

OMANI INNOVATOR TO JOIN FINAL STAGE OF 'STARS OF SCIENCE' PROGRAMME

Omani innovator Sumaya Said Al Seyabi will join the final qualifiers for the 14th edition of the "Stars of Science" programme, organised by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. **>A5**



OMAN POST, TANZANIA POST LAUNCH POSTAL STAMP

Oman Post and Tanzania Posts Corporation launched a joint stamp that commemorates the long-standing historical ties between Oman and Tanzania, in a ceremony held in the United Republic of Tanzania on 9 October 2022 and attended by senior government dignitaries from both countries. **>A2**



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Zanzibar President arrives today



MUSCAT: Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar will begin an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday.

Oman and Zanzibar share a strong and long-standing historical and cultural ties and the visit by Mwinyi is expected to further bolster the existing relations.

Ahead of the visit, the Diwan of Royal Court said, "The visit aims to enhance the existing bilateral cooperation in several fields and push these towards broader and more comprehensive horizons in the service of common interests and in order to achieve more growth, development and prosperity."

Desired goals

"During the visit, aspects of existing cooperation between the two countries and ways to strengthen these will be discussed to achieve the desired goals and aspirations of the two peoples."

The visit of the Zanzibar President, it is hoped, will further spur the trade relations between the two nations.

In this context, it may be said, Oman Investment Authority plays a key role in facilitating investments in East Africa following the opening of its office in Tanzania in February 2015. — **UNA**

BEFORE HM, ENVOYS TAKE OATH



The oath taking ceremony was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs

MUSCAT: Before His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, a number of ambassadors took the oath of office at Al Barakah Palace on Monday morning.

They are:

- Badr Mohammed Badr Al

Manthri, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- HH Sayyid Nizar Al Julanda Majid Al Said, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to

the Republic of Italy.

- Maithaa Saif Majid Al Mahrouqi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federal Republic of Germany.

- Talal Sulaiman Habib Al Rahbi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

- Hilal Abdullah Ali Al Sinani, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Tunisia.

- Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Said Al Sa'eedi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Lebanon.

- Abdulghafar Abdulkarim Issa Al Balushi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

- Saif Nasser Rashid Al Bada'ei, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

- Ahmed Ali Said Al Rashdi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

- Mahmoud Hamad Nasser Al Hassani, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Swiss Confederation.

- Mohammed Abdullah Awadh Al Nahdi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Cyprus.

- Hamoud Salim Abdullah Al Tuwayah, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation.

- Irma Said Mohammed Al

Kathiri, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam.

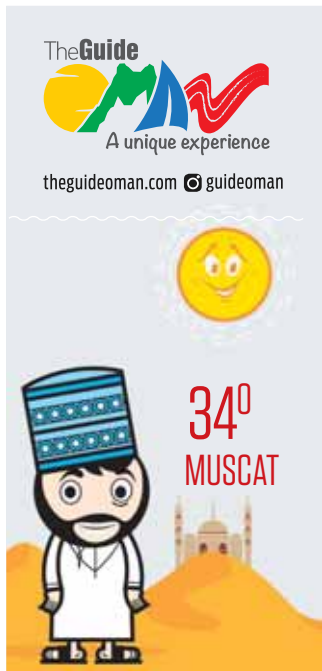
- Ru'aa Issa Ashraf Al Zedjali, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Belgium.

- Sayyid Faisal Hareb Hamad Al Busaidi, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- Omar Said Omar Al Kathiri, appointed-ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Spain.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs. — **UNA**

More pictures on **>A4**



'Wosool' programme to help realise Oman Vision 2040

A5

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Second edition of Bilarab bin Haitham Award launched

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said on Monday launched the second edition of Bilarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design.

This step comes after the success of the first version and the completion of handing over the project which won first-place to Muscat Municipality for the implementation and development of the project.

HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said confirmed in a statement that he was honoured to receive a royal order from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq that the second cycle of the award shall adopt a project to create the design of a museum for maritime history. The museum will be set up in the Wilayat of Sur, Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah.

HH Sayyid Bilarab expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for the confidence accorded to the award.

HH Sayyid Bilarab urged Omani youth targeted by the award to harness all their technical capabilities and architectural skills to participate in this version of the award, and to present innovative and creative models and designs in line with the project's mission and objectives.



He also pointed out that the award will invite Omani youth to submit their artistic perceptions of the museum for maritime history. The museum's project will be implemented in the Wilayat of Sur, overlooking to the sea.

HH Sayyid Bilarab said that the rich heritage enjoyed by the Wilayat of Sur tells many stories of maritime glories, taking the name of Sur to fame. As such, the award will revive these maritime glories and will work to document them, and pass them on to future generations. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Six-day Oman Science Festival gets underway

1 The third edition of Oman Science Festival 2022 kicked off under the patronage of Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology. The six-day event is themed "Together we live the Passion of Science". The opening ceremony included an introductory film of the Oman Science Festival. **>A3**

GULF UAE President to visit Russia

2 UAE President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will pay a visit to the friendly Russian Federation on Tuesday, during which he will meet with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. During his visit, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed will discuss with President Putin the friendly relations between the UAE and Russia and a number of regional and international issues. **>A6**



MARKET Real estate deals top OMR192mn in 2022

3 Real estate transactions worth over OMR192 million have been made in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of August 2022, and more than 22,000 title deeds have been issued during the same period. According to a report issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the value of real estate transactions in the Sultanate till August this year has exceeded OMR192 million. **>B1**

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	11:59pm
Asr.....	3:20pm
Maghrib.....	5:50pm
Isha.....	7:00pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:47am

MEETING

General Consul of Oman to Mumbai hands over consular patent

MUMBAI: Jamil Haji Al Balushi, General Consul of the Sultanate of Oman to Mumbai handed over the consular patent to Manisha Mhaikar, Chief Protocol Officer of Maharashtra Government.

Al Balushi expressed his best wishes to the government and people of India in achieving further progress and prosperity.

In her turn, the Chief Protocol Officer of Maharashtra Government expressed her best wishes of success for the General Consul in carrying out his duties.

-ONA



ASYAD GROUP

Oman Post and Tanzania Post issue postal stamp jointly



Times News Service

ZANZIBAR: Oman Post and Tanzania Posts Corporation launched a joint stamp that commemorates the long-standing historical ties between Oman and Tanzania, in a ceremony held in the United Republic of Tanzania on 9 October 2022 and attended by senior government dignitaries from both countries.

The joint stamp, considered a first-of-its-kind initiative in Oman's postal history, was adapted from an oil painting by revered Omani artist and designer, Sami Syabi who paints in a realist tradition with detail and accuracy.

The new uniquely designed stamp illustrates the cultural and architectural contributions of the Sultanate of Oman in the United Republic of Tanzania as it depicts the Zanzibar shoreline with some governmental buildings facing the shore, including the Corniche in Zanzibar and the House of Wonders, the largest and tallest building of Stone Town, which is one of six palaces built in 1883 by Barghash bin Said, the second Sultan of Zanzibar.

In addition to the House of Wonders, Tanzania is home to several magnificent structures that attest to the favourable influence of Oman, which contributed to the development of small villages into renowned towns such as Zanzibar.

The issuance of this historic Joint Stamp Issue was welcomed in a joint government statement between the Sultanate and Tanzania during the state visit of Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, earlier this year.

The statement also welcomed the strategic partnership between Oman Post, Asyad Express and Tanzania Post to cooperate in the fields of eCommerce and logistical solutions and services.

Commenting on this occasion, Nasser Al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express said: "This Joint Stamp Issue is part of the activation of the strategic partnership between Oman Post, Asyad Express and Tanzania Post, stemming from the friendly and historical ties between Oman and Tanzania."

Asyad Group represented by Oman Post and Asyad Express will ensure that our strategic partnership and collaboration with Tanzania Post is a resounding success under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik."

On his part, Macrice Daniel Mbodo, Postmaster General of Tanzania Posts Corporation said: "We are pleased to join hands with Oman Post once again to revive history and strengthen our bilateral co-operation. This Joint Stamp is part of the activation of our partnership with Oman Post."

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PRESENTS

Times OF OMAN
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Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022
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THIRD EDITION

Oman Science Festival 2022 gets underway

MUSCAT: The third edition of Oman Science Festival 2022 kicked off under the patronage of Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology.

The six-day event is themed "Together we live the Passion of Science". Dr. Abdullah Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the festival, said: "The implementation of this national festival in its third edition is more extensive than it was, with an increase in the number of halls, events and activities, and the presence of external participation in seminars and workshops presented in the margin of the festival."

The opening ceremony included an introductory film of the Oman Science Festival, and a tour of the chief guest of the ceremony and the attendees around the corners of the festival which includes 70 corners.

These corners included many interactive scientific activities and workshops, scientific exhibitions of innovations, scientific experiments, scientific competitions, lectures and discussion sessions, and scientific theatre.

Among these corners, the health corner which includes 46 activities, the education corner includes 18 activities, the skills corner includes 3 activities, the commerce and trading corner includes 20 activities.

The scientific innovations exhibition includes 75 innovations from various governmental and private institutions and military bodies, while the corner of the innovative workshop includes 11 workshops that varies between innovations modelling, marketing, developing, and preserving ideas.

The space and aeronautics corner includes 30 activities while the food safety corner includes 21 activities. The artificial intel-



ligence corner includes 25 activities while the environment corner includes 24 various activities. The international organisations, agencies and institutions are divided into two corners: the universe wonders corner which presents the cosmic phenomena in an interactive way, delivered by a number of scientists from the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, and the University of Glasgow.

The second corner is the peaceful nuclear science in cooperation with the international atomic energy agency in which specialists showcase the most prominent technologies in nuclear energy uses in various aspects of life (medical, agricultural, commercial) in interactive way.

The scientific cinema includes 25 various scientific films throughout the festival days. The stema-zone corner includes 3 activities while the challenges corner includes 4 activities, and the scientific competitions corner includes various competitions, such as the hackathons, programming, robotics, and drones.

The scientific theatre includes two theatres: Ahmed bin Majid Theatre, which includes 12 activities, and Ibn Al Haytham Theatre which includes 35 activities.

The festival also includes interactive stands for the sponsors and innovation supporting corners. The innovation space presented by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation includes 4 activities and scientific stories. -ONA

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LABOUR MINISTRY



More than 31,000 Omanis employed in third quarter of 2022

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour on Monday issued an indicator on the performance of the "employment and replacement of expatriates" for the third quarter of 2022, in addition to an indicator on training.

The indicators reflect the Ministry's keenness on employment, on-the-job training and the localisation of jobs—an ultimate objective that is accorded great attention by the government.

As many as 31,354 Omanis received jobs during the 3rd quarter of 2022, constituting 90% of the target number of 35,000.

In the government sector, the localisation of jobs stood at 9,657 and comprised 96% of the target number of 10,000. In the private sector, as many as 13,544 received jobs, comprising 84% of target number of 16,000.

In the government sector,

The indicators reflect the Ministry's keenness on employment, on-the-job training and the localisation of jobs

training soared 273% over the target number of 2,000. Employment opportunities resulting from training stood at 5,460. In the private sector, on-the-job training stood at 2,693 and comprised 38% of the target number of 7,000. -ONA

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‘Wosool’ programme to help realise Oman Vision 2040

The project constitutes a significant component of Oman’s national digital transformation strategy and embodies the e-government approach towards the realisation of Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, presided over a ceremony to launch “Wosool” project on the management of electronic documents. The ceremony was held at Al Bustan Palace Hotel on Monday. The project constitutes a significant component of Oman’s national digital transformation strategy and embodies the e-government approach towards the realisation of Oman Vision 2040. The project seeks to set up a system of digital document exchange featuring all properties needed for the management of a document, right from the moment of its creation till its final stage.

Electronic documents
The process involves optimum handling of documents that is compatible with the national procedures’ manual for management of electronic documents. It also helps in unifying policies of fast e-document management and exchange. Hisham Khalid Al Roshedi, Director of Electronic Management



FUNCTION: The process involves optimum handling of documents that is compatible with the national procedures’ manual for management of electronic documents. - ONA



System at the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA), said in a speech on the occasion that “Wosool” project constitutes a shift forward in the documents sector, so that it could be transformed into a modern sector that keeps pace with the requirements of the future. “Wosool” will connect govern-

ment departments with each other and empowers the exchange and management of documents in an electronic manner. It cuts down costs and manages them electronically without going through the process of printing. A project will provide systems that protect digital content and prevents unauthorised

access to documents. It enhances security so that only authorised personnel could view and deal with a document through a set of properties and specifications associated with the comprehensive management of an establishment’s informational content.

-ONA

QATAR FOUNDATION

Omani innovator to join final stage of ‘Stars of Science’ programme

MUSCAT: Omani innovator Sumaya Said Al Seyabi will join the final qualifiers for the 14th edition of the “Stars of Science” programme, organised by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. She will participate with an environment-based project titled “Bio-analysis of microplastics from a perspective of biology and nanotechnology”. In a press conference held at the Ministry of Information today, Sumaya encouraged the audience to vote for her via the programme’s website(<https://www.starsofscience.com/voting/voting.php>). She pointed out that audience voting comprises 50 percent of the score of the contest due to be held on 13 October 2022, while the rest of the score will be decided by the jury. Sumaya said that her innovation provides a promising solution for environment pollution, since it introduces safe ways of neutralizing microplastics. Sumaya said that her access to final stage followed tough competition, which shows that Omani innovators command capabilities



over their fields of specialty. She expressed her wish to get the honour of raising Omani flag during international events. Mohammed Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, said that, since the Omani innovator’s project has a potential of protecting the aquatic environment and marine organisms, it has become incumbent upon us to lend her support through the electronic website of the contest programme. Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, stressed the need to support the Omani innovator’s scientific innovation which, he said, will contribute to the service of mankind. A recent survey was conducted on specimens of

elements from Omani ports to check their levels of safety, with special attention accorded to organic and non-organic pollutants, he explained. The Star of Science is a leading contest in the Arab world and it focuses on innovation and encourages regional entrepreneurs in interested in the fields of science and technology. -ONA

means of enhancing them.

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SECOND EDITION

< FROM A1 Omani architecture

Moreover, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has worked to provide and select the land plot designated for the project, which is located in a coastal area (14,154 square metres). The Award’s Office held meetings with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on the project’s details and the ministry will implement the winning project in the future.

Necessary conceptions of the project in terms of its facilities and other technical details have been prepared and they will be available to participants through the award’s guide.

HH Sayyid Bilarab added that it is hoped that the award will contribute to developing, modernising and renewing this important sector. This contribution will add a pleasant visual experience, and reduce any distortion and urban noise that does not correspond to the nature of the place, the urban identity and cultural heritage of Oman. He affirmed that the award aspires to highlight the Omani architecture featuring innovative nature and contemporary view, and enjoying a presence regionally and internationally.

HH Sayyid Bilarab said that through the first edition and according to the interaction witnessed through various platforms of the award, we can say that the beginning was successful.

This, he added, was reflected in the youth’s keenness to participate. Moreover, their proposals and the participants’ different design methods, confirm that the award’s message reached a wide category.

HH Sayyid Bilarab said that through the previous experience with the award, it can be said that the award initiated a dialogue with the youth. The papers and designs they presented undoubtedly reflect their ideas, perceptions and aspirations. This proves that the youth are capable of creating architectural designs they aspire to see in Oman, as well as their artistic perceptions in developing architecture in the country.

He said that when the Bilarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design was launched in its first edition, it strived for development and renewal and it works to achieve an added value for Oman and the participants. The second edition will run for four months which is two times longer than the first edition.

The award’s programme will include technical workshops for the participants who qualify from the first stage. The award will also include two qualifying stages to accommodate more candidates.

Through the first stage, thirty participants will be qualified out of the total applicants, while in the second stage ten participants will be qualified out of the thirty participants (individuals or work teams), HH Sayyid Bilarab said.

On the criteria for participation in the second edition of the award, HH Sayyid Bilarab confirmed that the general criteria are in accordance with what was announced at the launch of the first edition. The award targets Omani youth who are specialized in the fields of architecture, design and urban planning and they must be no more than 35 years of age. However, as for the technical standards, they will be in line with the target project, and they will be announced in the special technical guide.

Regarding the jury that will sort and evaluate the works submitted for the award in its second edition; HH Sayyid Bilarab indicated that the jury panel comprises specialists in Oman. He pointed out that the panel also includes young people to meet the demands put forth during the first edition.

HH Sayyid Bilarab said that the award is keen to develop and enhance the capabilities of the participants. There will be technical workshops for thirty teams qualifying for the first stage. In addition, all participants will be provided with dialogue spaces through the award’s account on Twitter hosting architectural specialists, with the aim of enriching their knowledge. He added that participants must also strive for self-development of their architectural skills and capabilities through educational platforms or social media that provide lessons and relevant information.

HH Sayyid Bilarab added that Omani architecture enjoys rich details, inspiring ideas and capable of responding to development, in addition to its diversity from one governorate to another.

He pointed out that those who work in the sectors of architectural design can contribute to innovating and creating new Omani architectural designs capable of reaching global standards, while at the same time preserving the spirit of Omani originality.

HH Sayyid Bilarab concluded his statement by underscoring the importance of creativity for Omani youth who work in the field of architectural design. He also encouraged them to work on more modern designs which keep pace with futuristic developments. He underlined his confidence of the Omani youth’s capabilities. -ONA

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

Cooperation reviewed

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs met with Peter Launsky, Secretary General of the Austrian Foreign Ministry. The two sides reviewed aspects of cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields and

Exchange views
They also exchanged views on various regional and international matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by officials from the two countries’ foreign ministries. -ONA





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MEETING

AL BATINAH

Oman, Saudi Arabia review ties in research, innovation

MUSCAT: Several officials from the public sector met here on Monday with a Saudi delegation, which is headed by Eng. Abdullah Amer Al Swaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

The two sides discussed several matters of mutual interest.

They also reviewed areas of cooperation and partnership in various fields, namely higher education, research, innovation, information technology and communications. The meeting was attended by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Dr. Ali Amer Al



Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology. **TRA** Eng. Omar Hamdan Al Ismaili,

CEO of Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) met here with Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al Suwaiyan, Governor of the Saudi Digital Government Authority.

The two sides explored means of cooperation in the field of

space radio monitoring, telecommunications and information technology (IT).

The meeting was attended Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology.

The meeting comes within the framework of the current official visit of a Saudi delegation, headed by Abdullah Amer Al Swaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Saudi delegation will visit the Space Radio Monitoring Station of TRA on Tuesday.

-ONA

Maritime Security Centre conducts sea exercise



MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation Asyad Group and a number of military, security and civil departments, the Maritime Security Centre carried out a security drill (No. 2/2022) at Al Batinah maritime zone.

The drill was aimed at enhancing

coordination among military, security and civil authorities concerned to keep up their readiness to tackle challenges during crises and catastrophes that might threaten the marine environment, as well as unauthorized fishing. -ONA

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

Kuwaiti photographer wins first place in international Montphoto contest



MADRID: Kuwaiti wildlife photographer Mohammad Murad won first place in Montphoto international nature photography competition in Spain.

Murad mentioned that his photo, Domination, was awarded the first place in the Birds category during the concluding ceremony taking place last Saturday night, in town of Loret de Mar, Girona.

The photo depicts a Lappet Faced Vulture attacking 15 White Backed Vultures and taking their fallen prey for its own.

Murad took the award winning photo in a nature reserve in South Africa where he hid from dawn

until dusk for several days until he was able to capture this captivating moment, KUNA reported.

This is the second time Murad won an award in this contest, the first being in 2016 in Audience Choice category.

Montphoto is a prestigious international nature photography competition, taking place since 1997 and includes categories of mountains, mammals, birds, nature landscapes and so on.

The contest is considered a meeting point for amateurs and professionals as some 1,000 photographers participated in this edition with 11,200 photos. -BNA



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MINISTER OF HEALTH INAUGURATES THE WORLD HEALTH FORUM 2022

RIYADH: Minister of Health, Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al-Jalajel, inaugurated the World Health Forum and the accompanying exhibition, which will be held from 9-11 October at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center, with more than 26,000 people from 30 countries are expected to attend the event which represents the largest forum for healthcare professionals in the world.

The forum aims to create integration between the public and private sectors, provide investment opportunities, enable dialogue aimed at achieving the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and advance digital transformation in the healthcare sector. »

UAE PRESIDENT TO VISIT RUSSIA

ABU DHABI: President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will pay a visit to the friendly Russian Federation on Tuesday, during which he will meet with the Russian President Vladimir Putin.

During his visit, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed will discuss with President Putin the friendly relations between the UAE and Russia along with a number of regional and international issues and developments of common interest.

President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan concluded his two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Accompanying His Highness during the visit was a delegation comprising Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council; Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court; Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Sheikh Mohammed bin



Hamad bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Advisor for Special Affairs at the Presidential Court; Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State; Dr. Anwar Gargash, Diplomatic Adviser to the UAE President; Ali bin Hammad Al Shamsi, Deputy Secretary-General of the

Supreme Council for National Security; Jabr Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Minister of State at the Presidential Court; Mohamed Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to Oman; Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi, Chief Executive Officer at ADQ; and Major General Khalifa Rashid Juma Al Hamli, the President's Aide-de-Camp. -WAM

MOU

Saudi Arabia, IMF sign pact on boosting ties

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance Mohammad Al Jadaan and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva signed on Monday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on setting up a regional office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The memo focuses on bolstering cooperation between the IMF

and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, and boosting relations with the governments of the region's countries, KUNA reported. It also aims to expand the fund's activities in developing capabilities that makes Saudi Arabia the second largest contributor to building capabilities in the region, it added. -KUNA

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Shaikh Abdullah addresses roadmap for education

ABU DHABI: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, affirmed that the address that the UAE President statement on the occasion of World Teachers' Day serves as a beacon that illuminates teachers' paths towards excellence and a roadmap for improving the UAE's educational system.

throughout and after the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that they played a key role in accelerating recovery across the educational sector.

Shaikh Abdullah underscored teachers' role in fostering generations that are proud of their values and identity, as well as preparing them with the skills and knowledge required to drive development across society and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

He also affirmed that the UAE's wise leadership believes in the importance of education in accelerating sustainable development across all sectors, adding that the UAE's celebration of this special occasion is an expression of the pride it has in its educators. -WAM

TRANSMISSION GRID

Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant connected to grid

ABU DHABI: The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) announced that it has safely and successfully connected the unit to the UAE's transmission grid, delivering the first megawatts of carbon-free electricity from the third of the four units at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.

The step followed the start-up of Unit 3 of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, its operations and maintenance subsidiary, Nawah Energy Company (Nawah).

Unit 3 will add another 1,400 megawatts of zero-carbon emission electricity capacity to the national grid, a major step forward in guaranteeing UAE energy security and energy sustainability to tackle climate change – two of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

With both Units 1 and 2 already in commercial operation, generating clean electricity every minute of the day and with Unit 3 close to commercial operations in the coming months – Barakah is accelerating the decarbonisation of the power sector and forms an essential



component of the UAE's Net Zero 2050 Strategy.

The nuclear sector as whole is a vital part of the UAE's clean energy system of multiple low-carbon technologies, ensuring the reliability, efficiency and resilience of the UAE grid for at least the next 60 years.

Following grid connection, Unit 3 will undergo the process of gradually raising power levels, known as Power Ascension Testing (PAT). The process will be continuously monitored and tested until maximum electricity production is reached, while adhering to all local regulatory

requirements and the highest international standards of safety, quality and security.

The four units at Barakah alone is contributing 25 percent of the UAE's National Determined Contributions to Net Zero and is the largest source of dispatchable clean electricity. -WAM



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Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G.)

P.O. BOX 560, RIWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Mifah West, Bawter; Tel: # 90958 24437770 ext. 192, Fax # 90958 24437771)

TENDER
The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	27371	SUPPLY OF CHEMICALS FOR COOLING WATER TREATMENT PLANT	R.O. 52.50/-	27th October, 2022 1100 hours	1st November, 2022 2359 hours
2.	27375	SUPPLY OF EMPTY JUMBO BAGS 1.5 TONS	R.O. 52.500/-	27th October, 2022 1100 hours	1st November, 2022 2359 hours
3.	27531	SUPPLY OF CASTABLE	R.O. 52.500/-	27th October, 2022 1100 hours	1st November, 2022 2359 hours
4.	27536	DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF CLINKER BACK FEEDING SYSTEM FOR CM-5	R.O. 52.500/-	27th October, 2022 1100 hours	1st November, 2022 2359 hours

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

2. Tenders Bond to be applied electronically as per Esnad system procedure on the given website before the specified time of Submission. Electronic Tender Bond will be of not less than (1%) of the Total Tender Value of the highest offer (incase have multiple offers), valid for (120) days from the offers submission date and addressed to Chairman of the Tender Committee. Please note that without Tender Bond will not complete the submission of tender process as per Esnad procedure.

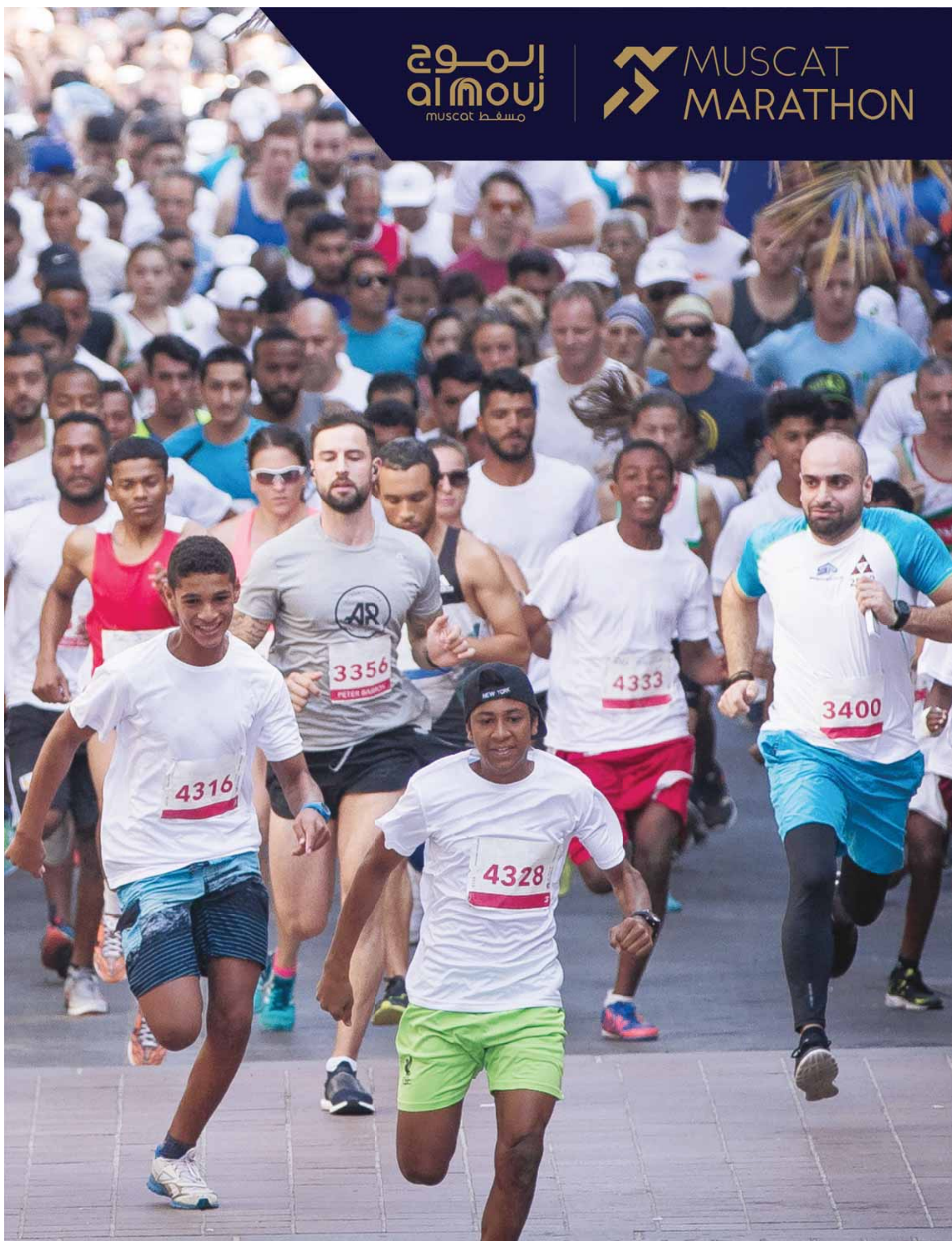
3. The tender clarification and queries will be directly on the on tender itself on Esnad system.

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

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

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Malaysian PM Yaakob dissolves parliament, triggering snap election

An election must be held within 60 days of the dissolution of parliament

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob dissolved parliament on Monday, paving the way for snap elections to be held in the coming weeks.

“Yesterday I met the king... and I sought his permission to dissolve the parliament,” Ismail said in a televised address to the nation. “And the king agreed to my request to dissolve parliament today.”

An election must be held within 60 days of the dissolution of parliament. In the same announcement, Ismail also called for the dissolution of Malaysia’s 13 state parliaments.

Monsoon season a threat

The move to dissolve parliament follows calls for early elections by Ismail’s own party, the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), to bring the vote forward.

The next election was not due until September of next year,



but Ismail faced strong pressure from within the party to capitalize on opposition in disarray and settle infighting within the ruling coalition.

The vote will likely be held around November, before the year-end monsoon season that often brings devastating floods.

Opposition parties have protested any plans to hold elections during the monsoon season, as have some figures from within the ruling coalition.

“This is an UMNO versus the people election,” said opposition lawmaker Liew Chin Tong.

PM’s party hoping for a stronger mandate

The UMNO had been feuding with smaller parties in its coalition and was hoping for a big win on its own.

“Ismail Sabri has succumbed to pressure by his party UMNO, serving the shortest tenure as a PM, and entering the country into polls during a dangerous season of monsoon floods,” said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert with Malaysia’s Nottingham University.

“UMNO believes it has the advantage with early polls and has maintained pressure as they

hope to return to power as the dominant party.”

Malaysia has had three prime ministers since longtime leader Najib Razak and his associates were accused of embezzling at least \$4.5 billion (€4.6 billion) in the 1MDB scandal in 2018. Najib was sentenced to 12 years in jail in August for the initial batch of charges.

In a statement, the palace said King Al-Sultan Abdullah was disappointed at recent political developments and hoped the electoral commission would call an election as soon as possible. **DW**

FORMER UP CM



Indian politician Mulayam Singh Yadav passes away

GURUGRAM: Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mulayam Singh Yadav passed away at a Gurugram Hospital on Monday, his son Akhilesh Yadav said.

The SP leader had been under critical condition for the past few days. Born on November 22, 1939, Mulayam Singh Yadav is one of the most prominent leaders of Uttar Pradesh who served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh thrice and has also served in the Union Government as the Minister of Defence.

He was elected 10 times as MLA and 7 times as Lok Sabha MP.

In July this year, the Samajwadi Party patriarch’s wife Sadhna Gupta passed away after undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Gurugram for a lung infection.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condoled the

demise of Samajwadi Patriarch and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

PM Modi said Yadav was a key soldier for Indian democracy during the period of the Emergency. “Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji distinguished himself in UP and national politics. He was a key soldier for democracy during the Emergency. As Defence Minister, he worked for a stronger India. His Parliamentary interventions were insightful and emphasised on furthering national interest,” tweeted PM Modi.

“I had many interactions with Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji when we served as Chief Ministers of our respective states. The close association continued and I always looked forward to hearing his views. His demise pains me. Condolences to his family and lakhs of supporters. Om Shanti,” Prime Minister said in another tweet. **ANI**

NOBEL PRIZE

Three US-based economists given Nobel Prize in economic sciences



STOCKHOLM: This year’s Nobel Prize in economic sciences has been awarded to the former chair of the US Federal Reserve, Ben S. Bernanke, and two US-based economists, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip H. Dybvig, “for research on banks and financial crises.”

The prize was announced today by the Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

The committee said their work had shown in their research “why avoiding bank collapses is vital.”

Nobel prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$900,000) and will be handed out on 10 December 2022.

Unlike the other prizes, the economics award wasn’t established in Alfred Nobel’s will of 1895 but by the Swedish central bank in his memory. The first winner was selected in 1969.

A week of Nobel Prize announcements kicked off on 3 October 2022 with Swedish scientist Svante Paa-

bo receiving the award in medicine for unlocking secrets of Neanderthal DNA that provided key insights into our immune system.

Three scientists jointly won the prize in physics last Tuesday. Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F. Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger had shown that tiny particles can retain a connection with each other even when separated, a phenomenon known as quantum entanglement, that can be used for specialized computing and to encrypt information.

The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded last Wednesday to Americans Carolyn R. Bertozzi and K. Barry Sharpless, and Danish scientist Morten Meldal for developing a way of “snapping molecules together” that can be used to explore cells, map DNA and design drugs that can target diseases such as cancer more precisely.

French author Annie Ernaux won this year’s Nobel Prize in literature last Thursday. **DNA**

TRAINING DRILLS

Missile launches aimed at nuclear ‘wipe out’ of Seoul: North Korea

PYONGYANG: North Korea’s spate of missile launches over the past two weeks were training drills to “hit and wipe out” potential South Korean and US targets, the country’s state media said on Monday.

The report mentioned ballistic missiles that were equipped with mock nuclear warheads as well as a new, previously-unseen missile that flew over Japan.

“Through seven times of launching drills of the tactical nuclear operation units, the actual war capabilities ... of the nuclear combat forces ready to hit and wipe out the set objects at any location and any time were displayed to the full,” the North’s state-run Korean Central News Agency said.



State media said the missile launches were a direct response to joint South Korean-American naval exercises off the Korean peninsula.

The military drills, which kicked off in August, are the largest in five years. They included the USS Ronald Reagan nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

North Korea considers such drills to be an invasion rehearsal.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un reportedly supervised all seven days of launches and said they were “an obvious warning” to South Korea and the US about his army’s nuclear strength.

“Even though the enemy continues to talk about dialogue and negotiations, we do not have anything to talk about nor do we feel the need to do so,” Kim was quoted as saying.

After the North Korean statement was released, the office of South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said that “it is important to accurately recognize the severity of security issues in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia to prepare properly.” **DW**

BOAT CAPSIZE

Overloaded boat capsizes in Nigeria, 76 killed

ABUJA: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said Sunday that 76 people were dead after a boat capsized in the southeastern part of the country.

An estimated 85 people were on board the overloaded vessel when the accident occurred Friday in an area of Anambra state ravaged by flooding.

What have officials said about the tragedy?

The office of President Buhari quoted him in a statement: “The boat reportedly carrying 85 persons capsized following rising



floods in Ogbaru area of the state, with emergency bodies confirming a death toll of 76.”

Buhari was said to direct emergency services to the site.

On Saturday, officials had said

10 people died and 60 were missing. The chief of Anambra State Emergency Management Agency said 15 people had been rescued as of Saturday night.

Over 300 people in Nigeria

have died and 100,000 have lost their homes in recent flooding. Emergency services say it is the country’s worst flooding since 2012. Anambra is one of the 29 states out of 36 in Nigeria to have experienced flooding so far this year. At least half a million people have been affected due to injury, loss of property or other forms of material wealth, such as livestock and land.

Such boat accidents occur frequently in Nigeria due to lax safety standards, speeding, overcrowding and limited regard for maritime traffic rules. **DW**

INVESTMENT DECISIONS

For the safety of investments of citizens and residents, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) calls the public to invest their savings in safe and licensed investment channels, and to make reasonable and logical investment decisions away from decisions that are affected by emotions and temptations.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,531.35 points, down by 0.57 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.06 per cent at 486.53 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 5.6 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 5.11 per cent, was the top loser.

Real estate deals worth over OMR192 million made in 2022

According to a report issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the value of real estate transactions in the Sultanate till August this year has exceeded OMR192 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Real estate transactions worth over OMR192 million have been made in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of August 2022, and more than 22,000 title deeds have been issued during the same period.

According to a report issued by the Ministry of Housing and



Urban Planning, the value of real estate transactions in the Sultanate till August this year has exceeded OMR192 million, including OMR107 million in mortgages, OMR82 million in sales contracts and OMR47 million in swap contracts. The fees collected from these legal transactions amounted to more than OMR5 million, of which OMR579,000 came from real estate mortgages, OMR47,000 from swap contracts and OMR2 million from sales contracts.

The report further said that the total legal transactions reached 12,830, of which 6,463 were sales contracts, 112 swap contracts, 2,056 mortgage contracts, 1,859

gift contracts, 537 inheritance contracts, 998 pledge contracts and 805 division contracts.

The report added that the number of title deeds executed during the period reached 22,775 across all governorates in the Sultanate, including 4,420 in the Muscat Governorate, 1,614 in Dhofar Governorate, 199 in Musandam Governorate, 601 in Buraimi Governorate, 2,738 in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah, 390 in North Al Batinah Governorate, 3,573 titles in the Governorate of South Al Batinah, 1,913 in South Sharqiyah Governorate, 1,942 in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, 1,612 in Al Dhahirah Governorate and 259 in Al Wusta

Governorate, besides 110 titles issued in favour of citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, of which the highest concentration was in the Governorate of Muscat, followed by the Governorate of North Al Batinah and South Al Batinah. The total number of land plots registered for the first time reached 4,857 plots.

As for requests to register property, the number of requests during the same period was 1,163, of which 626 were owned and 794 requests were inspected.

The ministry also witnessed many initiatives during the period, including the offering of 22 industrial, residential and commercial

lands for electronic auction and development under the usufruct system in 6 different states, and 7 lands for bidding for gas stations under the same initiative. The ministry also saw requests for a ministerial decision to standardise fees for registration and documentation of actions, and requests for proof of ownership for Sorouh projects, while the ministry continued to grant residential lands to those entitled through the 'Choose Your Land' service.

In the field of communication and participation, Dr Mohammed bin Ali Al-Mutawa, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Urban Planning, visited Musandam Governorate to assess the damage caused by climatic conditions the governorate witnessed only recently, in addition to visiting several projects in the governorate and the Kumzar scheme. A specialised team from the Ministry conducted a field visit to the Governorate of South Al Batinah to study the sites affected by climatic conditions and also to listen to the people of the affected areas.

To promote comprehensive digital transformation, develop services and exchange technical expertise with the private sector, the Minis-

try signed a memorandum of understanding with the Omani Qatar Telecom Company.

As for initiatives related to urban strategy, the ministry participated in the discussion session (smart cities) to benefit from the experts and specialists to promote integration for future urban planning.

With regard to the real estate development sector, especially finding multiple alternatives for housing, the ministry is proceeding with the implementation of the Al-Naseem neighbourhood project, which has reached a completion rate of 60 per cent of the first phase, which includes the construction of 220 housing units.

Regarding social housing projects, efforts during August focused on housing assistance to complete the procedures related to registered applications. The procedures for housing assistance applications were completed in the governorates of Muscat and South Al Sharqiyah.

As for workshops and programmes, the ministry organised last August a workshop - information security strategy - for various directorates of the ministry and a workshop - the reality of reconstruction in residential schemes.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Oman, KSA explore means of enhancing cooperation in ICT

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology held a joint meeting with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The meeting explored means of enhancing cooperation and accelerating implementation of joint projects and initiatives in the field of Information and communications technology (ICT).

The Omani side was headed by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, while the Saudi side was headed by Eng. Abdullah Amer Al



Swaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

A display was made on the ICT sector in Oman and the national initiative for digital economy. -ONA

FULLY SUBSCRIBED RIGHTS ISSUE

Sohar International raises OMR160mn through largest domestic rights issue

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Receiving an overwhelming response from investors, Sohar International has announced a fully subscribed rights issue of OMR160 million.

The funds raised will contribute to enhancing the bank's capital base to meet the bank's ambitious strategic growth objectives. Sohar International issued OMR 160 million in new shares through a rights issue at 0.102 bz per share starting on September 12. The issuance was fully subscribed with strong investor appetite across government and corporate institutions, family offices, and retail.

Commenting on Sohar International's consistent growth trajectory, Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief



Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, "The fully subscribed rights issue is a strong testament to the bank's capacity in attracting and raising adequate capital. This is because Sohar International has not just demonstrated utmost resilience in times of uncertainty

but has remained consistent in recording exceptional performance across all its operations. Committed to acting as a catalyst for socioeconomic progress and strongly aligned to Oman Vision 2040, the bank has also earned strong goodwill in the market because of its ground-breaking initiatives that have led to transformational change in the sector."

Ahmed Al Musalmi added saying, "We are indeed grateful for the unfaltering trust our shareholders have bestowed on us. We would also like to thank the Central Bank of Oman and the Capital Market Authority for their consistent support as we achieve yet another milestone in our journey. The increase in the capital base will further enhance the bank's

position and help leverage market opportunities and expand horizons while contributing to the country's progress."

It's worth mentioning that the bank's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held in August 2022 has approved the increase of the authorised share capital of the bank from OMR400 million to OMR1 billion while amending Article 5 of the Articles of Association accordingly.

With well-defined policies and operations conducted in accordance with the predefined banking laws of the country, Sohar International ensures it adheres to international best practices. In addition, through the rights issue, the bank has also provided an impetus to capital market activities.

OMAN AND SAUDI ARABIA

Two executive programmes on digital transformation and training signed

MUSCAT: In the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in November 2021, the two sides signed two executive programmes: one on digital transformation and the other on the training of personnel in the same field.

The two programmes aim to make optimum use of digital technologies, notably in business areas, besides initiatives related to the technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution and training the personnel concerned in the fields of leadership, development and management.

The first executive programme was signed by Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al Suwaiyan, Governor of Digital Government Authority in the KSA, and Dr Ali Amer Al Shithani, Communications and Information Technology Undersecretary at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The programme covers cooperation in e-government practices, feasibility studies on new digital solutions serving e-government strategies and research in the respective areas.

The second programme was signed by Dr Amer Al Shidhani and Eng. Faris Saleh Al-Sagabi, Deputy Minister for Future Jobs & Capabilities at the KSA Ministry of Communications and



Information Technology. The programme reflects the two sides' keenness in training nationals and integrating efforts towards the preparation of human resources to keep pace with updates in the field of modern technologies and their applications.

Omani-Saudi relations are making progress in the fields of e-economy and e-government. To this effect, the two sides signed a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding, among them the Omani-Saudi E-Skills Initiative, which seeks to exchange the best practices in developing skills to meet labour market requirements in the sector of communications and information technology.

As many as 120 Omanis re-

ceived training as part of the first phase of a programme in the field of cybersecurity, the internet of things and programming. Following an agreement, the programme seeks to augment competitiveness for contesting advanced jobs in the digital labour market.

The second phase of the programme, scheduled to begin later this month, provides for training 240 Omanis in areas of self-learning, e-games, cybersecurity, network protection and the internet of things.

The two sides signed three agreements in the field of enhancing partnership and expertise among Omani and Saudi technology firms. Seven more agreements will be signed shortly by companies from the two countries. -ONA

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
24/2022	Providing maintenance services for the buildings of the Ministry of Labour in Muscat Governorate	Sunday 30/10/2022 at 2:00 pm	Sunday 20/11/2022 at 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Tuesday 11/10/2022 at 08:00 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee for 1% of the total bid value issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee. The original bank guarantee shall be submitted when requested by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Sunday 20/11/2022

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

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MSX index ends lower

Al Maha Ceramics, up 5.6 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 5.11 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,531.35 points, down by 0.57 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.06 per cent at 486.53 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 5.6 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 5.11 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 325 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.35 million, with more than 8.13 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 8 advanced, 16 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR300,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR252,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR48,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,212.41 points, down 0.89 per cent. Prices of Taageer Finance, and HSBC Bank Oman were up by 1.03 per cent, and 0.64 per cent

respectively. Prices of Ahli Bank, Global Financial Investments, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Madina Takaful, and Bank Muscat were down by 5.11 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 2.5 per cent, 2.35 per cent, and 1.36 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,294.56 points, up 0.21 per cent. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, and National Aluminium were up by 5.60 per cent, and 1.22 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Al Anwar Ceramics, A'Saffa Foods, and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 1.8 per cent, 1.01 per cent, 0.68 per cent, and 0.40 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.51 per cent before closing at 1,605.81 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, Al Maha Marketing, and Ooredoo Oman were up by 0.71 per cent, 0.5 per cent, and 0.48 per cent respectively.

Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power, Muscat Desalination, and Renaissance Services were down by 2.88 per cent, 2.70 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 1.72 per cent, and 1.22 per cent respectively. — *United Securities*

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,558.65	4,531.35	4,531.35	4,557.30	-25.96	-0.57
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,275.02	7,212.40	7,212.40	7,276.98	-64.58	-0.89
Industry Index	6,300.06	6,273.51	6,294.55	6,281.49	13.06	0.21
Services Index	1,614.94	1,602.04	1,605.81	1,614.01	-8.20	-0.51
MSX Shariah Index	487.44	484.11	486.53	486.84	-0.31	-0.06
MSX TR INDEX	5,749.52	5,715.08	5,715.08	5,747.82	-32.74	-0.57
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,612.50	7,546.97	7,546.97	7,614.55	-67.58	-0.89
SERVICES TR IDX	1,667.97	1,663.57	1,667.48	1,676.00	-8.52	-0.51
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,538.41	6,510.85	6,532.69	6,519.13	13.56	0.21

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,133,372	2,351,798	325	23,243,530,347	8	16	14	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	747,000	361,350	10	0.480	0.490	0.480	0.490	0.484	0.026	5.603	0.490	0.464	0.490	0.100	26,950,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	285,936	26,010	6	0.099	0.099	0.096	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	25,348,856
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM	7,995	6,428	3	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.800	0.004	0.500	0.804	0.796	0.804	0.100	55,476,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	835,360	347,804	21	0.412	0.418	0.412	0.418	0.416	0.002	0.481	0.418	0.408	0.418	0.100	272,094,688
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	549,274	71,405	14	0.130	0.130	0.122	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	54,855	16,566	8	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.302	0.304	0.100	99,923,558
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	426,441	374,122	32	0.876	0.880	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.000	0.000	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.100	654,000,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	1,668	418	2	0.252	0.252	0.249	0.249	0.250	-0.001	-0.400	0.249	0.246	0.248	0.100	31,099,592
OM0000000386	SOFAR INT. BANK	875,000	87,545	22	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	459,008,229
OM0000002185	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	151,000	59,998	5	0.398	0.398	0.394	0.394	0.398	-0.004	-1.005	0.394	0.392	0.394	0.100	86,680,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	65,000	31,854	5	0.486	0.494	0.484	0.484	0.490	-0.006	-1.224	0.484	0.482	0.486	0.100	114,422,440
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,028,809	601,586	53	0.588	0.588	0.580	0.580	0.588	-0.008	-1.361	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.100	217,855,148
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	24,300	1,895	8	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.078	0.080	0.100	7,020,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	8,000	2,157	3	0.270	0.270	0.269	0.270	0.278	-0.008	-2.878	0.270	0.265	0.270	0.100	16,525,154
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	46,000	2,586	2	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.058	-0.002	-3.448	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	11,200,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	95,418	12,739	5	0.134	0.134	0.130	0.130	0.137	-0.007	-5.109	0.130	0.131	0.133	0.100	253,455,471
Total		16	5,182,056	2,004,564	199											

Parallel Market

OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	29,610	2,833	5	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.093	0.003	3.226	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	105,000	8,640	7	0.082	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	2,786,430
OM0000000870	BARKA DESALINATION	67,580	9,637	5	0.142	0.143	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.001	0.709	0.142	0.142	0.143	0.100	10,724,124
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	946,150	147,930	16	0.156	0.157	0.155	0.157	0.156	0.001	0.641	0.157	0.156	0.160	0.100	314,049,108
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	2,000	270	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.135	0.137	0.100	4,050,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	29,000	1,856	3	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.063	0.067	0.100	19,657,365
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	15,000	1,215	2	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000001897	ALAJAN COLLEGE	4,000	580	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	13,050,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	9,000	2,308	6	0.254	0.258	0.250	0.258	0.258	0.000	0.000	0.258	0.245	0.260	0.100	10,734,160
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	100,000	16,500	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.163	0.165	0.100	33,492,764
OM0000000428	SMN POWER HOLDING	20,350	651	2	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.100	6,388,339
OM0000000420	BANK NIZWA	476,553	46,223	12	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	216,984,444
OM00000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	938	59	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.060	0.062	0.100	60,138,033
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	32,876	1,176	3	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.035	0.036	0.100	24,295,947
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	5,980	1,758	8	0.295	0.295	0.293	0.294	0.296	-0.002	-0.676	0.294	0.289	0.294	0.100	35,280,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	150,306	21,794	3	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.146	-0.001	-0.685	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	434,470,958
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	3,348	382	2	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.116	-0.002	-1.724	0.114	0.114	0.119	0.100	17,732,746
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	26,000	2,835	4	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.111	-0.002	-1.802	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	19,846,545
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	257,472	11,330	11	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	64,254,464
OM00000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	619,695	51,991	27	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.085	-0.002	-2.353	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.100	14,525,000
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	34,458	1,267	4	0.037	0.037	0.036	0.036	0.037	-0.001	-2.703	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.100	25,718,628
Total		21	2,935,316	331,235	124											

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA urges public to invest their savings in safe and licenced investment channels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: For the safety of investments of citizens and residents, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) calls the public to invest their savings in safe and licensed investment channels, and to make reasonable and logical investment decisions away from decisions that are affected by emotions and temptations.

The moves come because of CMA's close follow-up of the public turnout on investment opportunities in various fields, which reveals a real desire to expand their savings and a high level of awareness of the importance of investment, whether in areas related to the securities sector or other areas.

Based on the CMA's keenness to protect the funds of citizens and residents and to achieve the national interest, it continues its efforts to educate the public about financial frauds and false investment opportunities spreading on the Internet and direct meetings including shuttle trade.

The CMA will launch, next week, an awareness campaign through its electronic outlets under the title 'Beware of Fake Investment Opportunities' with the participation of several active social media platforms, to educate the public about the risks of bogus financial transactions, and emphasise the need to take precautions and due diligence before embarking on any investment processes, and to ensure the investment outlets promoting such investment opportunities are legal.



This effort stems from the complementary role of various civil and security government agencies in the Sultanate to warn from the perils of unregulated investments, which target the public through electronic and conventional means of communication.

The CMA provides the necessary capabilities to provide the regulatory mechanisms that furnish the investors' safe transactions in choosing the appropriate investment opportunities with the presence of licensed experts and specialists in providing financial advice through the companies operating in the field of securities, as they provide appropriate and real investment advice and options in the field of Securities, whether Omani securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange or foreign securities and those interested can view the list of licensed companies on the CMA's website or its smart-phones application.

REPORT

SICO shares insights into Oman's economic developments in 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: SICO, a leading regional asset manager, broker, and investment bank with more than \$3.5 billion in assets under management, shared insights into Oman's current economic climate in a report analysing progress in achieving targets outlined in Oman's 10th five-year fiscal and economic plan covering 2021-2025, including debt management, fiscal reforms, and attracting FDI.

The report is based on insights gained from an exclusive discussion between Sumaya Al Jazeera, Assistant Vice President of SICO's Investment Research and Dr Said bin Mohammed Al Sagri, Minister of Economy in Oman, in addition to insights from government representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Oman Vision 2040 team during the MSX Roadshow Conference attended on September 5-6.

The year 2022 for Oman is a year of re-arranging the books and can be best described as a year of transitioning towards stronger growth in the medium term (2023-2025). The recovery witnessed in the Omani economy, lowering debt to GDP, and focusing on Capex and investment spending are all promising and commendable, yet Oman continues to face challenges from up-

The year 2022 for Oman is a year of re-arranging the books and can be best described as a year of transitioning towards stronger growth in the medium term (2023-2025)

coming debt maturities of nearly \$12-13 billion by 2025, inflationary pressures resulting in higher subsidy bills (namely food and oil products subsidies), slower return of expats, and modest lending growth to the private sector.

Oman's key focus has been debt management, which saw debt to GDP drop from 60 per cent in 2021 to 55 per cent of GDP in 1H 22, well below its stated target, after cutting debt levels by OMR2.2 billion to OMR18.6 billion. Earlier in 2022, Oman had reaffirmed its earlier commitment to curbing the in-

crease in net government debt over the next three years in its 2022 budget, projecting debt to GDP to reach 60 per cent levels by 2024.

In parallel, the introduction of the VAT has positively contributed to revenues, and the income tax – if implemented as scheduled in 2024 – is another step in fiscal revenue diversification. Yet, the extension of planned electricity and water subsidy reforms across a 10-year horizon rather than five (originally targeted for 2025), as indicated by the Ministry of Finance, could be a possible delay in the introduction of the income tax, potentially slowing down diversification away from oil and gas revenues.

Fiscal spending has seen a change in direction in 2022 after a slowdown in public spending in the last three years. Capitalising on higher oil and gas revenues, the government has increased Capex allocation and is adopting proactive investment planning across sectors. The government's pipeline is focused on multiple key projects in the services sector, mainly logistics, transport, and the oil and gas sector. Accordingly, development expenditure allocation for the year 2022 has increased from OMR 900 million to OMR1.1 billion, thanks to a positive fiscal balance in 1H22. Oman Investment Authority also

plans to list some owned entities on MSX and attract OMR 11 billion in investment opportunities, which reflected increased proactivity in focusing on investments, FDI, and capital market development. Nonetheless, the rate at which the economy picks up and investment spending becomes reflected in projects on the ground will set the momentum of growth for Oman and show sincerity to foreign investors.

Based on this, investment spending will be a key driver in sustaining the upward trajectory of real GDP growth which has seen growth levels reach 3 per cent in 2021 and 2 per cent in 1Q22. According to official estimates, real GDP growth is projected to reach 5 per cent in 2022, which implies an expectation of much stronger growth in the remaining quarters.

The report concluded that Oman is in a transitory phase progressing towards higher growth albeit slower than its GCC peers, as it makes strides in achieving set targets in the 10th five-year development plan. Dr Said Al Sagri and representatives from key bodies confirmed to the SICO team the government's strong commitment to re-focusing expenditure on development, curtailing debt growth, and attracting investments by further opening the economy and encouraging FDI.

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Mediterranean diet improves immunotherapy response rates, progression-free survival in melanoma patients

A Mediterranean diet high in fibre, monounsaturated fatty acids, and polyphenols has been linked to improved immunotherapy response rates and progression-free survival in patients with advanced melanoma, according to a new study.

Experts anticipate that the diet will play an important role in the success of immunotherapy and trials are being expanded to investigate outcomes for different tumour types, including digestive cancers.

A Mediterranean diet, containing mono-and polyunsaturated fats from olive oil, nuts and fish, polyphenols and fibre from vegetables, fruit, and wholegrains, was significantly associated with an improved response to immunotherapy drugs called Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICIs). ICIs, which have been highly successful in treating melanoma, work by blocking immune system

checkpoints, which then force the body's own T-cells to attack cancers.²

The new multi-centre study by researchers from the UK and the Netherlands, recorded the dietary intake of 91 patients with advanced melanoma, who were treated with ICI drugs and monitored their progress with regular radiographic response check-ups.

As well as having a significant association with overall response rate, a Mediterranean diet was significantly associated with progression-free survival at 12 months.

Laura Bolte, author of the study and PhD candidate under supervision of Prof. Rinse Weersma from the University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands, commented, "ICI has helped to revolutionise the treatment of different types of advanced cancers. Our study underlines the importance of dietary assessment in cancer patients starting ICI

treatment and supports a role for dietary strategies to improve patient outcomes and survival."

The study also found that eating wholegrains and legumes reduced the likelihood of developing drug induced immune-related side effects, such as colitis. In contrast, red and processed meat was associated with a higher probability of immune-related side effects.

"The relationship of ICI response with diet and the gut microbiome opens a promising and exciting future to enhance treatment responses. Clinical trials investigating the effect of a high fibre diet, ketogenic diet and supplementation of omega-3 are underway. Since ICI therapy is being expanded to various tumour types, including digestive cancers, these studies could unlock treatment benefits for a large group of cancer patients in the future," added Laura Bolte. -ANI

ICI has helped to revolutionise the treatment of different types of advanced cancers. Our study underlines the importance of dietary assessment in cancer patients starting ICI treatment and supports a role for dietary strategies to improve patient outcomes and survival.

120 sailors arrive to take part in Arab Sailing Championship 2022

Back after a three-year hiatus, sailors will compete over five days from 11-15 October 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Eleven countries from across the Middle East and North Africa have arrived at Barceló Mussanah Resort for the Arab Sailing Championship 2022.

Back after a three-year hiatus, 120 sailors will compete over five days from 11-15 October 2022 in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, RS:X and iQFOiL windsurfing and RS Venture para sailing classes with the winners and best per-

forming country taking home the trophies.

A team of 23 sailors from Oman will join their counterparts from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and the UAE. Hamed Al Yahmadi, Event Project Manager, said, "This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for our young sailors to test themselves against their peers from across the Arab world. Being held for the first time since Egypt 2019, it is an honour to bring the championship to Oman and the Barceló Mussanah Resort for the premier youth sailing competition in the region and we are delighted to welcome all of the sailors and coaches to Oman.

"We are looking forward to seeing how our sailors perform on home waters ahead of a busy period for the teams. This is the start of a long journey that could lead to the Olympic Games in the future. We are also very pleased to include para sailing, and the para sailors from Oman, Iraq and KSA, as the sport makes progress towards inclusivity and demonstrating the

opportunities in sailing for all."

Tuesday 11 October has been designated the official arrival and practice day. The first day of racing will take place on Wednesday 12 October with further racing throughout the week until the final day on Saturday 15 October when the prizes will be awarded.

The Arab Sailing Championship is proudly supported by the Barceló Resort Mussanah, Oman Air, National University of Science and (International Maritime College), National Mineral

Water Company (Tanuf), and environmental partner the Environment Society of Oman.

Taking place alongside the Arab Sailing Championship 2022 will be the next leg of the Oman Sailing Festival, also taking place in Mussanah. Running from 12-14 October, the festival offers free Try Sailing, Try Windsurfing and Try Kitesurfing sessions to visitors, as well as showcasing local SMEs and encouraging the local community to join in with a beach clean-up event to help preserve the local environment.



OMAN SAILING FESTIVAL

People learn new skills at Oman Sailing Festival 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The first leg of the Oman Sailing Festival wrapped up in Sohar this weekend with more than 268 visitors learning to try sailing by taking part in free Try Sailing, Try Windsurfing and Try Kitesurfing sessions under the supervision of professional instructors from Oman Sail over the weekend of 6-8 October 2022.

Held at the Silver Jubilee Garden, 50 volunteers also joined Oman Sail representatives in removing litter from the beach and from the sea, helping to preserve the natural environment for future generations and native marine life.

There was also an SME activation featuring 13 local businesses and craftspeople showcasing local products ranging from food, clothing and household items to souvenirs and traditional art.

Musab Al Balushi, Oman Sailing Festival Project Manager, said, "This was a great start to the Oman Sailing Festival 2022. We were very impressed with how many people took the opportunity to learn how to sail, windsurf



and kitesurf. Oman has a long and storied maritime heritage, and these sessions help to introduce the next generation to the sport, allowing them to take on a new challenge or discover a new hobby.

"The Oman Sailing Festival will travel the length and breadth of the country to share the potential of sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing, and have a positive impact on the local environment by raising awareness of the need to care for the beaches and native wildlife our beautiful country is blessed with," he added.

The next stop will be Mussanah from 12-14 October as part of the

Arab Sailing Championships taking place at the same time at the Barceló Mussanah Resort with sessions in the RS Venture adaptable dinghy on offer. From there, the festival moves to Al Mouj Muscat on 17 October to celebrate Omani Women's Day, and Sur Al Hadeed in Seeb from 20-22 October.

The Oman Sailing Festival is proudly supported by the Barceló Resort Mussanah, Oman Air, National University of Science and (International Maritime College), National Mineral Water Company (Tanuf), and environmental partner the Environment Society of Oman.

AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND

Did not see what happened: Jos Buttler on Matthew Wade obstruction incident

PERTH: After his team's exciting eight-run triumph against Australia in Perth, England captain Jos Buttler suggested that he could have considered appealing against Matthew Wade obstructing the field in the match.

Australia was 170 for 5 and needed 39 off 23 balls in the series opener, which served as a sort of warm-up for the T20 World Cup, when Wade top-edged a furious short delivery from speedster Mark Wood onto his helmet, causing it to go up in the air. Wade, who appeared rattled, blocked Wood's desperate attempt to collect the return catch. Wade then hindered the quick by sticking his arm out as he attempted to return to his position.

The on-field umpires asked Buttler if he wanted to appeal, but he declined because Wade survived and needed a new helmet. Although there was much uncertainty among the players and the 25,000 spectators at Optus Stadium, the situation was somewhat subdued by Buttler's lack of appeal in England's opening match on Australian soil as the T20 World



Cup approaches.

"Maybe, they asked if I wanted to appeal and I said 'no'. I've only just got to Australia so I thought just carry on with the game," said Buttler in his post-match press conference when asked if he would have appealed for blocking the field if it was a T20 World Cup match.

Buttler said he "didn't really see what happened" because he was watching the ball closely.

"It was hard because I didn't know what I was appealing for. I could have asked some of the other

boys to see if they had a better view but thought I would get on with the game. Maybe I should have asked a few of the lads," he said.

In a nail-biting encounter at the Optus Stadium, England held their nerves to defeat Australia by eight runs in a run-fest match on Sunday. David Warner scored 73 off 44 and notched another fifty against the English team but failed to take his team across the line as Mark Wood claimed three wickets while giving just 34 runs in his four overs. **ANI**

WORLD CUP WARM-UP MATCH

Fiery spells from Arshdeep, Bhuvneshwar lead India to win over Western Australia

PERTH: Superb bowling spells from pacers Arshdeep Singh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar and a half-century from in-form Suryakumar Yadav powered India to a 13-run win over Western Australia in their ICC T20 World Cup warm-up match on Monday.

With this win in Australian conditions, India's T20 WC preparations have got a big boost. Though batting was underwhelming to an extent, bowlers performed brilliantly to calm down some talks about the side's recent issues with the ball. Chasing 159, Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar got wickets of D'arcy Short and Ashton Turner while Arshdeep Singh also got two wickets.

In the six overs of powerplay, Western Australia was at 29/4.

Yuzvendra Chahal got the fifth wicket for India and WA was reduced to 68/5 in 11 overs.

Sam Fanning kept the other end steady while Hamish McKenzie also kept the scoreboard ticking. Fanning hit his half-century but was dismissed for 59 by Arshdeep Singh. Two more wickets fell as the game went ahead.

Ultimately, the equation bowled down to 32 runs in the last over. Western Australia finished at 145/8 in 20 overs. Hamish ended with a score of 17.

Arshdeep ended with three wickets under his belt, while Bhuvneshwar got two wickets. Chahal got two and Harshal Patel got a



wicket each.

Earlier, a gutsy half-century from in-form Suryakumar Yadav and cameos from Deepak Hooda and Hardik Pandya powered Team India to 158/6 in 20 overs in their practice match for ICC T20 World Cup 2022 against Western Australia in Perth on Monday.

It was a sort of underwhelming outing for India with the bat as they kept losing big players at regular intervals. Some players did get starts but they could not capitalise.

Electing to bat first, Team India was off to a shaky start as they lost their first wicket at a score of 15. Jason Behrendorff got the big wicket of captain Rohit Sharma,

who could manage just three runs.

Deepak Hooda was the next up on the crease, joining opener Rishabh Pant. He scored a quick-fire 22 before Behrendorff removed him as well. At the end of the powerplay in six overs, India was at 39/2.

In-form batter Suryakumar Yadav joined Pant. Medium-pacer Andrew Tye dismissed a struggling Pant for nine off 17 balls. India was at 45/3 in seven overs.

Yadav was joined by Hardik Pandya and they helped Men in Blue cross the 50-run mark safely. Halfway through the innings, India was at 64/3 with Suryakumar at 16* and Hardik at 10*.

The duo's 49-run stand ended

when pacer Matthew Kelly intervened to remove Pandya for 27 runs.

Dinesh Karthik joined Suryakumar. By the time 15 overs concluded, India had crossed the 100-run mark and were at 108/4.

Suryakumar Yadav continued his lethal run of form, bringing up his half-century. He departed immediately after crossing the landmark for 52 runs and India was at 129/5 in 17 overs. All eyes were on Karthik to finish off things on a great note. Team India concluded their innings at 158/6, with Karthik (19*) and Harshal Patel (6*) standing unbeaten. Jason Behrendorff had a very good outing with the ball. **ANI**

FOOTBALL



Cristiano Ronaldo nets 700th club goal to guide ManU past Everton

LIVERPOOL: Cristiano Ronaldo set a new milestone on Sunday in the Premier League when he scored his career's 700th club goal while playing as a substitute for Manchester United to earn a 2-1 victory against Everton.

With a game left to play, they now have 15 points after eight games, moving them up to fifth place in the standings. The Red Devils entered the match fresh off of a thrilling 3-2 victory over Omonia Nicosia. Prior to it, Manchester City thrashed United 6-3 in league play.

They were eager to establish some uniformity after receiving conflicting results.

Manchester United played well in the opening minutes of the match as they tried to control pos-

session and dictate the pace.

Nevertheless, they were dealt a blow five minutes later when Alex Iwobi struck a stunning goal from about 25 yards out.

The Nigerian took a touch before blasting the ball into the top-right corner to score it 1-0 after Demarai Gray played the ball in-field.

After 15 minutes, Antony tied the score with a beautiful curling effort that he assisted. After 29 minutes, Anthony Martial was forced to leave the game due to an injury, which allowed Cristiano Ronaldo to enter the match. After 44 minutes, he gave his team the lead again by assisting Casemiro for his 700th career club goal. At halftime, Manchester United had a 2-1 advantage. **ANI**



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ROUND-UP

Alizz Bank opens nominations for 2nd edition of ‘hiyya’ awards for women

The announcement of the second edition of the prestigious ‘hiyya’ award augurs well for the growing number of women in the business stratum and reflects rightly on the country’s stand towards the empowerment of women in general

MUSCAT: In conjunction with the approach of the Sultanate celebration of Omani Women’s Day, which falls on October 17 of each year, Alizz Islamic Bank announced the opening of nominations for the ‘hiyya’ awards for women in its second edition.

These awards were a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for the role of Omani women for their contribution to the nation to showcase the ambition, determination, strength and confidence of women in society and to inspire and recognise women leaders, now and in the future.

The announcement of the second edition of the prestigious ‘hiyya’ award augurs well for the growing number of women in the business stratum and reflects rightly on the country’s stand towards the empowerment of women in general. As per the set

protocol, Alizz Islamic Bank has adopted rigorous steps to maintain transparency and credibility in the selection of nominees and short-listing of winners. Beginning with a 10-day nomination period followed through by opening the voting process on its website.

The nomination process will be available for everyone, with the option of self-nomination or nomination of other women deemed worthy of ‘hiyya’ awards. Winners will be selected from the final tally of the public vote and the awards will be distributed during the bank’s Omani Women’s Day celebration.

Designed to recognise and felicitate women, the ‘hiyya’ awards come as an expression of appreciation and gratitude for the pioneering role played by women in building the nation; it is a formal acknowledgement of their contribution in various fields as they



continue to demonstrate their expertise and experience in the social and economic arena.

The awards have been classified into several categories, including the award for Best New Business, Best Online Business and the Most Inspiring Businesswoman Award, which is considered an important

catalyst for the growth of female-owned businesses.

Other award categories are: Made in Oman Award for the Best Business Owned by Women in the field of locally produced goods; Best Service Customer Service Award for businesses – owned by women - that provide customer

service; Social Responsibility Award, which will be given to the woman who gives back to the community through dedicated social responsibility programme; an Award for the Best Online Business that provides its services via the Internet; and, finally, the most coveted of them all, the Role Mod-

el of the Year Award.

This award will be given to that woman who has proven to be an idol with her leadership skills and successful portfolio.

Throwing the spotlight on the upcoming ‘hiyya’ awards, Mohammed Al Ghassani, AGM - Chief Consumer Banking Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank, said: “Women have, since the beginning of the Renaissance, partnered with men in building our beloved nation. They have taken strong and steady strides to ensure that the nation runs smoothly on all levels. This devotion is pronounced in all the development projects that have started and are still growing to this day. They have been a part of all-round development and have received equal rights, which have ensured their place alongside men in all departments.”

Al Ghassani added, “These awards come as an appreciation and gratitude from the executive management of the bank and as an expression of solidarity with Omani Women’s Day. It is our way of celebrating this great day and we spare no effort to support women’s creative energies in various fields, and at all levels. Besides the awards, we have also organised several events and celebrations to enhance the spirit of cooperation among women working in our bank, while establishing a sense of belonging to the workplace, which is reflected in their continuous productivity at work.”

HEALTHCARE

Oman International Hospital performs cornea transplant on a 4-year-old boy

MUSCAT: The medical team led by Dr Ahmed Al-Maskari, senior consultant cornea, cataract, and refractive surgeon at Oman International Hospital, successfully performed a Femto second laser-assisted anterior lamellar corneal transplant surgery on a 4-year-old boy. Following the surgery, the boy was discharged from the hospital and his parents were very happy with the results.

In the procedure, the latest model of the Femtosecond laser Femto LDV (manufactured by Swiss company Ziemer Ophthalmic Systems) was used to ensure a safe and efficient procedure. This technology is unique in its precise and gentle low-energy tissue separation. A built-in tomography device ensures full control for the doctor during surgery, such that only the diseased part of the cornea is removed, while the healthy tissue is spared. The surgery was performed in the presence of Dr Fabian Mueller, a Swiss mathematician and clinical developer at Ziemer Ophthalmic Systems.

“We are pleased to be able to perform such a highly advanced form of corneal transplantation to our patients,” said Dr Ahmed Al Maskari, Head of Oman Vision Centre. “Oman Vision Centre at Oman International Hospital has a state-of-the-art combination of cutting-edge technology, a comprehensive medical environment, and expertise to provide our patients with the great possible care. This type of surgery not only reduces the risks and complications



associated with traditional and invasive forms of corneal transplantation, but it also makes the patient’s recovery more comfortable and faster. We can also perform corneal transplants with customized architecture, which provides greater biomechanical stability and potentially better visual outcomes, thanks to our femtosecond laser technology.”

“I was impressed by the modern facilities and technology available at Oman Vision Centre,” said Dr Fabian Mueller. “This is the first time this type of surgery has been performed in this age group using our most recent laser system

Z8Neo, so I was keen to be present during surgery to provide additional support. Under the leadership of renowned consultant Dr Al Maskari, the Oman Vision Centre has the potential to become one of the region’s leading ophthalmology centres of excellence.”

Marcelo Pereira, CEO of OIH, stated, “Oman International Hospital is committed to delivering the highest quality medical care to our patients by providing the Omani community with the finest combination of the most advanced technology and highly qualified and skilled doctors. It is with great pride and satisfaction that

we announce the success of this pioneering intervention in Oman and the Region, which has given a young child and his family hope for a normal and happy life.”

In a short period, Oman International Hospital has emerged as the leader in private healthcare delivery in Oman. The hospital, which is prominently located in Ghubra, is accredited by EFQM, the benchmark for European Quality standards in healthcare management. The hospital is equipped with cutting-edge technological solutions, hybrid operation theatres, and a medical team comprised of experienced physicians.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



BankDhofar supports Omani Association for Hearing Impaired

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its keenness to intensify its social involvement and community outreach, BankDhofar recently supported Omani Association for the Hearing Impaired by providing hearing aid devices. Being an integral part of society, BankDhofar’s contribution to the association will contribute to making a positive impact on the lives of this vital segment of society.

Commenting on the support, Aziz Sulaiman Al Harrasi, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at BankDhofar said: “At BankDhofar, we are always keen to serve the community through various CSR initiatives. Our collaboration with the Omani Association for the Hearing Impaired comes within our intentions to make a positive change in the lives of people with hearing impairment. We are glad for this cooperation and look forward to further meaningful initiatives.”

Corporate Social Responsibility is an essential pillar of BankDhofar’s operations; environ-

mental elements, community development, and social engagement have always been among the priorities and interests of the bank.

BankDhofar continues to deliver on its commitment by innovating strategic sustainable CSR programmes, initiatives, activities, and potential investing opportunities; ensuring lasting positive benefits aimed at strengthening ties with the local community. The bank provides support to a number of charitable organisations and social activities and initiatives.

The combination of the thorough vision of the bank’s executive management, the comprehensive operational strategy that revolves around following the best international banking practices and providing the best customer experience, as well as its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, placed BankDhofar on top of the list of best banks in the region.

GOLD SPONSOR

Shell participates in Oman Science Festival

MUSCAT: As part of their aim to promote STEM education among the youth of the Sultanate of Oman, Oman Shell is participating in the third edition of the Oman Science Festival as a gold sponsor.

The Oman Science Festival 2022, which is being held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre till October 15, returns after a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus, with the theme With Science, We Meet Again. The festival represents a forum for science and scholars, gathering 70 scientific corners with 452 activities that cover different STEM-related fields. Several scientific shows, competitions, workshops, and technological devices and applications are being highlighted for students to learn from in a fun, interactive and engaging manner.

Like the festival, Oman Shell is



committed to fostering creative thinking and creating a positive trend towards science, technology, innovation and scientific research among the youth, and by using such platforms in collaboration with key stakeholders, they have been able to accomplish the same. In line with their Powering Progress strategy, Oman Shell

also aims to encourage youth to keep pace with global trends based on the dissemination of science and technology, and the expected future changes, especially those related to the energy transition, as well as, developments of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In a bid to prepare for the upcoming Oman Science Festival,

the Ministry of Education held an introductory meeting on its vision for the same. The meeting was held under the chair of Dr Abdullah Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary for Education, Chairman of the main committee of the festival, with an aim to discuss the scientific possibilities that can be presented in the festival by government, private and military institutions and bodies, as well as the participating universities and private colleges.

The festival features the ‘Oman Shell Future City’, which will help students gain an understanding of what a sustainable, smart city could look like in the future. The city also features green hydrogen for mobility, Shell’s electric vehicle charging concept (Shell Recharge), road safety, a STEM school and other energy-related assets.



ROUND-UP



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Over 80 universities taking part in EduTraC Oman 2022 expo

The expo since its inception in 2014, has grown to bridge the gap between established local educational institutions and international higher education institutions and students in Oman pursuing their higher studies, either in Oman or abroad

MUSCAT: EduTraC Oman 2022 – Higher Education, Training & Career Expo will be open to the public for 3 days from October 10 to 12 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The expo since its inception in 2014, has grown to bridge the gap between established local educational institutions and international higher education institutions and students in Oman pursuing their higher studies, either in Oman or abroad.

The expo welcomes those interested in pursuing their higher education in Oman and abroad to explore a variety of courses being offered and to meet representatives from universities, higher

educational institutions and English language course providers. In addition, visitors can meet leading local and international training institutes offering vocational, technical and occupational training programmes.

The countries featured in this event are The United Kingdom, The United States of America, Malaysia, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, India, Iran, Jordan, Qatar, UAE, etc. The expo primarily targets students above Grade 10, their parents, school counsellors, principals, and career advisors, as well as professionals who are looking to further enhance their academic credentials and study in Oman or abroad.

In continuation, the show will



also be featuring an interactive career advice seminar. By attending the seminars, students, teachers and parents will be able to meet several professionals and obtain answers related to future studies and career development.

The three-day expo has brought together over 80 local and international higher education institutions from 10 countries which would enable students, parents and career professionals to explore a wide range of academic and career opportunities going forward.

EduTraC Oman is organised by Al Nimr Expo under the patronage of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation and the Ministry of Education (Career Guidance & Student Counselling Centre). The expo gates will be open for visitors from 10am to 1pm and 4pm to 9pm.

COLLABORATION



Samsung, MHD-ITICS partner to conduct channel partner meet

MUSCAT: The Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial and Consumer Solutions cluster of Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD-ITICS), along with partner Samsung Gulf Electronics, held a channel partner meeting on October 6, at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Muscat, to formally announce their association.

Attended by a very large number of dealers from all over Oman, the event saw Samsung and MHD-ITICS jointly present their plans to further grow their leadership position in the residential air conditioning and home appliances market. As the official Samsung distributor in Oman, MHD-ITICS, with its proven track record of a strong country-wide distribution network, in-depth knowledge of the consumer market, unparalleled customer service, and exceptional logistics capabilities, will work with their dealer and channel sales partners to ensure widespread distribution of Samsung air conditioners and home appliances all over the country.

Samsung took this opportunity to present to the gathered audience the range of futuristic products with efficient, energy saving and ease-of-use features built into each of them, that would be introduced into the market in the coming months.

Present at the event were Mohammed Abdallah Al-Kharusi, Chief Investment Officer, MHD-ITICS, Jayaprakash Menon, CEO, MHD-ITICS, Mohsin Talal Bahrani, Director, MHD-ITICS and Gokul Praveen, Deputy Director, Consumer Division, MHD-ITICS. The Samsung Gulf team was represented by Ashley Kocherry, Head of Marketing, Samsung Gulf, Vinu Chandu, Country Manager, Oman, Samsung Gulf and Hussain Mohammed, Samsung Product Trainer.

Significant milestone

Jayaprakash Menon, CEO, MHD-ITICS said, "Our strategic partnership with Samsung is a significant milestone for us in our mission to enhance the value we deliver to our customers. MHD-ITICS is driven by an inherent sense of responsibility and an unwavering commitment to delivering best-in-class product solutions for our customers. Our company's core value of customer service, driven by innovative products, and contemporary technology is what lead Samsung to partner with us. This also reaffirms the belief Samsung has in the vast growth potential of Oman."

Speaking on behalf of Samsung Gulf, Ashley Kocherry commented, "We consider Oman as one of the key strategic markets. We have partnered with MHD-ITICS due to their sales and service strengths, as well as their fantastic distribution infrastructure. Our commitment towards maintaining a strong presence in the region is evident in our partnership with MHD-ITICS."

Carrying forward the legacy of the MHD group's reputation and trust earned over the previous six decades of business in Oman, MHD-ITICS is strongly aligned with the diversification goals underlined in Oman's Vision 2040.

EXPANSION

Ahli Islamic opens new state-of-the-art branch in Sur



MUSCAT: Ahli Islamic has announced the opening of its third branch in Al Sharqiyah Governorate with a new state-of-the-art facility in Sur. This brings the total number of its branches to 19 in the country and demonstrates its exponential growth in a short period.

Sur, the capital of the Al Sharqiyah region, was selected as a prime destination for Ahli Islamic. As one of the oldest cities of Oman and with a historic role in maritime trade across the Sea of Oman, Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean, Sur's location will help augment the bank's growing customer base with an advanced infrastructure, catering to informed customers who seek Sharia-compliant banking products.

Commenting on the new branch and the bank's steady growth in recent years, Yousuf Al Rawahi, DGM and Head of Ahli Islamic, said, "This is a turning point in our strategic growth trajectory. We have adopted a calculated expansion process to connect with our customers from different regions of the country, and different walks of life."

"The new branch marks our third foray into the Sharqiyah Governorate and reflects our commitment to enhancing our presence in places of economic significance. As a pivotal destination, with several developmental landmarks in the contemporary scenario, Sur is, indeed, an important wilayat in the region, with vast potential for business growth. Our branch will meet both immediate and long-term banking needs of old and potential customers in the district, assuring them of convenient and flexible financial solutions."

Ahli Islamic's 19th branch opening, on the heels of its recently launched branch in Nizwa, is a clear indication of its dynamic customer base. It has leveraged the strengthening economic recovery across the GCC countries and positive changes in the Islamic banking horizon, locally and globally, to carve its niche as one of the most preferred banks in the country.

Pointing out the bank's commitment to fulfil its customers' Islamic finance requirements and enhance their everyday banking journeys, Rawahi added: "Customers are the key stakeholder in our business. Our every new move is determined by customers' changing needs and demands. We value every feedback and balance it with our marketing metrics to pave the way forward. This has led to a win-win situation, and the coming days will further boost our growth, as we continue to expand and connect with customers in every part of the country."

The new branch in Sur will mirror Ahli Islamic's intent to develop and implement easy and convenient avenues for its customers. It has been equipped with modern facilities and services, and the team helming the branch will guarantee relevant and timely financial solutions to all customers who walk in through the doors.



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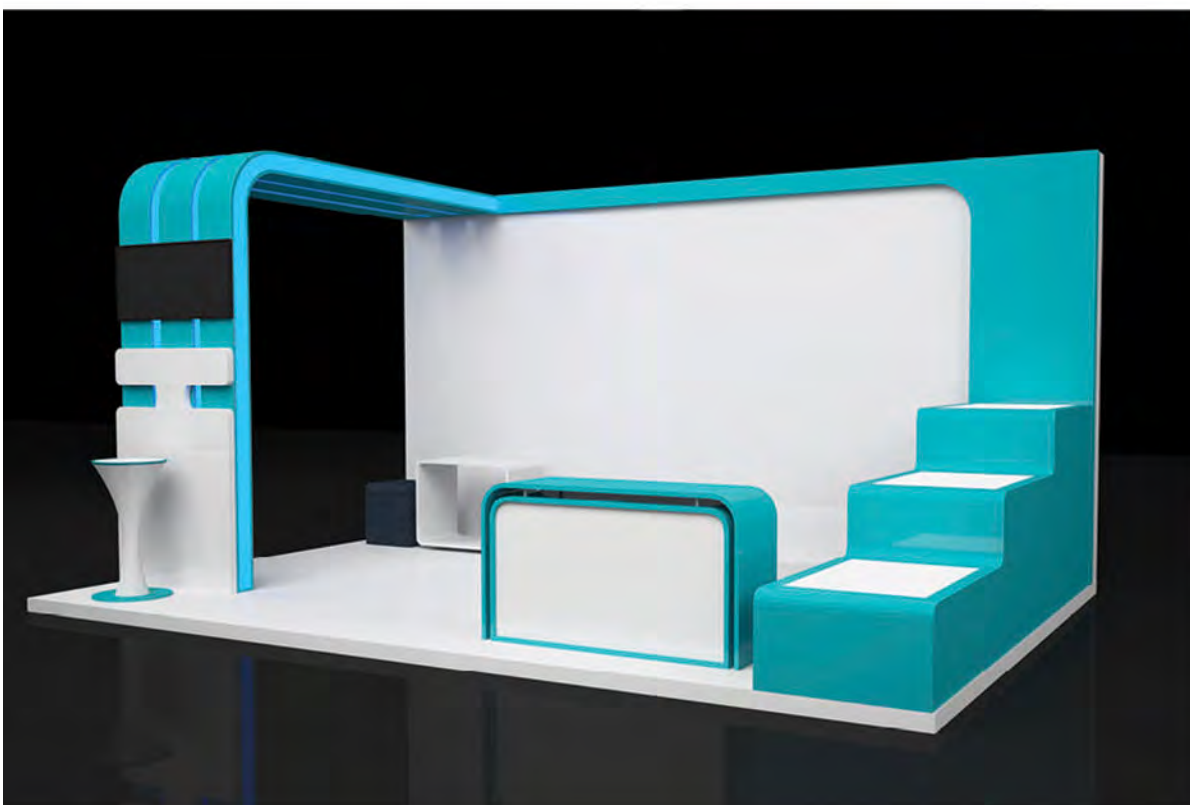
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