

**MINISTER OF ROYAL
OFFICE RECEIVES
SWISS AMBASSADOR**

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Sunday Thomas Oertle, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A5**



**OMAN BAGS MEDALS AT OLIVE
PRODUCTS CONTEST IN ITALY**

The Sultanate of Oman's extra virgin olive oil from Riadh Al Jabal Al Akhdar Farm won four medals—two gold and two silver—at an international contest organised in Italy recently. The accomplishment was highlighted on the sidelines of Royal Court Affairs' participation in the international extra virgin oils contest in Italy. **>A3**



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**Saygid Fahd
receives Patriarch
John X of Antioch** **A5**

HEALTH

No rise in heart attacks after COVID vaccination: OHA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Incidence of heart attacks among people who have received COVID-19 vaccines has not risen, the Oman Heart Association (OHA) has said.

While several studies have shown that there are some side-effects associated with all COVID vaccines, including pain and slight swelling at the injection site, Dr Adil Barakat Al Riyami, a senior consultant interventional cardiologist, said there has been no reliable study confirming a rise in heart attacks post-vaccinations, either in Oman or across the globe. "However, what has



been clearly documented across the world, and, in Oman as well, is the occurrence of post-vaccination myocarditis," he said. "This myocarditis is usually limited, and does not cause long-term problems. Myocarditis causes the secretion of the heart muscle enzyme, known as troponin, which is the same enzyme secreted in patients with heart attacks... hence the confusion." **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Pakistani expats' hope

1 Pakistanis in Oman hope that they would get the right to vote in the next elections. **>A3**

WORLD Missing aircraft debris

2 The debris of a twin-engine aircraft, which went missing on Sunday morning, has been located in Nepal. **>A6**

MARKET Sezad land readiness

3 Sezad says a package of plots for various industrial projects is ready. **>B1**

FOREIGN INVESTMENT NORMS EASED

Work is currently underway to establish an 'Invest in Oman' centre that brings together 13 authorities concerned with investments in the Sultanate of Oman to receive investors, register them in a database, introduce them to the available opportunities and direct them to the departments concerned. This centre will be opened during this year. Moreover, legislation are currently being worked on to regulate work in small and medium enterprises (SME), including street vendors, home businesses, and self-employment.

Qais Al Yousef
Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The oil and gas sector accounted for 67.8 percent of all overseas investment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Several steps have been taken to make it easier to attract foreign investment, and improve operating standards of businesses in Oman, according to Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP).

Speaking at a session of the Majlis Al Shura, the minister added that the incentives include enabling business, commercial and investment activities to be conducted after obtaining an initial licence, providing the same treatment to foreign investment companies as is given to national companies, granting residency to investors and labour market and employment incentives.

Al Yousef pointed out that the contribution of service activities to the GDP increased by 50.20 percent to reach about OMR16,571.4 million until the end of December 2021 and that the contribution of wholesale and retail trade amounted to about 8.60 percent as a result of the gradual opening of the service activities sectors.

The total trade exchange of the Sultanate of Oman with the countries of the world increased by 47.1 percent to reach OMR28,986.234 million until the end of 2021.

He added that the number of business registrations recorded with the ministry stood at 349,894 until the end of December 2021.

Meanwhile, the total transactions completed through the 'Invest Easy' portal amounted to 789,493 transactions in 2021, constituting an increase by 39.03 percent compared to 2020.

Al Yousef said that during the beginning of the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan, the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the GDP amounted to 9.70 percent until December 2021, with a total of OMR3,195.600 million. Further, the growth rate of industrial activities was 13.6 percent. The manufacturing sector recorded a remarkable increase by 9.70 percent.

He said that during 2021, the manufacturing sector contributed an added value of OMR3,000.2 million to the economy, representing 9.7 percent of the GDP, which amounted to OMR33 billion in the same year.

Non-oil merchandise, Al Yousef added, grew from OMR3.03 billion to OMR5.79 billion, while total merchandise exports grew from OMR11.73 billion to OMR17.06 billion.

He said that the value of direct foreign investments (FDIs) in the manufacturing sector until the end of the third quarter of 2021 reached OMR1,584.9 million.

The oil and gas sector contributed 67.8 percent of the total foreign direct investments, and the manufacturing sector ranked second with 9.2 percent.

The financial intermediary sector followed with 8.8 percent, real estate, rental activities and commercial projects contributed 7.1 percent, while other sectors recorded 7.1 percent. **>A2**

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YOUTH

Nine Omani athletes get Olympic grants to compete at Paris 2024 games

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nine athletes from Oman have been provided grants to take part in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, the first-ever to so many athletes in the country, the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) has announced.

The support for the nine athletes was made possible, thanks to the opportunities available through international Olympic solidarity programmes for national Olympic committees.

Under this scheme, the Oman Olympic Committee has succeeded in obtaining support to prepare more Omani athletes across four sports included in Olympic events: Shooting, swimming, athletics and



weightlifting.

The nine athletes include Al Anoud Al Khalili from the Oman Shooting Association, Abdul Rahman Al Kulaibi and Issa Al Adawi (both Oman Swimming Federation), weightlifter Amer Al Khanjari from the Oman Weightlifting and Physical Strength Committee

and five players from the Oman Athletics Association: Mubeen Al Kindi, Ali Al Balushi, Hussein Al Farsi, Muhammad Al Sulaimani and Fateh Beit Ja'Boub.

"The grants provided by the solidarity programme aim to assist athletes who are selected by National Olympic Committees and

proposed in the stages of preparation and qualification for the 33rd Olympic Games in France," said the Oman Olympic Committee. "This programme allows them to obtain NOCs for financial and technical support for high-level athletes who are seeking to qualify for the Olympic Games."

This is for the first time nine preparation grants have been conferred upon Omani athletes: Previously, the International Olympic Committee would usually grant support to only five athletes from countries that have sent less than 70 athletes to the five previous versions of the Olympic Games.





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Omani athletes to get ‘exceptional’ support for international events



This time, the OOC received more grants on account of its desire to support the largest number of deserving athletes and provide them help to do well at the Olympics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Athletes representing Oman at regional and international sporting events are to be provided with ‘exceptional’ support programmes by various stakeholders, according to the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC).

The news from the OOC comes after the organisation succeeded in securing from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) nine training and development grants

for Omani athletes taking part in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

The grants were issued under the International Olympic Solidarity Programme which normally issues five grants to athletes from countries that have sent 70 or lesser athletes to the previous Olympic Games.

However, this time, the OOC received more grants on account of its desire to support the largest number of deserving athletes and provide them the preparation re-

quired to do well at the Olympics.

“It is fortunate that the OOC succeeded in obtaining this important number of grants within the Olympic Solidarity Programme,” said the Omani government organisation.

“This coincides with the formation of the sub-committees as part of which the High Level Sports and Olympic Planning Committee was created, which will work in effective partnership with the Olympic Solidarity Committee.

“One of the priorities of the newly created committee will be the development of a system for classifying high-level athletes, including the criteria for enjoying Olympic Solidarity grants,” said OOC.

“This will enable concerted efforts, pool the available capabilities under one roof and rationalise their use so that this programme is the unified national reference for classifying athletes, and targeting them with ‘exceptional’ support programmes that may be provided by various stakeholders.”

The IOC has set a set of qualitative standards at continental and international level that have been adopted as a condition for obtaining support. Eligible athletes must have the technical levels that enable them to qualify for the Olympic Games, with their abilities proven through the results achieved in national and international competitions, alongside the practice undertaken for any individual sport at international level.

Furthermore, the sport in which the athletes seeking grants are taking part must be included in the Summer Olympics, and they must make sure that they adhere to the standards of sports ethics in accordance with the Olympic Charter and IOC, as well as to the Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency, while ensuring they have not been convicted for violation of anti-doping rules.

IOC has allocated financial support to the nine players for a programme to prepare them to take part in qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This support will continue until August 2024, before the start of the Olympic Games.

There will also be continuous follow-up of the technical levels of the nine players under the preparation plans, through established executive programmes from their federations and sports committees, technical reports and results achieved at the Arab, continental and international levels.

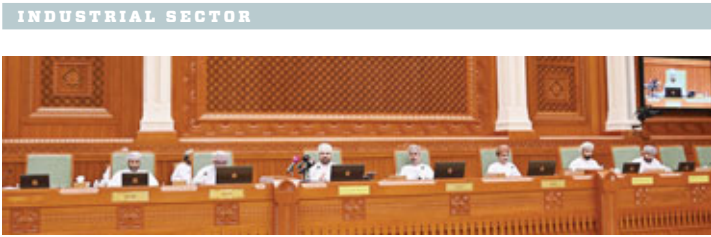
This support can also be used to qualify the players technically through local or regional qualification centres, in addition to the possibility of using high-level coaches by the relevant sports federations and committees to qualify the selected players in their respective sports. IOC, in coordination with the sports federations and

committees, seeks to benefit from these grants by providing all the facilities for training, and allocating qualified and specialised trainers to train these players with the aim of raising their technical levels to achieve the desired results that enable them to participate at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Olympic Solidarity Committee of the IOC provides four support programmes to NOCs every four years, according to a budget allocated for this purpose.

These programmes include support for athletes, assistance for coaches, programmes to support Olympic values and activities for the management of NOCs and knowledge exchange.

OOC is keen to benefit from these programmes, which aim to refine and qualify national technical and administrative personnel for their benefit and growth and enhance their capabilities in sports.



< FROM A1 28 Investment opportunities

Work is underway to launch 28 investment opportunities in various activities with the aim of finding investment opportunities in the industrial sector and presenting them to investors, Al Yousef said.

Al Yousef indicated that work is currently underway to establish an ‘Invest in Oman’ centre that brings together 13 authorities concerned with investments in the Sultanate of Oman to receive investors, register them in a database, introduce them to the available opportunities and direct them to the departments concerned.

This centre will be opened during this year. Moreover, legislation are currently being worked on to regulate work in small and medium enterprises (SME), including street vendors, home businesses, and self-employment.

Meanwhile, the session which was chaired by Khalid Hilal Al Ma’awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, covered a spectrum of topics, namely the ministry’s vision for the future of industry and evaluating the contribution of the commerce and industry sectors in the GDP, among others. – OMA



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STUDY < FROM A1 ‘Data show COVID-19 vaccines gave protection against heart problems’

In support of his statements, Al Riyami pointed out that in one of the largest studies conducted in this context, 54 occurrences of myocarditis were recorded among more than 2.5 mn people who had been administered with the COVID vaccine: That’s about 2.13 incidents of myocarditis for every 100,000 people.

“This is the same rate of myocarditis that occurs even if people do not receive their vaccines,” he added. “76 percent of incidents were mild, 22 percent were moderate, and only one was classified as critical.”

Al Riyami also questioned people who had taken to the OHA’s official social media accounts to ask about reportedly high numbers of recent cardiac arrest-related deaths in Oman. “We have not noticed an increase in the number of heart attacks in people after they were vaccinated,” he said.

The OHA also issued advisories for people in this regard, stating: “In a recently published study, it was proven that the influenza vaccine, when issued to heart patients, reduced the death rate by 41 percent and the occurrence of another stroke by 14 percent, within a year of follow-up since the vaccine was first administered.

“Among the symptoms of myocarditis are signs of a viral infection, body aches, joint pain, fever, headaches, vomiting, diarrhoea, sore throat, heart palpitations, chest pain, and shortness of breath while at rest and during physical activity. Always make sure to get the right information from specialists, and follow the association’s account for developments and news related to heart health,” added the OHA.

In this context, Dr Zaid Al Hinai,



assistant professor of paediatric infectious diseases at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University, pointed out that an increase in cardiovascular problems has been detected in a small proportion of people in Oman who have recovered from COVID-19.

Lately, we have seen that across society, and by doctors in the field as well, that the rates of stroke and heart disease have increased over the last few months,” he said. “These occurrences do raise questions regarding why such issues are being seen more frequently these days.”

“In this regard, the scientific data we have, unfortunately points to an increase in cardiovascular complications following large waves of COVID-19 infections,” he added. “However, the good news is that most people who have recovered from COVID-19 will not experience these complications, and that the vaccines continue to provide a good level of protection from these issues.”

Al Hinai pointed to a number of

studies conducted by other universities that attempted to map the correlation between heart complications and infection from COVID-19.

Among the strongest studies in this matter was the one published in ‘Nature Medicine’ in February this year. In this study, researchers from the University of St. Louis in the US looked at the health outcomes of more than 150,000 patients who recovered from COVID-19, monitoring their health for up to a year after they recovered.

“They found that despite these people having recovered, there was still an increase in the risk of heart disease and strokes,” explained Al Hinai. “They found that about 45 out of every 1,000 persons who recovered from COVID suffered at some point after recovery from cardiovascular or thrombotic complications, which is a significant increase from normal levels.”

The authors of the study concluded that health systems need to be prepared to care for more cardiovascular diseases after waves of COVID-19 infection.

They also emphasised the importance of early detection of heart disease among people who have recovered from COVID-19.

While some might be quick to point out that heart complications are the side effects of COVID vaccines, Zaid Al Hinai was quick to refute this allegation.

“Again, the question that arises here is the role of vaccines in this issue,” he said: “While some have tried to blame these complications on the vaccines, the truth is that the scientific data shows that the vaccines have actually protected against these heart problems.”

Al Hinai also referred to a study from Case Western Reserve University to corroborate the findings of increased heart problems in people who have recovered from COVID-19. The study looked at 25,000 patients who were vaccinated, but had become infected with the diseases, and then recovered.

They found that these patients, three months after their infection, had a much lower rate of heart disease and a much lower rate of death compared to patients who were not vaccinated and had gotten infected with COVID-19. This study, and others, have found that vaccination has not only reduced the acute complications of COVID-19, but also reduced its long term complications.

“So in summary, the scientific data we have unfortunately points to an increase in cardiovascular complications following large waves of COVID-19 infections,” explained Al Hinai. “However, the good news is that most people who recovered from COVID-19 will not experience these complications, and that the vaccines have provided a good level of protection from these.”

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KOREA, A COUNTRY THAT CAPTIVATES YOU FROM THE FIRST GLIMPSE

By Hatim Altaie

Many people say that there are seven benefits to travel, often citing travel as the best way to broaden the mind, but when travelling to the Republic of Korea (commonly known as South Korea), these benefits are magnified. The reason being that South Korea is one of the richest cultures in East Asia and its people are some of the most exemplary when it comes to dedication and productivity. As a society, they have a collective ambition to develop and enhance technology. The first thing a visitor notices immediately after arrival is how Koreans love and respect order. No matter where you look, Korea's massive cities display some of the best qualities in a modern space, incredibly well-organised and well-disciplined. These are a few observations I made during my recent visit to the country

A LONG HISTORY

Korea's age as a country cannot be counted on our fingers. It was a witness to the Second World War, the victory of the allied forces in 1945, the fall and end of the rule of the Japanese Empire on the island, the outbreak of a bloody civil war and even the division of the two Koreas (North and South.) South Korea survived all of this turmoil and then faced many challenging years, in which it managed to successfully build a modern society filled with peaceful development destined for glory. Perhaps it is important to mention that the Republic of Korea, until the fifties, lived on foreign aid and international support. In just a matter of a few decades, it successfully transformed itself into a highly developed nation and is now extending help to various countries all over the world.

With the invitation of the Korea Foundation and as a part of its programmes to publicize their country and its successes, I joined dignitaries and parliamentarians from several countries to visit South Korea to gain an insight into their institutions and achievements.

The trip began in the capital Seoul, a city of approximately 10 million people divided into large groups of 25 districts. Seoul is a progressive country that balances green mountains with modern facilities and an outstanding, well-organized public transport system for buses and trains.

Resident in the Lotte Hotel, located in the city centre amidst skyscrapers and business centres and surrounded by luxurious and high class shops, my room on the 34th floor allowed me to enjoy panoramic views of the city from above with the mountains as a backdrop and gave me the impression that I was watching a painting by a creative artist. Perhaps it was fate itself that allowed it, but my visit coincided with cherry blossom season, a colourful sign of the beginning of spring and the moment the weather bids farewell to the coldness of winter.

THE KOREA FOUNDATION

Koreans are very efficient when it comes to time management. Our work started quickly wherein we had an introductory meeting with Dr Gwan Lee, the head of the Korea Foundation. Prior to his promotion as the head of the Korea Foundation, established in 1991, he worked as a university professor at the prestigious Seoul National University. The meeting provided a brief overview of what the foundation does which includes providing diplomatic activities that work to bring people together, organising programmes for foreign delegates' visits and supports and publishes Korean arts and culture. What they do is tap into 'soft powers' to add a positive presence on the global scene.

Dr Gwan Lee elaborated on the importance of building bridges of cooperation and partnership between the Republic of Korea and the Arab world and pointed out



the various elements that Korea and the Arab world have, which help to strengthen cooperation and move it forward towards broader horizons.

The following day's schedule was filled with interviews and discussions. We visited the Korean Parliament, which has about 300 members, representing different regions and states in Korea and is responsible for legislation and control of the government and various state institutions. What I observed is that Koreans are very proud of their language. There are only a few English speakers, and this is perhaps one of the secrets of South Korea's distinction, maintaining its original identity, being the fastest way towards uniqueness.

The Korea Foundation assigned a translator to us, (I named her Hyam) and she helped us a lot in conducting extensive and enriching discussions with the Korean people. I met with the National Association member, Mrs. Jung Choun-Sook, who is responsible for several important subjects; including the issue of equality between men and women, and most importantly, she is the chairperson of the Omani-Korean Relations Development Committee. This great interest in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and establishing a specialized committee to strengthen bridges of cooperation with other countries really caught my attention.

Mrs. Jung spoke extensively about the Korean parliamentary system and elections and also highlighted several challenges facing Korean society and the importance of finding legislative solutions to them. The parliamentarian did not neglect to talk about the importance of developing Omani-Korean relations, expressing her desire to visit the Sultanate of Oman at the earliest opportunity, and she praised a lot of what she knew about Oman and its good reputation as a friendly and peace-loving country.

STUDENT MISSIONS

I suggested to Mrs. Jung the importance of increasing scholarships for Omani students to study at the advanced Korean universities in the fields of technology and other sciences. This could involve establishing training programmes for students from Omani universities to train, qualify and improve their skills in major Korean companies such as Samsung and Hyundai, perhaps during the summer period to gain experience, acquire a dedicated work ethic, and other skills in communication, task performance and job commitment.

On the third day, a meeting was arranged with the speaker of the National Association, Mr. Jang Seong. I was amazed at the beauty of the exterior and interior architectural design of the National Association building, with its multiple sections and a large hall that hosts parliamentary sessions. The President of the National Association explained the importance of

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Dr Gwan Lee elaborated on the importance of building bridges of cooperation and partnership between the Republic of Korea and the Arab world and pointed out the various elements that Korea and the Arab world have, which help to strengthen cooperation and move it forward towards broader horizons.

Parliament's work in providing great services in the field of research, studies on public opinion polls, and supporting members of Parliament with all the extensive studies they need to help them take the necessary decisions. He mentioned to me that about 15 researchers who are PhD holders work in the National Association, along with a large number of competent assistants.

This was followed by a meeting with His Excellency Chung Jong-Kun, Korean Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary, who spoke about the various political challenges facing the world, including wars, tensions and conflicts that represent a threat to international peace and security. He clearly and frankly referred to the wisdom of Oman's politics and its clear approach to establishing peace around the world. He also spoke about the remarkable development in Omani-Korean relations, especially as they approach the completion of almost 50 years of bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Korea which was established in 1974.

Discussions about politics and diplomacy did not prevent us from clearly pointing out the promising investment, economic and cultural opportunities that both Oman and Korea have, which would raise the relations between the two countries to higher levels in a number of ways. The Republic of Korea excels in employing its 'soft power', taking advantage of its physical and technological capabilities. I was introduced to the International Cooperation Organisation 'Koika,' which is part of the Korean Foreign Ministry, and it represents the development arm which works to establish projects in many countries of the world to fight poverty, disease and ignorance, building strategic partnerships with many countries in various fields of development and organising humanitarian aid.



The interest of East Asian countries to strengthen ties of cooperation with the countries of the world, on purely humanitarian grounds, always astonished me. Although they are aware of the extent of their 'soft power' and its impact, they are very keen to enforce these 'soft powers' to achieve development goals that promote the human being, without interfering in the internal affairs of another country or talking about political aspects related to local conditions of these countries and this is what should be paid attention to and maintained to achieve a future that is based on solid cooperation with various countries.

MULTIPLE VISITS

The trip schedule, as I mentioned earlier, was full of meetings and visits to several sites and institutions, and our trip included a visit to the smart city 'Anyang', which is located outside of the capital Seoul. It is called a smart city because, within the last 15 years, it has been able to manifest the ideals and theories of what makes a smart city, where everything is interconnected and well-coordinated including the police.

From this visit, we learned that smart city is equipped with about 6,500 surveillance cameras throughout the city that worked overtime monitoring traffic and controlling violators or monitoring and limiting suspicious actions, all of which are aimed to keep the city safe, secure, and stable. This system has helped to reduce crime and traffic accidents through a highly accurate monitoring system.

HYUNDAI FACTORY

There is no doubt that a visit to Korea will not be complete without visiting its industrial fortresses, and on top of these forts comes the giant Hyundai factory, which despite intense competition from European and American technology, has been able to excel globally in the field of the automobile industry. From the date of its establishment, in just 10 years, it became an advanced auto-industry giant setting foot on the global auto market stage which has ensured that Hyundai cars are found

in almost every street in the world. What astonished me is that this large company developed its manufacturing systems not solely dependent on manual labour but rather a reliance on robotics. A quick browse through their assembly process reveals how the machines are in-charge of installing parts of the cars with minimal supervision from factory workers who are then supervised by a select group of engineers.

Hyundai has evolved to an exceptional level, so much so that we were shown its first car powered by environmentally friendly green hydrogen energy. The car is planned to be revealed this year, and it is expected to conquer the world in the next few years.

KOREAN DRAMA AND MUSIC

The impact of Korean culture on drama and music can be found everywhere. Some of their best television series are not only viewed all over the world they matured to include different subtitles including Arabic. Even in Arabian Gulf countries, Korean series are easily found on different satellite channels. Ironically, Turkish series are adapted from many Korean dramas, and for this reason, we find Korean shows finding TV lovers everywhere. Perhaps the most well-known example of Korean 'soft power' dominating the consciousness of the world was the introduction of the song 'Gangnam Style.' It has achieved international fame, and to date, boasts more than 4 billion views on YouTube so far. Gangnam is one of the modern districts in Seoul which is known for its restaurants and cafes. Korean cuisine is characterised by healthy food and is highly reliant on vegetables. 'Kimchi' or Korean pickles are an essential dish on every table in Korean homes.

One of the most beautiful things I noticed about the Korean people is that they sanctify work; indeed, one of the most important reasons for their advancement is their total commitment to work; where work is the most important priority in the life of a Korean person. They apply the rule of 'work is worship'. Koreans work long hours without tiring; because they

turned work into a means of both self-realisation and dream of life realisation. Koreans love discipline, respect and appreciation. When they meet, they bow down to greet or thank someone, saying 'Kamsa Hamnida,' which means 'Thank You.'

Korea represents an advanced model of modern civilisation, which is based on technological innovation and provides an elegant way of life.

OMANI DIPLOMACY IN KOREA

When I reflect on the Omani diplomatic presence in Korea, I see our embassy in Seoul as an inspiration for activity and continuous work. The Oman Embassy in Korea is located in one of the finest Korean districts in a high-rise building. The Embassy embraced the original and unique forms of Omani architecture and any visitor will immediately see that the design is based on the foundations of the ancient Omani heritage, derived in essence from Islamic architecture with a mixture of different cultures until it crystallized in an Omani crucible flourish with originality and uniqueness.

It was there that I met His Excellency Zakaria bin Hamad al Saadi, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Korea, and I found him to be a wonderful example of the Omani Ambassador abroad.

The Ambassador represents the spirit of youth, full of enthusiasm towards work, with all energy and activity. From the first moment of the meeting until its end, a smile never left his face and he maintains the wonderful Omani nature, with his calmness and strong charisma, at the same time totally modest. His Excellency the Ambassador possesses extensive knowledge which totally captivates his listeners, in addition to his diligent follow-up of events and developments in various fields; he is working to utilise all of this in evolving Omani-Korean relations. Here I point to the serious discussions between the Republic of Korea and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to conclude a free trade agreement, which is a step that would support the improvement of Gulf-Korean relations.

I had a walking tour with His Excellency, on which we enjoyed a night's walk in the safe streets of Seoul; where we walked through the town in the charming springtime.

One of the most beautiful things that I learned during my visit to Korea is that the most famous, the finest and most delicious grape is called 'The Bright Muscat Grape', a fruit which represents for the Koreans a strategic crop. It is used in many ways and is sold at a high price; the price of a kilogram may reach the equivalent of 10 Omani Rials. This type of grape is characterised by its wonderful sugary taste with little acidity and its large round shape without seeds.

The history of 'Muscat grapes' goes back to the period of the Portuguese presence; The Portuguese took the seeds of Omani grapes from Jebel Akhdar to grow in Europe, and it was a great success due to the nature of the weather there. Then 30 years ago, the Japanese conducted successful experiments to develop this grape through genetic engineering, and when it arrived in Korea, it achieved great success.

The truth is that when I saw this Omani grape flourishing in the Far East and East Asia, I wished that it would return to our beloved country and we would grow it in high mountains of Jabal Akar.

In conclusion, I don't recall being happier when visiting another country than when I visited the Republic of Korea. It is a country that captivates you from the first glimpse, catches your eyes, steals your mind, and ignites your heart with joy, happiness and enthusiasm.

The Koreans have impressed me with their culture of love for work, fondness for excellence and distinction, and at the same time not neglecting to enjoy the pleasures of life. That is why I say a heartfelt 'Kamsa Hamnida'.



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OMAN'S EFFORTS LAUDED

Sayyid Fahd receives Patriarch John X of Antioch

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers on Sunday received Patriarch John X of Antioch in the Syrian Arab Republic who conveyed greetings of the Syrian government to the leadership in the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, HH Sayyid Fahd expressed Oman's appreciation and respect towards all religions. He also pointed out that Islam is a religion of tolerance and coexistence with all monotheistic religions.

HH Sayyid Fahd expressed the hope that this visit would contribute to bolstering rapprochement and understanding between countries on matters that enhance peace and stability.



Warm welcome accorded
Patriarch John X of Antioch expressed his delight over this visit and his appreciation for the warm welcome accorded to him.

He lauded Oman's efforts of goodwill and its policy of moderation.

The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Sheikh Abdullah Mohammed Al Salmi, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

He holds prestigious scholarly degrees as he played a positive role in spreading interreligious tolerance, which made him a globally renowned figure. — OMA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Minister of Royal Office receives Ambassador of Kazakhstan

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Sunday Mohammed Ali Najmuddin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides reviewed areas of joint cooperation and means of enhancing relations between the two countries.

The ambassador also expressed his sincere appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman. — OMA



ENHANCING COOPERATION

Minister of Royal Office receives Swiss Ambassador

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Sunday Thomas Oertle, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Sultanate of Oman. Al Nu'mani welcomed the ambassador, wishing him success in carrying out his duties as the ambassador of his country to Oman.

In his turn, the ambassador expressed his sincere appreciations for the Sultanate of Oman and his keenness in enhancing areas of cooperation to serve the joint interests of the two countries. The two sides also discussed several matters of mutual interest. — OMA



Invitation to Attend the Extraordinary General Meeting of Bank Muscat Oryx Fund



The Board of Directors of Bank Muscat Oryx Fund (the “Fund”) has the pleasure in inviting the unitholders to the Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) to be held on Monday, 20th June 2022, at 3 pm, at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman.

Failing quorum, the EGM shall be reconvened on Tuesday, 21st June 2022, at 3 pm, at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss and consider the following agenda:

- To amend article (12) of the fund's Articles of Association.

In accordance with the Fund's Articles of Association, every unitholder has the right to appoint any other person in writing as his proxy to attend the meeting and

vote on his behalf, by way of a proxy card. Any such natural person should attach to the proxy card a copy of their ID for adults, their passport for minors or those who do not have a civil card or resident card, and resident card or passport for non-Omanis. For corporates, the proxy form shall be signed by one of the authorized signatories and sealed by the company's stamp accompanied with copies of the commercial registration certificate and the specimen signature form.

The respected unitholder is requested to attend at the EGM venue half an hour before the meeting.

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

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

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING



VARIOUS SECTORS: The agreements cover various sectors, including business, sports, education, rehabilitation, agriculture, health and fuel filling station. — OMA

23 land development pacts worth OMR37 million inked

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on Sunday signed 23 land development (usufruct) agreements with several private sector companies.

The agreements, worth OMR37 million, cover various sectors, including business, sports, education, rehabilitation, agriculture, health and fuel filling station.

These lands are distributed over the governorates of Mus-

cat, South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah, North A'Sharqiyah, A'Dhahirah, A'Dakhiliyah and Al Wusta.

Pact signed with companies
The agreements were signed with the companies by Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Mutawa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for Urban Planning.

Al Mutawa said that the agree-

ments aim to stimulate the economy and boost investments. He also affirmed that the ministry is ready to help investors overcome challenges in those fields.

More lands will be offered for bidding in the coming period, including several locations for integrated stations in the Wilayats of Barka, Haima, Saham and Liwa, added Al Mutawa.

— OMA

Invitation to Tender



Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/Tender/2022/068
Subject	UNE - LOT 05D - 2022
Tender Fee	RO. 525.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid “DCRP Registration Certificate” and valid “CEP Authorized card copy issued by DISC” Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 2 nd June 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	N/A
Last date for Response for pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 8 th June 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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Missing Nepal aircraft carrying 22 passengers found in Mustang district

The Tara Air plane crashed at the mouth of the Lamche river under the landslide of Manapathi Himal

KATHMANDU: Tara Air's 9 NAET twin-engine aircraft, which went missing in the mountainous district of Mustang on Sunday morning, was found at Kowang village of the district, Nepal Airport official said.

"Status is yet to be ascertained. The ground is accessing the situation," Tribhuwan International Airport chief confirmed. According to the information given by the locals to the Nepal Army, the Tara Air plane crashed at the mouth of the Lamche river under the landslide of Manapathi Himal. Army spokesperson Narayan Silwal said that the Nepal Army was moving towards the site from the ground and air route.

On Sunday morning, Tara Air's 9 NAET twin-engine aircraft carrying 22 passengers, including 4 Indians and 3 Japanese nationals, flying from Pokhara to Jomsom at 9:55 am, had lost contact, after reaching the Lete area of Mustang, said the Airport authorities.



PLANE CRASH: Tara Air's 9 NAET twin-engine aircraft carrying 22 passengers, including 4 Indians and 3 Japanese nationals, flying from Pokhara to Jomsom had lost contact.

As per the State TV, the missing aircraft was hosting 4 Indians among others.

"The aircraft was seen over the sky of Jomsom in Mustang and then had diverted to Mt. Dhaulagiri after which it hadn't come into contact," Chief District Officer Netra Prasad Sharma confirmed ANI over the phone.

As per the police officials, the aircraft has been suspected to have crashed in the "Titi" area of Lete in

Mustang District.

"Locals from Titi have called and informed us that they have heard an unusual sound as if there was some bang. We are deploying a helicopter to the area for the search operation," Ram Kumar Dani, DSP of District Police Office, Mustang told ANI.

The Home Ministry has deployed two private helicopters from Mustang and Pokhara for the search for missing aircraft.

Nepal Army chopper is also being prepared to be deployed for the search, said Phadindra Mani Pokharel, spokesperson at Home Ministry told ANI over the phone.

Mustang (from the Tibetan Muntan meaning "fertile plain") the traditional region is largely dry and arid. The world's deepest gorge that goes down three miles vertical between Dhaulagiri and Annapurna mountains runs through this district. -ANI



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POPULAR SINGER

Indian Congress leader Sidhu Moose Wala shot dead

MANSa: Punjabi singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moose Wala, who was shot at in Punjab's Mansa on Sunday, was brought dead to the hospital, said Dr Ranjeet Rai, Civil Surgeon, Mansa Hospital.

The Congress leader was shot at by unknown people earlier today. The incident took place a day after his security was withdrawn by the Punjab police among 424 others.

Notably, the singer had joined the Congress party last year in December ahead of the Assembly elections. Congress condoned the demise of party leader and Punjabi singer.

"The murder of Sidhu Moose Wala, Congress candidate from Punjab and a talented musician, has come as a terrible shock to the Congress party and the entire nation. Our deepest condolences to his family, fans and friends. We stand united and undeterred, at this time of extreme grief," Congress tweeted.



Meanwhile, the Punjab unit of the party hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party government in the state calling it "insensitive and inexperienced" and alleging "blood on Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's hands".

"Heartbreaking that Sidhu Mossewala Ji's security was revoked just yesterday as a publicity stunt by insensitive & inexperienced @AamAadmiParty regime. The state's law and order is appalling. CM and DGP have blood on their hands. RIP Shubhdeep Moosewala," Punjab Congress tweeted. -ANI

EASTERN WAVES

Heavy rain and landslides leave 34 dead in Brazil

BRASILIA: Heavy rains in Brazil's northeastern Pernambuco state have left at least 34 dead as of Saturday, according to authorities.

"From last Wednesday until midday this Saturday, 34 deaths were recorded in the state," said the Civil Defence in a statement. Twenty-eight of the deaths had occurred the previous day.

A red alert has been issued by the National Institute of Meteorology for Sunday as well in Pernambuco. A landslide in the Ibura district in the south of the port city of Recife killed 19, Globo television channel reported.

It also said three more people were killed in Camaragibe near Recife due to another landslide. Two died in Recife itself and another in Jaboatao dos Guararapes.

Local press reports said three were killed by a landslide in Olin-da, and a fourth person died after falling into a canal, also in Olinda.

The region has recently seen heavy rainfall, with more than 200 milliliters of rain falling in 24 hours in the greater Recife area, according to state officials.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro expressed sorrow, and said that forces were being deployed to provide aid and assistance. He also announced relief of 1 billion Brazilian real (€196 billion, \$211 billion).



Videos circulating on social media showed flooded roads, as well as collapsing houses and landslides.

Heavy rains in northeastern Brazil due to 'eastern waves'

Meteorologist Estael Sias told news agency AFP in that the heavy rains lashing Pernambuco and, to a lesser extent, four other northeastern states, are the product of a typical seasonal phenomenon called "eastern waves."

These are areas of "atmospheric disturbance" that move from

the African continent to Brazil's northeastern coastal region. "In other areas of the Atlantic this instability forms hurricanes, but in northeastern Brazil it has the potential for a lot of rain and even thunderstorms," he added.

Recife received 236 millimeters of rain between Friday night and Saturday morning, said the mayor's office. That is equivalent to more than 70% of the forecast for the whole month of May in the city.

Last month 14 more people were killed, also by flooding and landslides, in Rio de Janeiro. -bw

SCHOOL SHOOTING

Joe Biden to visit Uvalde after elementary school shooting

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will visit Uvalde on Sunday, as it mourns the loss of victims in a mass shooting at an elementary school.

The couple will meet with families affected by the attack, which killed 19 students and two teachers.

Biden is not expected to deliver formal remarks, said the White House. He will visit the makeshift memorial outside Robb Elementary School before attending Mass at a local Catholic church.

He is also scheduled to meet with family members at a community center and then with first responders at the local airport before returning to Washington.

At Uvalde's court house square, 21 simple white crosses have been erected around a fountain, commemorating each victim.

People have left growing piles of stuffed animals and flowers, as well as messages like "Love you" and "You will be missed."

Gun control discussions come up again

This is Biden's second trip within weeks to comfort a community affected by such a loss. He had visited Buffalo, New York, on May 17 to meet with families of victims after a shooter killed 10 Black people at a supermarket.

"We have to stand stronger.



We must stand stronger. We cannot outlaw tragedy, I know, but we can make America safer," Biden said on Saturday, at a commencement address at the University of Delaware.

Public discourse has been focused on gun control, as recent incidents have brought the issue back into the spotlight.

"If there's anything if I could tell Joe Biden, as it is, just to respect our community while he's here, and I'm sure he will. But we need change. We need to do something about it, said McKinzie Hinojosa, whose cousin was killed in the Tuesday attack.

Police response to the shooting has been under scrutiny after the attack in Uvalde. Officials said on

Friday that students and teachers repeatedly begged 911 for help as a commander told police officers to wait in a hallway. Officers said the commander believed the suspect was barricaded in an adjoining classroom, and was not active anymore.

"When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? Why are we willing to live with this carnage? Why do we keep letting this happen?" Biden had said in a speech hours after the shooting.

Biden, who has lost two of his children, also spoke about the pain of losing someone's child.

Biden has spoken against gun violence on numerous occasions and has propagated more control over arms. -bw



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UNDER HRH CROWN PRINCE'S PATRONAGE:

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL FAIR AND FORUM ON AFFORESTATION TECHNIQUES

The event is organised by NCVC in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, with the participation of a large number of government agencies, the private sector, environmental associations, international bodies, and organisations, in addition to a group of experts from the environmental field.

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Chairman of the Council of Royal Reserves, the Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Center for the Development of Vegetation Cover and Combating Desertification, (NCVC), Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, inaugurated the International Exhibition and Forum on Afforestation Technologies, at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center, which represents a scientific forum that reflects the Kingdom's efforts in supporting vegetation cover and protecting the environment locally, regionally, and globally.

The event is organized by NCVC in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, with the participation of a large number of government agencies, the private



sector, environmental associations, international bodies, and organizations, in addition to a group of experts and the environmental field and climate issues. It also includes 20 dialogue sessions and a scientific workshop, during which about 50 scientific

papers will be presented for discussion, and more than 80 exhibitors will be showcasing the latest technological developments in combating desertification, mitigating its effects, and developing, and protecting vegetation. The exhibition and forum aim to contribute to achieving several goals, including identifying globally applied success models, bringing together major investors, corporate leaders, decision-makers, technology solution providers, and green industry leaders interested in climate and environmental issues, developing sustainability tools, and providing a platform to encourage government agencies and semi-government organizations, companies and non-profit organizations, targeting stakeholders to combat desertification and increase vegetation cover.

NCVC works to protect and control sites of vegetation cover, rehabilitate degraded areas around the Kingdom, detect illegal encroachments on them, and combat logging, in addition, to supervising the management and investment of pasture lands, forests, and national parks, to promote sustainable environmental development and contribute to achieving the objectives of the Saudi Green Initiative. -SPA

CONDOLENCES

HRH Crown Prince consoles King of Jordan on the death of father of Queen Rania Al-Abdullah

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, has sent a cable of condolence and sympathy to His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the death of father of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

In his cable, HRH Crown Prince said, "I have been informed of the sad demise of the father of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, Dr. Faisal Sidqi Al-Yasin. As I dispatch to Your Majesty and the family of the deceased my profound condolence and sincere consolation, I appeal to Allah Almighty to bestow his mercy and forgiveness on his soul; and keep you from any harm". -SPA

INVESTMENT

30 French companies to explore investment opportunities in Saudi entertainment sector

THE FEDERATION of Saudi Chambers, represented by the Saudi-French Business Council, is scheduled tomorrow to host a high level French delegation representing the entertainment sector to discuss prospects of the Saudi-French cooperation in the entertainment sector and relevant fields and to address means to enhance investments, commercial exchange and views on issues related to the business sector between the two countries.

The French delegation comprises 30 figures of business owners and major French companies working in the entertainment sector in the field of amusement parks, manufacturing sports products, e-games, building entertainment cities, consultations, and banks specialized in financing the sector and cultural and humanitarian heritage.

A total of 100 business owners and specialized Saudi companies in the entertainment sector and the national entertainment committee at the federation are planned to participate in a meeting with the French delegates to go over opportunities of holding commercial and investment partnerships between the two sides and to consider available opportunities in the entertainment sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The federation stressed the importance of the visit to enhance partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France in this important economic sector and benefit from the wide investment opportunities it provides and to localize leading international expertise and experiences.

This visit is in light of developments witnessed by the entertainment sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the Saudi Vision 2030, where it is envisioned for the contribution of the entertainment sector and concerned sectors to reach 4.2% of GDP by 2030 and provide 450,000 permanent and temporary jobs, where the tourism sector has achieved a growth rate of 14%, and the number of companies working in the entertainment sector has doubled to reach more than 1,000 companies. -SPA



HEALTH

Health Minister: Saudi Arabia provided \$770 million for worldwide vaccine production

SAUDI MINISTER of Health, Eng. Fahad Al-Jalalaj praised the great contributions made by his country to support efforts to combat the epidemic on the global stage. This came during a speech he delivered at the 75th session of the General Assembly of the World Health Organization WHO, which concluded on May 23 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Al-Jalalaj added that Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries that -during its leadership of the G20- requested holding a special summit to unify global efforts to contain the pandemic, which resulted in unprecedented global cooperation, in which Saudi Arabia actively participated by launching the initiative to accelerate the production of vaccines through supporting the COVAX manufacturing facility with direct financial assistance totaling more than \$770 million.

On a different note, Al-Jalalaj congratulated Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on his reelection as Director-General of the WHO for a second term, and the renewal of the international



community's confidence in his leadership of the Organization. Al-Jalalaj also held several bilateral side meetings, in which he met the Ministers of Health in Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Djibouti, Cuba, Maldives, Poland, Malaysia, and India. During these meetings, bilateral health cooperation was discussed.

It is worth noting that this WHO meeting is the first since the beginning of the pandemic. The theme of this year's Assembly is Health for peace, peace for health. where representatives of member states, partner agencies, civil society representatives, and experts discuss the present and future public health issues of global importance. -SPA

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**SAUDI ARABIA CONCLUDES PARTICIPATION IN DAVOS WEF 2022**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's delegation concluded its participation in the activities of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2022, which was held in Davos, Switzerland. »

**YACHT CLUB MARINA ATTRACTS VISITORS TO JEDDAH SEASON WITH VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL CUISINE**

The Yacht Club Marina zone is very popular with Jeddah Season visitors to enjoy the exciting and varied shows that are presented daily to them, in addition to the luxury of the location and the variety of options for international cuisine..»

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Saudi Arabia jumps 10 places in World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index

THE KINGDOM of Saudi Arabia moved up 10 places to 33rd in the world overall, in the 2021 World Economic Forum (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index, which was released yesterday at Davos.

The independent index benchmarks 117 countries on 17 pillars crucial to the development and resilience of their travel and tourism industries. Saudi Arabia moved from 43rd in 2019 to 33rd in 2021, the second largest rise in rankings, as a result of improvements across almost all indicators. This is the first report to be produced since Saudi Arabia opened for international tourism in September 2019.

In 2019, Saudi Arabia launched the National Tourism Strategy, a clear plan to drive forward the aims of Vision 2030. These aims will increase the contribution of the tourism sector to 10% of GDP, create 1million new jobs, and attract 100 million local and international visits annually by 2030.

The World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index is a key indicator of Saudi Arabia's extraordinary journey as a global tourism leader. Saudi Arabia's leadership, resources and ambition are driving the monumental growth of the sector and delivering on Vision 2030 goals.

Minister of Tourism of Saudi Arabia Ahmed Al Khateeb said: "I am proud of the progress the



Kingdom has made through our Vision 2030 reforms as we have opened to the world. Our success is demonstrated by our strong investment in the tourism sector – from creating job opportunities for citizens to working with global partners who are invested in our transformation."

"Our ranking is proof that since 2019, despite the global pandemic, Saudi Arabia has demonstrated incredible global leadership as a new tourism destination. We have made it easier to invest and create tourism businesses in the Kingdom. Last year saw a record for domestic visits. Moreover, top global companies are recognising our commitment and are joining us."

The WEF's new Travel & Tourism Development Index measures against a set of factors that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the Travel and Tourism sector, which in turn contribute to national development.

The 2021 edition of the index highlights the vital need to invest in tourism, the impact of COVID-19 and how sector stakeholders can draw on development strategies to build back better. Amid current challenges, shifting demand and future risks, a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient sector must be created.

Saudi's higher score was achieved by improvements across 12 out of 17 KPIs. Highlights include an improvement from 27th to 10th for business environment, an improvement from 47th to 40th for tourism services and a best in world ranking for managing demand pressure and impact. The WEF report scored Saudi Arabia 10th overall on business environment and 14th overall for human resources.

This significant improvement in Saudi's ranking reflects not only considerable investment into tourism but also its global leadership in future-proofing the sector. Focused on sustainable and resilient development, Saudi is bringing together key players in the sector to build a future for tourism that is better for all. -SPA



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Real Madrid win Champions League final against Liverpool

This was Real Madrid's 17th European Cup final and the third time they took on Liverpool

PARIS: Spanish football club Real Madrid beat Liverpool in the Champions League final on Saturday, securing their record 14th European title.

The final match was held at the Stade de France in Paris and ended with a score of 1-0, with Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior scoring the only goal in the 59th minute. Italy's Carlo Ancelotti, the head coach of Real Madrid, became the most successful manager in the tournament's history on Saturday, now having four Champions League wins on his record.

This was Real Madrid's 17th European Cup final and the third time they took on Liverpool, making this the most repeated final match in the competition's history.



CHAMPIONS: Italy's Carlo Ancelotti, the head coach of Real Madrid, became the most successful manager in the tournament's history.

In the last Champions League final between these two clubs in 2018, Madrid clinched the Decimotercera. The Madridistas boast of an impressive record in European Finals, where they have emerged victorious on seven occasions, with a fine success rate (13

out of 16, more than 80 per cent).

"The club's history has driven us in moments of difficulty and that's why we deserve to be in the final", Ancelotti had said in an earlier statement. The Italian, who is the first coach to reach five European Cup finals, will be looking to

Benzema to inspire his side. The Frenchman has had a sensational season and is the top goal scorer in the Champions League this season with 15 goals".

This win comes after Madrid clinched the club's 35th LaLiga title. **ANI**

CRICKET



Oman to play series in US for 2023 World Cup berth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The final leg of Oman's qualification run for the berth in the Qualifiers of the ICC ODI World Cup 2023 in India will begin on 8 June, 2022 with a tri-series against the hosts USA and in-contention Nepal.

A double-round robin format will be followed, with the matches being played as part of the ICC Men's CWC League 2 2019 - 22. Duleep Mendis, Head Coach and Chief Development Officer - Oman Cricket said, "As a team, we are very positive to get started with these next set of games in the CWC League 2. Our last 2 tri-series in the UAE were fairly successful and we will look to deliver at a similar level this time around too. The boys have had a good

recovery and regaining period over the last 3-4 weeks and also have trained hard to keep up and in-shape for this tour. We will be heading to USA a week prior to play couple of practice games and get accustomed to the conditions. USA and Nepal are both formidable sides and we are looking forward to some competitive and high-quality cricket over the next two weeks." Oman currently holds a 16-point advantage over second-placed Scotland in the table but having played close to twice the number of matches than the other 6 teams making these final set of 4 ODI's crucial for better thier shot at the Qualifiers of the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2023. All the matches will be streamed live on icc.tv world-wide and Willow TV in the US.

FRENCH OPEN

Rune defeats Hugo Gaston; Ruud downs Sonogo to enter 4th round

PARIS: Denmark's Holger Rune shined in his Court Philippe Chatrier debut on Saturday, fending off home favourite Hugo Gaston in the third round of French Open 2022.

The 19-year-old Rune, who won the French Open junior title three years ago, closed out the third round by beating Hugo Gaston of France 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 at Court Philippe Chatrier in a straight sets win. Rune will take on 2021 French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas in the fourth round.

Later, Eighth seed Casper Ruud battled back to defeat Italy's Lorenzo Sonogo to seal his place in the fourth round in Paris for the first time. Things looked bad for Ruud when a fired-up Sonogo won the third set to move within a set of progressing, but the 23-year-old took control to win 6-2, 6-7(3),



WINNER: Rune, who won the French Open junior title three years ago, closed out the third round by beating Hugo Gaston

1-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The Eighth seed will face 12th seed Hubert Hurkacz in the last 16.

Kudermetova reaches R4; Giorgi, Kasatkina advance

Spanish third seed Paula Badosa was forced to retire due to injury as Veronika Kudermetova of Russia progressed through to the fourth round of the French Open 2022 on Saturday.

Kudermetova held a 6-3 2-1 lead over the Spaniard when the match had to be ended after one hour and eight minutes. She's through to the last 16 of a Grand Slam for the first time in her career.

Russian will next face No.22 seed Madison Keys for a spot in the quarterfinals. Keys outlasted No.16 seed Elena Rybakina in the last women's match of the day, coming through in a match tie-

break, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(3).

Earlier, Camila Giorgi of Italy pulled off a stunning comeback win over No.7 seed Aryna Sabalenka to reach the fourth round in Paris for the first time in her career. It took one hour and 42-minute for Giorgi to register a comeback victory against Sabalenka.

In the fourth round, Giorgi will take on No.20 seed Daria Kasatkina, who continued her excellent form with a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Shelby Rogers in the third round.

Bopanna-Middelkoop stun Pavic-Mektic pair, enter QF

The pair of Rohan Bopanna and Matwe Middelkoop advanced into the quarter-finals of the French Open 2022 men's doubles event on Saturday.

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Mid-

delkoop defeated second seeds and Olympic gold medallists Nikola Mektic-Mate Pavic 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10) in the men's double in a match that lasted for one hour and two minutes.

The Indo-Dutch pair started the match strongly but found themselves in under huge pressure as Nikola Mektic-Mate Pavic prevailed in the first set. The second set saw the sixteenth seeded pair go toe-to-toe to prevail in the second set.

The third set saw the Indo-Dutch pair sealing the match with a 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10) win over Nikola Mektic-Mate Pavic.

The winner of the pre-quarterfinal match between Hugo Nys-Jan Zielinski and Lloyd Glasspool-Harri Heliovaara will face Bopanna and Middelkoop in the quarter-finals. **ANI**

FORMULA ONE



Ferrari racer Charles Leclerc hoping for 'clean race' after Monaco pole

MONTE CARLO: Charles Leclerc claimed pole position for his home race, the Monaco Grand Prix as Red Bull's Sergio Perez crashed in the final moments of the session to bring qualifying to an early end.

Leclerc's team-mate Carlos Sainz qualified second to hand Ferrari a front-row lockout, with the unfortunate Perez third ahead of team-mate Max Verstappen.

After the qualifying, the thrilled Monegasque driver ex-

plained that he's finally looking to finish - and win - his home race on Sunday.

"I mean, we only did like three or four laps but the [long run pace] looked good, so hopefully it will be the case tomorrow. There's a bit of a chance of rain too, but that's fine. We were strong also in the rain in Imola, so whatever comes we will try to make the best out of it," Ferrari driver said after qualifying.

When asked whether he felt there was a 'curse' over him at his

home race, he said, "No, no, no... I'm not superstitious at all. So, no. We've had a smooth weekend until now and we're starting in the best place possible for tomorrow's race so hopefully, we have a clean race tomorrow and we finally have a good result at home."

With a six-point deficit to Max Verstappen, who starts a provisional fourth on Sunday, Leclerc will be hoping to take his first Monaco Grand Prix victory as he starts ahead of Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz. **ANI**

POSSIBLE RETURN

New head coach Brendon McCullum hints at Jos Buttler's return to England Test side

LONDON: England's newly-appointed Test head coach Brendon McCullum has hinted at a possible return of wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler to the English Test side.

Buttler was omitted after England's distressing 4-0 Ashes series defeat in Australia despite being one of the world's best white-ball run-makers. McCullum, who observed Buttler's brilliant IPL 2022 run closely and believes the player can work on his batting in red-ball cricket too. He believes players who have succeeded in T20 cricket can definitely bring that talent to their red-ball game.

"Jos is one of those players you look at instantly and think how could he be so dominant in one form of the game and not quite have found his feet, other than a few fleeting performances, in Test cricket?" ESPNcricinfo quoted McCullum as saying to Sky Sports.

"There are certain guys you look at and think there's a lot of talent that could improve the side given the right opportunity. There's no reason why, if you're good at T20, you can't bring those skills into Test cricket and you look at some of the guys who have dominated the IPL in the last two months," he added.

McCullum also opened up about reviving the Test careers of spinners Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid, even though the former is officially



Buttler was omitted after England's distressing 4-0 Ashes series defeat in Australia despite being one of the world's best white-ball run-makers

retired from Test format.

"Obviously you've got the likes of Livingstone, Moonen, Rashid. All these guys have played international cricket before, been successful in the other forms of the game and you'd think they'd be able to transition across," said McCullum.

The former Kiwi wicketkeeper-batter was appointed as England men's Test team's new coach earlier this month. **ANI**



MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,120.54 points, up by 0.34 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.85 per cent at 464.63 points. National Aluminium, up 8.24 per cent, was the top gainer while, DIDIC, down 3.57 per cent, was the top loser.

Sezad floats 10 million sqm of industrial lands for investors

Sezad is also working to enhance the infrastructure of these lands by providing electricity, water and gas services for investors who are interested to start their industrial projects in the zone



ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS: The zone is constantly seeking to enhance and increase its support for investors and provide an attractive investment environment by enriching the system of various facilities and incentives it offers to investors. - Supplied picture

stated that the Zone is constantly seeking to enhance and increase its support for investors and provide an attractive investment environment by enriching the system of various facilities and incentives it offers to investors. In addition, it works on developing its various electronic services to facilitate the procedures of land usufruct and investment in Duqm, where investors can submit their applications and choose the land to invest in Sezad from around the world with all the relevant services and facilities available to start his project.

Eng. Al Hashmi stressed the readiness of industrial lands, which enjoy completed infrastructure that enables investors to start their projects without bearing additional costs on the levelling and grading works for the lands. He also pointed out that these lands are distinguished by their proximity to different services, facilities and projects in Duqm. As well, they are connected with a network of roads leading, while Sezad is also awarding a number of tenders to connect all the lands with paved roads to facilitate its accessibility.

It is worth noting that the Special Economic Zone at Duqm stands as the largest in the Middle East and North Africa, covering an area of 2,000 sqm. It offers ready lands to attract commercial, tourism, economic and industrial investment projects, renewable energy projects and others.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) announced the readiness of a group of lands allocated in the master plan for various industrial projects that will be developed in the zone.

The levelling and grading work for these lands, which cover a total area of about 10 million sqm, has been completed. Sezad is also working to enhance the infrastructure of these lands by providing

electricity, water and gas services to get them ready for investors who are interested to start their industrial projects in the zone.

The industrial lands levelling and grading project come in response to the ongoing growth witnessed by Sezad, with the anticipated completion of installing the modern cranes in the Port of Duqm and the arrival of the gas

main pipeline. This complements the package of facilities and incentives offered by the zone to investors, serving to expedite the completion of the investors' land usufruct applications and procedures to start their investment projects. It, further, backs Sezad's serious efforts to attract local and foreign investments in various sectors, especially industrial ones.

On the other hand, investors can take advantage of the electronic service for the direct selection of lands that was recently launched by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. Investors could select the plot of land directly from the zone's master plan once they determine the type of their investment projects and the plot of land required. This enables investors to quickly and easily choose the appropriate location among the already levelled and graded lands with the possibility to know the distance between the land and nearby available utilities.

In this regard, Eng. Saleh bin Rashid Al Hashmi from the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

RBI to adopt graded approach to introduction of digital currency

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposes to adopt a graded approach for the introduction of digital currency in the country, according to the RBI's annual report for FY 2021-22.

The Reserve Bank is engaged in the introduction of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) in India. The design of CBDC needs to conform with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability, and efficient operations of currency and payment systems, the report noted.

"The Reserve Bank proposes to adopt a graded approach to the introduction of CBDC, going step by step through stages of Proof of Concept, pilots and the launch," the report said.

Reacting to the report, BJD National Spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik said, the government should adopt the

graded approach even in the case of private crypto space.

"With regard to a graded approach, I said exactly this about six months ago. @RBI should have activated its regulatory sandbox at least two years ago & worked on this instead of espousing a ban. Even in the private #crypto space, Govt should follow this approach," Patnaik said in a tweet.

In the annual report, the RBI said it has been exploring the pros and cons of the introduction of CBDC in India.

The design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability and efficient operations of currency and payment systems. Accordingly, the appropriate design elements of CBDCs that could be implemented with little or no disruption are under examination. -ANI

RENEWAL

bp Oman, Abraj Energy Services sign land rig contract extension

Times News Service

MUSCAT: bp Oman signed the extension of the land rig services contract with Abraj Energy Services for two years.

The contract renewal agreement reinforces bp Oman's commitment to the In-Country Value (ICV) and the long-term relationship with Abraj Energy Services, stemming from its original contract signed in 2014.

bp Oman president Yousuf Al Ojaili commented: "We're proud of our long-standing relationship with Abraj. The contract renewal is a result of the outstanding performance of Abraj in delivering the well services in Block 61 over the past eight years. Through our various projects and operations in Block 61, we ensure our alignment with the Oman Vision 2040 to encourage economic diversification and empower local talent."



Eng. Salah Abdullah Al Harthy, Acting Managing Director at Abraj Energy Services said, "We are thrilled by the confidence bp has placed on us and giving us the opportunity to further cement our relationship. bp continues to demonstrate its commitment to supporting the local businesses and integrating them into its complex and highly sophisticated operations. Abraj will continue its journey in becoming the market leader in drilling and oilfield services

while focusing on safe workplace and operational excellence."

bp's partnership with Abraj Energy Services has helped build their technical and commercial capabilities to global standards. bp will continue its collaboration with Abraj Energy Services to boost the company's safety performance to a global satisfactory level, taking into consideration focus areas such as red-zone management, contractor self-verification and flat time performance.

Together with bp, Abraj Energy Services completed the first well stimulation on Block 61 in December 2021, a huge milestone and one of the largest simulations completed by the company. This achievement positioned Abraj Energy Services as the only local company in the country to reach this milestone and the first local company in the Mena region to perform this complex service.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Abdullah Port ranks first in Container Port Performance Index 2021

JEDDAH: King Abdullah Port has ranked first among the most efficient container ports in the world on the 2021 Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) report published by The World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The port improved its ranking from second place last year after achieving the highest points among 443 ports on both the administrative and statistical methodological approaches of the index, which scores ports against different metrics.

Port of Salalah

Asian and Middle Eastern ports dominated the ranking for the most efficient gateways in the world. King Abdullah Port is followed by counterparts in Oman (Port of Salalah) and Qatar (Hamad Port) respectively. -SPA

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MARKET



MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 8.24 per cent, was the top gainer while, DIDIC, down 3.57 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,120.54 points, up by 0.34 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.85 per cent at 464.63 points. National Aluminium, up 8.24 per cent, was the top gainer while, DIDIC, down 3.57 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Oman Fisheries were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 953 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.99 million, with more than 20.59 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 24 advanced, 4 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR396,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR23,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,556.93 points, up 0.36 per cent. Prices of Muscat Finance, Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial

Investments, Takaful Oman and Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 7.35 per cent, 5.06 per cent, 4.41 per cent, 3.33 per cent and 2.38 per cent respectively. Prices of DIDIC and United Finance were down by 3.57 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,038.69 points, up 0.34 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, Construction Materials, Oman Fisheries, A'Saffa Foods and Gal-far Engineering were up by 8.24 per cent, 6.17 per cent, 4.24 per cent, 3.95 per cent and 2.83 per cent respectively. Oman Cement was the only loser down by 1.57 per cent.

Services Index was up by 0.45 per cent before closing at 1,578.01 points. Prices of Oman National Engineering, National Gas, Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power and Al Jazeera Services were up by 2.91 per cent, 2.9 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 2 per cent, and 1.5 per cent respectively. Renaissance Services was the only loser down by 0.94 per cent respectively. –

United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,120.76	4,107.06	4,120.54	4,106.67	13.88	0.34
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,556.93	6,534.88	6,556.93	6,533.47	23.45	0.36
Industry Index	6,042.49	6,024.67	6,038.69	6,018.03	20.66	0.34
Services Index	1,578.72	1,572.19	1,578.01	1,570.91	7.10	0.45
MSX Shariah Index	464.63	461.42	464.63	460.69	3.93	0.85
MSX TR INDEX	5,190.85	5,173.60	5,190.58	5,173.10	17.48	0.34
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,855.29	6,832.24	6,855.29	6,830.77	24.52	0.36
SERVICES TR IDX	1,626.82	1,620.09	1,626.09	1,618.77	7.32	0.45
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,271.09	6,252.60	6,267.14	6,245.70	21.44	0.34

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
20,598,070	2,992,352	953	22,385,145,902	24	4	22	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 29

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

OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	598,756	42,789	38	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.071	0.068	0.003	4.412	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	14,200,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	10,286	1,089	6	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.103	0.003	2.913	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	14,840,000
OM0000000440	AL SHARIAH INV.	206,800	18,300	12	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.090	0.090	0.092	0.100	7,930,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	15,000	4,050	2	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.266	0.004	1.504	0.270	0.270	0.282	0.100	16,525,154
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	500,000	100,000	4	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.198	0.002	1.010	0.200	0.200	0.205	0.100	325,189,271
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	24,076	20,888	4	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.860	0.008	0.930	0.868	0.868	0.900	0.100	651,000,000
OM0000000796	BANK MUSCAT	1,945,394	818,865	131	0.538	0.539	0.538	0.539	0.536	0.004	0.760	0.539	0.539	0.532	0.100	1,988,185,221
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	51,075	16,272	7	0.316	0.320	0.316	0.318	0.316	0.002	0.633	0.320	0.318	0.330	0.100	207,000,265
OM0000001535	OMAN INVST&FIN.	2,585,962	367,367	21	0.144	0.144	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.000	0.000	0.142	0.142	0.145	0.100	33,654,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	27,014	8,374	4	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.308	0.310	0.100	207,193,282
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	2,992	1,114	3	0.380	0.380	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.370	0.380	0.100	45,212,245
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,000,000	117,000	5	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.122	0.100	228,109,924
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	362,000	39,458	5	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.108	0.112	0.100	325,915,790
OM0000000505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	246	125	1	0.510	0.510	0.510	0.512	0.512	0.000	0.000	0.510	0.510	0.514	0.100	28,160,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	1,000	60	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.066	0.100	13,556,640
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	75,700	31,794	3	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.424	0.424	0.004	0.943	0.420	0.412	0.432	0.100	99,282,200
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	52,400	13,148	8	0.250	0.253	0.250	0.251	0.255	0.004	1.569	0.250	0.248	0.255	0.100	83,049,050
Total		7058,701	1,600,703	255												

Parallel Market

OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	598,545	54,878	42	0.087	0.093	0.087	0.092	0.085	0.007	8.235	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.100	3,088,573
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	3,669,086	267,260	161	0.070	0.074	0.070	0.073	0.068	0.005	7.353	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	712,927	61,254	45	0.087	0.087	0.084	0.086	0.081	0.005	6.173	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	5,375,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,290,769	106,726	62	0.080	0.084	0.080	0.083	0.079	0.004	5.063	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	16,600,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	5,940,450	646,486	177	0.121	0.125	0.121	0.123	0.118	0.005	4.227	0.125	0.124	0.126	0.100	22,395,643
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	361,544	56,949	29	0.156	0.162	0.155	0.158	0.152	0.006	3.947	0.155	0.155	0.163	0.100	18,960,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,766	967	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.002	3.333	0.062	0.062	0.064	0.100	15,500,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	171,552	24,398	23	0.139	0.143	0.139	0.142	0.138	0.004	2.899	0.143	0.143	0.142	0.100	12,070,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	594,940	64,711	36	0.106	0.109	0.106	0.109	0.106	0.003	2.830	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	22,125,523
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	69,219	5,953	3	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.381	0.086	0.084	0.086	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	16,000	1,504	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.092	0.002	2.174	0.094	0.093	0.097	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	92,036	4,602	7	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.001	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	124,782	6,350	9	0.051	0.052	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.001	2.000	0.050	0.050	0.053	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	4,274	709	5	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.001	0.889	0.113	0.110	0.113	0.100	17,577,185
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	110,318	18,039	15	0.163	0.168	0.162	0.164	0.163	0.001	0.613	0.165	0.165	0.168	0.100	32,800,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	60,030	14,322	9	0.243	0.243	0.238	0.239	0.238	0.001	0.420	0.238	0.234	0.238	0.100	9,943,660
OM0000001086	DHOFAR INSURANCE	41,000	7,790	4	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	12,000	1,801	4	0.150	0.151	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.151	0.155	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	5,000	424	3	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.081	0.085	0.100	7,276,500
OM0000002275	SHIFA OMAN	12,288	9,978	7	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.512	0.000	0.000	0.512	0.510	0.512	0.100	77,140,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDU TRAINING	4,442	1,391	1	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.200	0.225	0.100	15,120,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	46,261	4,598	9	0.099	0.101	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.105	0.100	8,058,872
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	18,500	1,754	4	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.097	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004726	SEMOBOP SALALAH	60,000	3,550	2	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.073	0.100	677,469
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	23,736	1,188	2	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,000	600	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.326	0.100	23,369,480
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,500	220	2	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.100	18,200,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	5,000	715	1	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.139	0.143	0.100	10,648,602
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	170,000	15,190	8	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.091	0.002	2.198	0.088	0.082	0.099	0.100	31,073,853
OM0000001609	DHOFAR INT.	8,600	1,087	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.140	0.005	3.971	0.135	0.135	0.145	0.100	55,248,293
Total		30			13,532,012	1,385,073	695									

OMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ODB raises awareness of internal audit functions and its role in enhancing performance

MUSCAT: As part of Oman Development Bank's (ODB) efforts to strengthen the internal audit activity, the bank participated in the celebration of the International Month of Awareness of Internal Audit Activity which falls in May each year.

ODB raised awareness of the functions of the internal audit and its role in enhancing the performance and operations quality in accordance with international best practices and in accordance with the local banking system and the regulations.

To utilise this occasion and to convey the internal audit message and its role in the bank's controls system the so called "Three Lines of Defense" model. The activities of the celebration included weekly awareness mail publications, Q&A competitions, conducting interviews with audit clients, and holding awareness workshops through visual communications.



The Head of Internal Audit Abbas at the Oman Development Bank Abbas Al Lawati, said that Oman Development Bank has promoted the culture of internal auditing and transformed the conventional audit procedures to digi-

tal paperless procedures, which has contributed to the automation of the processes in the internal audit department and the speed of updating observations and feedback in addition to the formation of an electronic archive.

It is worth mentioning that in 2021, the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in Oman circulated ODB's Internal Audit Initiative in celebrating the Month of Internal Audit Awareness through its social media channels.

RECOGNITION

Omantel's mobile app wins two gold at Mena Stevie Awards 2022

MUSCAT: The winning streak continues for Omantel on global platforms as its service delivery approach integrated with innovation convenience makes daily lives and business operations better.

Omantel's first and leading integrated telecom service provider in the Sultanate has bagged gold in two categories at the Middle East and North Africa Stevie Awards 2022 held recently.

Omantel was named Gold Stevie Winner in the Innovation in Business Utility App and Innovative Use of Technology in Customer Service categories.

The awards, sponsored by the RAK Chamber of Commerce & Industry, received over 700 nominations from organisations across the Middle East



AN EXPERIENCE OF LUXURY, BEAUTY AND RELAXATION IN SWITZERLAND

From its ski resorts and hiking trails to Swiss watches and chocolates, Switzerland is home to numerous lakes, villages and the high peaks of the Alps. It is perhaps the only country in the world where everything works in your favour and makes your holiday nothing short of perfect.



Alps. Its service has been sought after by some of the world's most renowned figures in history such as the Spanish royal family, which made the hotel their home during exile, and a favourite home for Thailand's King during his youth. One of the many leisure activities this hotel offers is the Golf Classic package, where guests will enjoy playing the 18-hole course at the exclusive LAUSANNE GOLF CLUB, paired with a relaxing one-night stay that includes brasserie dinner and an indulging treatment at the Spa.

The Bürgenstock Selection's approach to creating an encompassing stay for its guests designs a world connected not only by brand and service standards, but by an ultimate vision to enrich the lives of those who choose its hotels to fully experience the destination, connect with the local life and escape to a world of ultimate luxury, healing and relaxation. Each property reflects a unique proposition while embodying the traditions of world-leading Swiss hospitality. Headquartered in Zug, The Bürgenstock Selection is one of Switzerland's largest deluxe hotel groups, operating Hotels and Residences with a combined total of 678 rooms and 67 residence suites. The Bürgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne (383 rooms), the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa (99 rooms), and the Royal Savoy Hotel & Spa Lausanne (196 rooms) dazzle guests from all over the world with their rich heritage, elegant, contemporary design, leading spas and their exceptional culinary offers, while remaining completely true to the timeless Swiss traditions of hospitality, service and discretion.



Located between the lake and the mountain, the surrounding scenery offers a diverse vista of the city which can be enjoyed from its unique rooftop with a 360 degrees panoramic view over Lausanne, Lake Geneva and the Alps.

Inhabiting Switzerland's most picturesque landscapes and unique destinations, The Bürgenstock Selection portfolio embodies the true values of Swiss hospitality. As one of the country's largest and most luxurious hotel brands with a combined total of 678 rooms and 67 residence suites, it offers a range of experiences focusing on hospitality heritage, wellness concepts and refined cuisine while connecting guests with the local identity of their destination. A "spring in bloom" awaits guests at the Bürgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne overlooking Switzerland's most picturesque lake until 30 June 2022. Hosted within its three 5-star hotels: Bürgenstock Hotel & Alpine Spa, a modern and contemporary monument of lavish beauty, Waldhotel Health & Medical Excellence, offering cutting edge medical services for optimum prevention and rejuvenation, and Palace Hotel, a historical space and a landmark of Swiss hospitality tradition with a modern approach. The Spring in Bloom packages tantalise guests with a selection of unique experiences designed to answer to their needs, with the hotels being located within the same area, it allows guests to combine different experiences in different hotels, enjoying the most of their stay in a compound-like destination, having the freedom to opt for a driving experience in a Ferrari Roma or Ferrari

488 in the morning, joining the Chef's table at noon, and end the day with a regeneration session; a day with no compromise. Nestled within generous nature and mighty mountains, Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa reflects the identity of this intimate authentic city, visitors driven by wanderlust will have the perfect stepping-stone while staying at this historical hotel. Known for its warmth and harmony rooted within its tradition, it is offering guests more time to enjoy the hotel services and many facets of the city, with the "THREE FOR TWO" package. It's an invitation to delve further into the stories told by Bern through its experiences, starting from the rooftop terrace with an interrupted panoramic view over the Old Bern Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In Line with The Bürgenstock Selection brand, the hotel offers an urban spa break, an indulging experience of pampering and luxurious care. Heritage in the heart of Lausanne is expressed through the legendary presence of The Royal Savoy Hotel & Spa, a name engraved in the city's history since 1909 and the only 5-star hotel in Lausanne. Located between the lake and the mountain, the surrounding scenery offers a diverse vista of the city which can be enjoyed from its unique rooftop with a 360 degrees panoramic view over Lausanne, Lake Geneva and the



Each property reflects a unique proposition while embodying the traditions of world-leading Swiss hospitality.



ROUND-UP





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CHANGAN LAUNCHES UNI RANGE: FUTURISTIC, FASHIONABLE LUXURY MODELS IN OMAN



Changan UNI range of automobiles is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, has launched Changan auto's luxury model range - UNI in Oman.

Positioned as futuristic and fashionable, the UNI range features progressive design and smart technologies offered only in luxury brands.

Changan UNI range of automobiles is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors. For a luxury model to be 'sporty at a glance', the UNI range adopts a short overhang and long axle design, adding a sporty feeling to a luxury range. This improves the overall handling of the UNI range having high agility and high-speed stability when driving.

The UNI range has adopted pure, precise and agile exterior design elements. The hidden door handle design blends in with the body, making it simple and sophisticated. The UNI family's classic borderless grille design is combined with the narrow, sharp headlamps on both sides for an intense look. The aerodynamic airship-shape spoiler improves driving stability and fashionable in aesthetics. The space battleship gear shift knob has a sporty design, giving the user a sense of exploration in every trip.

Equipped with IACC system, the UNI range can achieve L2 autonomous driving having features of FCW + AEB + LDW + LAS + TJA + AEB + LCDA. UNI range is equipped with four high-definition wide-angle cameras giving 360-degree view around the vehicle in real time to park your vehicle safely.

The UNI range adopts a simplistic yet Avant grade interior design. It uses an asymmetrical design in the instrumentation and centre console as well as bright colours that create technically dynamic interiors. It adopts the Intelligent Cockpit Interaction System which appears to be two screens staggered on the surface, but internally they are connected as one have a high-resolution display and adaptive backlight control to protect the eyes from fatigue to the max while reading and driving.

The UNI range features newly designed seats with fuller side wings which also provide more reliable support and confidence when cornering. The wireless charging provides ultra-fast charging with wide-range compatibility.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, "We are delighted to bring the futuristic and fashionable luxury

model range UNI to Oman.

"The range offers commanding road presence, superb capabilities, and solid performance." Further with 6 years or unlimited km manufacturer's super warranty (whichever is earlier) on UNI series range (UNI-T, UNI-T Sport, UNI-K Models) is more compelling to own."

Changan SUV UNI-K

Top of the range in UNI range is the futuristic SUV UNI-K. Under the hood, the premium UNI-K carries a 233 horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged engine, paired with 8 speed Auto Transmission which makes the UNI-K as thrilling to drive as it is to look at. It has exterior features that distinguish it to be a futuristic SUV including 21" Alloy Wheels, Panoramic Sunroof, Split and Auto LED Headlamps, Trident DRLs, ORVM - Electrically Folding.

The Changan UNI-K is equipped with innovative features not previously available in this segment of cars like the 8-way Electrically Adjustable Driver Seat with Electric Lumbar Support, 4-way Electrically Adjustable Co-driver Seat and a premium quality audio system with 12 speakers. It has unique features like streaming inside rear view mirror, remote Engine Start/ Stop, driver seat headrest with speakers and triple HD screen with 12.3" Infotainment system. The rear seats can be almost fully flattened creating a superior large space. The trunk volume is 518 litres and can be extended to 1,412 litres when rear seats are folded down.

It has a comprehensive set of safety features such as Front Airbags, Side Airbags, Curtain Airbags, ABS +EBD+ BA+TCS+HHC+HDC+DBF, Auto Hold Function, Front & Rear Parking Sensors, 360 ° Panoramic View, Adaptive Cruise Control and Automatic Emergency Brake. When making a turn or approaching an intersection, the system is designed to detect forward or laterally approaching oncoming vehicles and provides audio/visual alerts and automatic braking in certain conditions. Lane Change Assist is designed to notify the driver via audible and visual alerts and slight steering force if it senses the vehicle is leaving the lane without engaging a turn signal. Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) for added peace of mind by helping to detect vehicles approaching from either side while backing out and alerting you with a visual and audible warning.

Premium compact SUV - UNI-T

UNI range's SUV - UNI-T is equipped with a 175 horsepower 300 Nm torque 1.5-litre turbocharged engine, mated with a 7-speed DCT transmission, a two-wheel-drive system. Its fuel-efficient engine offers a fuel economy of 17.3 km per litre as per GSO.

Its exterior feature includes 20" Alloy Wheels, LED DRLs, LED Headlamps, extra large Panoramic Sunroof, Electrically Adjustable & Folding ORVMs. Changan UNI-T SUV has a very stylish and modern look and has unique and sharp split headlights on the front, polygonal tail lights, quad exhaust pipes, skid plate and V Shaped spoiler.

Its interior features include



electrically adjustable co-driver seat and front seats heating, a T-shaped centre console, and a D-shaped steering wheel. Infotainment facets include 10.3" LCD IC Display, 10.3" Infotainment Screen, Navigation, Voice Control Function, Mirror Link with Apple CarPlay, and six speakers. It has comfort features such as remote engine start/stop, electric tailgate, and remote parking. The new in-

telligent dual screen design with ultra-wide angle, high-resolution and adaptive backlight control protect the eyes from fatigue to the max while reading and driving.

When driving into the parking area with clear lines, drivers can turn on the auto parking system and the vehicle will automatically find a parking space within 20m and complete parking on its own, making parking easy and fun

Changan UNI-T 2WD, Sport

Changan UNI-T 2WD includes luxury features and its additional exterior features include UNI Sports Kit - Front and Rear Bumpers, Side Skirtings, Rear Sports Spoiler, Brake Calipers in Contrast Color, Exterior Elements in High Gloss Black and Bilateral Quad Exhaust Pipes. Interior Elements include Contrast Color (Trims & Seat belts), Black

Interior and sports seats.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment, which is part of Bahwan International Group, has set up a spacious and state-of-the-art showroom in Al Qurum and service centre in Ghala, Muscat. AGAE has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in many cities including Salalah, Sohar, Sur, Nizwa, Ibra and Barka etc.



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ROUND-UP



Ahli Islamic extends finance bundle offer

The finance bundle, launched during the holy month of Ramadan designed to assist customers with their obligations and aspirations, was a major success, and will be extended further, providing account holders with a convenient finance facility to tide over budgetary constraints

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to fostering a savings culture among its customers and championing their goals with flexible schemes and ventures, Ahli Islamic has extended its popular Ramadan offer of auto, home and personal finance.

The finance bundle, launched during the holy month of Ramadan was designed to assist customers with their obligations and aspirations, was a major success, and will be extended further, providing



account holders with a convenient finance facility to tide over budgetary constraints.

While the provision of auto finance will bolster plans of car enthusiasts who could not avail of the offer during the month of Ramadan, when car sale campaigns were in full swing, the comprehensive home and personal finance will provide anchorage for customers seeking to renovate/construct/purchase a home or fulfil personal requirements.

Salary-transfer customers of Ahli Islamic can avail of mortgage-free auto finance starting from as low as 3.49%; the same will also be available for customers whose salaries are not transferred to Ahli Islamic, at the profit rate of 4.99%.

Personal and Home Finance will be offered at 4.75%, encouraging customers to take conclusive decisions on their home plans or to fulfil any immediate/long-term personal needs.

Highlighting the bank's intent to extend the finance offer, Yousuf bin Salim Al Rawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of Ahli Islamic said, "Our main objective is to strengthen our customers' purchasing powers with requisite financial packages. We are constantly creating stronger avenues for our customers' growth and focusing on delivering exceptional banking experiences. The extension of these offers stems from our objective to constantly support customers with their socio-economic needs. Over

the years, we have realised the significance of flexible financial offers that are not occasion bound. Although special occasions are major draws for consumer spending, there are segments of buyers whose purchase decisions are triggered by personal evaluations.

"Our intent is to specifically meet the requirements of this target group. Whether it is our products and services or offers and schemes, our focus is always on delivering maximum gains for our customers. Such offers not only to demonstrate our customer-centric approach to banking, but they also communicate our resolve to create and implement an easy and convenient portfolio of products and services," he added.

PRE-OWNED LUXURY CARS



Find your dream car with Audi Approved: plus section

MUSCAT: Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors, caters to the increasing demand for high-quality pre-owned luxury cars in the country through its Audi Approved: plus section.

At Audi Approved: plus, buyers can trade in any Audi model or any other brand to buy a pre-owned Audi. The pre-owned Audi cars undergo mechanical, bodywork, interior and electrical inspections at 300+ multi-point checks, along with a full road test.

Audi Approved: plus section stocks the biggest selection of Audi used cars and all of them are in perfect condition. Every feature and function of the car is carefully inspected and is restored to its original condition using Audi genuine parts.

Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors Oman, said: "We are happy to cater to the growing demand for pre-owned luxury cars in Oman. When one buys a pre-owned Audi from Audi Approved: plus, buyers are provided assurance that the cars they buy meet meticulous

standards. To ensure confidence in buyer's purchase, all pre-owned Audi Approved: plus vehicles pass through rigorous 300+ multi-point check and 12-month warranty for the vehicle."

He added, "When one chooses an Audi Approved: plus model, we will be happy to accept your old car as a trade-in and it doesn't need to be an Audi Model. An Audi Approved: plus, procurement consultant will assess the condition of your vehicle, and offer you a fair market price for it. Trade-in options for other automobile brands are also available."

They also get one-year roadside assistance since Audi Approved: plus has positioned a team of experts at customer service to work around the clock for your assistance.

To show commitment towards the buyer's comfort, the Audi Approved: plus team verifies the service history of each pre-owned Audi vehicle before offering it for sale. This way, customers are fully aware of Audi car's service history.

GROWTH



Milano by Danube continues to flourish in the Sultanate

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

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

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

sortment of high-quality products. We had an advantage over our competition since we maintained our inventory levels despite rising raw material prices," Sajan, who was recently in Oman, quoted. While the strong network of traders caters to the B2B segment, the retail buyers can visit their nearest Danube Home showroom located in Al Khuwair, Mabelah, Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Sur, and Salalah for their home solutions needs."

Sajan gave an insight into strategies adopted that led to the growth of Milano. He said, "Our primary goal is to meet and exceed the demands of our consumers, and in order to do so, we make sure to grow our product lines with the necessary items, making Milano a one-stop-shop for all home renovation solutions."

A diverse set of professional tools has recently been introduced to the brand's repertoire.

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

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

ALL-NEW

Volkswagen's ultimate performer Golf R arrives in Middle East

DUBAI: Volkswagen's ultimate performer has arrived in the Middle East. The all-new Golf R delivers sheer power with sports-tuned suspension and 4MOTION all-wheel drive which ensures the driver both control and comfort.

With a robust 2.0-litre 320 HP TSI petrol engine, the all-new Golf R releases power exactly when and where you need it. The all-new Golf R is not only an elite member of the model series but also the star of the R-brand. The car is available for pre-booking now with a starting price of \$49,709 (excluding VAT).

The all-new Golf R is an unmistakable icon fully loaded with performance features. Along with an exclusive design and equipment, this highly dynamic car represents its class's gold standard of technology. In addition, the all-new Golf R is the first Golf to be launched with a new all-wheel-drive system: 4MOTION with R-Performance Torque Vectoring and selective wheel torque control on the rear axle. This innovative drive significantly increases the agility of the new Golf R, particularly when cornering. As a result, drivers will get precise and neutral handling, optimum traction characteristics and exceptional agility. In other words: maximum driving pleasure.

Distinctive exterior features of the new Golf R model include; matt chrome mirrors and R logo floor projection when the car door is opened and closed. The Golf R ride height is 20 millimetres lower than the standard Golf. Three colour options include Lapiz Blue



Metallic (a signature colour for R), Pure White or Deep Black Pearl Effect.

The blue brake calipers give the optional 19-inch alloy wheels a distinctive touch. The wheel options include 19-inch "Adelaide" alloy wheels, 18-inch "Jerez" alloy wheels, or 19-inch "Estoril" alloy wheels (black with burnished finish or black).

Inside the Golf R, updates include the customised and enhanced premium sports seats, a new specially designed ergonomic DSG, and an R button that allows quick access to different driving modes. In addition, the Golf R is equipped with the latest technology, including a 10-inch infotainment system and digital cockpit, which has been updated for the Golf R.

The new Golf R can also be ordered with an optional Performance Package. The R Performance Package includes a larger, prominent rear spoiler for extra downforce on the rear axle, 19-inch wheels in the Estoril design (also available in complete black finish), and two additional driving

profiles, "Special" (Nürburgring mode) and "Drift". The driving profile selection can be rapidly accessed by pressing the R button on the steering wheel. In addition to this, you can have the adaptive chassis control as an optional feature, and for the first time in the Middle East region, the new Golf R also offers an optional Akrapovic titanium exhaust system, which is seven kilograms lighter than the standard system and controls the engine sound.

Commenting on the launch of the new Golf R, Victor Dalmau, Managing Director of Volkswagen Middle East, said: "The Golf R is Volkswagen's top performance model and the elite member of the R-Brand. This latest edition unites speed, precision and power achieving a driving experience like never before. The Middle East has long shown a keen appetite for performance models, so we are particularly excited about launching this car in the region."

Pre-book offer will include seven years of service for bookings made from April 1 until May 31. Terms and conditions apply.

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NBO introduces new customer experience training programme

Known as ‘Dhiyafa’, a value that cascades down from the aim to implement a long-term company-wide mindset towards exceeding customer expectations and delivering a seamless experience

MUSCAT: Aiming for greater customer satisfaction, National Bank of Oman (NBO) has introduced a dynamic new customer experience programme for all branch employees.

cascades down from the aim to implement a long-term company-wide mindset towards exceeding customer expectations and delivering a seamless experience.

The course will run for three months and focus on communica-

tion etiquette, customer expectations, standards for serving customers, face-to-face interactions and all aspects of the NBO customer experience.

‘Dhiyafa’ reflects NBO’s commitment to staff development and customer satisfaction by enhancing frontline services. One of the most important objectives of Dhiyafa to ensure the connection between the bank and customers remains strong, mirroring NBO’s approach to delivering the right innovative products and services through the right channel to empower customers to reach their financial goals and achieve an ultimate customer experience.

Said Al Marhoobi, Head of Customer Experience at NBO, said, “NBO places people at the heart

of everything it does and Dhiyafa intersects our strategy across all of the bank’s operations and our dedication to our customers. The objectives of Dhiyafa reflect NBO’s core values and will help to create a sustainable and self-perpetuating culture across the bank’s entire branch network. Our mission is to continue innovating our products as well as ways to exceed expectations and delight customers.”

Enhancing the capabilities and effective deployment of NBO’s people through empowering career development programs have been identified as key to achieving and delivering the bank’s strategic and business objectives. The bank will continue to equip its employees with the skills required to better serve our customers.



ISLAMIC BANKING SERVICES

Exceptional banking experience with Maisarah’s High Yield Account

MUSCAT: Central to its commitment to enriching its customers’ experience with a diverse bundle of savings and investment solutions that are tailored to meet the specific needs of retail banking customers across the Sultanate, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services continues to offer expected profit rates of up to 2.5% per annum for High Yield Account holders.

“The High Yield Account is based on the Islamic concept of Mudarabah and it comes with added benefits to those who want to save money while earning a competitive expected monthly profit,” stated Mohammed Ahmed Al Maashani – Head of Distribution Network at Maisarah. “This is not a completely new product; however, it is an enhanced version of Maisarah’s Savings Account. The attractive expected profit rates per annum of up to 2.5% are subject to applicable weightages for each month.”

Maisarah, the Sharia-compliant window of BankDhofar, has been at the forefront of bringing about customised solutions that meet customers’ aspirations and exceed their expectations. In addition to



the High Yield Account, Maisarah’s customers can avail of a wide selection of banking solutions that suit their requirements, including Fixed Deposits, Ameen Term Deposit, Mudarabah Saving Account, Current Account and Ameen Investment Account. Maisarah also offers various finance schemes that include Auto Finance, Home

Finance, Property Finance, Goods Finance, Personal Finance, Education Finance, Travel Finance and Commercial Finance.

Customers can enjoy an exceptional banking experience with the added services under the High Yield Account such as instant issuance of debit cards, cardless cash, instant fund transfers and a

24/7 digital banking experience. Attractive savings and investment options can be availed at any of Maisarah’s branches in Azaiba, Al Hail, Salalah, Sohar, Birkat Al Mouz, and Greater Muttrah, Al Khuwair, Sur, New Salalah and Araqi. To learn more, visit the nearest Maisarah Islamic Banking Services branch, check out the official page or call 24775777 for further inquiries.

Since the launch of its operations in 2013, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services has set its vision to be the best Islamic banking services provider in Oman, and it has demonstrated a high degree of product innovation with an expansive range of Sharia-compliant financial solutions that cater to the needs of retail and corporate customers. As part of its future growth plan, Maisarah continues to distinguish itself by focusing on outstanding service quality, developing and launching new innovative products and investing in technology to provide the best customer experience through an expanding network of branches, ATMs and CDM facilities.

SMARTEST CHOICE



Huawei nova Y70: Top pick for pocket-friendly smartphones in the Sultanate

MUSCAT: No matter how you look at it, the price of flagships or high-end smartphones is still a deterrent for many people, especially those on a limited budget. Thankfully, some outstanding affordable alternatives have significantly improved over the past few years. Features such as battery life, charging speed and display were a major differentiator between flagships and mid-rangers over the past couple of years, but even today’s entry-level smartphones come with astonishing battery life and impressive displays.

Huawei, the global iconic tech brand is known to deliver across all smartphone categories and it has recently announced the launch of the Huawei nova Y70, a new addition that diversifies the Huawei nova Y series. At a more comprehensive price range, the Huawei nova Y Series is designed to let more consumers enjoy the profound user experience and services of Huawei products at an accessible price point, perfect for youngsters and students. The Huawei nova Y70 is Huawei’s latest entry-level phone with the longest battery life, it is equipped with a humongous 6000mAh battery with 22.5W Huawei SuperCharge, an expansive 6.75-inch display, a versatile 48MP AI Triple camera in addition to 128GB internal storage capacity

Huawei nova Y70 is available starting May 26 in Oman with a price OMR75.9 for pre-order you will get (Huawei video 3 months VIP+Huawei music 3 months VIP+Huawei Cloud 50GB two months free)

The Huawei nova Y70 inherits the long-lasting battery life of Huawei’s products. It is equipped with a 6000mAh (typical value) large battery, which can last 3 days with one full charge and provide

3 hours of continuous video playback with a 10-minute charge. The Huawei nova Y70 can also be used as a power bank that provides an output of 5V/1A to support wired reverse charging for devices such as smartwatches, bands and smartphones when out and about. The Huawei nova Y70 can identify and turn off the power consumption of non-user reserved applications and non-core applications, to provide outstanding battery life in extreme usage scenarios. Turning on Low Battery mode when the battery is at 5%, Huawei nova Y70 can standby for up to 12 hours before shutting down. Users can count on it without worrying that the battery might run out at a critical moment.

This smartphone stands out among other devices at the same price point with the support of a 22.5W Huawei SuperCharge. Users can make use of the time finishing their work to charge the Huawei nova Y70 for 10 minutes and enjoy 3 hours of video playback. Lastly, the Huawei nova Y70 improves charging safety with an integrated 13-layer charge protection system.

The Huawei nova Y70 features a 6.75-inch Huawei FullView Display. Whether it is images, videos, or gaming, the Huawei nova Y70 can display more content at a larger size.

The smartphone’s screen also supports an industry-leading 10-point Multi-touch technology to provide a fast response even when the user is making multi-finger gestures delivering an immersive gaming experience, especially for shooting games.

Smartphones can be used across different scenarios, for example, you may be browsing a website under dim lights or reading e-books for long hours.

PROMOTION

GA4 now available with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Own the GA4 sedan and avail exclusive benefits. The benefits include Manufacturer’s Warranty – 5 years/150,000 Kms, Comprehensive Insurance 1 year (Oman & UAE) and a chance to win Raffle – one GA4 GB 1.3 T. The campaign is valid until 9th June, 2022 (Conditions apply. For more details, please visit any GAC Motor showroom).

The stunning GA4 is designed to immediately draw attention, with its halogen headlamps, sharp daytime running lights and halogen front fog lamps. Interestingly the halogen headlamps are also equipped to allow height adjustment, alert through alarm and courteously guide the owner home with the follow-me-home ability.

The clean flowing lines on the GA4 move outwards from the front all the way to the rear. Highlighting the inspiring design language is the imposing and stunning grille, that makes a positive impression on every arrival. Whether navigating the busy streets of towns or throwing your worries away on weekend drives, the GA4 is always up the notch even if it’s just standing still



or making waves on the move, with its 16” aluminum alloy wheels.

Completing this look is the addition of the sleek and attractive LED rear combination lights that lend a treat to the eyes, especially of those behind it. The GA4 is also equipped with cornering lights, side mirrors with turn signal indicators, heated power side mirrors, front and second row windows with tinted glass and shark fin antenna.

The GA4 offers a thrilling drive with its powerful and fuel-efficient 1.3L Turbo, 135 HP engine that produces 202 Nm of torque at 1500 - 4200 rpm.

This is paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission. The 1.3L turbo, GA4 is equipped with front McPherson independent suspension and a rear multi-link beam independent suspension.

A look inside the GA4 will reveal

a very cozy and comfortable interior. Occupants in it can delight in the options of fabric and leatherette trimmed seats or leatherette trimmed seats. The in-car environment is unique and a joy for families especially those with young children with the negative ion air purifier feature which provides for cleaner air and one that is not common in this segment.

The GA4 has in it some of the latest in-car features and technologies like a 3.5-inch instrument panel with trip computer, 8-inch colour LCD screen display, navigation system, Bluetooth hands-free phone system, front and second row USB ports, 4 speakers, speed based volume adjustment, wide-angle 180-degree rear view camera system with dynamic gridlines and ECO Drive Mode.

Besides this, the GA4 also has, as part of its interiors, folding second row centre armrest with cup holders, second row centre seat headrest, 60:40 split and reclining second row seats, overhead console with map lights and sunglass storage and a front row auxiliary power outlet among others.





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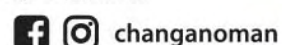
Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the Changan Showroom.

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