falls even lower to just \$0.55, while Abu Dhabi is listed as the most affordable city among the GCC countries, at just \$0.54 for a one-way trip.

Among the 482 cities listed around the world, public transport is the most expensive in Hamilton, Bermuda, where a single trip can

average around \$5, Eindhoven in the Netherlands (\$4.73), Trondheim in Norway (\$4.38) and the famed university town of Cambridge in the UK (\$4.3) are also among the costliest places when it comes to public transport.

Most cities in the Netherlands, including Rotterdam, Haarlem and The Hague, as well as those in Norway, such as Plymouth, Aberdeen and Oxford, are also listed as the most expensive.

The only outsider in the otherwise European list of cities that make up the top 10 expensive places in the world is Brisbane, Aus-

tralia, where a ticket can set commuters back by an average of \$4.21.

Cities in most countries in the developed world, including Sweden, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Canada, Switzerland and Belgium have higher costs of public transportation, while those in other regions of the world have far more affordable rates.

Most Eastern European countries, including Poland, Latvia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Lithuania, Greece, Slovakia, and Montenegro have transport fares cheaper than those of Oman. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Rare 'giant moon' seen in Muscat

1 People who were outdoors after about 7pm yesterday saw a moon appeared to be about 15 percent larger than it normally is. **>A2**

WORLD 110,000 monkeypox vaccines ordered

2 The EU on Tuesday said it had signed an agreement for some 110,000 monkeypox vaccine doses. **>A6**

SPORTS Root scores 10,191 runs in Test cricket

3 England batter Joe Root completed 10,191 Test cricket runs and surpassed former India batter Sunil Gavaskar's record. **>A8**



OMAN



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TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:12pm
Asr.....3:30pm
Maghrib.....6:59pm
Isha.....8:21pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....3:52am

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

24,094 REACH



Indian nationals living in Oman can continue to take advantage of the high exchange rate.

Twitter: @OMANCOM

Omani Rial to Rupee rate climbs to highest-ever level

Omani Rial to Rupee rate climbs to highest-ever level

People reached: 24,094

Engagements: 157

5 shares

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

625 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute news update

The Maghrib Minute news update in Hindi had 625 views and reached 3,000 people on Facebook.

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

962 VIEWS



Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on HM the Sultan and Tanzanian President held a bilateral meeting had 962 views and 55 likes on Instagram.

OMAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Rare ‘giant moon’ phenomenon witnessed by people in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People who were outdoors after about 7pm yesterday were able to witness a rather rare phenomenon that occurs only twice a year: A reddish-orange moon that is significantly larger than the one we are used to seeing in the night sky.

“The moon appeared to be about 15 percent larger than it normally is, with an increased brightness of about 30 percent when it is at its farthest point,” said Salem Al Farsi, a member of the Oman Astronomical Society.

Different colour

“The moon was a reddish or orange colour, as a result of dust and other particulate matter in the Earth’s atmosphere, which scattered the white light reflecting off them, resulting in the scattering of colours beyond the blue spectrum,” he added.

Although the moon took on a reddish-orange hue while it rose, it changed to a more familiar silvery-white once it settled in the skies above.

“The best time to observe yesterday’s phenomenon was during moonrise, at 7:06pm, where it



could be compared with the surrounding atmosphere, enabling people to witness the difference in its size and brightness,” added Al Farsi. “This difference is difficult

to see once the moon travels to the higher reaches of the sky.”

This so-called ‘giant moon’ phenomenon occurs when the moon is full, and is located to the closest point on its orbit around the Earth. The moon revolves around Earth on an elliptical orbit, which results in changes in the distances between both celestial bodies every month.

“The moon appeared to be about 15 percent larger than it normally is, with a brightness of about 30 percent more than when it is at its farthest point,” said Salem Al Farsi, a member of the Oman Astronomical Society.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

<FROM

A1

World’s only city where transport is free

Similarly, many Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, Costa Rica and Colombia also provide cheaper access to public transport.

Countries in Asia, namely, Thailand, India, Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka, as well as African nations such as Uganda, Morocco, Rwanda, and Egypt, all have more affordable public transport networks.

In the United States, public transport charges differ greatly among states and even cities. Nashville in the state of Tennessee has the most expensive public transport system, priced at an average of \$3.07 for a one-way ticket, followed by Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Oakland, California (all at \$3). At the other end of the spectrum, commuters in Albuquerque in New Mexico near the country’s southern border and Rochester in New York near the border with Canada, need to pay just a dollar as fare.

Luxembourg is the only country in the world where public transport within its territory is free for everyone.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT COSTS AROUND THE WORLD

Most affordable		Most expensive	
City	Cost (\$)	City	Cost (\$)
Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	0	Hamilton, Bermuda	5.00
Damascus, Syria	0.10	Eindhoven, Netherlands	4.73
Havana, Cuba	0.10	Trondheim, Norway	4.38
Chisinau, Moldova	0.10	Cambridge, United Kingdom	4.30
Colombo, Sri Lanka	0.11	Zurich, Switzerland	4.27
Tashkent, Uzbekistan	0.13	Rotterdam, Netherlands	4.25
Oran, Algeria	0.14	Haarlem, Netherlands	4.25
Batumi, Ajara, Georgia	0.14	Brisbane, Australia	4.21
Rawalpindi, Pakistan	0.15	The Hague, Netherlands	4.20
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	0.16	Stavanger, Norway	4.18



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Labor

TENDER
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
07/2022	Providing basic firewall licenses to the Ministry of Labour	Wednesday 22/06/2022 at 2:00 pm	Wednesday 29/06/2022 at 10 a.m

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender’s documents online through the following link, starting from Wednesday 15/06/2022 at 07:30 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee for 1% of the total bid value issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee. The original bank guarantee shall be submitted when requested by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Wednesday 29/06/2022

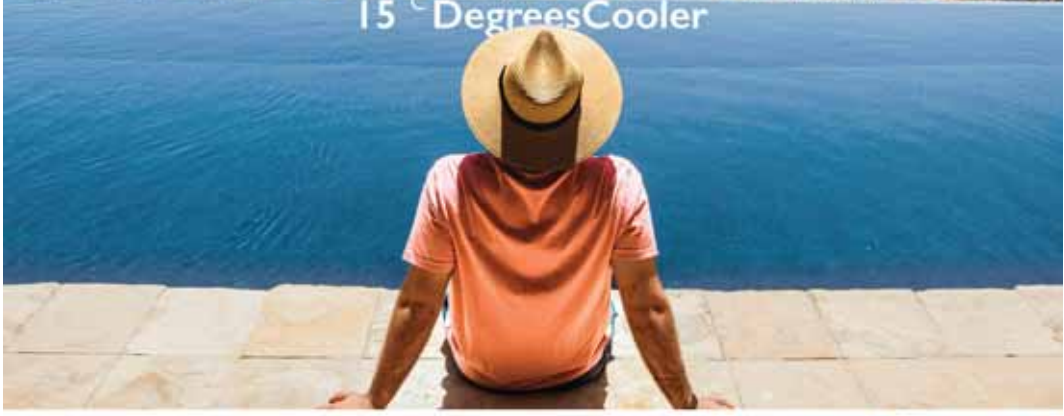
(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN



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• Daily à la carte breakfast for two at Juniper Restaurant
• Sunrise yoga and meditation, based on a weekly schedule
• Play-A-File and adventure activities, based on a weekly schedule

ملاذ مميز في ألبلا الجبل الأخضر لفضاء إقامة رائعة وسط الجمال الخلاب والهواء النقي، حيث تكون مغامرة 15 درجة أبرد على غنية ذاكيم.

سمااء زرقاء صافية، مناظر مشيطة، وديان شاسعة و هذود جبال الحجر السادر ، و العديد من الأنشطة الترفيهية للاستمتاع باليوسم كما يندب.

• إمتياز يومي من فائبة مختارة لشخصين في مطعم جانيور
• زينة الشويق والتأمل ، بناء على جدول أسبوعي
• سحر أيلة وأشطة الترفيه بناء على جدول أسبوعي



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making it easy

Opaz briefs Tanzanian President about investment opportunities

A presentation was given by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) at Al Alam palace guesthouse



MUSCAT: President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania was briefed on the investment potentials enjoyed by the economic and free zones, Port of Sohar and its industrial zone around the port.

A presentation given by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) at Al Alam palace guesthouse.

Eng. Ahmed Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of Opaz said that the meeting responded to inquiries related to investing in those zones and means of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of port services, free

zones and economic zones.

He also pointed out that there is a Tanzanian investment which is considered the start of several other projects underway between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Head of the Mission of Honour), Saud Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Republic of Tanzania, Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Ambassador of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman and some officials from both sides. -ONA



FAMILIARISATION VISIT

Tanzanian President visits Royal Opera House Muscat

MUSCAT: President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania visited the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) on Tuesday.

During the visit, the Tanzanian guest was briefed on the ROHM, its facilities and shows, as well as its programmes and the latest equipment used in the

world music shows.

She also viewed the ROHM's unique architectural designs creatively combining Omani architectural and cultural legacy with the modern architectural pattern.

She also familiarised herself with the role of the house in the cultural field and its presentation of prestigious classic arts. -ONA



CORDIAL TALKS

Tanzanian President receives Grand Mufti of Oman

MUSCAT: President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania received at her residence place in Al Alam Palace here on Tuesday His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalili, the Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Tanzanian President and the Grand Mufti of Oman exchanged cordial talks and reviewed matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by

Saud Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Republic of Tanzania. It was also attended from the Tanzanian side by Dr. Pindi Chana, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr. Khalid Salum Mohamed, Minister of Works, Transport and Communications and Ambassador Mbarouk Nassoro Mbarouk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation. -ONA



FULFILMENT CENTRE

Tanzanian President praises Asyad Group's crucial logistic services

MUSCAT: President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania visited Asyad Group's Fulfilment Centre on Tuesday to get familiarised with the competitive advantages and logistic services provided by the Group to enhance trade and economic activities between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Tanzanian President was briefed on the services provided by Asyad Group in ports, free zones, shipping, dry dock and its competitive logistic solutions.

Those solutions include direct lines for container transportation, freight forwarding, cold chain, e-commerce and last mile express delivery services.

The guest was acquainted with the centre's operations as an ideal model in supporting supply chain activities across various local and global markets.

The President of Tanzania was also briefed on the partnership between Asyad Group, represented by Oman Post and Asyad Express, and the Tanzanian Posts Corporation.

As per this partnership, the two sides exchange expertise and knowledge on the latest technologies and innovative solutions



in the fields of e-commerce and postal services to implement best practices and experiences between the two countries.

She was also familiarised with the joint postage stamp initiative that documents the historical and cultural ties between Oman and Tanzania.

At the conclusion of her visit, President Samia Suluhu lauded the efforts exerted by Asyad Group in providing competitive and international logistic services, as well as in solidifying the business and economic relations between the two countries.

This visit underscores the strategic importance of the existing cooperation between Asyad Group and the Tanzanian Posts Corporation through logistic operations to create promising opportunities that boost trade exchange between Omani and African markets and links Omani entrepreneurs with the rapidly growing African markets.

The African market gives access to more than 400 million consumers.

Asyad Group seeks to expand in various global markets, including in e-commerce services, especially because the Tanzanian market is considered the fourth largest consumer base in the field of e-commerce in the African continent. This expansion will consolidate Oman's position as a pivotal centre for e-commerce, linking consumers with producers in regional and global markets. -ONA

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Oman, Tanzania to establish Mutual Investment Fund



The meeting with women CEOs explored their role in development, trade and investment

MUSCAT: A mutual investment fund will be established to boost various sectors, including agriculture, fishing and mining in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania. The fund will be established

within the framework of the visit of President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania to Oman and the directives of the two countries' leaderships in boosting economic, business and investment relations.

Female managers and CEOs President Samia Suluhu Hassan also met with female managers and CEOs from the public and private sectors of Oman and Tanzania. The meeting was held to discuss the importance of enhancing cooperation in various fields. It also explored the role of women in development, as well as in boosting trade and investment exchange.

Empowering women The meeting also covered a spectrum of topics, particularly empowering women at the inter-

An initial agreement was signed between the governments of the Sultanate of Oman and Tanzania on the avoidance of double taxation, in addition to combating income tax evasion

national level and at the level of leadership positions in fields of business, economy and policy. It also touched on topics related to joint cooperation between Oman and Tanzania. The meeting was attended from the Omani side by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Head of the Mission of Honour), Asilah Salim Al Samsami, Investment Promotion Undersecretary and Saud Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Republic of Tanzania. It was also

attended from the Tanzanian side by Dr. Pindi Chana, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ambassador Mbarouk Nasoro Mbarouk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation and Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman. The Foreign Ministry pointed out that an initial agreement was signed between the governments of Oman and Tanzania on the avoidance of double taxation, in addition to combating income tax evasion. -ONA



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Secretariat General for National Celebration announces to the following Tenders for 52 National day :

Tender no	Tender name	Grade	Last date of submission	Tender fee (OR)
1/2022	Supply of Flags	3	30/6/2022	25
2/2022	Fireworks (Muscat and Musandam)	2	30/6/2022	25
3/2022	Fireworks (Salalah)	2	30/6/2022	25

Those who are registered with Tender Board qualified to carryout the project perfectly, may collect the tender documents from the Office of Secretariat General for National Celebration at Al-Khuwair , during the working hours, on working days from Thursday 15 of June 2022.

Tenderer should submit their documents stating Grade . Registration Certificates and relevant papers, issued by the concerned authorities when collecting Tender Documents

Tender should be submitted in a red sealed wax envelope , addressed to H.M. Secretariat General for National Celebration. Tenderer should enclose approved Bank Guarantee or certified cheque for value of 1% of tender sum valid for 90 days and to be addressed to Secretariat General for National Celebration Al-Khuwair. For any information contact to (24601271).

The Committee is not bound to accept the lowest offer or any offer.

BILATERAL RELATIONS



Oman, Tanzania welcome new strategic partnership

The two sides also underscored the importance of combating all forms and types of terrorism. They also advocated for continuation of cooperation and development, as well as the rejection of violence and extremism. The two sides also approved the establishment of a joint investment fund which aims to invest in feasible projects across several sectors. The agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with respect to income taxes agreement was initiated between the Governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania. The two countries also signed

various memoranda of understanding in fields such as energy, higher education and training, tourism and natural resources, industry and trade, promotion of investment, food investments, airport management, oil services, national museums, live animals and meat. Both sides also welcomed the strategic partnership memorandum signed between Oman Post, Asyad Express and Tanzania Post to cooperate in the fields of e-commerce solutions and logistical services that include enabling entrepreneurs to increase trade exchange activities between the Sultanate of Oman and United Republic of Tanzania and strengthening their presence in

the African market, in addition to issuing joint postage stamps documenting the historical and cultural ties between the two countries. At the conclusion of the visit, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania expressed her gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and the Government and people of the Sultanate of Oman for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to her and her delegation. This statement was issued in Muscat on 14 Dhul Qi'dah 1443 AH corresponding to 14 June 2022.



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MEETING

Royal Office Minister bids farewell to Kuwait’s envoy

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office received here on Tuesday Dr. Sulaiman Abdullah Al Harbi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty as his country’s ambassador to Oman.

During the meeting, the ambassador commended the advanced relations binding the two countries. He expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he enjoyed during his duty in Oman.

On his turn, the Minister of



Royal Office thanked the ambassador for his efforts in enhancing the bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait, wishing him continuous success. -ONA

REVIEW RELATIONS

Sheikh Khalifa meets Deputy Foreign Minister of Tanzania

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs received Ambassador Mbarouk Nassoro Mbarouk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania within the framework of the visit of President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as regional and international issues of common concern.



The meeting was attended by Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman and officials from both sides. -ONA

MILITARY TIES

Royal Office Minister receives UK Defence adviser, officer

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Maj.Gen Joi Martin Simpson, Senior Defence Adviser of the United Kingdom (UK) for the Middle East Affairs.

The two sides discussed latest developments of some regional and international issues. They also reviewed relations of cooperation between Oman and the UK and explored means of enhancing coordination.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Maj. Gen Gwyn Jenkins, Commander of the British Special Forces.



The two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries. They also exchanged views on several matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the UK to the Sultanate. -ONA

WADIS

Rainfall in Nizwa, Bahla

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A number of villages in the wilayat of Nizwa and Bahla witnessed scattered rains, ranging from medium to heavy.

The rainfall led to the flow of a number of wadis, including Wadi Al-Hamdat in the Wilayat of Bahla and Wadi Tanuf in the Wilayat of Nizwa.

RESCUE

Search on for missing Omanis

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman, in coordination with the Coast Guard Police, continues its search for citizens missing at sea.

The Ministry of Defence said: “The RAFO continues its search for citizens missing at sea. Today, one of the reconnaissance planes conducted search off the north-eastern coast of Al Ashkhara.”

DISCUSSION

Oman and Tanzania review bilateral relations, projects

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received in his office January Yusuf Makamba, Energy Minister of Tanzania within the framework of the official visit of President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania to Oman.

The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries. It also reviewed major mutual projects that the two sides aspire to achieve in the energy fields and its promising deriva-



tives to serve the mutual benefits. The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister’s Office Department, Mulham Bashir Al Jarf, acting Deputy Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority and officials from both sides. -ONA



OMAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY SAOC

NOTICE OF THE INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Oman Agricultural Development Company SAOC (the “Company”) is pleased to invite all shareholders to the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday, 04 July 2022 at 3:30 pm through the electronic platform specified for convening General Meetings, which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company S.A.O.C (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event that the quorum for the first Meeting is not completed, the second Ordinary General Meeting will be held at 3:30 pm on Thursday, 07 July 2022 through the electronic platform specified for convening General Meetings, which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company S.A.O.C to discuss the following agenda:

1. Studying and approving the report of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended 30 April 2022.
2. Studying the auditor’s report and approving the balance sheet and profits and losses account for the financial year ended 30 April 2022.
3. Informing the Meeting of the transactions that the Company had with the related parties during the financial year ended 30 April 2022 (as attached).
4. Informing the Meeting of the transactions that the Company will carry out with the related parties during the financial year ending 30 April 2023.
5. Appointing an auditor for the financial year ending 30 April 2023, and determining their fees.
6. Studying and approving a proposal to distribute dividends to shareholders as of the date of the Meeting, with amount of 200 Baizas per share out of the retained earnings for the financial year ended 30 April 2022

For ensuring the start of the Meeting on the specified time, the shareholders are kindly requested to attend half an hour before the start of the Meeting.

Note:

As per the Company’s Articles of Association and the regulations for holding general meetings using modern technology methods issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, we would like to draw your kind attention to the following:

- Any shareholder has the right to appoint in writing a representative to attend and vote on the proposals taken on his/her behalf. The representative must carry the approved proxy card attached to the invitation to the General Meeting.
- If the shareholder is a natural person, he/she must attach with the proxy card a copy of his/her ID card for adults, a copy of the passport for females and minors who do not have ID cards, and a copy of the resident card or passport for expatriates. If the shareholder is a legal person, the proxy card must be signed by an authorized signatory of the company and stamped by its seal, and it must be submitted with a copy of the commercial register along with copies of the ID cards. This is taking into consideration the procedures and requirements of Muscat Clearing and Depository Company for managing and entering the electronic platform specified for convening General Meetings.
- In case of any inquiries, please contact Mr. Rajith Januka on the phone number: 95615272.

Chairman

Auditor

Legal Advisor



جامعة التكنولوجيا والعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Local Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibra College of Technology) announces refloating the tender shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
10/2022	Providing a team to provide maintenance and operation of the buildings of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibra College of Technology)	Companies and establishments specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	30/06/2022 at 14:30 pm	05/07/2022 at 11:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Thursday 16/06/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee
University of Technology and Applied Sciences
Ibra College of Technology



WORLD

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EU orders 110,000 monkeypox vaccines

The current international outbreak has seen more than 1,600 confirmed cases, predominantly in Europe, but also in North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Australia



BRUSSELS: The European Commission on Tuesday said it had signed an agreement for some 110,000 monkeypox vaccine doses from the Danish biotech firm Bavarian Nordic.

Cases of the disease, which is endemic in parts of Africa, began to emerge in Europe and the United States last month. Some 900 patients have now been infected within the EU alone.

The bloc's health commissioner Stella Kyriakides announced the order on Tuesday, saying the order

would be bought with EU funds and delivered to member states from the end of June.

COVID-19 pandemic

The deal was reached through the bloc's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), which was formed to avoid mistakes made in the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines and antivirals against the disease will also be supplied to non-bloc members Norway and Iceland.

The current international outbreak has seen more than 1,600

confirmed cases, predominantly in Europe, but also in North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

The disease is usually only found and transmitted in the regions where it is endemic through bites from rodents or small animals.

It does not normally spread easily, but is understood to transmit through close contact with an infected person.

Germany is considering preventive vaccinations for anyone considered to be at a high risk of coming into contact with the disease.

The high-risk category includes

men who have sex with changing male partners, but also staff in specialist laboratories who work with infectious samples that contain monkeypox.

Treatable

While the disease can be deadly, it is also treatable. Symptoms include fever, headaches, and pus-filled skin lesions.

The World Health Organization has called the spread of monkeypox a "containable situation," with WHO official Rosamund Lewis saying there's no evidence that the virus has mutated. **mw**



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GLOBAL HEALTH

India, WHO discuss working together for global health, traditional medicine

GENEVA: Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs, Sanjay Verma had a warm, fruitful meeting with Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday.

They discussed further strengthening India-WHO relations, and working together for global health and well-being, including in Traditional Medicine & Digital Health. "Secretary(West) @Sanjay-VermalFS had a warm, fruitful meeting with DG @WHO@DrTedros. They discussed further strengthening India-WHO relations, working together for global health and well-being, including in Traditional Medicine & Digital Health," tweeted Permanent Mission of India, Geneva.

Recently, the ground-breaking ceremony was performed for the first-of-its-kind World Health Organization (WHO) Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Additionally, the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit was held in Gandhinagar aimed at increasing investments and showcasing innovations in the field of traditional medicine.

It is a unique attempt to foster long-lasting partnerships, boost exports and nurture a sustainable ecosystem.

The purpose for establishing GCTM is the integration of traditional medicines with technological advancements; setting policies and standards; and sup-



porting efforts to implement the WHO strategy.

According to WHO estimates, 80 per cent of the world's population uses traditional medicine.

India has committed an estimated USD 250 million to support the GCTM's establishment, infrastructure and operations.

According to the WHO, traditional medicine is the total sum of the "knowledge, skills and practises indigenous and different cultures have used over time to maintain health and prevent, diagnose and treat physical and mental illness".

Its reach encompasses ancient practices such as acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine and herbal mixtures as well as modern medicines.

In India, it is often defined as including practices and therapies -- such as yoga, Ayurveda, Siddha.

These therapies and practices have been part of Indian tradition historically as well as others -- such as homeopathy -- that became part of Indian tradition over the years. **ANI**

EXPERT

Britain's job vacancy crisis could last 3-5 years

LONDON: As Britain's economy grapples with the impact of a record number of job vacancies, a labour market expert has warned that the problem may continue for another three to five years.

The impact of Britain's departure from the European Union, and of the COVID-19 pandemic, have sparked one of the biggest worker shortages in years, Donald Houston, a professor from the University of Portsmouth, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview. Data released on Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed the number of job vacancies rose

to a new high of 1.3 million from March to May 2022. This is over half a million more than before the pandemic.

The record for job vacancies has been broken several times since the second half of last year. In the first quarter of 2022, for the first time since records began, there were fewer unemployed people than job vacancies across Britain.

"It's important to say that what's happening is not that the economy is suddenly booming, and that we've got a huge growth in labour demand. This is driven entirely by a reduction in the number of

people in the workforce," Houston said. British employers in many industrial sectors are reporting serious difficulties recruiting enough workers, he said. This has led to difficulties including chaos at airports, and massive flight cancellations during the jubilee holiday.

"What's really been going on is a combination of the pandemic made slightly worse by Brexit," said Houston, a professor of economic geography at the university's faculty of science and health.

He said Britain's shortage of workers became evident as the country emerged from lockdown.

"Some staff moved into early retirement because they'd had enough of working during the lockdown, and a lot of people moved out of the labour market because of long-term sickness, no doubt a good chunk of that due to long COVID. And then we've also lost about 100,000 European workers compared to before the pandemic," he told Xinhua. Earlier this month, an ONS survey revealed that an estimated 2 million people in Britain had lingering COVID-19 symptoms more than four weeks after their initial infection, which is classified as long COVID. -- **ANI**

POLITICAL CRISIS

Myanmar's multi-pronged crises have 'deepened dramatically'

NEW YORK: The political crisis unleashed in Myanmar following the February 1 military coup last year, has "opened new frontlines that had long been at peace," according to UN special envoy Noleen Heyzer.

He told the General Assembly on Monday, that since she took up the job six months ago, Myanmar has "continued to descend into profound and widespread conflict". The special envoy also noted that challenges in the country have "both deepened and expanded" dramatically, the UN News reported.

Already one of the world's largest refugee emergencies, she reminded the world that multidimensional crises there have left



over one million internally displaced people across the country with "serious regional and international ramifications".

Nearly one million mainly Muslim Rohingyas live in refugee camps in neighbouring Bangladesh, and hundreds of

thousands of others are scattered across the region.

And over the past five years, the number of people living in poverty has doubled to encompass half the population. "Today, 14.4 million people, or one-quarter of the entire population of Myanmar urgently require humanitarian assistance," said the special envoy.

Meanwhile, school enrolment has dropped by up to 80 per cent in two years, leaving at least 7.8 million children shut out of the classroom.

"A generation that benefitted from the democratic transition is now disillusioned, facing chronic hardship and, tragically, many feel they have no choice left but to take up arms," she warned. **ANI**



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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

تنويه Attention

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology would like to notify that the tender No. (47/2022/MTCIT/HQ-15) for coding bootcamps which was announced in Al Watan newspaper on 9th of June 2022 underwent a change regarding the grade of companies registered with the Tender Board which can participate in the tender to become all companies grades instead of excellent, first and second Grades only.

The Internal Tender Committee



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Second Capitol riot hearing describes Trump as ‘detached from reality’

Monday’s hearing focused primarily on how Trump ignored aides who informed him that the 2020 election was lost and Joe Biden had won

WASHINGTON: The second of a series of Congressional hearings on Monday focused on the effort of former US President Donald Trump and his closest advisors to overturn the 2020 election. Former US Attorney General Bill Barr described Trump as “detached from reality,” as several former close aides and government officials spoke about his efforts. Monday’s hearing focused primarily on how Trump ignored and then sidelined aides who informed him correctly that the 2020 election was lost and Joe Biden had won. In addition to Barr, several of those closest to him testified before the January 6 Committee, including Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien, son-in-law and top aide Jared Kushner and Justice Department official Richard



Donoghue. They all described Trump as clinging to outlandish theories pointing to victory rather than concede defeat. Each witness spoke of a parallel effort led by former New York City Mayor and US Attorney Rudy Giuliani to push conspiracy theories and baseless claims of voter fraud. **What did the January 6 Committee’s witnesses say?** Stepien, who was scheduled to appear but had to bow out at the last moment due to his wife going into labor, described Trump in a videotaped deposition played by the January 6 Committee investigating the Capitol riot as “growing increasingly unhappy” on election night. In a separate videotaped deposition played by the committee, Kushner told investigators he attempted to steer his father-in-law away from Rudy Giuliani and the increasingly wild conspiracy theories hinging on baseless claims of voter fraud he pushed. In her introduction on Monday, Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican of Wyoming and the daughter of the former vice-president, described Giuliani as “apparently inebriated” on election night when he encouraged Trump to declare victory preemptively. That description had been provided by Stepien, Kushner and top Trump aide Jason Miller. Miller told the committee in

his videotaped deposition, “The mayor was definitely intoxicated but I, um, did not know his level of intoxication when he spoke with the president, for example.” Donoghue, the former Justice Department official, said he refuted numerous claims of electoral fraud pushed by Giuliani and several others ranging from a truck full of ballots in Pennsylvania to a “suspicious suitcase” of ballots in Georgia as “false.” Barr was most candid, at once point laughing about a false claim being pushed by those closed to Trump as “bogus” and “idiotic.” “There was never an indication of interest in what the actual facts were,” Barr said. He added, “I didn’t want to be a part of it.”

Barr resigned nearly six weeks after election day on December 14, 2020 over Trump’s efforts to see the election overturned. Georgia state officials came under pressure to find votes for Trump that did not exist. Noted Republican election lawyer Benjamin Ginsberg described normal election campaign challenges, and Al Schmidt, the former Philadelphia City Commissioner, also appeared in person. **What is the January 6 committee investigating?** The House committee is focused on what has come to be known as “the big lie,” namely claims made by Trump and promulgated by several of his aides and supporters that the 2020 election was stolen. Trump’s baseless claims of voter fraud riled up his supporters and fueled an attempted insurrection in the form of a violent riot on Capitol Hill. Nine people died on that day and in the days and weeks after, including several law enforcement officers who died by suicide in the aftermath of the insurrection. The Capitol riot took place on January 6, 2021, the day the 2020 election was certified by Congress and Vice-President Mike Pence. In an earlier hearing, the first to be held last week, the riot was described as a coup attempt. In refusing to overturn or halt the certification, Trump accused Pence of turning on him and several of Trump’s supporters who participated in the violence that day chanted, “Hang Mike Pence!” Noose and gallows were erected on the Mall outside the Capitol. **bw**

CONVICTED

Cambodian opposition lawyer convicted of treason

PHNOM PENH: A Phnom Penh court convicted a Cambodian-American lawyer and scores of members of an opposition party for treason on Tuesday. Lawyer and activist Theary Seng and more than 100 people affiliated with the dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) were previously charged with treason and incitement. Before her sentence was passed on Tuesday, Seng stood outside the court, dressed as Lady Liberty in a light green gown and a crown with “Freedom” written on it. She was seen shouting “free the political prisoners.” Seng predicted that the regime led by Prime Minister Hun Sen would “not let me go free.” “It will be an unfair and unjust verdict because I am innocent, the others charged with me are innocent,” the 51-year-old added. “I am ready and prepared to go to the notorious Cambodian prison for my political opinions, for my beliefs, for my belief in democracy, for my belief in freedom. I am ready to pay the price of prison in order that I live out my conscience and my belief in freedom and justice,” she told reporters. The media and onlookers saw



at least three police officers approach Seng, hold her, and push her into a police truck soon after the verdict. The trial is being seen as the latest move to curb opposition in the Asian country. **German lawmaker slams verdict** The German lawmaker in the

Bundestag Renata Alt, from the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and leader of the committee on human rights and humanitarian aid, condemned on Tuesday the “prison sentence given to the lawyer and human rights activist Theary Seng by a justice system controlled by the authoritarian strongman Hun Sen.” “The conviction on the grounds of alleged high treason is a draconian punishment and a bitter result following the disputed proceedings,” Alt said. “It is just one of many absurd convictions,” she added. **Sixty defendants sentenced** After the verdict, Seng’s lawyer Chuong Choungy said he would file an appeal. “This is not acceptable and I will meet her in prison to discuss

appealing,” he told reporters outside the Phnom Penh municipal court. According to Choungy, Seng is only one of about 60 co-defendants who had been sentenced to between five to eight years in prison. Seng has been sentenced to six years in jail. Many of the 60 defendants earlier fled to exile or went into hiding, and it wasn’t immediately clear how many appeared in court for the verdict Tuesday. Seng has a history of using costumes to publicize her opinions about the status of democracy in Cambodia. She has previously worn a white dress and carried a balance to portray Lady Justice, and has also appeared in orange clothes resembling those of a prisoner. **bw**

NITROGEN GAS LEAK

Over 130 injured in gas leak in Iran

TEHRAN: More than 130 people had to be hospitalized in southern Iran on Tuesday after a sodium carbonate factory reported a leak of nitrogen gas, state media reported. Many of those injured reported difficulty breathing, but state officials later said that everyone affected had already been released from the hospital. “The injured mostly suffered from respiratory problems caused by nitrogen gas, which is not dangerous,” the crisis management director for Fars province, Khalil Abdollahi, was quoted as saying. According to scientists, the danger presented by nitrogen gas depends on its concentration. **bw**

REBEL ATTACK

DR Congo accuses Rwanda of ‘invasion’ as rebels attack town

KINSHASA: M23 rebels in DR Congo (DRC) have seized the eastern border town of Bunagana on Monday, the militia members and local activists said. In a statement, the rebels appealed to DRC President Felix Tshisekedi to “seize this opportunity to put an end to the violence caused by this useless war and to open direct negotiations with our movement.” But the Congolese army said the town had been taken by Rwanda because the rebels, allegedly supported by Rwanda, were suffering “enormous setbacks.” DR Congo has repeatedly accused Rwanda of backing the M23, whose leadership hails from the same Tutsi ethnic group as Rwandan President Paul Kagame. “The Rwandan defense forces have this time decided to violate ... our territorial integrity by occupying the border town of Bunagana,” the military said in a statement, describing the incident as “no less than invasion of the Democratic Republic of Congo.” Rwanda has not yet made any comments on the development, and has denied playing a role in any such recent attacks. Congo’s government had broken off negotiations with the M23 in April this year. **DRC soldiers, civilians flee to Uganda** Local activist said the Congolese



army “has just given way” and was moving into Uganda, which borders both DRC and Rwanda. “An army truck has just gone past, four jeeps and other vehicles which are full of soldiers,” Damien Sebusanane, head of a civil society association, who was on Uganda’s border with the DRC, told a news agency. Shaffiq Sekandi, Uganda’s resident district commissioner for Kisoro district told Reuters that the fighting caused more than 30,000 Congolese asylum seekers and 137 Congolese soldiers to cross into Uganda on Monday. “They are all over, the streets

are full, others have gone to churches, they are under trees, everywhere. It’s a really desperate situation,” he said. Dozens of police officers were also said to have surrendered to Ugandan troops. The United Nations and African Union have voiced alarm about violence the region. The UN had previously said that 25,000 people fled the violence on Sunday. African Union Commission Chair Moussa Faki Mahamat called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for talks between DR Congo and Rwanda. **bw**

جامعة التكنولوجيا والعلوم التطبيقية

University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Local Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tender shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
12/2022	Purchase of antivirus for 4 branches of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences	Companies and establishments specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	Thursday 14/07/2022 at 14:30 pm	Sunday 24/07/2022 at 10:00 am
13/2022	Providing cleaning services to the buildings of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences at the Higher College of Technology in Muscat		RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)		

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Wednesday 15/06/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. The original bank guarantee shall be attached online at the registration website before 10:00 am on Sunday 24/07/2022.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee
University of Technology and Applied Sciences



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Root completes 10,191 runs in Test cricket, tops Gavaskar's score

Root achieved this feat on Day 4 of the ongoing second Test against New Zealand

NOTTINGHAM: England batter Joe Root completed 10,191 Test cricket runs and surpassed former India batter Sunil Gavaskar's record of 10122 runs.

Root achieved this feat on Day 4 of the ongoing second Test against New Zealand, here at Trent Bridge, where he smashed a total of 176 runs in England's first innings.

With this record, the England batter jumped to the 12th spot of the most runs in Test cricket tally, surpassing Gavaskar and Pakistan's Younis Khan. The tally is led by Indian cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar with a massive total of 15921 runs.



Coming to the second Test, New Zealand posted a target of 554 in the first innings after being put to bat first. Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell scored 190 and 106 runs respectively. For England,

James Anderson scalped three wickets while Stuart Broad, Ben Stokes, and Jack Leach took two wickets each.

In return, England got bundled out at 539, with Trent Boult

scalping five wickets and Michael Bracewell taking three. Coming to bat against, New Zealand ended Day 4 at 224/7 with Daryl Mitchell and Matt Henry standing unbeaten at the crease. **ANI**

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE



Croatia crush France's hopes of making it to final four

SAINT-DENIS: France's hopes of qualifying for the final four of the ongoing UEFA Nations League, got crushed on Monday after they fell to a 1-0 defeat against Croatia.

With this loss, France remained winless in the UEFA Nations League so far, with only two points and remained at the bottom of the Group 1 points table.

The match began with Croatia taking an early lead in just five minutes when Modric converted a penalty after Ibrahima Konate fouled Ante Budimir. It was Modric's 22nd goal in 152 games

for Croatia.

Kylian Mbappe had a couple of chances but Ivica Ivusic saved comfortably as Croatia dominated the proceedings. Antoine Griezmann replaced Matteo Guendouzi with 10 minutes left in a last-ditch attempt by Deschamps to salvage a point.

In the end, it was Croatia who walked away with three more points added to their tally. After this win, Croatia moved to the second spot of the Group 1 points table, with two wins, one loss, and a draw. **ANI**

FIFA WORLD CUP

Australia edge Peru on penalties to enter their 6th FIFA World Cup

DOHA: Substitute goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne was the hero as Australia qualified for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 after defeating Peru 5-4 on penalties in the Inter-Confederation Playoff at Ahmad bin Ali Stadium on Monday to ensure Asia has six representatives in the FIFA World Cup for the first time in history.

The playoff ended 0-0 after 120 minutes with Australia prevailing from the penalty spot to qualify for their sixth FIFA World Cup Finals. The Socceroos join hosts Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia, Japan, Iran and South Korea in the Finals for the biggest ever AFC contingent on the global stage. They will be placed in Group D alongside France, Denmark and Tunisia.



Australia started brightly with Mitchell Duke taking possession of a loose ball on the edge of the Peruvian area and rifling an effort that whizzed just wide off the upright inside the opening three minutes. Play centred around the middle of the park for extended spells of the first half with Jackson Irvine missing the target twice with headers, first from Aaron Mooy's out-swinging corner then following some fine footwork and cross from Martin Boyle on the right.

Head coach Graham Arnold looked to inject more pace and width into the Australian attack, bringing on Awer Mabil to replace Mitchell Duke midway through the second half.

Five minutes from time, left-

back Aziz Behich came within a whisker of scoring a wonder goal as he embarked on a 40-yard slaloming run from the flank, before cutting inside on his right and curling a shot that passed agonisingly close on the wrong side of the upright.

The Socceroos pushed higher as the game wore on and Hrusic was again so close to settling the tie after Mabil showed incredible desire and pace to chase a long ball down the left and feed the Eintracht Frankfurt attacking midfielder whose side-footed shot was caught by Gallese at the bottom corner as the 90 minutes ended goalless.

A left-footed Edison Flores effort from 20 yards out that was caught confidently by Mat Ryan

was the highlight of an otherwise cagey first 15 minutes of extra time with Australia remaining compact throughout.

Peru had back-to-back chances to open the scoring straight after resumption of play first with Cueva missing the target from close range then moments later with a Flores header that beat Ryan but ricocheted off the post.

With the clock ticking towards 120 minutes, coach Arnold opted to bring on goalkeeper Redmayne for Ryan for the penalty shootout.

Martin Boyle missed Australia's opening penalty but the first five kicks ended 4-4 after Luis Advincula hit the post for Peru, taking it to sudden death where Awer Mabil scored for the Socceroos. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

Can Team India win batting first?

Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

India beat South Africa in a must-win game at Visakhapatnam and saved the series. They are two zero down and need to win the remaining two matches to win the series.

Team India's biggest quandary is when they are put in to bat and are not able to defend totals. More often than not India lose if they are put in by the opposition team and still are not able to win regularly when inserted in by the team winning the toss.

Let's go back to the 2014 World Cup where India dominated the World Cup and won almost all their games batting second with Virat Kohli being the chase master. They fell at the final hurdle when they were put in to bat and lost to eventual winners Sri Lanka who chased down the target of 130 which denied India its second title win. Similarly in 2016 World Cup, India lost to West Indies in the semifinals in Mumbai inspite of posting 190 and were knocked out of the World cup bringing tears to the eyes of billion of fans who felt this was their World Cup to win. In the last World Cup in the UAE too, India's two big games were against Pakistan and New Zealand and in both the games India lost the toss and were unable to put good scores and it ended their World Cup campaign as



they could not make it to the knockout stage.

Australia who were the eventual champions last year in the UAE, won all their six games chasing and the only game they lost to England was when they were put in.

Most of the times batters complain that the wicket is bit tacky batting first and are not able to get going and there is no clarity as to what score would be good enough for the team to defend it.

From the 2014 World Cup in Bangladesh, eight of the nine knockout matches have been won by team batting second. But it's time Indian batsmen find a way and win matches when put in to bat first. They play enough T20 matches in their premier franchise cricket IPL and should play the right brand of cricket when batting first. Yes it's easy to chase as you have the target in mind and batters can plan their chase accordingly. But it's time this does not become an excuse for losing the game if you lose the toss. Can Rishab Pant change this pattern and make India bounce back, time will tell.

TENNIS

Tennis legend Serena Williams to play at Wimbledon, receives singles wild card

LONDON: Twenty-three Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams will play at Wimbledon 2022.

Former World No. 1 has been out of action since suffering a hamstring injury at Wimbledon last year, where she was forced to retire midway through the first set in her opener against Aliaksandra Sasnovich. She has not competed since. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) announced on Tuesday that Williams will pair with singles World No.4 Ons Jabeur in doubles at the Rothesay International in Eastbourne, a WTA 500 grass-court event.

Wimbledon also announced their first wild-card recipients on Tuesday, and seven-time Wimbledon singles champion Williams has garnered one for the singles main draw.

"SW and SW19. It's a date. 2022 See you there," Williams wrote on Instagram with a photo of her shoes on the grass.



The 40-year-old tennis legend, who has fallen to World No. 1208 now, was initially not on the entry list for players at SW19 this year.

Serena has won seven of her Open Era record 23 major singles championships at the All England Club, most recently in 2016.

Williams, who has also won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, will be making her first appearance on tour in nearly a year at Eastbourne.

Eastbourne will also mark Williams's first doubles event on tour since she made the 2020 Auckland final paired with good friend Caro-

line Wozniacki.

Eastbourne will resume Williams's sparkling professional career of over 25 years. Williams has won 73 WTA singles titles and 23 WTA doubles titles, and she has spent 319 weeks as World No.1 in singles and eight weeks as World No.1 in doubles.

Williams has particularly excelled at Wimbledon since her tournament debut in 1998, where she immediately won the mixed doubles title alongside Max Mirnyi.

The long-time former World No.1's most recent Wimbledon singles title came in 2016 when she defeated Angelique Kerber for her staggering seventh singles crown at SW19. Recently, she has been a Wimbledon singles finalist in 2018 and 2019 as well.

Williams's Wimbledon prowess also extends to women's doubles. She and sister Venus are 6-0 in Wimbledon women's doubles finals. **ANI**

ATP RANKINGS

Roger Federer hits 22-year low in ATP rankings

LONDON: Swiss tennis player and former world Number one Roger Federer is now ranked 68th in the world in the ATP Rankings after missing multiple tournaments due to injury, his worst ranking in over 22 years.

The last time the Swiss maestro was this far down in the ranking was in February 2000, when he was 18 years in age. He was ranked number 67 back then. He currently sits at 68 with 850 points. At the top is Daniil Medvedev of Russia.

At number two is Germany's Alexander Zverev. And at number three is Serbian Novak Djokovic.

Notably, 103-time tour-level titlist most recently competed at Wimbledon 2021. In August, Federer had announced on Instagram that he will miss "many months" after undergoing knee surgery.

Notably, the Swiss star underwent arthroscopic right knee surgeries in February 2020 and May 2020. **ANI**



OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2022 reaching \$118.74, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$3.01 from the price of Monday, which was \$115.73. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,121.21 points, down by 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.65 per cent at 459 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 6.06 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 9.4 per cent, was the top loser

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



Treasury bills worth OMR7.2 million issued

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR7.2 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 182 days, from June 15 until December 14, 2022.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.022 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.015 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 1.96093 per cent and 1.98029 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus

funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 1.50 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 2.00 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -OMA

EARNINGS

Asian firms' profits drop for first time in 7 quarters

HONG KONG: Earnings by Asian companies in March declined for the first time in seven quarters, dented by slowing demand due to lockdowns in China and diminishing margins as input costs rise.

According to a Reuters analysis of Asia's top 1,500 large- and mid-cap

companies by market-capitalisation and those that are covered by at least three analysts, cumulative profits of these firms declined 3.2 per cent in the March quarter year-on-year. That was the first decline since June 2020, Reuters reports. The data also showed their average net margins

stood at 5.86 per cent, the lowest in seven quarters.

"Higher commodity prices are impacting profit margins, as companies struggle to pass on higher input costs to their consumers," said Herald van der Linde, head of equity strategy, Asia Pacific, at HSBC. -BNA

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His Highness Sayyid Kamil Al Said
Chairman, ITHCA Group

Guest of Honor

Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi
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SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Said Al Mandhari CEO, ITHCA Group	Ali Al Lawati Country Head – Oman & Yemen, Cisco	Dr Khaled Al Hazmi Director of National Centre – Robotics & IOT Technology, KSA	Debbie Botha Chief Partnership Officer at Global Women in AI, UAE	Saud Al Zakwani Head of Data Science PDO	Yaqoub Al Maktoumi Head of Digital Transformation, OQ	Christian Stoschek Chief Technology Officer and Executive Director of SOF Connect	Mujahid Al Zadajly GM-IT & Operations Bank Nizwa	
Tariq Salman Head of Investment United Securities	Sunil Kohli CEO, Dhofar Insurance	Eng. Ahmed Al Ruhmi Engineering Manager, Space Communication Technologies	Ewan MacLeod Chief Transformation Officer, Sohar International	JP Menon CEO, MHD ITICS	Nabila AlMacki Deputy Dean, Majan University	Dr Jaun Arbelaiez Associate Medical & Scientific Director, Muscat Eye Laser Center	Mukunda Kumar CEO, Securado	Hemant Murkoth CEO, Business Gateways

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MSX index ends lower

Oman REIT Fund, up 6.06 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 9.4 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,121.21 points, down by 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.65 per cent at 459 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 6.06 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 9.4 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 495 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.63 million, with more than 11.51 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded securities, 8 advanced, 22 declined, and 11 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR248,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR230,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR18,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,576.62 points, down 0.24 per

cent. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Sohar International Bank and National Bank Oman were up by 1.08 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.49 per cent respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Muscat Finance and Al Anwar Investment were down by 8.93 per cent, 2.9 per cent, 2.25 per cent, 1.45 per cent and 1.16 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,916.87 points, down 0.72 per cent. There were no gainers for the day. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, National Aluminium and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 9.4 per cent, 3.4 per cent, 1.89 per cent, 1.11 per cent and 1.11 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.19 per cent before closing at 1,591.22 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Oman Telecom, Ooredoo and Renaissance Services were up by 2.08 per cent, 0.93 per cent, 0.63 per cent and 0.47 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES															
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%									
MSX 30 INDEX	4,122.23	4,098.72	4,121.21	4,122.94	-1.73	-0.04									
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,589.89	6,543.66	6,576.61	6,592.72	-16.11	-0.24									
Industry Index	5,964.62	5,916.86	5,916.86	5,959.54	-42.68	-0.72									
Services Index	1,592.57	1,582.43	1,591.22	1,588.19	3.03	0.19									
MSX Shariah Index	462.80	457.99	459.00	461.99	-3.00	-0.65									
MSX TR INDEX	5,194.79	5,165.18	5,193.51	5,195.70	-2.19	-0.04									
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,889.76	6,841.42	6,875.58	6,892.72	-16.84	-0.24									
SERVICES TR IDX	1,646.68	1,636.20	1,645.29	1,642.16	3.14	0.19									
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,190.27	6,140.71	6,140.71	6,185.00	-44.29	-0.72									

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
11,518,938	2,627,076	495	22,395,603,935	8	22	11	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 14

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (IN)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,713,287	175,319	28	0.101	0.103	0.101	0.103	0.102	-0.001	-0.980	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	307,978,416
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	166,908	144,341	8	0.860	0.868	0.860	0.868	0.860	0.008	0.930	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.100	651,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	97,265	30,948	29	0.316	0.320	0.316	0.320	0.318	0.002	0.629	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.100	208,302,154
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	91,756	18,941	24	0.205	0.208	0.205	0.207	0.206	0.001	0.485	0.207	0.207	0.208	0.100	336,570,898
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	49,572	38,123	14	0.454	0.456	0.408	0.456	0.454	0.002	0.472	0.456	0.422	0.440	0.100	100,710,660
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	3,000	1,020	1	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.000	0.340	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	8,500	2,287	3	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.270	-0.001	-0.370	0.269	0.268	0.269	0.100	16,463,949
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	675,463	358,298	194	0.534	0.536	0.530	0.534	0.536	-0.002	-0.373	0.534	0.532	0.534	0.100	1,002,004,208,016
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	310,250	43,891	16	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.140	0.141	-0.001	-0.709	0.140	0.140	0.141	0.100	33,180,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	537,006	135,862	16	0.252	0.254	0.250	0.250	0.252	-0.002	-0.794	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	82,718,178
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	10,100	1,192	2	0.118	0.123	0.118	0.123	0.124	-0.001	-0.806	0.123	0.116	0.125	0.100	238,897,868
OM0000001176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	5,000	712	1	0.356	0.356	0.356	0.356	0.360	-0.004	-1.111	0.356	0.356	0.360	0.100	44,463,674
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	10,000	890	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	8,010,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	39,000	3,578	4	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.104	0.102	-0.002	-1.923	0.102	0.100	0.103	0.100	14,280,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV.H.	282,300	19,046	15	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.069	-0.002	-2.889	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	416,445	214,822	23	0.518	0.518	0.512	0.512	0.530	-0.018	-3.396	0.512	0.512	0.524	0.100	28,160,000
Total	16	4,451,852	1,189,569	319												

Parallel Market

OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	441,663	30,916	13	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.066	0.004	6.061	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	32,983,047
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	2,000	98	2	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	33,068,484
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	545,392	50,579	18	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	4,500	374	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.000	0.080	0.100	6,710,550
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	46,000	5,290	7	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	20,839,016
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	36,289	10,161	27	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.278	0.280	0.100	11,649,476
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,027,200	97,622	27	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	103,000	5,047	8	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	880	45	1	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.048	0.054	0.100	74,592,674
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	50,000	16,100	1	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.324	-0.002	-0.617	0.322	0.000	0.322	0.100	85,330,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	415,669	66,505	9	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.159	0.160	-0.001	-0.625	0.159	0.155	0.159	0.100	344,580,415
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	100	13	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.126	-0.001	-0.794	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	1,710,230	196,676	7	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.116	-0.001	-0.862	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	344,580,415
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	100,000	11,300	3	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.114	-0.001	-0.877	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.100	226,035,345
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	11,150	999	5	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.100	2,987,859
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	334,090	28,373	10	0.066	0.066	0.064	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.163	0.065	0.063	0.091	0.100	17,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	218,000	14,824	8	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	20,885,950
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	50,000	5,200	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.103	0.108	0.100	21,110,590
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	10,000	870	1	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.089	-0.002	-2.247	0.087	0.087	0.095	0.100	10,603,125
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	124,498	6,419	12	0.058	0.058	0.051	0.051	0.056	-0.005	-8.929	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.100	12,750,000
OM0000002804	AASAFFA FOODS	14,316	2,063	6	0.150	0.150	0.135	0.135	0.149	-0.014	-9.396	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	16,200,000
Total	21	5,245,377	549,474	168												

TAMKEEN

Crowd funding initiative to empower SME growth launched

MUSCAT: As part of its endeavour to support Oman's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and bolster the national economy, ahlibank has launched its first-of-its-kind 'Tamkeen' crowdfunding initiative, at a press conference held on June 14.

This pioneering initiative comes after signing a strategic partnership agreement between ahlibank and Beehive to offer this unique online financial lending solution specifically for Oman's SMEs to support their business endeavours and create a sustainable ecosystem that allows the country's economic diversification efforts to flourish.

Taher Al Balushi - DGM-Head of Strategy & Transformation, said, "We are pleased to announce the launch of our 'Tamkeen' crowd funding initiative, which is the first-of-its-kind, in an exclusive



collaboration with Beehive. SMEs form the backbone of any economy, and their role has continued to become significant, aligning with the Sultanate's efforts towards diversifying a more inclusive economy as part of the Oman Vision 2040 objective."

'Tamkeen' aims to narrow the funding gap by offering quick and seamless access to financing for SMEs and will allow them to

avail financial packages ranging between OMR 20,000 and OMR 80,000, and provide benefits such as competitive pricing, streamlined procedures, and simple repayment terms without the need to provide any security or collateral. Such offerings will work to financially empower local businesses to augment their growth and provide them with wider national economic benefits.

OOREDOO

Networking event highlights ICT capabilities for businesses

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing journey to help businesses be digital, Ooredoo recently held a special networking event for its corporate customers.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Muscat, the event drew a large number of attendees from different corporations within the private and public sectors. There, they were presented with Ooredoo's full portfolio of innovative solutions comprising IP telephony, secured connectivity, ICT and IoT solutions.

"We were delighted to welcome businesses to a highly interactive session where many were amazed by the different products and services the Ooredoo business team has launched in the market. Due to the economic situation, up-front investment is challenging for many business customers, but with our managed IP telephone



offerings, customers can have the flexibility to make monthly payments according to their budget and still enjoy the latest technology in the market," said Saied Sadig, Director of Business Marketing & ICT Solutions at Ooredoo.

Having secured connectivity

is the dream of every company but it often comes with heavy costs, but with Ooredoo's DDoS Secured Internet, it's no longer a problem. Business customers can secure their internet connectivity by subscribing to Ooredoo's DDoS solution.

Ooredoo has pioneered the IoT domain by connecting smart water meters within Oman and is on track to launch new use cases, which were demonstrated during the event. Ooredoo continues to offer businesses smart solutions to enhance their IT infrastructure, while keeping them connected, working and engaged every day. Capitalising on its seamless network and customer-centric approach, its innovative products include cloud services, IoT solutions, cloud storage and contact centre solutions.

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VENTURE CAPITAL FIRM

Phaze Ventures expands partnership with Microsoft to empower startups in Oman



MUSCAT: Venture capital firm Phaze Ventures and Microsoft deepened their commitment to supporting Oman's economic vision on the third day of Comex 2022 by announcing the expansion of their partnership to empower startups and entrepreneurs in the Sultanate.

The two companies signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that will see Microsoft support startups and entrepreneurs which the Omani venture capital group identifies to develop the necessary foundational capabilities for their business ventures to scale and grow with Microsoft Cloud. Under the agreement, Microsoft and Phaze Ventures will work together on a roadmap and go-to-market plan to promote and accelerate the growth of the country's small business and startup ecosystems by driving bottom-line business

value and accelerating innovation. Additionally, Microsoft will guide Phaze Ventures-sourced startup leads to register for the Microsoft for Startups program and invite eligible startups to Microsoft's available skilling workshops.

As part of the collaboration, Phaze Ventures will consider Microsoft Azure as the preferred cloud platform for current and future startups and entrepreneurs regarding the Microsoft Founders Hub program and continuously sync with Microsoft on upcoming business ventures.

"Like Phaze Ventures, Microsoft understands that the impact of the startup sector on an economy can be astronomical as they significantly contribute to employment, development and growth," said Mohammed Al-Wahaibi, Co-Founder of Phaze Ventures. "This partnership

with Microsoft will enable us to ensure that entrepreneurs are able to continue to fuel innovation and enhance Oman's competitiveness."

The government of Oman has prioritised the development of entrepreneurship to advance local capabilities in innovation and creativity, and increase the competitiveness of Oman's economy, both regionally and globally in line with its Oman Vision 2040 strategy. This has led the Sultanate to significantly ramp up its efforts to support its startup and entrepreneurship community. According to the startup data platform, MAG-NiTT, Oman's startup ecosystem secured 12 per cent of the total deal count for H1 2020, 11 per cent growth year-on-year.

"Oman's startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem has showcased significant resilience and is expand-

ing steadily as the country pursues its vision to become an innovation hub," said Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Hosni, Country Manager at Microsoft Oman and Bahrain. "As a trusted partner in the Sultanate's digital transformation, it is our ambition to empower startups and entrepreneurs across Oman to harness technology that will power their innovation, enable them to scale and grow, and ultimately facilitate the development of a competitive, diversified and integrated economy."

Comex is the largest technology, communications, innovation and digital transformation show in the Sultanate of Oman. Microsoft participated in the event as the official Digital Transformation Partner and demonstrated its industry-leading technological innovations under the theme of "Embracing Future Technologies".



RESEARCH FINDS STRESS ACCELERATES IMMUNE AGEING

Published in the research of the ‘Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences’ (PNAS) on June 13, a study explains age-related health inequalities, including the unequal toll of the pandemic on people, and identifies potential intervention points.

“As the world’s population of older adults increases, understanding disparities in age-related health is essential. Age-related changes in the immune system play a critical role in declining health,” said lead study author Eric Klopach, a post-doctoral scholar in the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. “This study helps clarify mechanisms involved in accelerated immune aging.”

As people age, the immune system naturally begins a dramatic downgrade, a condition called immunosenescence. With advanced age, a person’s immune profile weakens, and includes too many worn-out white blood cells circulating and too few fresh, “naive” white blood cells ready to take on new invaders.

Immune ageing is associated not only with cancer but with cardiovascular disease, increased risk of pneumonia, reduced efficacy of vaccines and organ system aging.

But what accounts for drastic health differences in same-age adults? USC researchers decided to see if they could tease out a connection between lifetime exposure to stress — a known contributor to poor health — and declining vigour in the immune system.

They queried and cross-referenced enormous data sets from University of Michigan’s Health and Retirement Study, a national longitudinal study of the economic, health, marital, family status, and public and private support systems of older Americans.

To calculate exposure to various forms of social stress, the researchers analyzed responses from a national sample of 5,744 adults over the age of 50. They answered a questionnaire designed to assess respondents’ experiences with social stress, including stressful life events, chronic stress, everyday discrimination and lifetime discrimination.

Blood samples from the participants were then analysed through flow cytometry, a lab technique that counts and classifies blood cells as they pass one by one in a narrow stream in front of a laser.

As expected, people with higher stress scores had older-seeming immune profiles, with lower percentages of fresh disease fighters and higher percentages of worn-out white blood cells. The association between stressful life events and fewer ready-to-respond, or naive,

As people age, the immune system naturally begins a dramatic downgrade, a condition called immunosenescence. With advanced age, a person’s immune profile weakens, and includes too many worn-out white blood cells circulating and too few fresh, white blood cells ready to take on new invaders.

T cells remained strong even after controlling for education, smoking, drinking, BMI and race or ethnicity.

Some sources of stress may be impossible to control, but the researchers say there may be a workaround.

T-cells — a critical component of immunity — mature in a gland called the thymus, which sits just in front of and above the heart. As people age, the tissue in their thymus shrinks and is replaced by fatty tissue, resulting in reduced production of immune cells. Past research suggests that this process is accelerated by lifestyle factors like poor diet and low exercise, which are both associated with social stress.

“In this study, after statistically controlling for poor diet and low exercise, the connection between stress and accelerated immune aging wasn’t as strong,” said Klopach. “What this means is people who experience more stress tend to have poorer diet and exercise habits, partly explaining why they have more accelerated immune aging.”

Improving diet and exercise behaviours in older adults may help offset the immune aging associated with stress.

Additionally, cytomegalovirus (CMV) may be a target for intervention. CMV is a common, usually asymptomatic virus in humans and is known to have a strong effect on accelerating immune aging. Like shingles or cold sores, CMV is dormant most of the time but can flare up, especially when a person is experiencing high stress.

In this study, statistically controlling for CMV positivity also reduced the connection between stress and accelerated immune aging. Therefore, widespread CMV vaccination could be a relatively simple and potentially powerful intervention that could reduce the immune aging effects of stress, the researchers said. -ANI



IN-PICTURES



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2022 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada International Convention
Participants visit the 2022 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) International Convention in Toronto, Canada. The event is held here on-site from June 13 to 15, and will be followed by an online event from June 28 to 29. *xinhua*

Bengal tiger cubs make debut at Bangladesh National Zoo in Dhaka
Two Bengal tiger cubs are seen with their mother at the Bangladesh National Zoo in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The zoo has recently welcomed the cubs including one white cub. The cubs are now about two and a half months old, and still reliant on their mother's milk. *xinhua*



New findings at Sanxingdui Ruins stun archaeologists
Archaeologists work at the No.8 sacrificial pit at Sanxingdui Ruins site in southwest China's Sichuan Province. Archaeologists have recently made some stunning discoveries at the famed Sanxingdui Ruins site in southwest China's Sichuan Province. A treasure trove of exquisite bronze, gold and jade wares, including at least 10 bronzewares unearthed for the first time in the history of human civilization, have been excavated at the site. *XinhuaTang Wenhao*



International crayfish festival held in Jiangsu
Aerial picture shows people enjoying crayfish dishes during an international crayfish festival in Xuyi County of Huai'an, east China's Jiangsu Province. *xinhua*



Black-tailed gulls in Shandong
Aerial picture shows people feeding a colony of black-tailed gulls in Rongcheng, east China's Shandong Province. *xinhua*



Lhalu wetland in Lhasa
Picture shows the Lhalu wetland in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. *xinhua*



Kartik Aaryan shares a picture with his pet dog Katori
Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan shares a picture with his pet dog Katori on his Instagram, in Mumbai. *ANI Photo/ kartikaaryan Instagram*



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ROUND-UP



Maisarah Islamic credit cards offer discounted rates and promotions



Gold Credit Card and Titanium Credit Card will allow customers to enjoy exclusive offers and promotions, as well as discounted rates on certain products and services, along with free airport lounge access, global emergency assistance and global ATM network

MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services – BankDhofar’s Islamic Banking window - has launched a new campaign to promote the diverse bundle of benefits offered to its Gold and Titanium credit card holders.

‘Qard Hassan’ concept
Mohammed Ahmed Al Maashani – Head of Distribution Network at Maisarah – noted, “Our credit cards are based on the concept of

Qard Hassan where the principle of Ujrah is utilised for providing certain services with a fixed monthly fee. With applicable Mastercard terms and conditions, customers have the option to acquire Gold Credit Card or Titanium Credit Card. These cards allow customers to enjoy exclusive offers and promotions, as well as discounted rates on certain products and services, along with free airport lounge access, global

emergency assistance and global ATM network.”

Gold Credit Card users are given complimentary airport lounge access at Muscat International Airport (MCT), Salalah International Airport (SLL) & Bangkok International Airport (BKK – Suvarnabhumi). Additionally, cardholders get to enjoy 10% money back on Booking.com, 10% off on Rentalcars.com, and up to 10% off on AVIS car rental, a buy-one-get-one-free offer at Priceless Special app, 2-month free subscription and 30% off on monthly subscription at LingoKids. This also comes with up to 30% off on top trending Uduemy courses, plus up to 50% off per month on one course, and up to 25% off on Fiit first subscription.

For Titanium Credit Card, benefits include complimentary access to airport lounges (Marhaba Lounge at Dubai International Airport, Premier Lounge in Kuwait Airport, First Class Lounge in Cairo Airport and the Royal Orchid Lounge at Bangkok International Airport and Oman Air

Lounge at Muscat & Salalah airports, to Abu Dhabi International Airport, Queen Alia International Airport, Abdul Aziz International, Al Maktoum International Airports). Other features include 20% off on 3 Careem rides, up to 15% off on AVIS car rental, up to 10% off on Hotels.com, Mastercard buy-1-get-1-free offer, up to 15% off on Halalbooking.com, 10% money back on Booking.com, 10% off on Rentalcars.com, up to 20% off twice a month on Talabat (T&C apply), 10% off on Farfetch.com outlet, buy-one-get-one-free offer at Priceless Special app, 2-month free subscription and 30% off on monthly subscription at LingoKids, up to 30% off on top trending Uduemy courses, plus up to 50% off per month on one course, up to 25% off on Fiit first subscription along with MyUS premium shipping discounts (Free premium membership for 2 years/ free account setup/ 30% off shipping for the first month following registration/ 20% off shipping for the remainder of 2-year membership).

LOGISTICS COMPANY

DHL observes World Environment Day

MUSCAT: DHL Global Forwarding & Co (DGF), Oman observed World Environment Day 2022 in collaboration with Indian School Muscat (ISM).

DGF, is a leading logistics company is operating in the Sultanate since 2000 and started back in 1815 with a rich heritage of more than 200 years of logistics expertise. DGF is a part of DPDHL Group, Germany – A global leader in the logistics industry.

As part of Mission 2050, DP-DHL’s target is to plant 1 million trees every year so as part of the Go Green initiative - DGF, Oman sponsored 200 indoor plants to Indian School Muscat. Also, an activity was carried out by DGF employees with school students on the topic ‘Resources Waste’ and school students worked in groups



and completed the activity and were given a commitment to how they will play an important role in avoiding resource waste.

ISM is a leading educational in-

stitute which operates with over 7,000+ students and a faculty of 350 teachers and it was a proud moment for both DGF and ISM to jointly conduct the Go Green ini-

tiative. To highlight, this is the first Go Green initiative observed by Indian School Muscat in collaboration with a logistics company in the Sultanate of Oman.

LUXURY SUV



Enjoy heightened luxury in Lexus GX

MUSCAT: The Lexus GX takes luxury to even greater levels with its impressive ability to conquer terrains and move you places without a worry. The luxury SUV always stands out as making a statement wherever you go.

Powering your journeys, the Lexus GX is equipped with a powerful 292-horsepower, 4.6-litre V8 producing 44.7 Kg.M of peak torque. Making the GX an ideal luxury SUV to tackle various demands.

The Lexus GX is built using the Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (KDSS), which makes han-

dling and ride comfort a breeze both on and off-road conditions. When the GX encounters an uneven surface, one compressed cylinder causes fluid to flow to the other cylinder, helping the vehicle to keep all four wheels on the ground. This unique system surprisingly works without any intervention by the driver. Thanks to an Off-Road Package featuring Multi-Terrain Select, tackling tough terrain is equally as easy.

A TORSEN® torque-sensing limited slip centre differential distributes power under most driving conditions and changes the ratio

as needed based on wheel slip. The four-wheel drive system offers a low range for slow speed off-road driving. With Downhill Assist Control (DAC), Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), Active Traction Control (A-TRAC), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and available Crawl Control, the GX can roam unpaved roads, trails, and steep inclines with confidence.

Multi-Terrain Select offers the advantage of choosing from multiple surfaces such as loose rocks, mud and sand, moguls, and more to optimize drivability. Activated with the press of a button, the

available Crawl Control system is designed to automatically maintain an optimal slow and steady pace over demanding landscapes.

Bolstering this mission is the Lexus Safety System+ suite of technologies that includes Pre-Collision System, Lane Departure Alert, Intelligent High Beams and High-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control

In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer’s Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

TREND MICRO ONE



Trend Micro launches unified cybersecurity platform to reinforce digital strides of Omani and regional enterprises

MUSCAT: Trend Micro Incorporated, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, announced the launch of Trend Micro One, a unified cybersecurity platform with a growing list of ecosystem technology partners that enables customers to better understand, communicate, and lower cyber risks.

Organisations are battling on all fronts to face mounting cyber risks from their complex and growing attack surface with stretched teams and siloed security products. The unified security platform approach delivers a continuous lifecycle of risk and threat assessment with attack surface discovery, cyber risk analysis, and threat mitigation and response.

“Enterprises of all sizes in Oman and across the MEA region have undergone a transformational shift due to the accelerated digital transformation in the last few months,” said Dr Moataz Bin Ali, Area Vice President and Managing Director, MEA, Trend Micro. “The recent changes have also presented a more complex threat environment for organizations to navigate through. With the continued migration to the cloud and the emergence of hybrid cloud operations, bad actors are growing more sophisticated in their attacks, and we are confident that Trend Micro One is the perfect shield to counter them. This next-generation solution, which combines numerous sources of asset and risk visibility, will assist regional firms in achieving the strongest security posture while accelerating their digital journey, resulting in a safer digital environment to do business and thrive.”

As a unified platform, Trend

Micro One delivers powerful risk assessment capabilities, but the ecosystem partners extend that to make it the most complete in the industry.

Trend Micro One supports this approach by enabling customers to:

- Discover the attack surface: Identify, monitor, and profile cyber assets in customers’ environments.
- Understand and continuously assess risk: Analyze risk exposure, the status of vulnerabilities, the configuration of security controls, and types of threat activity.
- Effectively mitigate risk: Ensure the right preventative controls and take swift action to mitigate risk and remediate attacks across the enterprise by leveraging Trend Micro’s threat and risk intelligence.
- Aiming to create greater impact, the new Trend Micro One can be a necessary tool to battle the current and future challenges of the evolving threat landscape, as highlighted in the latest Trend Micro 2021 Annual Cybersecurity Report: Navigating New Frontiers.

In the Mena region, industry-leading solutions have detected and blocked over 436 million (436,085,099) email threats, more than 20.5 million (20,572,364) malware attacks, and over 80 million (80,191,815) URL victims’ attacks.

Furthermore, shielding remote learning and working, Smart Home Network (SHN) solutions protected devices and networks from nearly 18 million (17,976,951) SHN inbound and outbound attacks and prevented over 33 million (33,524,876) SHN events.



ROUND-UP



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Changan EADO Plus: Premium sedan 2023 model now available at low EMI

The ‘beyond your expectation’ Changan EADO Plus is a compact yet aggressive family sedan with premium styling, luxurious interior, and plenty of safety features

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, has announced a low EMI on Changan EADO Plus model 2023.

Customers can now avail of an exceptionally low EMI rate of OMR 104 on the Changan EADO Plus model (terms and conditions apply). EMI is calculated based on a 20% down payment for 8 years loan tenure. It is subject to credit approvals from banks and applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use.

The all-new Changan EADO Plus 2023 model comes with two engine variants – 1.4 turbo and 1.6 litre engine. The 1.4 turbo is equipped with 7 speed dual clutch transmission and 1.6L engine is equipped with CVT.

The ‘beyond your expectation’ Changan EADO Plus is a compact yet aggressive family sedan with premium styling, luxurious interior, and plenty of safety features. With intelligent safety features to assist, EADO Plus lets drivers be at peace when on the road. The top of the line EADO Plus comes with Dual 10” screens for driving convenience, adaptive cruise control, panoramic sunroof, 360 degree camera, side airbags, navigation, dual exhaust features available mostly in luxury sedans.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, “We are pleased to offer a low EMI on the 2023 model of Changan EADO Plus. It is truly beyond one’s expectation. It is stylish, energetic, and practical and has a perfect design that integrates fashion with function. As a family car it impresses with its appealing exterior, luxurious and spacious interior,



The all-new Changan EADO Plus 2023 model comes with two engine variants – 1.4 turbo and 1.6 litre engine. The 1.4 turbo is equipped with 7 speed dual clutch transmission and 1.6L engine is equipped with CVT.

interactive dashboard, driver-assist features for utmost safety.”

Some of the standout features of Changan EADO Plus 1.4 Turbo are Star Eye LED Headlamp with point grille, 7” Dual Tone Alloy Wheels, Full LCD Integrated Dual Screens, Sport Seats in Leather, Rear AC vents, Front Collision Warning and fuel efficiency of 18.3 Km / Ltr as per GSO conditions

The Changan EADO Plus 1.6 L has attractive features such as LED DRLs with Star eye LED Headlamp, Dual Tone 16” Alloy Wheels, Electric Sunroof, 10” In-

footainment Touch Screen, Digital Instrument Cluster, Remote engine start/stop with keyless entry, Front Airbags, Rear View Camera and Electronic Parking Brake.

Changan EADO Plus 1.4 T 7 DCT Limited

With an engine of 1.4 Turbo, the Changan EADO Plus sport edition offers power of 155 hp, Nm torque and transmission of 7 speed DCT. The model offers a dimension of 4730x1820x1505 mm(LxWxH), a wheelbase of 2700 mm, fuel tank of 53 litres. The highlights of

Changan EADO Plus 1.4 T 7 DCT’s limited edition includes EADO Plus 1.4 T 7 DCT SPORT features and some extra features. The exterior has dual tone 17” alloy wheels, sportier front grille, ORVM - electrically folding, panoramic sunroof. The interior features includes sporty red interior, front seats ventilation, six-way driver seat electrically adjustable, rear armrest and 60:40 rear seat split.

Safety attributes include adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, automatic emergency brake and 360° Camera. The

Infotainment section has 10” LCD instrument cluster, six speakers and navigation features.

Changan EADO Plus 1.6 L CVT Trend

Under the hood of the Changan EADO Plus 1.6 L CVT Trend produces 126 hp and 168 Nm of torque mated with a CVT for one of the most comfortable rides.

The exterior features include 16” alloy wheels, halogen headlamps, LED DRLs, ORVM - electrically adjustable and dual exhaust pipes. Interior attributes include

multifunction steering wheel, soft dashboard, leather seats and rear AC vents. It offers safety features such as ESC (ABS + EBD + TCS + ESC + HHC), electronic parking brake, front airbags, rear parking sensors, rear view camera and TPMS.

A 10” Touch Screen, digital LCD instrument cluster, two speakers, mirror link and USB, Radio, Bluetooth are the Infotainment attractions in the model. Remote engine start stop, keyless entry with keyless start and cruise control are the other comfort features.

MAXIMUM BENEFITS

Bank Muscat offers guaranteed cash prizes for successful Asalah referrals

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced guaranteed cash prizes worth up to OMR2,000 for successful Asalah referrals in line with its strategy of offering maximum benefits to its customers.

All that existing Asalah Priority Banking Customers have to do is to successfully refer new customers to Bank Muscat’s Asalah Priority Banking during the promotional period which runs till December 31. A reward of OMR100 per successful referral will be paid out for each referral once the referred customer meets all eligibility criteria for a minimum of three months after opening an Asalah account with the bank.

To provide referrals, the referral form available on the bank’s website should be filled up and emailed to AsalahReferral@bankmuscat.com. The salary/deposit transfer of the referral should be credited within a maximum of 30 days from



the date of referral, for the referral to be eligible for participation in the scheme. Cash rewards of OMR100 each will be credited

directly to both the referrer’s and referee’s account for maintaining the eligibility criteria during the 3-month review period.

Customers having a monthly salary of OMR5,000 or those who maintain a savings deposit of OMR30,000 are eligible for Asalah

Priority Banking. Existing customers can win up to OMR2,000 by making up to 20 successful referrals during the year.

Asalah customers enjoy a range of unrivalled benefits including access to a team of dedicated Relationship Managers, 39 Asalah Centres across Oman and a dedicated 24/7 Asalah Call Centre. Exclusive lifestyle benefits include the Asalah Entertainer App, which has more than 3,500 “Buy 1, Get 1 Free” offers in Oman and at international destinations as well as rewards of indulgence and merchant discounts across fine dining, entertainment, leisure, and the beauty and wellness segments.

The Asalah Debit Card offers access to 50 lounges worldwide and has a higher ATM withdrawal limit of OMR1,000. Asalah VISA Signature credit cardholders can enjoy airport lounge access at more than 1,000 lounges worldwide, and a 24/7 global concierge service. The Credit Card also of-

fers 1% cash back on purchases as well as free multi-trip travel insurance for customers and their direct family members. Cardholders can also enjoy complimentary chauffeur service to and from the Muscat International Airport.

Asalah customers also enjoy access to an integrated wealth management platform that allows them to invest in global asset classes through a single touchpoint. They also get the latest updates and reports on local and international investment opportunities.

Asalah Priority Banking reflects the bank’s commitment to continued leadership of Oman’s banking sector. As a prolific innovator in the financial sector, Bank Muscat has won a number of international and local awards including the Signature Luxury 100 award. The bank was also listed by Forbes Middle East as one of the Top 50 Banks in the region as well as one of the Top 100 Listed Companies in the Middle East in 2021.



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