

Following an internal training and practice camp involving three friendly matches in Oman, the team will travel to Italy in June for more preparation and conditioning, and then head to Saudi Arabia to take part in an Asian-level tournament, its first major test. **>A4**



Oman’s trusted ICT partner



MUSCAT: Omantel’s service delivery approach integrated with convenience through innovation is making daily lives and business operations better.

Omantel signed key agreements that underscore the trust which entities serving national interests and driving economic diversification and growth place in the Company.

The entities with whom Omantel has entered pacts are the Ministry of Higher Education Research and Innovation (MoHERI), Energy Development Oman (EDO), Oman Airports and Omran.

Under these projects, which are expansive in their application scale and important for respective sectors, Omantel will provide unified communications, comprehensive technology solutions, equipment and hardware support among a host of other services. The signing of these agreements reflects Omantel commitment to driving Digital Transformation objectives and building a knowledge-based society as outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

“Omantel is proud to be the platform for their growth through digitalisation. We are partnering organisations that are driving the nation’s growth in major sectors. We are delighted with the partnerships that we created with global technology providers and our success in connecting local tech start-ups with the global companies, giving the Omani tech start-ups the



Talal bin Said Al Mamari
CEO, Omantel

opportunity to participate in the implementation of Omantel digital transformation projects. As far as automation is concerned, delivering high value to our customers through operational excellence is vital to us. Some of the opportunities lie in accelerated digitization of products and services as we transition towards the future,” said Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO, Omantel.

He further added, “The value of these projects will pass down to the people of Oman, a country which is moving rapidly on the digital highway and is seeing economic diversification through new investment, world-class education, growth in tourism and a renewed vigour in the energy sector. Our scalable solutions will make our clients’ operations more efficient and enhance user experience.”

The Company has proved time and again that it has remained future-ready and hence, the most preferred digitally enabling partner for organisations.

By choosing Omantel for their ICT solutions, Enterprise customers are benefitting from economy of scale principles and receiving



Eng Aladdin Bait Fadhil
CCO, Omantel

better value and cost-effective commercial models.

Omantel believes in product innovation, having consistently been investing in the newest technologies like Data Centres, Cloud, IT Services, IOT, SDWAN, Blockchain, Big Data & Analytics, Cyber Security and Collaboration Services. The Company has always stayed ahead of the services and solutions curve by implementing beforehand what global ICT trends forecast in terms of spending, solutions, reach and access.

By responding rapidly to new emerging market demands, Omantel has outperformed other players and shrunk the time an ICT innovation takes to reach its practical application for individuals as well as enterprises.

Eng Aladdin Bait Fadhil, Chief Commercial Officer, Omantel said, “We are continuously investing in infrastructure to support Oman’s vision of a knowledge-based society and Digital Transformation. As the country grows, its telecom and ICT needs will diversify and evolve rapidly. Omantel, as an enabler, must be prepared for that. Omantel has positioned itself as a one-stop-

shop offering telecom and ICT solutions under one umbrella, saving enterprises from the hassle of dealing with several different providers as well as additional manpower to manage their operations”.

He added, “We at Omantel are proud to have earned their continued trust. The agreement with MoHERI is one such example. We thank these entities for making Omantel a part of their journey and sharing their great responsibility of nation-building with Omantel. I am confident that these partnerships will soon deliver results that will reflect positively on the people of Oman and its overall growth and its digital future.”

Supporting research and innovation with MOHERI



Omantel has been proudly enabling systems that conveniently and cost-effectively channelise and boost education, research, and innovation as a strategic partner with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) since 2017 for building, operating and maintaining OMREN (Oman Research and Education Network).

Omantel has once again received the honour to be part of the Sultanate’s journey towards a knowledge-based and technology society.

MoHERI has extended the contract for another five years starting

January 2022 under which Omantel will continue to extend the network’s services to higher education organizations, research centres, and other educational institutions in Oman.

Omantel’s services include high-speed broadband connectivity at heavily discounted rates and a host of value-added services that enrich experiences of both institutions and students/researchers.

Communications and advanced ICT solutions for Energy Development Oman



Under this strategic partnership, Omantel has been signed on as EDO’s communications partner. As the first step, Omantel has facilitated unified communication solutions, besides setting up modern video conferencing rooms and providing ubiquitous connectivity across the EDO head office.

Omantel will be leveraging its suite of service solutions for the energy company to meet its requirement as it marks its growing presence across the Sultanate.

Tech solutions and connectivity for Oman Airports



Because of its great track record, superior services, state-of-the-art

infrastructure and robust security, Omantel has been chosen by Oman Airports as the one-stop technology service provider to deploy comprehensive end-to-end fully managed solution including mobile connectivity.

As a leading company committed to enabling economic diversification and boosting ICV, the Company has brought on board a local software SME which has partnered with Streamax, a technology service provider from China, known for deploying one of the best AI-powered surveillance solutions.

Omantel and Streamax’s solutions will enable Oman Airports to manage Muscat International Airport’s fleet of 154 taxis and equip its drivers to enhance passenger experience and provide real-time information and data through an App.

Expanding cooperation with OMRAN



Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) has partnered with Omantel through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities for cooperation in the areas of developing ICT, IT infrastructure, systems and technologies, IoT solutions and mobile communications solutions for the Group’s businesses.

The MoU also covers smart city services and solutions at Omran’s various projects, enhancing its digital structure.

OMREN

MoHERI inks partnership agreement with Omantel for operating and maintaining ‘OMREN’

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) have inked a contract with Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) for operating and maintaining ‘Omren’. The agreement was signed by HE Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel.

Under this contract, Omantel will continue to extend the network’s services to higher education organizations, research centres, and other educational

institutions in Oman.

Commenting on the agreement, Warda bint Sarhan Al Habsi, Acting OMREN Director, said, “We are delighted to continue our partnership with Omantel, and we feel that it will enable us to create the aspired connectivity and access between the local academic institutions on one hand and with their overseas counterparts and research networks globally on the other hand. OMREN has become an integral part of MoHERI’s strategy toward achieving Oman Vision 2040 goals that are related to the de-



velopment of scientific research in Oman.”

OMREN has come to be a central part of a sustainable in-

frastructure that contributes to the emergence of an effective national innovation ecosystem. It provides the research and edu-

cation community in Oman with a common network and collaboration infrastructure adapted to their needs. Omantel is enabling OMREN to provide its members with point-to-point link to international gateways to connect the research community with international organizations such as Internet2, GEANT, APAN and ASREN.

To enrich and promote collaboration between members, OMREN further offers added value services such as video conferencing, SSL certification, federated access as a single sign-on facility,

scientific publications, Masader for International scientific publications, Shuaa as Oman Research Repository, eduRoam for WiFi roaming, Mirsal for large files exchange, membership of eduGain, extra broadband links, bulk SMSes, and more.

The first term of this partnership saw more than 50 members join the OMREN network. Collectively, the parties have so far achieved 90% connected universities, 93% connected researchers, 85% connected students, and 100% targeted international connectivity.

INNOVATIVE APP

Innovative App puts Airport cab rides at your fingertips



MUSCAT: When it comes to projects of national importance that involve the convenience, ease of work and business and security of people, Omantel becomes the first choice because of its great track record, superior services, state of the art infrastructure and robust security.

Omantel has been chosen by Oman Airports as the one-stop technology service provider to deploy comprehensive end-to-end fully managed solution including mobile connectivity. The agreement to this effect was signed by Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, and Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, on the sidelines of COMEX 2022.

Among the solutions will be the convenient seamless app for booking airport taxis. As a leading company committed to enabling economic diversification and boosting ICV, the Company has brought on board a local software SME which has partnered with Streamax, a technology service provider from China, known for deploying one of the best AI-powered surveillance solutions.

Omantel and Streamax’s solutions will soon enable Oman Airports to manage Muscat In-

ternational Airport’s fleet of 154 taxis and equip its drivers to enhance passenger experience and provide real-time information and data through an App. Streamax is successfully running this solution in airports of countries like China, Turkey, Thailand, Ecuador, Macau, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. This taxi management solution can be integrated into Oman Airport’s existing mobile application and website for passengers and be used as a separate app for taxi drivers. The intuitive system will offer passengers a seamless experience for booking a ride from the airport. This solution will gradually be replicated in other airports managed by Oman Airport.

Commenting on this agreement, Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports said, “The scale, agility and security of the solutions that Oman Airports requires to roll out at all airports across the nation could only be provided by Omantel. These are very important digitalization projects that require efficient and innovative solutions as they are directed at enhancing the passenger experience and boosting Oman’s image.”

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

Omantel, OMRAN sign MoU on enhanced ICT cooperation, sustainability, knowledge exchange

MUSCAT: Omantel has entered into a partnership with Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities for cooperation in the areas of developing ICT, IT infrastructure, systems and technologies, IoT solutions and mobile communications solutions for the Group’s businesses, marketing, sustainability programs and sharing experiences and knowledge.

The MoU was signed at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center by Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO, Omantel and Hashel bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of OMRAN Group, and in the presence of a number of officials.

The MoU also covers exploring collaboration opportunities to provide ICT and smart city services at OMRAN Group’s various



projects, enhancing digital structure and exchange of knowledge and experience between the two companies through opportunities for rotation and on-the-job training. Under the MoU, the two companies will boost cooperation in areas related to marketing, promotion, social responsibility and institutional sustainability.

Commenting on the signing of the MoU, Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO, Omantel, said: “Through this MoU, we seek to

take our existing cooperation further and explore greater opportunities in providing ICT solutions and services. As part of its strategy and responsibility to enable Oman’s digital transformation, Sultanate, Omantel adopts the best international practices and shapes frontier technologies like Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, integrating them with applications to create smart solutions and services that help the government

and the people as per objectives of Oman Vision 2040.”

On his part, Hashel bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of OMRAN Group said: “This agreement reflects OMRAN Group’s vision, which seeks to keep pace with technical development and implement the best innovative digital solutions in the tourism sector. The MoU is in line with the Sultanate’s shift towards digital transformation. The OMRAN Group is committed to exploring opportunities to expand business and launch more projects across the Sultanate.”

OMRAN Group is implementing plans to expand the tourism sector and achieve sustainable growth through strategic initiatives and partnerships. It also seeks to create more growth opportunities for SMEs and lead to the development of local communities.

AGREEMENT

Omantel and EDO sign agreement for communications services and advanced ICT solutions

MUSCAT: Omantel, the Sultanate’s first and leading telecom and ICT solutions provider signed an agreement with Energy Development Oman to provide unified communication services to EDO. The agreement was signed by Aladdin Abdullah CCO at Omantel and Sultan bin Ali Al Mamari Chief Financial Officer at EDO.

As the first step, Omantel has facilitated unified communication solutions, besides setting up modern video conferencing rooms and providing ubiquitous connectivity across the EDO head office.

Omantel will scale up the



range of services provided enabling EDO to cater for its future needs and will be leveraging its suite of service solutions to meet EDO ever requirements as it marks its growing presence across the sultanate.

Sultan bin Ali Al Mamari Chief Financial Officer at EDO said, “Advanced ICT solutions are essential for the success of any business as they make the functioning of organizations easier and on a secure platform.

We are pleased at EDO to partner with Omantel for our unified communications services for the head office.”

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

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:09pm

Asr.....3:30pm

Maghrib.....6:51pm

Isha.....8:11pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....3:56am



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TEN YEARS PLAN

Oman nutrition strategy to ensure healthy, sustainable diet for all

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's National Nutrition Strategy vision for the next ten years aligns well with the WHO Regional Nutrition Strategy that aims to ensure universal access to healthy and sustainable diets, and implement effective nutritional actions, targeting a life-cycle approach to mothers, infants, children, adolescents and the elderly in all settings including emergencies.

The National Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030, which is derived from Oman Vision 2040, aim at promoting the work in the nutrition field to achieve food security and eliminate all forms of malnutrition in addition to enhancing nutrition for life by 2030.

This can be realised by the co-operation of relevant public and private sectors for achieving the fundamental objectives that strengthen the health and nutrition status of community.

The Ministry of Health represented by the Directorate General of Primary Health Care's Nutrition Department in partnership with the World Health Organisation Office in Oman, held on Monday a meeting to discuss operational plan of the National Nutrition Strategy and



OPERATIONAL PLAN: A meeting to discuss operational plan of the National Nutrition Strategy and Work Frame 2020-2030 was held on Monday at the Crown Plaza-Muscat.

Work Frame 2020-2030 at the Crown Plaza-Muscat.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jean Jabbour, WHO representative in Oman, with the presence of representatives of the concerned Ministries and international organisations.

The meeting commenced with an address by the WHO representative in Oman where he affirmed developing a national strategy by identifying detailed activities and implementation mechanisms.

He further called for determining the roles of sectors concerned

with implementing strategies and developing a time frame for follow up activities

The Director of Nutrition, Dr. Salima Al Mamari affirmed that the Sultanate has made great progress in reducing the cases of undernourishment over the past four decades due to rapid social and economic development.

However, the prevalence of some forms of undernourishment remains significantly high, with 11.4 percent of children under five suffering from stunting (chronic malnutrition) and 9.3 percent suf-

fering from wasting (acute malnutrition), as per the National Nutrition Survey 2017.

Dr. Al Mamari added that like other Eastern Mediterranean Region countries, Oman is experiencing a nutritional transition as other forms of malnutrition, including overweight, obesity and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are becoming increasingly important.

The implementation of the multi-sectoral National Nutrition Strategy serves directly in preventing NCDs.

The meeting emphasised the roles of health-related sectors played in promoting individual health. The participants will be involved in the preparation of the strategy's operational plan and performance indicators. Roles will be distributed to pave the way towards updating the monitoring and follow up system to achieve best outcomes through joint agreement on implementation mechanisms.

The strategy and its framework identified a multi-sectoral approach, across the whole of government and community to address the persistent problems of stunting and wasting as well as the increasing problems of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases.

VESAK FESTIVAL 2022

Over 100 Sri Lankan expats donate blood



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A blood donation programme was organised by the Sri Lankan community in Oman under the patronage of Sri Lankan Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Ameer Ajwad coinciding with Vesak Festival 2022.

Vesak is the full moon in the month of May when Lord Buddha was born, attained enlightenment, and passed away.

Vesak is an internationally recognised Day by the United Nations to celebrate the message of Buddhism.

The blood donation programme was organised on the premises of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Muscat on Friday, 20 May 2022 in association with the Central Blood Bank of the Ministry of Health of the Sultanate of Oman, Sri Sambutthatwa Jayanthi Viharaya

Committee and the Sri Lanka Community Social Club in Oman. More than 100 members of the Sri Lankan community in Oman volunteered and donated their blood to the Central Blood Bank of the Sultanate of Oman.

Speaking on this special occasion Sri Lanka Ambassador Ameer Ajwad commended the Sri Lankan community in Oman for their invaluable humanitarian gesture of solidarity with the people of the host country. Ambassador also extended his sincere appreciation to the medical staff of the Central Blood Bank of the Sultanate for their kind and dedicated services throughout the programme. A free medical camp was also organised by Sri Lankan medical doctors serving in the Sultanate for the benefit of the participants during the programme.

TEAM ALPHA







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MoU inked with Microsoft to boost digital transformation

The MoU was signed in the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on the sidelines of the Comex 2022 technology exhibition



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology signed here on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Microsoft company to boost digital transformation projects in the Sultanate of Oman.

The MoU was signed in the Oman Convention and Exhi-

bition Centre on the sidelines of the Comex 2022 technology exhibition.

The MoU aims to develop initiatives that contribute to grooming the abilities of students, academic institutions, small and medium enterprises, start-ups and government employees

by providing them with needed skills in digitization and artificial intelligence (AI).

Microsoft will support the ministry in developing AI tools and ensure their practical effectiveness in various government units. It will also back the government's efforts in adopting the latest tech-

nologies to realize Oman's goals of building a sustainable knowledge-based economy.

The Government AI Readiness Index issued by Oxford Insights positioned Oman at the 47th rank internationally and 6th on the Middle East in terms of readiness in utilizing AI tools. **-ONA**

TEAM SPIRIT



<FROM A1> 'Young minister provides fresh impetus to team'

"We will be going with the team, first to Italy and then to Saudi Arabia, to support them all the way," added Lujaina, who also thanked His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, for his efforts to encourage and develop football and other sports in Oman.

"The Oman Football Association has been among the key beneficiaries of the interest displayed by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin in providing more attention to sport in the country," she said.

"It is good that we have a young minister who can provide fresh impetus and new ideas to develop sports in Oman. I want to thank him and the ministry for their endeavours in creating more opportunities for people in sport, as well the entire board of the OFA, and all those who have supported us on this journey."

Players from the national team also understand what it means to pull on the red shirt of Oman, and be among the select few chosen to represent the country.

"My father was a former player for Oman's national youth team, so I learned the importance of representing my country from him...its significance has not been lost on me," said Afrah Al Mahrouqi, who plays as an attacking midfielder for the national side.

The 19-year-old, originally from Al Mudhaibi in South Ash Sharqiyah, was introduced to football when she was just a toddler: "I am the eldest in my family, so my father used to play with me whenever he had time, and would take me to the beach to play sports.

"Opportunities like the formation of this women's team are amazing for young girls in Oman, because it means they can show their talents on the world stage,"

added Al Mahrouqi, who counts US women's soccer team player Alex Morgan, and Portuguese sensation Cristiano Ronaldo as her inspirations.

"It would be amazing if we could one day play at the World Cup, and represent our country at the highest stage."

Team spirit in the squad is also very high: to see it in action, look no further than the treatment provided to Naira Al Amri, who at 15, is the youngest player in the team.

"When it is time for academics because I have my exams around the corner, the entire team will encourage me to study, because they know how important that is," said the winger, who counts Ronaldo and Brazilian attacker Neymar as her favourites. "When they find out that I haven't had lunch, they will chide me gently and remind me to eat.

"The team togetherness here is just amazing: we all look out for each other, we have each other's back, and we all want the team to do well," explained Naira, who comes from Al Maabala. "Because I attended a private football academy alongside school, I am able to juggle schoolwork and sports. Although it is a great honour to be selected for the national team, it is extremely important that I remain humble, because there is plenty of hard work ahead of us.

"When I go to school and my classmates hear that I play for Oman's national team, I am often greeted with surprise, while others look to me for inspiration," she added. "All of us are role models for the other girls in the country, so what I would say to them is that if you have the talent and the passion, you will succeed in your chosen field...just go for it."



PICTURESQUE BEACH IN MAHOUT

Film beach in the Wilayat of Mahout in the Al Wusta Governorate, is one of the beautiful tourism destinations frequented by tourists and the people of the governorate. Its Mangrove Natural Reserve attracts tourists. **-ONA**



RESCUE

RAFO airlifts injured sailor

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman carried out a rescue operation for a sailor who had a broken foot and was on board an Indian ship. The injured person was transferred from the ship to Sultan Qaboos Hospital.

The Ministry of Defence said: "Today, one of the helicopters of the Royal Air Force of Oman carried out a rescue operation for a sailor who had a broken foot on board an Indian ship 40 miles



from the port of Raysut.

He was rescued and transferred from the ship to Sultan

Qaboos Hospital in Salalah to receive the necessary specialised treatment."

ATHEISM

Symposium

MUSCAT: A two-day symposium about atheism and the reality of monotheism kicked off at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).

The symposium, co-organized by Jabir Bin Zaid Waqf Foundation and Dar Al Kalima Attayiba, focuses on the vision of monotheism and its interpretation. Lecturers and researchers from the Sultanate and abroad are participating in the symposium with a view to instilling awareness about monotheism. **-ONA**

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

<FROM A1> Plan to establish, activate an investment centre in Oman

There is a plan to develop the initiative, during the current year, to include setting standards, a clear path and a systematic mechanism for those projects facing challenges, as well as following up their implementation.

In addition, some initiatives have witnessed a significant progress, including the unified national investment strategy, which aims to identify the economic sectors targeted for investment and propose appropriate incentives for them, as well as identifying the international partners in those sectors and its implementation mechanism, and enabling various government agencies to implement it in a systematic manner and with clear targets.

During the year, work was done on setting the main objectives and work scope for project strategy, as well as getting approval of the authorities concerned to move forward reaching to its implementation and initiating the implementation plan preparation for the project and the time frame for its implementation. An agreement was also approved with a private sector company to finance work strategy. It is hoped that it will be

completed and delivered during the current year.

With regard to simplifying and digitising government services to create the business environment and facilitate the procedures associated with it, Eng. Al Masrouri explained that during past year, Oman Vision 2040 Unit worked with the authorities concerned to develop and activate several major initiatives and projects in a bid to activate this programme in its first phase and address the factors that affect the quality of government services provided to investors, including developing and activating the automatic licensing mechanism (Invest Easy System).

Oman is a pioneer in implementing this system in the region through re-engineering procedures for issuing various licenses for economic activities and its issuing mechanism. As a result of this work, 1,524 economic licenses (88 percent of the total approved economic licenses) were added to the automatic licensing system in its first phase, which was widely welcomed by business community in the Sultanate of Oman.

The initiative was considered a qualitative leap and an advanced

step in simplifying the different procedures and improving the business environment, which comes not only at local level, but also regionally. Data indicate a doubling in number of the issued licenses compared to same period in past years, which reflects the achievement of objectives for which this initiative was undertaken.

Al Masrouri explained that work is currently underway on the second phase of the initiative, which includes: integration with manpower import permit system, integration with lease and commercial sign system, in addition to simplifying and unifying the classifications of economic activities and standardizing their fees. It is hoped that with completion of the activation of this package, the national licensing system will be an integrated, stimulating and attractive system for investment.

The second initiative is the establishment and activation of an investment centre in Oman. The project is to establish an "investor services centre" as one of the important and effective tools in facilitating investors' procedures and avoiding the multiplicity of

parties when the investor seeks to complete the requirements of implementing any investment project. The initiative seeks to make (Invest in Oman) a possible center that works in accordance with the best international practices to serve the different investors (locals and foreigners) and complete all their required procedures.

In regard to improving, simplifying and digitizing procedures for the government services, he explained that this initiative aimed to review government procedures, re-engineer and simplify their operations using (lean) methodology and ensure the sustainability of continuous improvement.

He indicated that the initiative activation began in April 2021 by holding various workshops to transfer knowledge and skills related to simplifying procedures for government institutions related to procedures and licenses related to the investment system. The simplification of 84 service procedures has been completed, including three institutions that have completed simplification of all related procedures. All of these procedures will be completed during the current year. In addition,

more than 36 government employees have been trained in these authorities to achieve sustainability element in these institutions.

Work is also underway to implement other initiatives which already approved for simplification and digitization of government services program, which are scheduled to be completed and activated during the current year.

With regard to the judiciary, legislation and oversight, Eng. Al Masrouri said that during 2021 work was carried out with the Administrative Affairs Council for the Judiciary to develop and follow up the implementation of eleven basic initiatives under the framework of this program concerned with creating an advanced and highly efficient judicial and justice system that establishes the best international practices in the field of justice and arbitration.

The initiative of e-transformation of "Judiciary" Platform" is considered one of the most important initiatives that was activated during 2021. Then services provided by that platform were restructured and improved.

During same year, work was carried out on the project of dig-

itising the notary public, which is considered one of the most important projects that were included in the plan of the Administrative Affairs Council for the Judiciary in 2021. The project aims to activate the electronic mechanism in providing the services of the notary to the beneficiaries so that the service is self-service and is provided remotely.

Work is also underway during the current year to implement other initiatives and projects according to the approved implementation plan, as well as adding several other initiatives during this year, which will contribute to enhancing the judicial system efficiency in order to achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040 priority related to legislation, judiciary and oversight.

Inspired by the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in this regard, the efforts will continue during current year to complete what has been worked on during the past year and develop new initiatives and projects that will contribute to achieve qualitative leap in improving business and investment environment. **-ONA**



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ROHM

Sayyid Kamil meets Syrian culture minister

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Kamil bin Fahd Al Said, Assistant Secretary-General of the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, Member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) met Tuesday at the ROHM with Dr. Lubana Mushawih, Syrian Minister of Culture.

The two sides discussed means of enhancing cooperation between ROHM and Dar Al Assad for Culture and Arts in Damascus. Meanwhile, the Syrian minis-



ter and her accompanying delegation were briefed on the ROHM, its facilities and shows, as well as its programmes and the latest equipment used in the world music shows. **-ONA**

BILATERAL TIES

Oman, Austria review ties

MUSCAT: The first round of political consultation sessions was held on Tuesday between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Austria.

During the session, the Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs, while the Austrian side was headed by Gregor Koessler, Political Director of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria.

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and affirmed the two countries' keenness in developing those relations in various



fields. They also exchanged views on several regional and international matters of mutual interest.

The session also saw the participation of Christian Brunmayr, Ambassador of Austria to Oman and several officials from the foreign ministries of the two countries. **-ONA**

AL DHAHIRAH

Regular inspection to protect, preserve wildlife

UNITED KINGDOM

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Environment Administration in Al Dhahirah Governorate is one of the premier institutions promoting environmental culture and preserving environment through application of laws related to the protection and preservation of wildlife. It takes initiatives to achieve a clean and sustainable environment in Al Dhahirah Governorate.

Fahd bin Saeed bin Khalfan Al-Nasri, Acting Director of Environment Administration in Al-Dhahirah Governorate, talked about inspection visits carried out by environment inspectors and technicians to quarries, crushers, factories and companies to ensure the environmental concerns are taken care of. There were 48 visits in the first quarter of 2022 and five violations were found.

The number of monitoring ob-



servations of wildlife reached 16, which included Arabian gazelle, birds of prey and some reptiles.

The administration conducts patrols to monitor wildlife throughout the day to prevent wildlife violations.

Despite that, the authorities face several challenges in monitoring and documenting wildlife due the large area of the Al Dhahirah Governorate and of mountainous nature.

The number of awareness campaigns reached 7 in partnership with several bodies in education and agriculture sectors.

Among the important initiatives that the administration seeks to achieve is the national initiative to plant 10 million wild trees.

The number of planted trees until April 2022 reached 5,383. It is expected to plant 40,000 seedlings this year.

MSC visit

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC) of the United Kingdom (UK) visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

The guests were greeted upon their arrival at the MSC by Commodore Mohammed Hamoud Al Zedjali, Head of the MSC.

The members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the maritime environment. **-ONA**

MESMERISING SHOW

ROHM to present 'Play'

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) announced its upcoming production titled "Play", an inspiring show perfect for audiences of all ages. This dynamic presentation is a fitting event to conclude the 2022 Royal Opera House Muscat season.

Play takes the art of elite sport and creates a mesmerizing show exploring themes of competition, spectating, emotional connections and the fantastical in a production which is both sophisticated and personal.

The audience can enjoy this thrilling production for the whole family at ROHM on 26-28 May 2022. **-ONA**



PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Pakistan School Muscat is planning to hire the services of

NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKING TEACHERS

for its Primary School Level.

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Chairman Board of Directors
(Only Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview)



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Document Price per copy (RO)
INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CATERING AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR ARMED FORCES HOSPITALS	14/2022	20/06/2022	27/06/2022	825 RO

- Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
- Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman

Invitation to Attend the Ordinary General Meeting of Bank Muscat Money Market Fund



The Investment Manager of Bank Muscat Money Market Fund (the "Fund") has the pleasure in inviting the unitholders to the Ordinary General Meeting ("OGM") to be held on **Wednesday, 22 June 2022, at 3 pm**, at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman.

Failing quorum, the OGM shall be reconvened on **Thursday, 23 June 2022, at 3 pm**, at Bank Muscat Headquarters, airport heights, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss and consider the following agenda:

- To elect the new members of the Fund Management. Any person who wishes to nominate himself/herself for the position should complete the nomination form. The completed forms should be sent to the Fund secretary email raghadn@bankmuscat.com at least five days prior to the OGM date. Nomination forms received in the end of the business day, on Wednesday, 15th of June 2022, The candidate should observe the conditions required for the membership of the Fund's Management.

In accordance with the Fund's Articles of Association, every unitholder has the right to appoint any other person in writing as his proxy to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, by way of a proxy card attached to the notice. Any such natural person should attach to the proxy card a copy of: their ID for adults, their passport for minors or those who do not have a civil card or resident card, and resident card or passport for non-Omanis. For corporates, the proxy form shall be signed by one of the authorized signatories and sealed by the company's stamp accompanied with copies of the commercial registration certificate and the specimen signature form. Kindly arrive at the meeting venue at least half an hour before the general meeting.

The respected shareholder is requested to attend at the OGM venue half an hour before the meeting.

For queries please contact
Ms. Raghad Al Lawati -
on telephone: (+968) 24768265

P.O. Box 134, Ruwi, P. C. 112, Sultanate of Oman



Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority



Zawawi Trading Company LLC.

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz S-Class, C-Class, EQS

Model year: 2020-2021

Date of Campaign: 25.05.2022
Recall Segment: Software
Recall Type: Safety

Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
72	W1K2231611A010697	TO	W1K2231611A060164	S 450 4MATIC AMG
16	W1K2231631A020362	TO	W1K2231631A061782	S 500 4MATIC

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain C-Class (BR 206), S-Class (BR 223) and EQS (BR 297) vehicles, the software of the rear signal acquisition and actuation module might not meet specifications.

In this case, an incorrect initialization of the rear signal acquisition and actuation module might occur at start of the vehicle, resulting in a restriction of intended functions of the control unit. Among others, this condition might lead to a malfunction of the rear turn signal, rear hazard warning lights as well as the reversing light. This would be indicated to the driver in the instrument cluster by corresponding warning messages.

Local legal requirements might not be met.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will update the software of the signal acquisition and actuation module on the affected vehicles. The expected workshop visit for the updating the software of the signal acquisition and actuation module will take around 30 minutes and will be free of charge.

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 25.05.2022 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:
Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 25.05.2022.

Mercedes-Benz





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COVID CASES

US reports weekly count of 100,000 child COVID cases

LOS ANGELES: More than 107,000 child COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States during the past week, up by about 72 per cent from two weeks ago, according to the latest report by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Children's Hospital Association. It marks the sixth consecutive weekly increase in child COVID-19 cases in the United States, said the report pub-



lished on Monday. Almost 13.3 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic in the country with over 316,000 of them detected in the past four weeks, according to the report. Nearly 5.4 million child COVID-19 cases have been reported nationwide so far in 2022. Children represent 19 per cent of all COVID-19 cases in the United States, the report showed.

There is an urgent need to collect more age-specific data to assess the severity of illness related to new variants as well as potential longer-term effects, said the AAP. "It is important to recognize there are immediate effects of the pandemic on children's health, but importantly we need to identify and address the long-lasting impacts on this generation of children and youth," it said. **ANI**



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Health officials assess response as monkeypox cases spread

Almost 20 countries around the world where monkeypox is not endemic have reported outbreaks of the virus



BERLIN: The recent rise in monkeypox cases in Europe and in other parts of the world has left health officials searching for a strategy on how to best deal with the disease and whether it constitutes a major risk to public well-being.

Almost 20 countries around the world where monkeypox is not endemic have reported outbreaks of the virus. There have been well over 100 confirmed or suspected cases of the virus.

Germany drawing up health guidelines
German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said Monday he is working with public health body Robert Koch Institute to draw up isolation and quarantine recom-

mendations, with the guidelines to be presented as early as Tuesday. Lauterbach, who was attending the World Health Assembly in Geneva, said he and the RKI are looking at "vaccination recommendations for people who are particularly at risk." So far, four cases of the virus have been confirmed in Germany. Vice President of the German Medical Association Frank Ulrich Montgomery brought up the possibility of vaccinating younger people against pox, according to an interview with the German newspaper Abendblatt. "Whoever is vaccinated against the pox has a good protection," he said. He told the paper that he was not surprised by the outbreak, saying such occurrences make the spread of these types of vi-

rus more common. While he said that monkeypox will only have a mild effect on most people, "it's important that the infected are quickly isolated so that we can break the chain of infection." **What's the risk of spread?** The EU health agency ECDC said Monday that the risk that monkeypox would spread widely among the general population was "very low." At the same time, the agency said "the likelihood of further spread of the virus through close contact, for example during sexual activities among persons with multiple sexual partners, is considered high." The World Health Organization also called the spread of monkeypox a "containable situation," with WHO official Rosamund Lewis

saying there's no evidence that the virus has mutated. David Heymann, who formerly led the WHO's emergencies department, told The Associated Press his theory behind the current outbreak. "We know monkeypox can spread when there is close contact with the lesions of someone who is infected, and it looks like sexual contact has now amplified that transmission," Heymann said. He said the current outbreak may be a "random event" caused by "risky behavior" at two raves in Spain and Belgium. Meanwhile, the UK Health Security Agency said on Monday that it had detected 36 additional cases of monkeypox in England. This brings the total number of confirmed cases since the outbreak began in the UK to 56. **bw**

RESTRICTIONS

Global response towards Afghanistan's curbs on women disappointing, says Amnesty

KABUL: Amnesty International called the international community's response to Afghanistan's restrictions on women 'disappointing', a local media reported. "I have to say that the international community's response both over the past two weeks and over the last nine months has been very disappointing. You know, I think that most of the foreign diplomats dealing with Afghanistan are men, they don't seem to be as concerned about the women's rights situation as they should be," Heather Barr, director of the Women's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch said. She further said that this is unforgivable given the role essayed by the diplomats over the last 20 years in creating the current situation, Tolo News reported. Amnesty International said that despite the Islamic Emirate's continued assurances that they respect the rights of women and girls, still millions of women are discriminated against since the Taliban became the de-facto authorities. The order of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in which it asked the female presenter on the news channel need to cover their face has sparked widespread criticism national and international. Norway Ambassador Ole An-



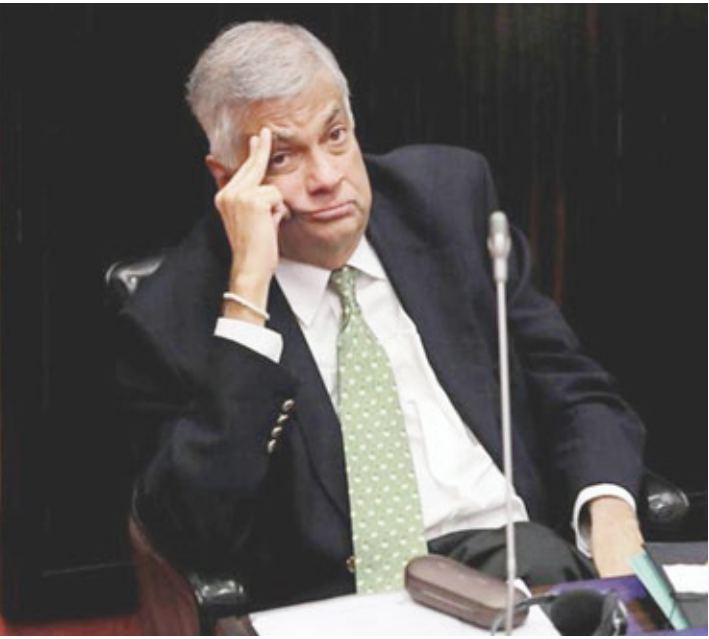
dreas Lindeman in his meetings with Islamic Emirate discussed the importance of a free press and women's equal and meaningful participation in society, according to Tolo News. "The international organisation and human rights organisations, the European Union and UNAMA should take practical steps instead of making statements," Monisa Mubariz, a women's rights activist said. Meanwhile, TOLONews and other TV channels in Kabul on Sunday followed an order of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue regarding covering female presenters' faces. "Female speakers appear on television in the form of virtual images rather than real ones. Therefore, TOLO news views on this decision are still valid," TOLO News tweeted.

However, TOLO news said that the decree issued by the leadership of the Islamic Emirate on the issue of hijab does not contain any explicit recommendation to cover the faces of female speakers. Earlier, women presenters on Afghanistan's leading TV channels went on air on Saturday without covering their faces, defying a Taliban order that they conceal their appearance. Many TV outlets have expressed their concerns over the new decree issued by the Taliban. Shamsad TV head of news Abid Ehsas said, "Our female colleagues are concerned that if they cover their faces, the next thing they will be told is to stop working." "This is the reason they have not observed the order so far," he added, reported Dawn citing a US-based agency. **ANI**

ECONOMIC CRISIS

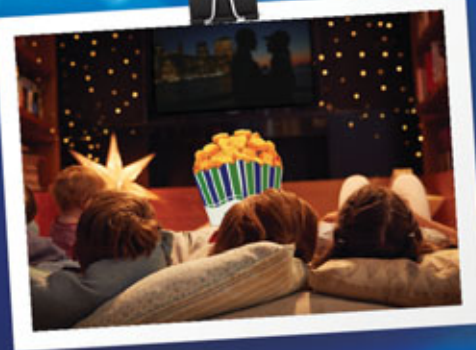
Sri Lanka PM Wickremesinghe discusses new budget, future economic plans with stakeholders

COLOMBO: Amid the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe discussed new budgets and future economic plans during a meeting with the representatives from the Chambers of Commerce, the Treasury and Economic Advisers at his office on Monday. During the meeting with the representatives, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister highlighted that a new budget would be introduced in the country which would help in the reduction of the capital significantly, reported Colombo Page. According to Wickremesinghe, the saved money would be used for welfare programmes. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister gave emphasis on the fact that an economic policy framework would be included in the Constitution, that enshrines the economic rights of the country. Further, Wickremesinghe expressed concerns that the food shortage will not only affect Sri Lanka but will also have a negative impact on the global market as well. However, he added that the Sri Lankan government was trying to minimize the impact of the shortages, reported Colombo Page. The Sri Lankan PM even proposed the Treasury plan to undertake structural reforms based



on a competitive social market economy. In addition, Wickremesinghe gave his nod to the recommendation of digitalizing the process of distributing relief to the people. He stated that he would be reviewing the criteria for those who would be eligible for welfare. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is struggling to cope with its dire economic scarcity, with food and fuel shortages, soaring prices, and

power cuts affecting a large number of people. The country has seen weeks of public protests amid ongoing political and economic instability. Recently, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the next couple of months will be the most difficult ones in the lives of all citizens and the country must prepare to make some sacrifices and face the challenges of this period. **ANI**



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UEFA unveils official ball for Champions League final match

The UEFA Champions League final will be played at the Stade de France on May 28



PARIS: UEFA on Tuesday unveiled the official match ball for the 2021/2022 Champions League final.

The UEFA Champions League final will be played at the Stade de France on May 28. The word "PEACE" is written on the match

ball, directly below the Cyrillic word "mir," which can also be translated as peace.

Notably, Adidas will not be releasing the match ball for retail.

Instead, the balls used during the match will be available at auction with proceeds going to the UN's refugee agency.

This year's final will air in over

200 countries and territories around the world. Cabello will take to the pitch just over ten minutes before the biggest game in European club football this season gets underway.

The final will take place between England's Liverpool FC and Spanish champions Real Madrid in Paris.

Liverpool have been European champions six times - more than any other English team. That is as many titles as Bayern Munich, with AC Milan and Real Madrid the only clubs to have won more.

Madrid have reached the European Cup final for the 17th time this season, six more than any other club. They have won their last seven finals in this competition and, of course, their total of 13 titles is unsurpassed. **ANI**

BEACH SPORTS IN OMAN

The Executive Office of heads of GCC Olympic Committees approved the Sultanate of Oman's hosting the GCC beach sports tournament in 2025. Meanwhile, the UAE will host the 1st edition of the GCC youth sports tournament in 2023 and Saudi Arabia will host the GCC indoor martial arts tournament in 2024. The 4th GCC sports tournament will be held in Qatar in 2026. This came during a meeting held in Kuwait on the sidelines of 3rd GCC sports tournament. — **ONA**



CRICKET

Vettori, Borovec named Australia men's assistant coaches

SYDNEY: Former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori has been appointed as an assistant coach of the Australia men's team.

Vettori will be joined by Victorian Andre Borovec, and the duo will be under the leadership of head coach, Andrew McDonald.

Australia have a packed schedule across the next 18 months, which includes tours to Sri Lanka next month and India early next year, along with a 50-over World Cup in India starting in October 2023.

"I was really impressed with what I saw of the group in Pakistan in the way they approached



preparation, planning and playing. It's a very strong and unified group which has the potential to have a very rewarding and hopefully successful period ahead," Cricket.com.au quoted Vettori as saying.

Notably, Vettori and McDonald have earlier coached Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore, where the former was the head coach and the latter was the assistant.

Borovec and Vettori will commence their roles with the national side leading into the two-Test series of the Qantas Tour of Sri Lanka.

Vettori played 113 Tests and 295

ODIs for New Zealand across an illustrious 18-year international career. He has been given a permanent position following a stint with the team during the white-ball leg of the Pakistan tour.

On the other hand, Borovec's appointment as a full-time assistant coach is rare given most coaches who progress to the international level generally have playing experience at least at the domestic level.

"Andre has been fantastic for the group when he has been involved as an extremely skilled and experienced high-performance coach. He is a great fit culturally and

brings the skills to complement our high-performance specialists," said McDonald.

"I have worked with Daniel previously and could not speak more highly of his approach, work ethic and rapport he brings. His experience and balanced style are well documented. He is a great fit and will bring an enormous amount of knowledge to the team," he added.

Apart from this, Borovec will also coach Australia A in Sri Lanka prior to the Test Series alongside Australian women's team assistant coach Ben Sawyer and Sunny Kaliyar. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

Oman oil price (July Delivery 2022) on Tuesday reached \$107.97, comprising a drop by \$1.99 from the price of Monday, which was at \$109.96. The average price of Oman oil (May Delivery 2022) has stabilised at \$110.96, thus \$19 per barrel higher than April Delivery 2022. — **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX marginally lower

The MSX index closed at 4,119.76 points, down by 0.33 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 463.52 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 8.5 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Omaniya Financial Services, down 9.58 per cent, was the top loser.

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Bahwan Services and Trading signs pacts worth \$3bn with Saudi company



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bahwan Services and Trading (BST); an affiliate of Sheikh Ahmed Suhail Bahwan's group of companies, Sultanate of Oman and Ajlan & Brothers Holding Group (Abilitii), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed a collaboration agreement to establish joint investments in both countries; by announcing a new era of partnerships for key sectors in line with respective countries' Saudi Vision 2030 and Oman Vision 2040.

The Sultanate of Oman and its brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said and his beloved brother - the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and alongside dynamic young leader HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman, are witnessing enormous momentum in economic and investment cooperation between two countries in various sectors after the mutual visits of strong leaders along with officials and businessmen during 2021. The trade between two nations is continuously on the rise.

BST and Abilitii, privately owned, well-known, highly respected and reliable business conglomerates met in Muscat on May 24, 2022, to sign an economic, commercial, and technical collaboration agreements. The various projects of mutual interests come under the field of industrial manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and stationary energy storage, renewable energy, healthcare and food security initiatives in both countries and joint investments within and outside the GCC.

Sheikh Mohammed Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, Vice Chairman of Abilitii along with Eng. Ali Al Hazni, Group CEO and senior management team of Abilitii are three-days visit to Muscat to discuss



PHOTO BY SHABIN E



and sign collaboration agreement with BST. Sheikh Abdullah Ahmed Suhail Bahwan, Executive Director-BST had signed the agreements.

The move aims to strengthen existing economic relations between two groups by developing effective programme and mechanisms for collaboration in efforts for all future projects of mutual interests for initial five years and thereafter. Both groups will co-operate and work together in the fields of trade, investment, knowledge exchange, and facilitate joint economic efforts during the next stage, thereby promoting sustainable economic development in both countries.

During the ceremony, Sheikh Ahmed Suhail Bahwan emphasised that this agreement will pave the way for a joint economic co-operation between the two countries in line with respective countries visions for future growth. This partnership with Abilitii is being built on the principles of flexibility, openness, and international economic collabora-

tion in various vital sectors for self-subsistentiality, new technologies and to invest together in future economic growth sectors.

Sheikh Ahmed Suhail Bahwan's group of companies have been operational in automobile sector in Saudi Arabia for more than 12 years and now aspiring to expand into other business along with its trusted partner - Abilitii.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al Ajlan said: "Led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz and the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, Saudi economy reported huge growth at all aspects, in addition to the true vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the economy of Sultanate of Oman is strongly placed to grow at rapid rate, as per IMF's latest prediction highest in GCC at 5.6 per cent in 2022. We believe, Sultanate is a prominent economic destination for investments and an important trade partner of the Kingdom in the GCC." — **A2**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE

Capabilities of AI in digital transformation showcased

MUSCAT: The international conference on artificial intelligence (AI) began on Tuesday on the sidelines of the Comex 2022 technology exhibition.

The event highlights the capabilities of AI in the digital transformation of various industries.

The conference was held under the patronage of Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology.

It included a celebration to mark the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which comes this year under the theme "Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing." — **ONA**



E-Auction Notice.

e-Auction for Sale of used Mobiles, Fixed, Transmission, Switching & Power Equipment

Oman Telecommunications Company (S.A.O.G),
P.O. Box 789, Postal Code 112, Muscat,
Sultanate of Oman hereby gives notice of the Auction as follows: -

Reference Number	Description	Site Visit	Offers Submission Date
RFI #86	E-Auction for Sale of used Mobiles, Fixed, Transmission, Switching & Power Equipment from Omantel Al Sharqiyah South & North and Al Wasta Region Exchange/Sites for 5 Sites	Location per Area	
		24 to 30 May 2022	SUR EXCH (POI)
			Bani bu .HASSAN EXCH (POI)
			TIWI
			Sinaw - Mudhaibi Exch
			Al Muntrib - Al Qabil
			1 st June 2022

The invitation to this Bid is open to all international and Local contractors specialized in this field.

- Bidders who are interested to participate in this auction are requested to submit their pre-qualification details online (RFI Number 86) on Omantel e-tendering system (<https://tenders.omantel.om>). Companies that are not registered on Omantel e-tendering system are requested to register themselves in order to qualify/participate in the e-auction.
- The auction will be conducted online on Omantel eTendering platform at <https://tenders.omantel.om>. The date and time of e-Auction shall be informed to shortlisted bidders based on evaluation of pre-qualification submissions.
- A maximum of 2 participants will be allowed per vendor to enter the premises during the site visit.
- Shortlisted bidders will be requested to submit a bid bond or certified cheque valid for 90 days from the date of submission addressed to GM-Strategic Sourcing & Procurement Omantel, prior to the date of e-auction.
- The details of the e-auction and the required registration/training will be provided to the shortlisted bidders before the e-auction.
- For auction enquiries, requests for clarifications and site visit, please contact Mr. Yousuf Al Rawahi on 92805080.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR30mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR30 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 182 days, from 25 May, 2022 until 23 November, 2022.

The average accepted price reached 99.015 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.015 per OMR100. Whereas the average discount rate and the average yield reached 1.97541 per cent and 1.99506 per cent, respectively.

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, for the same period. The treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the CBO. — **ONA**

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MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Gulf Mushroom Products, up 8.5%, was the top gainer while, Al Omaniya Financial Services, down 9.58%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,119.76 points, down by 0.33 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 463.52 points.

Gulf Mushroom Products, up 8.5 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Omaniya Financial Services, down 9.58 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover

A total number of 505 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR14.33 million, with more than 28.97 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 8 advanced, 14 declined, and 28 remained unchanged.

At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR100,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for

OMR68,888, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR31,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,525.4 points, down 0.65 per cent. Prices of United Finance and Muscat Finance were up by 4 per cent and 2.86 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, DIDIC, OM-INVEST, Global Financial Investments and Oman United Insurance were down by 9.58 per cent, 7.9 per cent, 1.9 per cent, 1.43 per cent and 1.17 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,046.29 points, up 0.1 per cent. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Packaging, A'Saffa Foods, Construction Materials and Galfar Engineering were up by 8.5 per cent, 8.33 per cent, 7.81 per cent, 6.58 per cent and 4.81 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,127.71	4,119.76	4,119.76	4,133.32	-13.56	-0.33
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,541.10	6,525.39	6,525.39	6,567.97	-42.58	-0.65
Industry Index	6,054.36	6,034.46	6,046.29	6,040.44	5.85	0.10
Services Index	1,606.98	1,601.21	1,601.21	1,606.98	-5.77	-0.36
MSX Shariah Index	464.55	463.52	463.52	464.55	-1.02	-0.22
MSX TR INDEX	5,189.61	5,189.59	5,189.59	5,206.87	-17.08	-0.33
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,838.75	6,822.32	6,822.32	6,866.84	-44.52	-0.65
SERVICES TR IDX	1,655.94	1,649.99	1,649.99	1,655.94	-5.95	-0.36
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,263.41	6,262.76	6,275.03	6,268.96	6.07	0.10

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
28,979,305	14,334,914	505	22,374,701,340	8	14	28	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 24

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

OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	69,420	7,289	8	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.104	-0.001	0.962	0.106	0.105	0.106	14,700,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	238,102	60,731	13	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.100	84,372,541
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	161,317	59,574	10	0.370	0.370	0.368	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.370	0.100	46,212,245
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	9,745	1,150	3	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV.	10,000	580	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.100	7,820,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	8,653,916	4,533,998	21	0.524	0.524	0.522	0.524	0.524	0.000	0.000	0.522	0.522	0.100	1,966,676,030
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	16,970	14,651	7	0.864	0.864	0.860	0.864	0.864	0.000	0.000	0.860	0.860	0.100	648,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	350	39	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.107	0.110	328,906,852
OM0000003605	ALMAHA CERAMICS	45,698	23,382	15	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.000	0.000	0.512	0.512	0.100	28,160,000
OM0000007407	DHOOFAR GENERATING	5,743,583	361,846	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.057	0.065	1,400,120
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	759,291	248,028	16	0.326	0.328	0.324	0.326	0.328	-0.002	-0.610	0.328	0.322	0.100	212,207,819
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	218,320	31,282	12	0.144	0.144	0.143	0.143	0.144	-0.001	-0.694	0.143	0.143	0.144	33,891,000
OM0000002236	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	192,060	51,761	14	0.271	0.271	0.266	0.270	0.272	-0.002	-0.735	0.266	0.268	0.100	16,525,154
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	740,850	315,548	18	0.430	0.430	0.424	0.426	0.430	-0.004	-0.930	0.424	0.410	0.100	93,720,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	251,919	85,223	12	0.340	0.340	0.338	0.338	0.342	-0.004	-1.170	0.338	0.334	0.100	33,800,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	822,960	349,413	21	0.430	0.430	0.420	0.424	0.430	-0.006	-1.395	0.420	0.390	0.100	100,237,840
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	115,000	7,955	9	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	28,000	8,690	4	0.312	0.312	0.310	0.310	0.316	-0.006	-1.899	0.310	0.308	0.100	207,193,282
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	10,000	1,512	3	0.151	0.152	0.151	0.151	0.167	-0.016	-9.581	0.152	0.152	0.160	45,785,259
Total		18,087,531	6,162,952	189											

Parallel Market

OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	80,669	60,862	31	0.200	0.220	0.200	0.217	0.200	0.017	8.500	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	9,038,344
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,150,000	299,000	4	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.240	0.020	8.333	0.260	0.000	0.260	0.100	8,433,324
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	615,671	84,688	73	0.126	0.140	0.126	0.138	0.128	0.010	7.813	0.140	0.130	0.140	1.000	16,560,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	1,153,337	93,807	78	0.078	0.083	0.078	0.081	0.078	0.005	6.579	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	5,062,500
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	40,700	4,426	2	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.104	0.005	4.808	0.108	0.107	0.110	0.100	22,125,523
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	96,327	8,751	6	0.095	0.095	0.090	0.091	0.087	0.004	4.598	0.090	0.089	0.095	0.100	31,772,141
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	479,000	34,284	24	0.072	0.073	0.071	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	22,114,535
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	155,000	23,250	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.144	0.000	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAF CATTLE	5,000	162	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.100	2,276,500
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	11,000	1,265	2	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.117	0.100	20,939,016
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	236,000	18,902	12	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	768	223	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.000	0.290	0.100	19,750,061
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	11,000	1,045	3	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	122,100	8,547	8	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	66,820,037
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	182,440	17,129	11	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	1,200	59	1	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.047	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	135,000	6,750	4	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	35,720,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,308,262	65,413	5	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.055	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	589,907	66,070	3	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	17,421,645
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEMIE	37,000	3,996	2	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0.917	0.108	0.099	0.115	0.100	2,268,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	132,981	11,395	19	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	2,887,145
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	18,573	2,600	3	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.142	-0.002	-1.408	0.140	0.138	0.140	0.100	11,900,000
OM000000418	RAYSUT CEMENT	83,340	13,940	13	0.168	0.168	0.167	0.167	0.170	-0.003	-1.765	0.167	0.167	0.168	0.100	33,400,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAF INT.	25,000	3,500	2	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.152	-0.012	-7.895	0.140	0.000	0.140	0.100	57,294,484
Total		6,867,075	830,062	309												

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Al Maha Petroleum signs pact with Asyad Group

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company, along with other fuel marketing companies and Al Mouj Muscat, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Oman Post and Asyad Express, a member of Asyad Group.

The MoU reinforces Oman Post & Asyad Express wish to explore and expand customer accessibility of its wide range of postal and logistics services, ultimately aimed at improving their customers' experience and convenience. The most prominent of the services to be introduced is the Oman Post & Asyad Express

E-locker Parcel Machine network across Oman. This will be the first E-locker network of its kind, which offers the customer with the ultimate 24x7 flexibility to receive their parcels and documents.

Oman Post & Asyad Express CEO, Nasser Al Sharji commented, "We always look to provide our customers with increased flexibility and access to all our postal and logistics services, utilising the latest technologies to make the user experience as seamless as possible. Our customers will have 24 / 7 access to pick up and drop off their parcels and documents at strategic locations across all Oman. The E-locker concept also

supports environmental sustainability, which is a key focus area for us and our new partners.

Eng. Hamed bin Salim Al Maghdri, CEO of Al Maha Petroleum, explained, "Al Maha strives to deliver popular services to its customers in the Sultanate who are perceptive towards innovative and digitally-driven solutions such as the e-lockers that will optimise their experience."

The parties have further affirmed their interest in exploring new horizons for co-operation and exchange of expertise in the fields of learning and development, branding and marketing, sustainability and energy transition.

JOINT PARTNERSHIP

<FROM A1> Various projects identified

Abilitii is eager to be part of this growth story and commit itself to partner with the well-respected BSTL. Abilitii by teaming with a local trustworthy partner wants to collaborate on various identified projects with an investment potential of about \$3 billion in near future. The signing of this new collaboration agreement is a milestone in the economic relations between the two countries. We will continue this collaboration and our efforts in future to achieve shared goals of both the organisations, in line with the economic development aspirations of both the countries to create local employment and self-sustainability in key sectors."

Both groups have agreed to place industrial manufacturing, renewable energy, future technologies, innovation, modern agriculture, digital economy, education, healthcare and food security, as the top priority sectors of mutual interests in line the visions for 2030 (of Saudi Arabia) and 2040 (of Oman).

TRANSPORT SECTOR

Saudi ministry participates in transport forum in Germany

RIYADH: The Saudi Ministry of Transport and Logistic Services participated in the International Transport Forum, which was held in Leipzig, Germany, between May 18 and 20, 2022.

Deputy Minister of Transport and Logistic Services for Planning and Sector Development Dr. Mansour Al-Turki headed the delegation participating in the forum and chaired several ministerial discussion panels that saw the participation of many international ministers of transport, government representatives in the transport sector, and leaders of global transport companies.

The ministry, shared its trends in adopting modern technologies, environmental sustainability and safety, the role of government in developing policies, empowerment of the private sector, and adopting a proper governance to administer the sector in a way that matches the targets of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy and the Saudi Vision 2030.

— SPA

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Study finds better mental health among children who play adventurously

Study finds better mental health among children who play adventurously

According to new research, children who spend more time playing adventurously have lower symptoms of anxiety and depression, and were happier over the first Covid-19 lockdown.

A study, published in Child Psychiatry and Human Development, led by the University of Exeter asked parents how often their children engaged in play that was “thrilling and exciting”, where they might experience some fear and uncertainty.

The study comes at a time when today's children have fewer opportunities for adventurous play out of sight of adults, such as climbing trees, riding bikes, jumping from high surfaces or playing somewhere where they are out of adults' sight. The study sought to test theories that adventurous play offers learning opportunities that help build resilience in children, thereby helping to prevent mental health problems.

With funding from a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, the research team surveyed nearly 2,500 parents of children aged 5-11 years. Parents completed questions about their child's play, their general mental health (pre-Covid) and their mood during the first Covid-19 lockdown.

The research was carried out with two groups of parents: a group of 427 parents living in Northern Ireland and a nationally representative group of 1919 parents living in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland).

Researchers found that children who spend more time playing outside had fewer “internalising problems” - characterised as anxiety and depression. Those children were also more positive during the first lockdown.

The effects were relatively small, as would be expected given the range of factors that affect children's mental health. However, results were consistent even after researchers factored in a wide range of demographic variables including child sex, age, parent employment status etc. and parent mental health. The study in the Great Britain group also found that the effect was more pronounced in children from lower-income families than those

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growing up in higher-income households.

Helen Dodd, Professor of Child Psychology at the University of Exeter, who led the study, said: “We’re more concerned than ever about children's mental health, and our findings highlight that we might be able to help protect children's mental health by ensuring they have plentiful opportunities for adventurous play. This is really positive because play is free, instinctive and rewarding for children, available to everyone, and doesn't require special skills. We now urgently need to invest in and protect natural spaces, well-designed parks and adventure playgrounds, to support the mental health of our children.”

Dan Paskins, Director of UK Impact at Save the Children, said: “Every child needs and deserves opportunities to play. This important research shows that this is even more vital to help children thrive after all they have missed out on during the Covid-19 restrictions. More play means more happiness and less anxiety and depression. That's why Save the Children is supporting the Summer of Play campaign which brings together organisations from around the country to pledge their support to enable children to have fun, spend time with friends and enjoy freedom.”

Welcoming the findings, Jacqueline O'Loughlin, Chief Executive of PlayBoard NI said: “This research emphasises the importance of adventurous play. Children and young people need freedom and opportunities to encounter challenges and risks in their everyday playful adventures. It is clear from the research findings that playing, taking risks and experiencing excitement outdoors makes a positive contribution to children's mental health and emotional well-being.”

He added, “The rewards of allowing children to self-regulate and manage challenges in their play are widespread and far-reaching. Adventurous play helps children to build the resilience needed to cope with, and manage stress in challenging circumstances.”

— ANI



ROUND-UP



SHOP NOW

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LuLu launches ‘Kingdom of Mangoes’ festival

As part of the festival, LuLu has flown in more than 50 varieties of the tropical fruit from countries across the world, including India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Yemen and more

MUSCAT: Lulu Hypermarket Oman has launched ‘Kingdom of Mangoes’ festival across all its stores in Oman. Largely popular among mango-lovers, this mango festival, held from May 24 to June 2, 2022, is a celebration of the King of Fruits and everything about this juicy, golden fruit.

The festival was inaugurated by H.E. Amit Narang, the Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, at Lulu Hypermarket Bausher, in the presence of Waleed Khalfan Al Mamari, Director of the Plant Quarantine Department, Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources, Lulu staff and customers.

This festival will showcase several species of the delicious fruit from different parts of the world. Customers will also be able to relish some of the special mango treats in the hot food, bak-



become a popular event among our customers. We have coordinated with our sourcing centers worldwide to help us bring in this delicious fruit for our customers at the most affordable prices. The different varieties of this tropical fruit are equally loved by people of all nationalities.

“We organise mango festival every year to not just promote the King of Fruits but also encourage the trading of this fruit worldwide. For this year’s fest, we have stacked up our aisles with a wide range of juicy and scrumptious mangoes, packed with vitamins and fiber, from countries all over the world. Whether in the form of pulps, juices, shakes, ice creams or desserts, this is the perfect opportunity for our customers to indulge in the temptation of these mouth-watering mangoes during the festival,” he added.

LuLu’s state-of-the-art food sourcing network and sophisticated logistics chain help provide and sustain the supply of global products at the most competitive rates. The Group’s excellent combination of high-quality offerings and value for money make it the favorite shopping destination for customers all over the country.

ery, sweets, and grocery section. Special mango delicacies, pickled mangoes, as well as mango preserves, smoothies, pulps, juices, jellies, and jams will also be available during the promotion.

As part of the festival, LuLu has flown in more than 50 varieties of the tropical fruit from countries across the world, including India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Yemen and more. The local collection of Omani mangoes is also a part of the highlight of this event. The promotion will also feature great deals and offers on freshly imported selection of mangoes across all LuLu stores.

Shabeer K A, Regional Director – Lulu Hypermarkets, Oman, said “For the past several years, Lulu has been promoting the festival of mangoes and this year’s ‘Kingdom of Mangoes’ is sure to

COLLABORATION

Khedmah provides Oman Post, Asyad Express services in 44 branches

MUSCAT: Oman Investment & Finance Company (Khedmah) has expanded the scope of its services to provide Oman Post & ASYAD Express’ comprehensive range of postal or logistics services at Khedmah locations around the Sultanate, as part of its efforts to meet customers’ demands and keep pace with their goals.

The collaboration is intended to improve customers’ experiences by providing useful and simple services through a widespread network. Customers can now benefit from a package of Oman Post and Asyad Express services through 44 Khedmah branches across the Sultanate. Furthermore, it enables institutions to communicate and work towards a common aim of enhancing the Sultanates’ economy.

Post box subscription, subscription fee payment, subscription, renewal, and mailing parcels locally and internationally are among Khedmah’s services for Oman post, and ASYAD Express.

Muscat City Center, Muscat Grand Mall, Nesto Hypermarket Al Maabilah, Liwan Al Safina Complex in Al Ghubra, Al Nawras Mall in Al Khuwair, Safer



Mall Sohar, Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Ashkharah, Al Khaboura, Wadi Al Ma’awil, Adam, and a variety of other locations are among the 44 Khedmah branch network.

“Through our collaboration with Oman Post & ASYAD we’re continuing our efforts in analysing customers’ needs and studying the market’s changes in order to provide the best services and facilitate peoples’ lives,” said Khidmah Ahmed Safrar, Chief Executive Officer of Khedmah.

AT COMEX 2022

NBO showcases next generation of banking and finance technology

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) participates in this year’s COMEX 2022 as Gold sponsors that was inaugurated by Dr Khamis bin Saif bin Hamoud Al-Jabri, Chairman of the Oman Vision 2040. The Sultanate of Oman’s official technology, communications, innovation and digital transformation exhibition, demonstrates the advances in financial technology and the bank’s capabilities to drive Oman towards a digitally-enabled future.

Held at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) from 23-25 May, COMEX 2022 – the 31st annual staging of the event – includes a public exhibition, workshops and seminars, as well as deep dive specialist events throughout the year. In addition to exhibiting the measures the bank has implemented to fulfil the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, NBO is proud to be one of the main contributors to Banking & Finance (fintech) Technology Week, presented by the Central Bank of Oman.

Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail & Digital Banking Officer at NBO, said, “COMEX 2022 is the ideal platform for the bank to showcase the next step in the digital transformation of Oman’s financial sector. Banking & Finance Technology Week gives us the opportunity to gain insight into global trends, understand customer



needs and continue to build on our reputation as a first mover to adopt the latest technology and develop innovative products and services to empower customers and make their banking needs more convenient.”

NBO was the first local bank in Oman and since its inception 50 years ago it has introduced many market firsts to the country. Relentlessly pioneering new technologies, the bank has fully embraced the digital transformation of banking and was first in the country to introduce self-service kiosks, a Merchant App specifi-

cally designed to serve micro and home businesses, and adopted QR codes as a form of payment on POS Machines.

In addition, NBO further expanded the payment options available to customers with its Badeel Prepaid Card which offers all of the advantages of banking with NBO without the need to open an account.

Most recently, NBO introduced digital onboarding which has made opening an account easier than ever as customers simply enter their details and select the type of account they wish to open

through the award-winning NBO Mobile App and let the bank take care of the rest. The multi-lingual NBO app also allows customers to instantly send funds of up to OMR 7,500 from their account using the bank’s digital remittance service available anywhere at any time.

Each year, COMEX is attended by over 30,000 visitors and features over 100 exhibitors from more than 15 countries. COMEX 2022 focuses on major industries and sectors listed in the national strategy for development, including Banking and Finance.

GOOD OPPORTUNITY

Own a Lexus with exclusive benefits before campaign ends

MUSCAT: Lexus enthusiasts have a good opportunity to own their favourite Lexus and benefit with Service 5 Years / 50,000 kms (whichever is earlier), and 1 Year Free Registration. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

Owning a Lexus is one of the finest experiences. Customers can choose from a wide range that includes luxury SUVs, sedans and coupes too.

The all-new NX is equipped with two powertrain options. A newly developed inline 4-cylinder, 2.4 L turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 430 nm of torque and is mated to a new 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission (8AT). Meanwhile, the new hybrid-electric system combines

two power sources consisting of a 2.5-liter petrol engine and two electric motors producing 240 hp. The hybrid-electric system is also mated to a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).

The Lexus UX has a front-wheel drive configuration and is powered by a high-efficiency 2.0 litre, four-cylinder engine, which is coupled with a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission (DCVT).

The five-seat Lexus RX350 is equipped with a 3.5-liter V6 that is mated to an eight speed automatic transmission. The RX is also available in a 3-row 7-seater option. Also available is the Lexus RX450h, a hybrid version featuring a 3.5-liter Atkinson-cycle engine.

The Lexus GX460 is perfect for families who seek no-holds-barred adventure on their days off, yet also desire an easy-driving, comfortable and versatile luxury SUV for the work week. The Lexus GX460 features a 4.6L engine that provides outstanding power and responsive performance.

In sedans, the range includes the IS350. This sleek and stylish powerful sedan is equipped with a 3.5-liter engine that’s paired to an 8-speed automatic transmission. The turbocharged IS300 features a 2.0-liter twin-scroll turbocharged inline four-cylinder engine with intercooler that generates 241 Hp.

The flagship LS which is an inspiring luxury sedan, is available in 3.5-litre V6 Multi Stage Hybrid System producing 354 hp, a 3.5-li-

tre V6 naturally aspirated Atkinson-cycle producing 311 hp and 38.7 Kg.M Torque, and a 3.5-litre twin-turbo V6 engine producing 415 hp and 61.2 Kg.M of Torque.

Lexus ES emotional design elevated by the new design front grille is a thrilling drive personality imbued by two powertrain options. ES350 is powered by a 3.5 litre, 24 valve, V6 engine that produces 298 hp and 36.3 kg.m. of torque. While the ES250 is powered by high efficiency 2.5 litre, 16-valve DOHC engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg.m of torque.

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





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ROUND-UP



ADDED BENEFITS

10% cash reward awaits salary transfer customers of ahli islamic till May end

MUSCAT: Continuing to offer added benefits to its customers and assessing their various needs, ahli islamic has announced the extension of the salary transfer offer until the end of May, through which it offers a 10 per cent cash reward of the total salary, up to a maximum of OMR500. All current and new ahli islamic customers from Oman and expatriates, whose monthly salary is at least OMR1,000, are eligible to receive a one-time offer.

This initiative is part of the Bank's strategic efforts to enhance its services and products, maximising benefits for its customers, within a framework that conforms to the Islamic-sharia principles. Through its new salary transfer campaign, which runs until the end of May 2022, ahli islamic aims to provide its customers with Islamic banking products and services that suit the ever-evolving choices of today's customer.

Yousuf bin Salim Al Rawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of ahli Islamic said, "Islamic

banking has recently become increasingly popular among Oman's new workforce, which is characterised by being more aware, and decisive of their choices. Clearly, the trend is attributed to customer's awareness of the benefits offered by Islamic banks. By extending our promotion period, we hope to expand the benefits of this offer to an increased number of our customers."

"The Bank's cashback reward to its salary transfer customers is an exclusive opportunity that allows customers to make a wise choice and invest their money in line with their conviction. It also serves the national priority of financial inclusion among the community, especially among youth," he added. ahli islamic is committed to ensuring that its innovative offers with Sharia-compliant products and services are catered throughout the Sultanate. Based on the principle of honesty and transparency, the Bank offers end-to-end Sharia-compliant banking solutions to retail, SME and corporate clients.



MORE CHOICES



Avail Suhail Bahwan Automobiles' exclusive after-sales service scheme to make your Nissan summer ready

MUSCAT: Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA)'s special service scheme 'Happy Wednesday' and 'Exciting Thursday' has received a great response from customers. The service scheme also helps customers better prepare their vehicle to deal with summer conditions.

A senior official of SBA said, "Giving our customers more choices and new service schemes to make the ownership experience better is a top priority. The 'Happy Wednesday' and 'Exciting Thursday' will extend the best service to our customers. As customer centric brand, we are delighted to extend this exclusive service schemes. Our technical team will use Genuine Nissan Parts to ensure quality and reliability during service as they have access to diagnostic equipment, designed to keep your vehicle performing to optimum standards especially during the summers."

Under 'Happy Wednesday' customers who visit their nearest Suhail Bahwan Automobiles Service Centre with prior appointment on any Wednesday during the campaign period can avail exciting benefits including 20 per cent discount on window film, ceramic coating and interior cleaning.

Prior appointments

Additionally, all customers who visits workshop on Wednesday with prior appointments will get a chance to win any of the assured service through 'scratch and win' including free next periodic maintenance service, free body polish, free interior cleaning and free rust proofing. They have a chance to win their next periodic maintenance service through a raffle.

As per the 'Exciting Thursday' scheme customers with prior appointment on any Thursday during the campaign period can avail exciting benefits for model year 2016. They will get 20% discount on periodic maintenance service and 20% discount on value added services. Value added services include window film, ceramic coating, anti-bacterial treatment, interior cleaning, rust proofing, headlight polishing and many more.

Through a raffle draw customers have a chance to win their next periodic maintenance service. The offer is eligible for model year 2016 and prior.

The special scheme is valid up to May 26, 2022.

Book a home test drive

SBA is extending a 'book a home test drive' service for its prospective customers. The service enables potential customers to schedule their test drive online as per their convenience. A home test drive can be booked simply by logging on to the official SBA Nissan Oman website on the link <https://en.nissanoman.com/services/book-home-test-drive.html> or through customer service toll free number 80050011.

Awards for Nissan

Nissan has been conferred with Oman's Most Trusted Brand 2021 in the crossover category at a recently held ceremony at held at Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Continuously winning the trust of Oman residents, Nissan is now among the top brands to be conferred with 'Oman's Most Trusted Brand' honour for five times in a row in the automobile category.

Nissan, considered a premium and trusted name in the market has won the award across categories including SUV, crossover, 4WD and mid-size since 2016. The award is instituted by Apex Press and Publishing.

SBA commitment

SBA is largely committed to supporting Nissan's growth in the Sultanate through major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman.

With a national network of 14 showrooms, 17 service centres and 24 spare parts outlets, SBA has further built upon its legacy of excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.

The developer has announced that the enhancement of the rear side road, behind the mall, to a four-lane road, will be completed in the next few days

MUSCAT: On track with its transformational journey, Oman Avenues Mall is gearing up to host Oman's first IKEA megastore through its mall expansion development. The redevelopment project comprises large-scale infrastructure enhancements, including the introduction of a dedicated flyover extension to the development as well as bridges and the expansion of adjacent roads that will connect the property to major population-centric areas. The road connectivity and expansions are being completed under the prudent leadership of Al Taher Group, the developers of Oman Avenues Mall.

The developer has announced that the enhancement of the rear side road, behind the mall, to a four-lane road, will be completed in the next few days whilst the two bridges connecting the sub-ject road to either direction of Sultan Qaboos street are also fast progressing. The extension of the flyover connection to the mall is expected to be completed in the



latter part of the year, however, the new street-level connection from Sultan Qaboos street to the lower ground parking will be completed soon. These plans to expand the road network around the mall will contribute to enhancing the shopping experience.

"We are pleased that the expansion works of Oman Avenues Mall are on schedule. Al Taher Group is dedicated to delivering result-driven outcomes and this is because we are fully equipped to take on new global market prospects," said Eng. Saud Mohammed Al Khalili, Development Director, Al Taher Group. "This project is a landmark development in Muscat that is advantageously situated to meet local demand in a burgeoning catchment area with a youthful demography and positioned to serve Oman's flourishing business and leisure visitor numbers," he added.

In preparation for a projected increase in footfalls, new parking spaces are being created, which include 550 bays on the roof level and Lower ground level. This will horizontally integrate the parking area to the second level and directly to the cinemas, food court and family entertainment center.

Likewise, an extension to the lower ground level parking will also connect another 500 spots to the mall, which will seamlessly link to the open parking on the mall's north wing. Parking information will be made available through innovative directional signs, making it simple for visitors to locate available parking. The mall will also institute an exclusive parking area for loyal customers with special access to the mall through private lift access.

Supported by the introduction of smart navigation stands as well as interactive digital screens, the refurbishment project will rein-vigorate the customer journey within the mall. Oman Avenues Mall will also offer valet parking and drop-off services to enhance the guest experience. To encourage customer sustainability, the mall aims to foster its accessibility standards through better road connectivity and the construction of a flyover that will directly link visitors to the mall.

"Since its inception, Oman Avenues Mall has become Oman's leading retail and leisure destination. Our mall's transformational plan is in anticipation of changing customer expectations and is in

line with global retail trends. The expansion project would deliver a fresh and diverse offering that would enrich the consumer experience," said Gogi George, General Manager, Development and Leasing, Lulu Group International. "We are also future-proofing a key asset that is important to Oman and its numerous flagship retail outlets, restaurants and leisure facilities, therefore, attracting more local and international visitors. It will also enable us to serve new communities that are located around the Mall. This makeover is ideally aligned with the Sultanate's strategic vision to strengthen the capital's standing as a desirable business, tourism, and lifestyle destination," he further added.

Oman Avenues Mall, the Sultanate's premier destination for shopping, dining, and luxury experiences, is on track with its transformation journey. With a four-phase makeover plan afoot, the mall is driving positive changes to become bigger and better. Already offering a unique ambience and guest experience, the mall is gearing up for hosting leading global brands across segments, to provide a complete and aesthetic experience to customers.

IN OMAN

Milano by Danube continues to flourish

MUSCAT: Since its inception over a decade ago, Milano, which is owned by the Danube Group and principally known for the finest bath and home solutions, has become a household name in Oman. Milano began with sanitaryware and has now evolved to include tiles, hardware, electrical, water purifiers, water heaters, and professional tools.

Not only did Milano swiftly recover but also recorded a growth of over 20 per cent, a year after the pandemic that changed the world's dynamics. Among all other segments, the company's primary product line, sanitaryware, has performed well.

Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman of the Danube Group, stated, "Despite the pandemic, Milano expanded by 20% over 2021, thanks to our strong trader network and an assortment of high-quality



products." "We had an advantage over our competition since we maintained our inventory levels despite rising raw material prices," Sajjan, who was recently in Oman, quoted. While the strong network of traders caters to the B2B segment, the retail buyers can visit their nearest Danube Home showroom located Al Khuwair, Mabella,

Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Sur, Salalah for their home solutions needs.

Sajjan gave an insight into strategies adopted that led to the growth of Milano.

"Our primary goal is to meet and exceed demands of our consumers, and in order to do so, we make sure to grow our product lines with the necessary items, mak-

ing Milano a one-stop shop for all home renovation solutions." A diverse set of professional tools has recently been introduced to the brand's repertoire.

Milano has become a household name in Oman's urban and suburban areas, not only for sanitaryware but also for doors, electrical, and hardware items, thanks to its wide range of high-quality and affordable products. The brand is reaching out to traders from the interiors, such as Ibri, Ibra Duqm, Nizwa, Sinaw, Al Ashkhara, Izki, Jalan Bu Ali, Al Kamil, Sur, Quriyat, Shinas, Wadijizi, and Liwa.

Milano intends to attain greater growth in 2022 as part of its brand strategy. In addition, the company has increased its research and development activities in order to launch new line of products in the future to serve multiple markets throughout the world.



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ROP, Bank Muscat to continue with joint anti-fraud campaign

The jointly-run campaign advises the public to always verify who they are dealing with before conducting any transaction, and also follow 'best practices' for their digital safety



MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) and Bank Muscat have announced that they will continue to cooperate closely and partner in implementing their joint anti-fraud campaign for the third consecutive year.

This announcement comes after the great success of the campaign in previous years as well as the excellent feedback from the general public regarding enhanced awareness of various types of

fraud and preventing them. With digital payments building momentum over the past, criminals from across the globe have increased efforts to defraud the general public, including new ways to cheat people through fake business deals, products and services.

The awareness campaign is being carried out as part of social responsibility using various media channels including Oman TV, radio, print, online media, and social media. The jointly-run campaign advises the public to always verify who they are dealing with before conducting any transaction, and also follow 'best practices' for their digital safety. The campaign provides examples of how fraudsters are perpetrating fraud and the consequences of blindly trusting people, especially when making purchases through the Internet without being sure of the seller's credentials. The messages of the 2022 campaign provide examples of how fraudsters are perpetrating fraud and the consequences of sharing personal or banking data with others. This is especially true when conducting transactions online. A number of informational videos and messages are being broadcast to the general public through both traditional and digital media, which emphasises the prevention of fraud

that targets children and youth as well as their parents through online games that steal banking data, phishing emails that target businesses and individuals etc. The campaign has pointed out that legacy communication channels like email need not be very secure as fraudsters can use their technical knowhow to hijack emails between a customer and a legitimate business through "Man in the Middle" attacks. In such instances, the fraudsters replace the details mentioned for fund transfers with those of the fraudster such that funds are transferred to the wrong account. In some cases, fraudsters also try to pressurize or blackmail victims to share their OTPs, CVV security code, passwords and PINs of their cards and bank accounts. Once these details are shared, the victim's bank account may be accessed by the fraudster and funds transferred out of the account. Often fraudsters may claim to be employees of financial institutions or security officials to convince their victims to hand over the details.

The campaign reminded all people that these details should never be shared with anyone, including those claiming to be a bank employee or an official. With cases of electronic fraud increasing globally and often causing tremendous financial and psychological harm to both individuals and businesses, Bank Muscat has further strengthened its efforts to combat this crime by partnering regularly with a number of institutions and authorities including the Royal Oman Police, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and other institutions. Also, the public can easily contact the Royal Oman Police hotline at 80077444 to report fraud or for any fraud-related queries. Notably, the excellent efforts of the Royal Oman Police in promoting awareness related to electronic fraud is today well recognised at all levels. Earlier, the Royal Oman Police won the Award for the Best Awareness Film in Combating Cybercrimes at the 44th Conference of Arab Police and Security Leaders 2021 held in Tunis in 2021.

DHOFAR AUTOMOTIVE

Special offers on MOPAR services

MUSCAT: Dhofar Automotive, the official distributor of Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler, RAM, Fiat, Alfa Romeo vehicles and MOPAR brand, the official supplier of spare parts and aftersales services of Stellantis in Oman, announced the launch of attractive MOPAR offers. Dhofar Automotive will be offering several benefits and incredible discounts on original spare parts and maintenance services from MOPAR to its customers who conduct periodic inspections of their cars, to ensure safety. The offer now allows Jeep Wrangler 'JK' owners to get up to 20 per cent off on brake pads and discs, in addition to providing valuable gifts to all customers when purchasing or using MOPAR engine oils. These offers are valid until the end of May 30.



Commenting on these offers, Hatem Al Najjar, General Manager of Dhofar Automotive said, "MOPAR aims to encourage customers to periodically check their vehicles and ensure that all parts are safe and ready to go in perfect performance. This is because vehicle owners tend to take trips within the Sultanate as well as abroad during this time of year and spend holidays in remote places, travelling long distances in high temperatures. Therefore, the vehicle must be fully inspected and the appropriate maintenance carried out to ensure its readiness. We at Dhofar Automotive place the comfort and safety of our customers as our top priority and ensure that their vehicles are always ready and in the best possible condition, through the approved inspection of vehicle safety points as well as providing an integrated set of maintenance services and original spare parts from MOPAR at affordable prices."

"We are pleased to invite all our valued customers to take advantage of MOPAR offers. We recommend that they conduct periodic inspections and maintenance that their vehicles require while enjoying the offers that will continue until May 30. All MOPAR lubricants products are now provided with API GF-6 grade, the latest and most advanced API specified engine oil developed and recommended by engineering for Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and RAM vehicles.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY

Eshraqa's 'Tasees' and ASMED organise boot-camp for SMEs

MUSCAT: In working towards the strategic goal of establishing the Sultanate as a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, Khimji Ramdas Eshraqa's Entrepreneurship Academy (EEA) - "Tasees" recently organised a first-of-its-kind "Business Finance" workshop for small-medium enterprise (SME) owners. The workshop was part of a training and development boot-camp series that has been planned in collaboration with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED).

"Tasees's training programme is the first in a series of workshops organised for SMEs who hold a Riyada card, and have been in business for more than a year. Initiated to solve a major pain area for SME owners, especially Finance - the programme received over 200 applications from across Oman were shortlisted on multiple parameters. 15 SME owners were then chosen to join the training programme's classroom sessions held at EEA's premises in Azaiba, over three consecutive days. Participants were chosen from various sectors including tourism, oil and gas supplies, manufacturing, healthcare, auto servicing, construction, and land



surveying, to name a few. Some of the topics that were discussed during the workshop include the history of business, use of money, income statements, the health of a business, financial ratios, net present value, as well as internal rate of return. Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group mentioned: "Entrepreneurship has been identified as an important driver of sustainable social and economic growth under Oman's Vision 2040. With small businesses fast becoming the backbone of local communities and an engine for the national economy, it has never been more important to ensure that entrepreneurs and small business owners have access to the right educational resources, insights, and solutions. 'Tasees' partnership with ASMED is aligned with this, and is the latest in our efforts to deliver on the

needs of these critical businesses so they can manage and grow their ventures better." Haitham Khalid Al Qarni, Assistant Director for Empowerment and Development Directorate, ASMED stated: "Organised in collaboration with ASMED, 'Tasees' training programmes are designed in keeping with the needs of the SME sector, and aim to enable business owners to enhance and develop their capabilities. Financial Management is one of the most important aspects of entrepreneurship that business owners must know in detail; particularly reading financial statements, and being aware of their own financial position." "We have begun these training series in Muscat and will be implementing the same in other governorates, so that more SME owners can benefit from it. ASMED encourages the private sector to work with SMEs as a part of its social responsibility initiatives. Eshraqa is a fine example of corporate social responsibility in the training sector when it comes to SMEs."

Nadeem Ahmed, Chief Consultant - Tasees and Eshraqa Mentors, who was the Facilitator of the Training Programme said: "SMEs play a pivotal role in the growth of the economy. In fulfilling its commitment to be an active contributor in developing Oman's SME ecosystem, 'Tasees' has always been keen to discuss, collaborate and come up with innovative interventions that benefit SMEs, ultimately contributing to the sustainable socio-economic scenario of the country. We are pleased to have this association with ASMED and support SME owners in developing their understanding and skills that will enable them to succeed further."

3D PRINTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Oxy Oman representatives attend closing ceremony for Awtad

MUSCAT: Oxy Oman representatives recently attended the closing ceremony event for the company's exclusively - sponsored "Awtad" 3D Printing Educational Programme and competition. Awtad has trained teachers and 10th grade students in 3D printing technology, to help develop their skills in the field. The program is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, and organised by InnoTech, an Omani SME in the 3D printing and technology field.

The closing event was held at the Ministry of Education under the auspices of Majid bin Said Al

Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs, and the attendance of Said Al Balushi, Senior Vice President Technical at Oxy Oman, along with senior representatives of the company.

Practical workshops

The closing event celebrated the winning 3D projects created by the participating students as part of Awtad's final 3D Printing Competition. Awtad held a series of practical workshops to engage over 230 students, as well as teachers from across the country in design-

ing and creating 3D printed products and objects. The programme aims to create high level awareness of 3D printing across schools in the Sultanate, as well as its uses and benefits.

"We're happy to celebrate these students and teachers for their creative 3D projects as a successful completion of the Awtad program. The program is in-line with Oxy Oman's Social Responsibility objectives of supporting cutting-edge technological innovation and education. We're proud to exclusively sponsor Awtad through our continuous collaboration with the

Ministry of Education, to advance creativity and educational excellence across the Sultanate," said Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager at Oxy Oman.

This sponsorship falls under Oxy Oman's endeavour and long-term commitment to support programmes that enhance innovation and creativity, and is part of Oxy Oman's endeavour and long-term commitment to support programmes that enhance economic growth and sustainable development and that yield positive impacts in the neighbouring communities.





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