

OMAN, CHINA PITCH FOR ENERGY SECTOR TIE-UPS

Mohsin bin Hamad Al Hadrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals met with the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China. **>B1**



OMAN FUTURE FUND TO HELP IN DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY

The Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority said that the establishment of the Oman Future Fund, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, seeks to contribute to the implementation of government policies and strategies related to the advancement of the targeted economic sectors and the diversification of the Omani economy. **>A6**



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HM ORDERS LAUNCH OF AN INVESTMENT FUND WITH A CAPITAL OF OMR2 BILLION

His Majesty the Sultan chairs Council of Ministers meeting on Wednesday

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

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks and praise to the Almighty Allah for the bounties of security, stability and progress with which He endowed Oman. He prayed to the Almighty to eternalize these bounties and grant all health, welfare and success in what they aspire for.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan reviewed local, regional and international conditions.

On the domestic front, His Majesty the Sultan spoke about the ongoing government initiatives aimed at achieving rapid economic growth and finalising a financial and investment comprehensive system.

In this context, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to establish an investment fund, to be named "Oman Future Fund", that will have a capital of OMR2 billion.

The fund is aimed at enhancing economic activity and encouraging the private sector to enter into partnerships or finance feasible investment projects in the sectors of economic diversification targeted by Oman Vision 2040.

His Majesty gave directives to allocate part of the fund's capital to stimulate bold investment in SMEs and startups registered at the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

Speaking about the inauguration of the "Sultan Haitham City"



DISCOUNT ON POWER BILLS DURING SUMMER

HM gave directives to give a 15% discount on the total sum of the electricity bill for all residential units' subscribers during summer months from May to August 2023

FUEL SUBSIDIES AT SALALAH AIRPORT

The authorities concerned have been directed to provide direct subsidies in fuel prices at Salalah Airport on par with fuel prices at Muscat International Airport

EXTENSION OF SUBSIDY TO JOBLESS OMANIS

His Majesty directed the Council of Ministers to extend the monthly subsidy payment for the Omani employees whose services have been terminated from the private sector

international universities.

The scheme provides for 150 such scholarships over a period of five years, starting from this year (2023) to the tune of OMR36 million.

To encourage private higher education institutions to play a greater role in boosting the academic educational process, the Council of Ministers decided that private higher education institutions which were given some lands (lease-based) shall get ownership of those lands, while at the same time exempting them from pre-scribed fees. This applies to the institutions that meet the terms and conditions set for private higher education establishments.

To mitigate the cost of high electricity bills for citizens, particularly low-income segments, during

the summer season, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to maintain a 15 percent discount on the total sum of the electricity bill for all residential units' subscribers during summer months from May to August 2023.

In the same context, the Council of Ministers approved an increase in financial allocations within the housing assistance programme at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. The hike stands at OMR26.4 million for the remaining years of the 10th Five Year Plan. The sum is allocated to construct housing units for the people from some distant villages or shift them from their impacted areas of residence to safer places or to provide the areas with some public services or to establish service projects in them. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Oman, Switzerland hold talks session

1 The Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Federation held political consultations. The two sides exchanged views on several regional and international matters. **>A6**

WORLD US debt ceiling deal passes first hurdle

2 Passing a major hurdle for the budget deal, Republican House Speaker convinced fellow Republicans in Congress to suspend the debt ceiling. **>A6**

SPORTS Medvedev suffers shocking defeat

3 World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, experienced a shocking defeat in the opening round at the French Open when he fell to Brazilian Thiago Seyboth Wild. **>A8**

SUSTAINABLE CITY

His Majesty presides over inauguration of 'Sultan Haitham City' at Al Baraka Palace

MUSCAT: By the grace of the Almighty Allah and His divine support, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over the inaugural ceremony of the "Sultan Haitham City" at Al Baraka Palace on Wednesday.

When His Majesty the Sultan arrived at the inauguration hall, he was received by Dr. Khalfan bin Said Al Shu'aibi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning.

Then, His Majesty listened to a complete description of the smart futuristic city. The demonstration showcased a model of the city, which is coming up in the Wilayat of Seeb. The city constitutes a new model for setting up sustainable cities, and it simulates modern life and the aspirations of youth in the Sultanate of Oman.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan took note of the facilities of "Sultan Haitham City". He viewed display panels that outline a spectrum of structures, including a diverse range of residential prototypes embedded in a modern setting that epitomises the country's cultural heritage.

His Majesty the Sultan was also briefed about the brand identity and message of Sultan Haitham City, codenamed "Treasure the Future". The brand identity and message of the city reflect a vision for building the most unique and dazzling city in the Sultanate of



Oman. The visual logo of the city was inspired by pure nature, along with golden touches denoting luxury and power.

After that, His Majesty watched a visual presentation on the model of Sultan Haitham City's masterplan, its residential quarters, facilities and amenities. The visual display quotes figures about the assorted structures of the city (the

numbers of schools, hospitals, mosques, etc.). The briefing also outlines the stages of implementation of the project, which transcends the concept of ordinary urban life---since it envisages civilised society shaping its present-day life and modelling a brighter, more prosperous future.

At the end of the inaugural ceremony, His Majesty the Sul-

tan viewed a book describing the project of Sultan Haitham City, which will be an ideal icon for smart cities.

The ceremony was attended by Royal family members and high-ranking officials.

The model of Sultan Haitham City features sustainable lifestyles embracing an architectural vision to accommodate all seg-



Sultan Haitham City: A treasure for the future

A5

ments of society, giving them access to all social and recreational facilities and earning them a feeling of belonging.

The city focuses on twelve global standards on quality of life and welfare. The criteria range between affordable cost, advanced integrated facilities and modern lifestyles.

Sultan Haitham City project, planned to cover an area of approximately 15 million square metres, lays emphasis on utilizing green spaces estimated to be 2.9 million square metres. The city will house 100,000 residents and will have 20,000 residential units of different styles. **-OMA**



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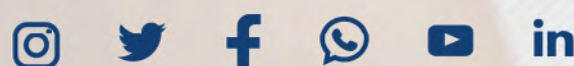


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ARAB CONFERENCE

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Oman takes part in meeting on child rights

Discussion held on Khareef Season

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, took part yesterday via video-conferencing in the 6th High-level Arab Conference on Child Rights.

The event was held under the title "Effective and sustainable development investment that guarantees the rights of the Arab child". Oman was represented during the meeting by Sheikh Rashid Ahmed AlShamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development. The conference highlighted several agenda in a bid to devise child-friendly public policies and identify challenges. **-ONA**

SALALAH: Dhofar Municipality on Wednesday organised a forum with strategic partners to discuss the activities of the "Dhofar Khareef Season 2023", as part of ongoing partnership between the municipality and private sector institutions.

The forum was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, who felicitated private sector institutions and strategic partners. The forum



included a visual presentation opening the season's facilities and on Dhofar seasons, as well as events. discussions dealing with devel-

-ONA

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IN PICTURES

HIS MAJESTY PRESIDES OVER INAUGURATION OF ‘SULTAN HAITHAM CITY’ AT AL BARAKA PALACE



MEETING

Council approves a plan to support wheat production by allocating OMR5 million

<FROM A1 The Council of Ministers commended the efforts made by the authorities concerned in cooperation with farmers in various governorates to encourage them to grow improved varieties of Omani wheat. The Council also approved a plan to support local wheat production by allocating OMR5 million until the year 2027, in addition to usufruct lands in some governorates for wheat cultivation.

With the aim of operating more direct flights to and from Salalah Airport at competitive prices during the Khareef season, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to the concerned authorities to provide direct subsidies in fuel prices at Salalah Airport on a par with fuel prices at Muscat International Airport.

The Council of Ministers listened to a briefing about the progress made in initiatives of the National Employment Programme and the efforts made by the authorities concerned to improve economic growth in general and to develop economic sectors. Accordingly, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to extend the disbursement of benefits from the Job Security System, for citizens whose services were terminated at private sector establishments, until December 2023.

The Council of Ministers agreed to exempt small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from some fees prescribed by the Tender Board. This was made in pursuance of the support accorded to the SME sector, being a basic pillar in the national economy and is hoped to have a major role in contributing to the gross domestic product and employment of



Omani citizens.

His Majesty the Sultan also spoke about regional and international affairs. He reviewed bilateral relations of the Sultanate of Oman with a number of Arab and foreign countries. He underlined Oman's continuing to espouse its permanent positive neutrality, as well as the country's persistent endeavours to achieve security

and stability for the region and to extend bridges of cooperation with all countries.

At the end of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan touched on various aspects of concern to the country and the citizens. He wished citizens continued success in all that realizes the good of the nation.

-ONA



SMART CITY



MUSCAT: The "Sultan Haitham City" constitutes a futuristic urban icon, a treasure for the future and a sustainable gift from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to future generations and all segments of society.

Sultan Haitham City emerges as the fruitful outcome of the comprehensive transformation approach espoused by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. It envisages transition into sustainable urban development that benefits thriving communities through the implementation of national strategic projects for urban development in line with Oman Vision 2040.

Sultan Haitham City represents the cornerstone of upcoming projects and a new model for building sustainable cities. It simulates modern life and epitomises the aspirations of young people in Oman.

The city, which occupies an area of 14,800,000 square metres, has been planned to reflect sound and sustainable urban planning based on the utilization of green spaces on an area of 2,900,000 square metres. It is designed to house 100,000 people and it will have 20,000 housing units ranging between separate villas, semi-attached villas, townhouses and flats.

The housing units are distributed over 19 integrated residential neigh-



bourhoods, supplied with various facilities and services to meet the needs of the residents. It will have 23 mosques and a grand mosque.

The city will also have 11 health facilities, including two health centres that cater to the needs of 20,000 patients and another set of six health centres with a capacity to serve 10,000 patients.

The city will have a referral hospital with a capacity of 1,200 beds, a private hospital and a centre to serve persons with disability and elderly people.

There city will have 39 government and private schools, which cover all educational levels.

The new city translates 12 international criterions of luxury and welfare—ranging between afford-

able cost, integrated utilities and sustainable systems—all of which played a role in drawing out the city's masterplan.

The city will have an internal transport network whose distances are carefully calculated to provide access to the largest possible number of facilities. The network will be suitable for public and private transport vehicles that smoothly crisscross the roads from the centre to the periphery.

In the meantime, there is scope in the city for green spaces, shaded corridors and lanes allowing the flow of gentle breeze and give an extra sense of comfort.

The city boasts other features like pedestrian passages and bi-cycle paths to help diversify the



methods of traffic, healthy lifestyles and sustainability of the environment. These include options for the use of renewable energy and measures for water conservation. The city's overall configuration enhances interaction and communication among various segments of society that benefit from common spaces and designs of neighbourhoods.

The design of the city's residential quarters also provide privacy a range of options that combine high and low densities to accommodate all income groups.

The city's designs also respond to climatic changes and cater to future developments, with its engineering infrastructure tailored to adapt to the needs of population growth and

the cost of maintenance.

The city welcomes all segments of society, with their diverse social and cultural backgrounds. It allows all segments easily access to its social and recreational facilities, thereby consolidating the bonds of belonging and cultural diversity.

In Sultan Haitham City, community facilities occupy strategic locations that have been carefully selected to allow residents to access them with complete ease. The strategy allows residents to jointly use public facilities, such as parking lots, playgrounds and parks, and contributes to achieving optimal use of spaces and amenities in the heart of metropolis.

The designs of the city's external

areas are inspired by the natural surroundings, with options for utilizing the natural shade of trees during the daytime—which will be much in harmony with the urban structures. The overall idea is to provide natural outdoor spaces in the vicinity of buildings and well-designed streets.

The city has also been designed to raise the quality of life by optimizing the use of solar energy as a sustainable source. In this setup, waste energy production systems and wastewater outputs will act as key factors in the protection of natural resources. The outcome will be the control of waste and the recycling of materials.

With its fascinating and captivating designs, the city promises transition into a future of happiness and prosperity. Yet, its concepts will never miss out on the country's heritage. While it builds a vision for the future of generations that celebrate modern life, it will also build solid grounds for harmony among cultural groups.

It is more than a city. It is a thriving ecosystem, a welcoming community and a unified society built on the notion that real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present. That life is a journey forward. It must be lived looking ahead, as tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. -ONA

OMAN/WORLD

OIA



Oman Future Fund seeks to increase economic activity

MUSCAT: Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), said that the establishment of Oman Future Fund in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, reflects the objective and prerogatives of Oman Investment Authority aimed to contribute to implementation of the government policies and strategies related to further development of the targeted economic sectors. It also aims at enhancement and diversification of the national economy and the venture capital system in the Sultanate of Oman. He said that the private sec-

tor availed from this fund in the finance of its projects and in attraction of foreign investments, creation of job opportunities and the support of SMEs by allocating part of the capital of the fund for finance of SMEs. He added that the fund integrates with the finance and investment cover system offered by the government through a number of establishments such as Oman Development Bank, SMEs Portfolio, Rakiza Fund and Oman Technology Fund through direct finance or partnership with the private sector in the capital. He said that OIA would manage

the fund under the governance applicable at OIA which includes the best international practices to ensure resiliency in achievement of its targeted financial and economic goals.

Joint team
Approval of the project's finance applications shall be through a joint team from OIA, the Ministry of Finance and any other body to be agreed upon, he said adding that the team evaluates the investment opportunities through financial and economic feasibility and sustainability of the project.

— OMA

FORUM



Oman, Switzerland hold fifth round of political consultations

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Federation on Wednesday held the 5th round of political consultations. The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Min-

istry for Political Affairs, while the Swiss side was headed by Maya Tissafi, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Division at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The round of consultations re-

viewed bilateral relations and the two sides stressed their keenness on promoting those relations on various fields. The two sides also exchanged views on several regional and international matters of mutual interest. — OMA

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS

Banking forum held in Muscat

MUSCAT: The “New Age Banking Conference”, organised by United Media Services on Wednesday, reviewed the financial systems and continuous digital developments in the sector. The opening of the conference was held under the auspices of Tahir Salim Al Ma'amari, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman. — OMA

IN CONGRESS

US debt ceiling deal passes key hurdle

WASHINGTON: Passing a major hurdle for the budget deal, Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy convinced fellow Republicans in Congress to suspend the debt ceiling — a plan he worked on with US President Joe Biden on Sunday. The House Rules Committee, which determines the scheduling of bills for consideration on the

floor of the House, voted 7-6 to allow the bill to advance to the full chamber. Two committee Republicans — ultra-conservatives who wanted deeper spending cuts — had gone against their leadership by opposing the bill. During the vote, two Republican hardliners joined four left-wing Democrats in opposing the deal,

ahead of an estimated June 5 deadline, to prevent the country from defaulting on its debt. The left wing of the Democratic Party is unhappy that Biden made any concessions at all on spending limits. The bill still needs lawmakers' support in the voting round expected to take place on Wednesday in the House of Representatives.

— DW

BILATERAL RELATIONS

India, Bahrain seek to further boost trade ties, investments

NEW DELHI: Ausaf Sayeed, secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in India, co-chaired the 6th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) with Bahrain and both sides noted the growth of bilateral trade and economic collaboration with bilateral trade reaching close to \$2 billion in FY 2022-23, according to the statement released by MEA.

Sayeed, who is on a 3-day visit to Bahrain from May 29-31, co-chaired the 6th FOC with Mohammed Ali Bahzad, Undersecretary (Consular Affairs), MoFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Bahrain. At the meeting, both sides reviewed all areas of bilateral cooperation including in the domains of security, space, youth, parliament, media & information, trade, energy including renewable energy, fintech, IT, Big Data, health, tourism, labour and consular issues, culture and education, people-to-people engagement, and discussed matters of mutual interest in regional and multilateral domains.

They also expressed satisfaction with the steady progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation and reiterated their commitment to further strengthening the relationship. “They noted the impressive growth of bilateral trade and economic collaboration with bilateral trade reaching close to \$2 billion in FY 2022-23, almost doubling from



the pre-Covid period,” the statement read.

Joint Consular Committee
Both sides agreed to work towards forming a Joint Consular Committee to discuss cooperation between MEA India and MoFA Bahrain in the Consular Affairs Sector, the statement added.

During the visit, Secretary Sayeed called on Minister of Industry and Commerce, Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro on Wednesday. The Secretary also interacted with a cross-section of the Indian community in Bahrain including the Heads of Indian Associations, Indian Medical Fraternity and Indian Schools in Bahrain in a session held at the Embassy.

He reassured them of the high priority Government of India gave to regular engagement with the Indian diaspora and informed them about the Government of India's support and various welfare initiatives. The Secretary conveyed the Government of India's gratitude to the Leadership and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for ensuring the welfare of the Indian community. “The visit was positively received by the Government and the people of Bahrain, and it provided an opportunity to review and discuss further strengthening multifaceted bilateral ties between the two countries,” the statement read.

— ANI

REGIONAL TRADE CURRENCY



Brazil's president proposes South American currency

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has proposed creating a regional trade currency for South America at a summit of regional leaders in Brasilia. Lula urged state banks across the continent to work together to reduce dependence on “extra-regional currencies” for trade, without mentioning the US dollar by name. Amid a renewed left-wing tide in the region, the Brazilian leader organized the South America Summit to help revive the Unasur bloc, which had largely become defunct after it was shunned by right-wing leaders in recent years. “As long as we're not united, we won't make South America a developed continent in all its potential,” Lula said.

South American leaders call for unity
The summit was attended by 12 South American leaders in an attempt to foster closer integration between neighbours. “Latin America must play a united role and have a united voice,” Colombian President Gustavo Petro told journalists as he arrived at the gathering. The only South American head of state not to attend was Dina Boluarte of Peru, who is unable to leave the country as she faces criminal charges. Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro was also in attendance, after years of isolation by right-wing leaders like Brazil's former president, Jair Bolsonaro, who labeled the socialist leader a “dictator.”

— DW

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1990/2023/MOH/DGRHP-87	Supply of Biomedical Spare parts at Royal Hospital	13/6/2023	11/7/2023	Specialized companies registered With tender board	25 RIALS

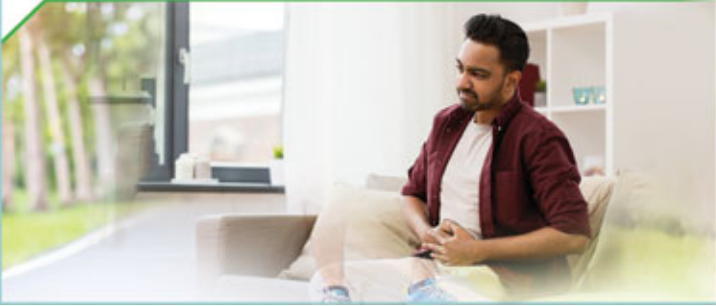
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Sudan’s army suspends truce talks with RSF

The brokers of the cease-fire, Saudi Arabia and the United States, say it has been violated by both factions

KHARTOUM: Sudan’s army suspended talks with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Wednesday, according to reports citing a government official.

Talks between Sudan’s warring factions have been ongoing since early May and have produced two short-term cease-fire deals.

The army and the RSF had agreed to extend a previous truce by five days just before it was due to expire late on Monday.

The brokers of the cease-fire, Saudi Arabia and the United States, say it has been violated by both factions.

An anonymous Sudanese official told the Agence France-Presse (AFP) news agency that the army made the decision “because the rebels have never im-

plemented a single one of the provisions of a short-term ceasefire which required their withdrawal from hospitals and residential buildings”

The official accused the RSF of having “repeatedly violated the truce.”

Fighting had already been reported on Tuesday both in Khartoum’s metropolitan area and in the western region of Darfur.

“The army is ready to fight until victory,” army chief Abdel-Fattah Burhan declared while speaking in Khartoum on Tuesday.

The RSF accused the army of violating the truce, saying the paramilitaries would “exercise the right to defend themselves.”

More than 1,800 people have

been killed in the conflict in Sudan since April 2015, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.

The United Nations says that over a million people have been internally displaced and nearly 350,000 have fled to other countries.

Neighbouring Egypt houses the largest group of Sudanese refugees, numbering over 170,000, and at least 60,000 have fled to Chad.

According to UN figures, around 25 million people in Sudan are in need of aid and protection, with entire districts of Khartoum being without running water and receiving only a couple of hours of electricity per week.

— DW

Tender

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S. N.	Tender No.	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
1	34/2023	Supply and installation of equipment and tools for science laboratories for the university building, Musandam Branch	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent and First Grades	RQ 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	12/06/2023 at 02:30 pm	20/06/2023 at 10:00 am
2	33/2023	Construction of the academic building at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Salalah Applied Branch)	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent Grade	RQ 160/- (One Hundred Sixty Omani Riyals)	20/06/2023 at 02:30 pm	10/07/2023 at 10:00 am
3	32/2023	Supply and installation of furniture for applied science laboratories, Musandam branch	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent and First Grades	RQ 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	12/06/2023 at 02:30 pm	20/06/2023 at 10:00 am

Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Thursday 01/06/2023 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.

Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.

The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid.

Broad Horizons آفاق واسعة

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Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
148/2023	Maintenance of two central and backup computers in the Ministry's General Office building	Companies specialized in the field of information technology services and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board at the level of excellent, first, second, third or fourth.	Tuesday 20-6-2023 02:00 PM	Monday 10-7-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Thursday 1/6/2023

❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

“The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry”

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SPORTS

MANCHESTER CITY

Pep named LMA Manager of the Year

MANCHESTER : Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has been named LMA Manager of the Year for the third time in six seasons.

Guardiola previously won the LMA prize in 2018 and 2021. The Spaniard took charge of the Blues at the start of the 2016/17 campaign. Since his arrival, the tactician has won five Premier League titles in the last six years. This time his team went toe to toe against Arsenal who posed a real threat to end their domination in the Premier League.

But in the end, the Gunners started to lose their grip on the top spot and slowly slipped to the second spot with each passing game week.

City secured the Premier League title with 89 points and three matches to spare. The Blues ended the season five points ahead of second-placed Arsenal.

In 38 league games this season, City won 28 games and scored a remarkable 94 goals, more than any other side in Europe's major leagues. A historic Treble is also on the cards as City face Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3 and Inter Milan in the UEFA Champions League final on June 10.

As Guardiola bagged the award he went on to thank everyone who was involved with



him throughout the season. He further went on to emphasise the importance of the award for him as a manager.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in me being named LMA Manager of the Year," Pep Guardiola said.

"First of all, I want to share it with my fellow nominees. They have all done an incredible job this season."

"This trophy is not normally awarded for how good a manager you are, but for what you win. I am at an incredible football club and without all of the support that I have had throughout my time here, this would not have been possible."

"Of course, I also want to thank all of the players for the incredible job that they have done to help us this season," Guardiola concluded.

-ANI

Medvedev suffers shocking defeat, Swiatek advances

PARIS: World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev arrived in Paris freshly triumphant, having secured his first clay-tournament title in Rome



PARIS: World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, experienced a shocking defeat in the opening round at the French Open this year as the highest-ranked player to be eliminated so early when he fell to Brazilian qualifier Thiago Seyboth Wild, 7-6(5), 6-7(6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Tuesday.

Before the clay-court major, Seyboth Wild had only competed in one Grand Slam tournament - the 2020 US Open - and hadn't yet claimed a main draw victory at a Tour-level event.

"I've watched Daniil play throughout my entire junior career and up until today," said Seyboth Wild, who will face Argentine Guido Pella in the next round. "I've always dreamed about playing on this court, playing these kind of players. In my best dreams I've been beaten

them, so it is a dream come true."

The 23-year-old made 69 winners and, after losing two set points in the second set tie-break, elevated his game in the final two sets to record the most significant victory of his career.

Medvedev arrived in Paris freshly triumphant, having secured his first clay-tournament title just a week prior in Rome, but his second Grand Slam title hopes were dashed at the outset.

"For sure I'm really disappointed," Medvedev confessed in

a crowded press conference. "I'm going to be thinking about this match for a week. But for the moment, I don't see anything wrong I did. I felt like I'm doing what I have to and he played well, so let's continue," Medvedev said.

In women's play, top seed Iga Swiatek was initially challenged in the opening set against Cristina Bucsa. However, she swiftly found her momentum, dispatching the Spaniard 6-4, 6-0, setting up a second-round clash against American No. 102 Claire Liu.

American sixth seed Coco Gauff, the 2022 Roland Garros finalist, rallied from a set down to overcome Spain's Rebeka Masarova 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, avoiding an early exit.

Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan triumphed 6-4, 6-2 over Brenda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic.

Earlier in the day, last year's men's finalist Casper Ruud returned to Paris in winning style. The Norwegian advanced to the second round for the sixth successive season. -xinhua

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CRICKET MATCH

MTCL T20 final to be held in Amerat today

Times News Service

Muscat: The highly anticipated MTCL T20 Grand Finale is just around the corner, featuring an epic showdown between Bombay Blues and MIS Fighters.

Taking place at the iconic Oman International Cricket Stadium on 1 June 2023 at 6:00 PM, this thrilling encounter will showcase the top two teams of the tournament. Bombay Blues secured their spot in the final by defeating the formidable Desert Warriors, while MIS Fighters emerged victorious against HCC in an intense semifinal clash.

Bombay Blues displayed their prowess in the semifinals, putting up a stellar performance against the Desert Warriors.

Their batsmen delivered power-packed performances and showcased their aggressive stroke play. The bowlers, led by their seasoned captain, demonstrated remarkable skills, effectively dismantling the opposition's batting lineup.

The victory in the semifinal not only secured their place in the grand finale but also boosted their confidence as they aim for the ultimate glory.

MIS Fighters faced a tough challenge in their semifinal encounter against HCC. However, they exhibited immense grit and determination throughout the

match. The bowlers, with their consistent line and length, made crucial breakthroughs, ensuring victory for the team.

The triumph in the semifinals has propelled MIS Fighters into the final, where they will leave no stone unturned to claim the championship.

The MTCL T20 Grand Finale promises to be a riveting clash between Bombay Blues and MIS Fighters. The Oman International Cricket Stadium will witness a cricket extravaganza as these two powerhouses go head-to-head for the ultimate prize.

Fans can expect an intense battle between bat and ball, with breathtaking shots, electrifying fielding, and strategic bowling maneuvers. Every run, wicket, and catch will be crucial as both teams strive to etch their names in the history books.

Cricket enthusiasts in Oman are eagerly awaiting the MTCL T20 Grand Finale between Bombay Blues and MIS Fighters.

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LA LIGA

Stegen could break record for most clean sheets

BARCELONA: Barcelona's goalkeeper Marc Andre ter Stegen is currently level at 26 clean sheets in a season with Deportivo goalkeeper Paco Liano, who set the record for most clean sheets in 1993/94.

Barcelona still has one game to play, which means Ter Stegen can break the record of Paco Liano. Stegen is also likely to win the golden glove award. The golden glove award is given to a keeper who has kept the most number of clean sheets in a season, which means conceding the least number of goals.

Barcelona will play their last league match against Celta Vigo on June 4.

Barcelona and Ter Stegen have another record to break in their sight. Currently, they have matched the record of Chelsea of most clean sheets in a season by a team.

-ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2023 reaching \$71.71, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.41 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$74.12. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,626.40 points, up by 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.40 per cent at 465.98 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 9.86 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 6.78 per cent, was the top loser.



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Oman, China pitch for energy sector tie-ups

The meeting aimed at exploring opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation and partnership in the fields of energy and minerals



Republic of China. The meeting aimed at exploring opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation and partnership in the fields of energy and minerals. During the meeting, Chinese companies with expertise and technologies in the energy and minerals industries were invited to invest in the Sultanate of Oman.

It also underscored the importance of the 10th Arab-China Business Conference, which will be held next month in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The Omani delegation discussed means of localising industries related to renewable energy and green hydrogen. The meetings come within the

framework of the visit of representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) to highlight various opportunities. It is worth noting that China imports more than 80 per cent of Oman's total crude oil production. -OMA



Oman National CERT stresses importance of robust cybersecurity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As we live in a more digitally connected world, we are more and more vulnerable to cyber threats, highlighted Dr. Haitham Hilal Al Hajri, Sr. Executive – Cyber Security Projects, Oman National CERT, on the sidelines of the GSMA M360 EURASIA 2023 conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. He underscored the importance of finding multi-faceted cybersecurity solutions in collaboration with industry partners and international regulatory bodies to safeguard our digital economy.

Dr. Haitham moderated an exclusive cybersecurity officers (CSO) roundtable at the high-profile industry event that featured panelists Dr. Tural Mammadov, Director of the Azerbaijan Computer Emergency Response Centre (CERT), Dr. Mohammad Khaled, Director of Business Development and Strategic Projects, e& Enterprise, Dr. Elvin Balajanov, Chairman of the Board of Azerbaijan Cybersecurity Organisation Association and Dr. Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer, Huawei Middle East & Central Asia. Under the theme of "Build more secure and resilient telecom networks to support the future digital economy efficiently," participants in the media roundtable discussed various topics, including collaborations among network operators and their partners, suppliers and customers in defending against telecom cybersecurity, how regulators could promote local telecom industry's cybersecurity development, and the role that cybersecurity plays in safeguarding critical information infrastructure and the digital economy, among other topics.

The Oman National CERT cybersecurity expert highlighted that COVID-19 was a big inflection point in Oman's digitalisation journey. "COVID was the number one driver for the development and uptake of digital services like e-government, e-financing, e-sports, etc. But the more we are connected, the more we will face cyber challenges," explained Dr. Haitham. "As an industry, we have to find common ground or foundation that will enable us to standardise solutions and regulations," added Dr. Haitham. He highlighted that when multiple stakeholders collaborate with each other and with governing bodies, cybersecurity solutions can become more robust, scalable and adaptable.

The telecom industry has become an integral part of modern society and is recognised as a critical infrastructure industry (CI). It plays a vital role in connecting people, businesses and governments, facilitating communication, information sharing and commerce on a global scale. However, as telecom net-

works become more complex and interconnected, they become more vulnerable to cyber threats. Therefore, the cybersecurity of telecoms is a critical component of national security, and it is essential to bring together telecom stakeholders to promote the development and optimisation of telecom cybersecurity. Dr. Haitham said, "Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility and national security agencies, telecom providers and ICT industry players should work together to achieve a more robust cybersecurity posture, so telecom providers can continue to deliver cutting-edge digital services unimpeded by cyber threats." Dr. Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer, Huawei Middle East & Central Asia, added, "We need to consider how to meet the increasingly strict compliance requirements of regulators on the one hand and how to provide secure and trustworthy products and services that fulfill our commitments to customers on the other. We must also embrace a defense-in-depth approach to provide better security, ensure business continuity, resiliency, improve efficiency and customer experience while always protecting user privacy."

Dr. Haitham highlighted that the human factor is the most critical in cybersecurity and can be considered the most vulnerable target. "You can get a \$5 million security solution, but if we put someone inexperienced in charge, they can be easily exploited with a phishing attack, which can then infect the whole network or system. This is why specialized training for cybersecurity professionals and cybersecurity awareness for the general population is crucial."

Sharing his thoughts on cybersecurity training and the overall continued development of the industry, Dr. Aloysius highlighted the importance of PPPs. He highlighted that Huawei actively works with governments, customers, and industry partners to address cybersecurity and privacy challenges, thereby reinforcing the need to treat cybersecurity as a team sport and maintaining an open and collaborative environment that encourages innovation and transparency. Huawei has supported multiple ICT talent development programs in Oman, such as the Seeds for the Future program, ICT Academy, internship programs, and knowledge transfer. In December last year, Muscat hosted the regional finale of the Huawei ICT Competition Middle East 2022 under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Taimur bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman and in partnership with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Labor, and Omantel.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT OMAN

FDO announces harvest at aquaculture farm in Khuweimah, Jalaan Bani Bu Ali

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) has announced the first harvest of oriental shrimp aquaculture, a subsidiary of the FDO group, from the 200-hectare Shrimp Aquaculture Project at Khuweimah, Jalaan Bani Bu Ali, in the Sultanate of Oman's Al Sharqiyah South Governorate.

With an investment value of around OMR16 million (over \$41 million), the project represents the FDO Group's ongoing promotion of aquaculture as a key pillar to diversifying the national economy beyond the hydrocarbon sector.

It also reflects the Fisheries Development Oman Group's progress in terms of leveraging Oman's favourable economic, geographical, and logistical conditions to become a regional leader in the



aquaculture and fisheries sector. Furthermore, the farm is growing Pacific White Shrimp, (*Litopenaeus vannamei*), using specific pathogen-free brood stocks im-



ported from the United States. The entire production operation is carried out in a highly bio-secure and hygienic environment without the use of drugs, antibiotics, or any

chemicals of public health concern. Key components of the project include 126 grow-out ponds for Pacific White Shrimp, a nursery unit with 48 ponds, a post-larval unit, pre-processing unit, and support infrastructure.

With an operation capacity of 4000 tonnes annually, the Khuweimah farm supports the Fisheries Development Oman group's mission to lead the development of a sustainable and competitive aquaculture sector in Oman that promotes a meaningful contribution to wealth creation, food security needs, and employment generation in Oman, through the diversification of production systems that produce safe, nutritious and affordable aquaculture produce, while ensuring the environmental continuity required for securing its future growth.

'MASAR' PROGRAMME

OQ inks pact to train 800 corporate managers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ, the global integrated energy group, signed a three-year agreement with Competence HR Company to enhance the skills of 800 of its leaders through the 'Masar' programme.

This initiative is part of OQ's ongoing commitment to empower its national employees to keep pace with supervisory developments following the group's future vision. In addition, the agreement will play a significant role in realising OQ's energy transition strategy in line with Oman Vision 2040.

Following the agreement signed by Talal bin Hamed Al Awfi, Group CEO of OQ, and Amer Fadhel, CEO of Competence HR Company, the first cohort of the Masar programme, comprising 265 employees, has embarked on their training and development journey in the areas of leadership and supervision. The programme was designed



according to international standards of the Chartered Management Institute, UK to refine leadership skills and empower OQ personnel in middle and senior roles.

This is achieved through the implementation of customised programmes developed in collaboration with Competence HR, a trusted partner with extensive con-

nections to international and local centres renowned for expertise in leadership skills training.

By partnering with a local company with established connections to international counterparts, OQ acts as a catalyst for fostering valuable collaborations between local and international entities specialised in training and extend-

ing support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Oman.

This collaboration empowers SMEs by providing access to essential experience, facilitating knowledge exchange, and enabling participation in continuous qualification programmes that adhere to international standards.

This comprehensive support system ensures that SMEs in the Sultanate of Oman receive the necessary resources to thrive and excel in their respective fields.

Ashraf bin Hamad Al-Mamari, Chief Executive of People, Technology, and Culture at OQ, highlighted the significance of the agreement, stating, "Signing this agreement to qualify 800 of our people is a vital step that reflects the effort put by OQ in human resources development. This significant endeavour will contribute to our operations' progress and ensure that we remain abreast of the latest developments and requirements in our field."

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 9.86 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 6.78 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,626.40 points, up by 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.40 per cent at 465.98 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 9.86 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 6.78 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 596 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.97 million, with more than 11.67 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 13 advanced, 19 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR167,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR117,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR50,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,558.74 points, up 0.04 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Ahli Bank, National Bank Oman, Taageer Finance and Bank Muscat were up by 8.70 per cent, 1.12 per cent, 1.11 per cent, 1.11 per

cent and 0.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Takaful Oman, Al Madina Takaful, Sohar International Bank and Oman United Insurance were up by 3.19 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.18 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.76 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,989.91 points, up 0.21 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Cement, Jazeera Steel Products and Oman Cables Industry were up by 9.86 per cent, 2.50 per cent, 1.86 per cent and 1.27 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramics, Raysut Cement, Al Maha Ceramics and Galfar Engineering were up by 2.91 per cent, 2.55 per cent, 0.57 per cent, 0.57 per cent and 0.55 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.4 per cent before closing at 1,701.64 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power and Abraj Energy were up by 6.35 per cent, 3.57 per cent and 0.34 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Al Batinah Power, Muscat Desalination, National Gas and Salalah Port Services were up by 3.41 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.11 per cent, 1.96 per cent and 1.38 per cent respectively. – United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

Trading Summary																
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded									
3,559,537	510,813	223	18,180,346,800	3	11	16	30									
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 31																
ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	64,670	21,212	8	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.320	0.008	2.500	0.328	0.328	0.334	0.100	108,526,249
OM000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	337,935	91,260	4	0.269	0.274	0.269	0.274	0.269	0.005	1.859	0.274	0.270	0.274	0.100	34,222,041
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	444,413	120,818	4	0.270	0.273	0.270	0.273	0.270	0.003	1.111	0.273	0.273	0.272	0.100	443,883,355
OM000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,703,530	445,466	53	0.262	0.262	0.261	0.262	0.261	0.001	0.383	0.262	0.261	0.262	0.100	1,966,676,030
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	177,556	27,699	2	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.156	0.157	0.100	312,048,795
OM0000001533	OMNIVEST	263,600	97,862	14	0.380	0.380	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.100	247,295,208
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	3,000	751	2	0.252	0.252	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.252	0.100	15,301,068
OM000002440	AL SHARQYA INVESTMENT HO.	96,000	7,200	6	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	6,750,000
OM000002349	BANK DHOFAR	5,000	859	3	0.169	0.175	0.165	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.165	0.175	0.100	524,361,501
OM000003036	OMAN TELECOM	720,049	696,734	30	0.972	0.972	0.960	0.964	0.964	0.000	0.000	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.100	723,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	40,769	2,487	4	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.065	0.000	12,200,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	457,320	160,328	45	0.352	0.352	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.348	0.350	0.100	227,830,481
OM000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,229	430	3	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.352	-0.002	-0.568	0.350	0.350	0.352	0.100	19,250,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	57,307	14,924	8	0.262	0.262	0.260	0.260	0.262	-0.002	-0.763	0.260	0.261	0.260	0.100	26,000,000
OM000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	120,445	12,998	11	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.108	-0.001	-0.926	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	26,626,950
OM000000398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	319,434	32,263	4	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.105	0.004	3.961	0.101	0.101	0.104	0.100	463,596,291
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	11,561	4,348	4	0.378	0.378	0.376	0.376	0.380	-0.004	-1.053	0.376	0.372	0.380	0.100	88,890,150
OM000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	2,339	198	2	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,700,000
OM000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	115,050	30,853	4	0.270	0.270	0.268	0.268	0.275	-0.007	-2.545	0.268	0.265	0.268	0.100	58,960,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	79,300	6,614	17	0.085	0.086	0.083	0.085	0.088	-0.003	-3.409	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100	16,969,028
Total		20	5,020,507	1,775,303	228											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	21,918	1,648	8	0.078	0.078	0.074	0.078	0.071	0.007	9.859	0.078	0.075	0.078	0.100	6,306,300
OM000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	475,723	23,272	47	0.049	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.046	0.004	8.696	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	4,250,000
OM000005983	PHOENIX POWER	447,824	29,100	27	0.063	0.067	0.063	0.067	0.063	0.004	6.349	0.067	0.062	0.067	0.100	97,994,298
OM000004923	AL SUWADI POWER	124,000	3,472	10	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.029	0.028	0.001	3.571	0.027	0.027	0.029	0.100	20,717,794
OM000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	14,885	29,403	12	1.970	1.990	1.965	1.990	1.965	0.025	1.272	1.990	1.965	1.965	0.100	178,503,000
OM000002200	AHLI BANK	491,726	88,511	5	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.178	0.002	1.124	0.180	0.180	0.182	0.100	350,938,344
OM000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	600,000	54,300	12	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.090	0.098	0.100	24,008,988
OM000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	238,228	70,730	64	0.295	0.299	0.295	0.299	0.298	0.001	0.336	0.299	0.299	0.302	0.100	230,289,800
OM000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	20,000	3,960	1	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.000	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.100	20,742,885
OM000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	8,810	974	1	1.425	1.425	1.425	1.425	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.425	1.425	0.000	0.100	71,250,000
OM000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	15,000	865	2	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	17,814,487
OM000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	501,248	451,123	5	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	85,500,000
OM000002386	AL BATINAH DEVELOPMENT & INV.	70,100	7,465	11	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	2,570,000
OM000002804	ASAFA FOODS	1,000	290	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	34,800,000
OM000004420	BANK NIZWA	115,340	10,842	8	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	210,273,585
OM000004735	SEMBOOR SALALAH	812,167	81,228	23	0.100	0.102	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.100	0.100	95,457,195
OM000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	58,260	17,245	2	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.100	20,835,440
OM000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	606,255	110,071	11	0.185	0.185	0.180	0.180	0.181	-0.001	-0.552	0.180	0.178	0.180	0.100	36,537,560
OM000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	137,570	24,163	14	0.176	0.178	0.175	0.175	0.176	-0.001	-0.568	0.175	0.173	0.177	0.100	35,000,000
OM000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,000	119	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.100	50,547,655
OM000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	2,380	1,023	3	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.436	-0.006	-1.376	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.100	77,330,082
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	197,000	19,750	1	0.100	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.102	-0.002	-1.961	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	3,000,000
OM000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,000	48	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	12,000,000
OM000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	39,019	3,629	5	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	14,468,187
OM000003661	VOLTAAMP ENERGY	158,597	15,397	21	0.093	0.101	0.093	0.100	0.103	-0.003	-2.933	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	8,140,275
OM000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,319,226	120,865	40	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.094	-0.003	-3.191	0.091	0.091	0.094	0.100	18,200,000
OM000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	126,626	3,688	9	0.029	0.030	0.028	0.029	0.030	-0.001	-3.333	0.028	0.028	0.031	0.100	19,571,735
OM000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	17,748	778	3	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.059	-0.004	-7.670	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	8,600,000
Total		20	6,625,610	1,182,887	359											



STROKE

RISING IN YOUNG POPULATIONS:

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Often stroke is associated with older populations, but many people are unaware that it can occur at any age. In fact, one out of five people who have a stroke are under age 55. A stroke is a brain attack that occurs when blood vessels in the brain are blocked or burst. Strokes can cause long-term disability, impair a person's ability to speak, see or move, and can even result in death. While you can lose everything to stroke, taking quick action at the first sign can help with recovery and have a lasting impact. Unfortunately, almost 30% of adults younger than 45 don't know the five most common symptoms of a stroke, according to

research published in The American Heart Association's "Stroke." At the same time, stroke is on the rise in that age group. "Young people who are not familiar with the most common signs of stroke are at risk of inaction at a time when every second matters," says Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, PhD, stroke medical director at Touro Infirmary. "Both stroke survival and recovery are possible with the right care at the right time." Immediate medical attention is dependent on everyone learning and being able to recognize the sudden onset of the BE FAST signs and symptoms of a stroke in themselves and others and calling 911 immediately. BE FAST stands for Balance,

Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, Time and refers to these signs of stroke:

- BALANCE:** Sudden loss of balance
- EYES:** Loss of vision in one or both eyes
- FACE:** Face looks uneven or droopy
- ARM:** Arm or leg is weak or hanging down
- SPEECH:** Slurred speech, trouble speaking or seems confused
- TIME:** Immediately call doctors

No matter a person's age, understanding stroke risk

factors is also vital, as some factors can be managed with lifestyle changes. These risk factors include high blood pressure, atrial fibrillation, high cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, poor circulation, lack of physical activity and obesity. It's important for everyone to talk to their health care provider about safely managing these factors through diet, exercise and smoking cessation, particularly for those at higher risk due to age (risk increases as you get older), race (African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders have a higher risk of stroke than people of other races), (more women have strokes than men) and family history (risk is greater if a family member has

had a stroke). "According to the CDC, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability. Therefore, it's critical to learn the signs and take action right away," says Dr. Martin-Schild. "It is far better to react than to regret." For more information and resources, visit strokeawareness.com, developed by Genentech Inc., a member of the Roche Group. "BE FAST" was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST model implemented by the American Stroke Association. Reproduced with permission from Intermountain Healthcare. © 2011 Intermountain Healthcare. All rights reserved. — StatePoint

IN PICTURES

Luzhou grand bridge enters final stage of construction
This aerial picture shows the Luzhou grand bridge under construction in Zhanjiang City, south China's Guangdong Province. The cross-sea Luzhou grand bridge, with a total length of 562 metres and a main span of 300 metres, has entered the final stage of construction. [xinhua](#)



Manhattanhenge seen in New York
This picture shows the Manhattanhenge in Manhattan of New York, the United States. The Manhattanhenge refers to the twice-a-year circumstance during which the setting sun aligns precisely with the east-west streets of Manhattan. [xinhua](#)

Scarborough Renaissance Festival celebrated in Texas, US
A man in 16-century costume plays the bamboo flute at the Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie, on the outskirts of Dallas, Texas, the United States. [xinhua](#)



World Taekwondo Championships 2023 in Baku
Higashijima Seiya (right) of Japan competes with William Cunningham of the United States during the men's 58kg round of 64 match at the World Taekwondo Championships 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan. [xinhua](#)



'Reflection of the Golden Age' art exhibition held in Singapore
People visit the 'Reflection of the Golden Age' art exhibition at the China Cultural Centre in Singapore. [xinhua](#)



Aamir Khan, Gippy Grewal and Kapil Sharma at the trailer launch of 'Carry on Jatta 3'
Bollywood actors Aamir Khan, Gippy Grewal and solo-comedian Kapil Sharma pose for a picture at the trailer launch event of the upcoming Punjabi language movie 'Carry on Jatta 3', in Mumbai. [ANI Photo](#)



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ROUND-UP

ISWK Cambridge International recognises its young student leaders

The young council members, including captains, advisors, prefects and class representatives were conferred with their badges during the investiture ceremony

MUSCAT: Amongst much joy and fanfare, ISWK Cambridge International (ISWKi) held its investiture ceremony on May 25 to felicitate the newly appointed Student Council for the academic year 2023-2024.

The event commenced with a warm welcome being accorded to

the chief guest, Majid bin Saeed Al-Bahri, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs.

After a prayer presented by the gifted school choir, the newly elected members of the student council were ready to be conferred with their responsibilities



for the new academic year. The council was chosen by the students of the school, after an exciting week of campaigning, which concluded with elections.

The young council members, including captains, advisors, prefects and class representatives were conferred with their badges by the chief guest and members of the school managing committee. Each of the learners took the oath

and pledged to discharge their responsibilities with utmost dedication and commitment.

The oath was ratified by the Head Girl Bhumika Jagtiani, Head Boy Krish Kamath, and the dignitaries.

The chief guest congratulated the office bearers and urged them to perform their duties with passion and diligence.

The event concluded with a sparkling dance performance by the talented dance group, followed by an inspiring vote of thanks proposed by the newly elected head girl and head boy.

ISWKi offers the Cambridge curriculum and is the school of choice for holistic development. For more information log on to www.iswki.org

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE



MCBS students win first place in CTF competition NTG Hacktivate

MUSCAT: Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) student team wins first place at the “Capture the Flag” (CTF) competition organised by the National Technology Group (NTG) Hacktivate. The CTF competition finals were held at the Oman Exhibition and Convention Center in Muscat, Oman. It is the largest annual information security contest in Oman.

The Dean of Modern College of Business and Science, Dr Moosa Al Kindi, expressed his appreciation to the National Technology Group. He added, “The win affirms that Modern College of Business and Science reinforce students’ skills in the field of cybersecurity and increases their employment opportunities in the information technology sector aligning with the growth of the country’s digital economy and the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.”

In March 2023, college and university students were invited by NTG to learn about the program and the competition. More than 64 teams from over 30 higher educational institutes across the Sultanate participated in the competition. NTG ran the competition in two stages: an online first-stage competition and an additional speed-running stage for the best 12 teams.

“We were pleasantly surprised that our efforts during the challenge were well-rewarded. We enjoyed participating in the CTF Competition, where we got to apply our wide breadth of knowledge and showcase our skills in various cybersecurity categories. We are grateful for the chance to engage in hands-on challenges and put our expertise to the test. Thank you for organising such an enriching event that contributed to our growth and development in cybersecurity,” said Ibrahim Al Malki, MCBS Student Team Leader.

The winning team from the MCBS is comprised of five students Ibrahim Al Malki, Haider Ali, Iliyas Al Jabri, Haitham Al Sudairi and Labeeb Al Bahlani. The team was supported throughout the challenge by their faculty advisor Dr Basant Kumar. The winning MCBS team earned their win through their evaluation, report, and presentation at the 32nd Annual Comex event organised by Oman International & Trade Exhibitions (OITE). Engineer Badar Al Salehi, Director General of Oman National Computer Emergency Readiness Team(CERT)and Engineer Dr Omar Al Rasbi, Chief Executive Officer at National Technology Group presented the awards to the winning team.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF TRUST

Bahar picks winners of mega raffle draw

MUSCAT: Bahar, National Detergent Company’s (NDC) flagship brand, announced the winners of the mega raffle draw held on May 8 as part of its grand campaign, Bahar - Celebrating 40 Years of Trust.

The campaign received an overwhelming response from customers who participated in this special occasion, making it a resounding success. With a plethora of valuable prizes up for grabs, from premium devices to valuable gold coins, 40 lucky individuals from across the Sultanate emerged victorious in this celebratory event.

Murali Sundar, CEO of NDC, said, “We are delighted by the enthusiasm shown by our loyal customers in the campaign. The mega raffle draw was an event that highlighted the trust our customers place in us. We extend our hearty congratulations to the lucky winners and other participants whose support has been crucial to our



success and we look forward to continuing this journey together.”

He added, “We are also grateful to all the trade partners who participated in this promotional campaign with special thanks to outlets like Lulu Hypermarket, Carrefour, Ramez Shopping Center, Nesto Hypermarket, Sultan Center, K.M Trading and Al Badia Hypermarket who gave their wholehearted support to make this

campaign a grand success.”

Ten winners received the highly sought-after 25-gram gold coins, whilst another fortunate 10 won the iPhone 14s. Furthermore, 10 were delighted to win iPads and the remaining 10 were thrilled to be rewarded with the Samsung Galaxy Fold phones.

Abdallah Sulaiman Al Bandari, one of the winners expressed his excitement by saying, “Winning the iPhone in the Bahar Mega Raffle Draw is truly a remarkable moment for me.

“I am grateful to NDC for organising this campaign and for appreciating the loyalty of its customers. This experience reinforces my trust in the brand and its dedication to fulfilling its promises. I have been buying Bahar products for the last so many years now and I am delighted to be a winner.”

Mahmood Ali, hailing from India, whose daughter won an iPad exclaimed, “Being selected as one of the lucky winners in the Bahar Mega Raffle Draw is an amazing surprise. NDC has truly outdone itself with this grand campaign and I am appreciative of their generosity. Their commitment to celebrating its customers is noteworthy. This experience has inspired me to continue supporting NDC and be an advocate for their excellent products.”

QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR EDUCATION

OAAAQA inaugurates National Qualifications Framework of the Sultanate of Oman

MUSCAT: The Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance for Education (OAAAQA) inaugurated on Wednesday, May 31, at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat, the National Qualifications Framework of the Sultanate of Oman, under the patronage of Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance.

The inauguration ceremony opened with a speech delivered by Dr Jokha bint Abdullah Al Shukailiya, CEO of the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education, in which she welcomed the attendees saying, “Your presence with us today will allow us to introduce Oman’s structure, objectives, scope and benefits of the NQF. Through this meeting, we seek to review the most important milestones in our long journey towards developing a comprehensive national qualifications framework in the Sultanate of Oman, which included benchmarking exercises with regional and international frameworks, conducting an environmental survey of qualifications in Oman, developing a strategy for consultation and communication, and identifying entities responsible for the governance, management and implementation of the national framework. This trip also included a series of extensive international, regional and local consultations with specialists in the education and training sectors.”

She also spoke about the importance of the National Qualifications Framework and its development in implementing national priorities and strategic directions, saying: “The development of the comprehensive national qualifications framework today is of special national importance, as it comes in line with the implementation of national priorities and strategic directions included in Oman Vision 2040, especially those related to building an educational system characterised by international quality, community partnership, and the establishment of an integrated and independent system for the governance and evaluation of



the educational system, following national standards, in addition to what is stipulated in the National Education Strategy. 2040 on the need to open technical and vocational education pathways for students of post-basic education.”

Jokha Al Shukailiya concluded the speech by thanking the patron of the ceremony, Nasser Al-Jashmi for patronising this ceremony, and also thanked all the supporting parties and supporters of the Authority throughout the process of preparing and developing this project. She also thanked the education and training institutions that underwent the pilot roll-outs of the NQF, the NQF team who worked wholeheartedly since the start of the project in 2015, and the Scottish Qualifications Authority, the consultancy that was hired to provide technical advice and advice in the development of the NQF. She also thanked the Oman NQF Association (Opal) for its strategic partnership with the ceremony.

The ceremony included a series of segments that included the screening of two short films, one of which defines the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), its structure, objectives and scope, while the second film presents the important stages that the Authority has gone through in its journey towards developing the National Qualifications Framework in the Sultanate of Oman.

The ceremony also included presentations by two keynote speakers, Dr Tariq Al-Sindi, Secretary General of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, and former CEO of the Education and Training Quality Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain, who spoke in his presentation about regional experiences in the implementation and development of national qualifications frameworks in where Malek Sarieddine, Regional Director of Business Development in the Middle East of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) on the role of NQFs in the recognition of professional qualifications, ACCA qualification model.



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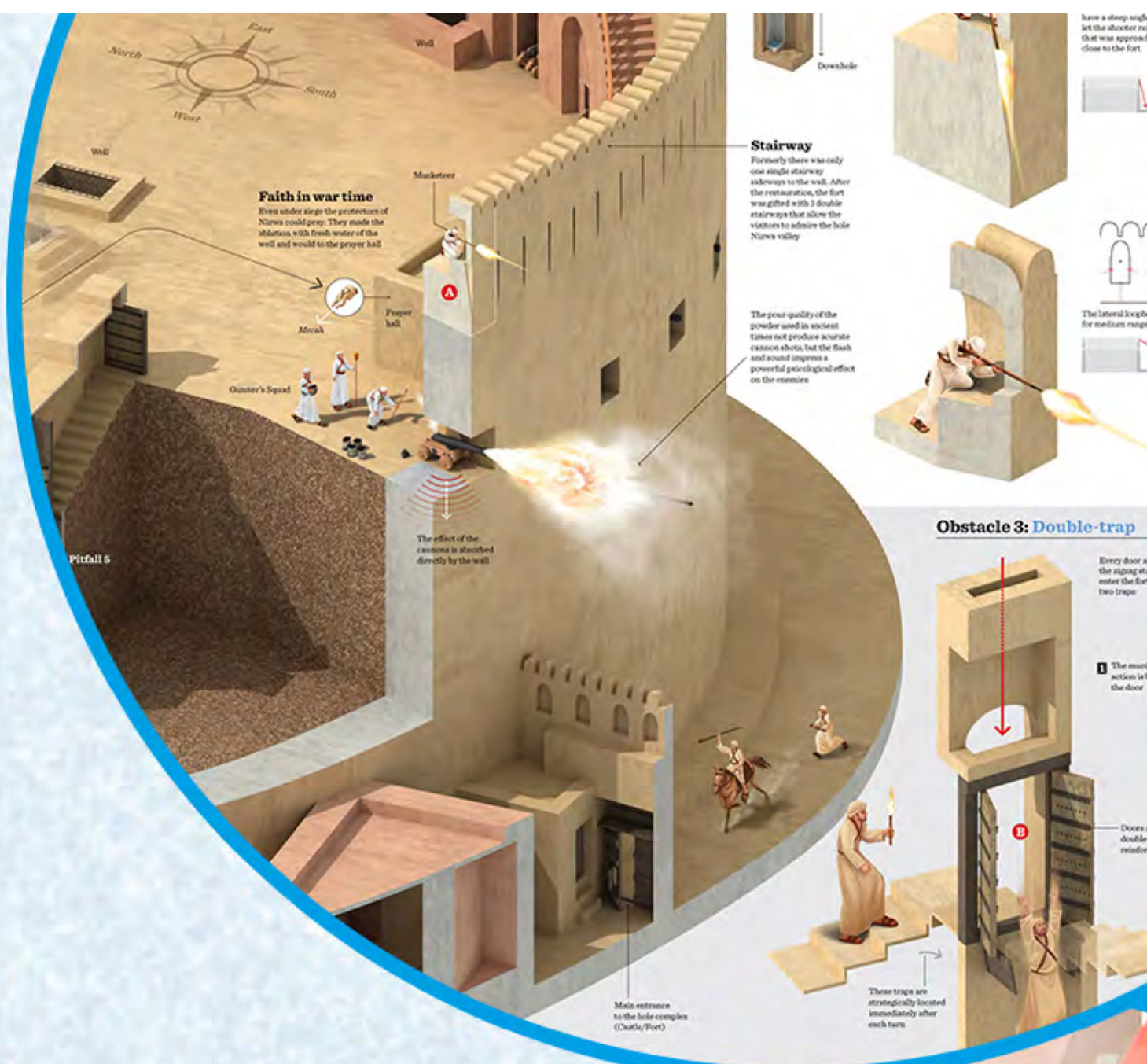


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Vision of the City

Presenting a new model for building sustainable cities that simulate modern life in the Sultanate of Oman

Total Landscape

2,900,000 m²

Total Land Area

14,800,000 m²

Total Residents

100,000 residents

Central Park and Wadi

1,640,000 m²



Total Residential Unites

20 Thousand

Attached Villas
Semi-Detached Villas

Detached Villas
Apartments



39 Schools

9 | Private Schools
30 | Public Schools
10 | High Schools
10 | Secondary Schools
10 | Primary schools



11 Healthcare Facilities

2 | Private Hospital
1 | CA health center (20,000 population)
6 | CB health center (10,000 population)
1 | Special Needs Rehabilitation & Elderly Care Centre People With
1 | Referral Hospital (1,200 Bed)



25 Mosques

23 | Prayer Rooms
1 | Mosque
1 | Grand Mosque

Integrated Neighbourhoods

19

Community Centres for Each Neighbourhood:

Shared sports facilities
Public Halls
A playground for team sports
Nursery / early education center
High School
Mosque
Car parking
Clinic
Prep school
Primary school



City Features

Accessible
Healthy
Compact
Affordable
Robust
A city for all
Efficient
Comfortable
Sustainable
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Smart
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