

HIS MAJESTY SENDS GREETINGS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik sent a cable of congratulations to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye on the occasion of his re-election as president for a new term. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes for success for the friendly Turkish people, and further growth to friendship between the two countries. **-OMA**



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OFFICIAL RECEPTION FOR HIS MAJESTY HELD

An official reception ceremony was held in honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on his arrival in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, headed the welcoming party on the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan's motorcade at the presidential building of Saadabad Palace in Tehran. **>A4**



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AGREEMENTS

Oman, Iran sign MoUs to boost investment

TEHRAN: The Sultanate of Oman and Iran signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and two cooperation agreements in Saadabad Palace, Tehran, in a bid to enhance development and investments between the two countries.

The two memoranda of understanding deal with promoting investments, exchanging investment opportunities, boosting development and investments in economic zones and free zones. Meanwhile, the two agreements deal with exchanging oil information and the joint study on the Hengam-Bakha field project. **>A6**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

'Oman and Iran have historic relations'

1 The Foreign Minister has said that the visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Iran stems from the significance attached to bilateral ties. **>A6**

WORLD

Indian PM dedicates new parliament house

2 Indian PM Narendra Modi said that the new parliament building should be a shining example of the country's vision. **>A7**

SPORTS

PSG win Ligue 1 for the record 11th time

3 Paris Saint-Germain faced Strasbourg on Sunday at the Le Parc des Princes stadium. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. **>B6**

HIS MAJESTY, IRANIAN PRESIDENT DISCUSS REGIONAL, GLOBAL ISSUES



His Majesty the Sultan and Iranian President discussed historic friendship binding the two countries

TEHRAN: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held a session of talks at the Iranian presidential building in Tehran on Sunday.

The session dealt with various aspects of bilateral cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Iran. The two leaders also exchanged views on a number of current issues of common concern in the backdrop of develop-

ments on the regional and international arenas.

The meeting was attended, on the Omani side, by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office and Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

The meeting was attended, on the Iranian side, by Dr. Hossein Amirabdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Jamshidi, Deputy for Political Affairs at the President's Office, Ali Bagheri, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman.

After the private meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and the Ira-

nian President held an expanded session of talks during which the two leaders pursued discussion on the historic friendship binding the two countries.

The meeting touched on various aspects of cooperation and coordination with a view to realising the interests of the two countries and peoples and achieving their common aspirations. The talks were attended by the official Omani and Iranian delegations. **-OMA**

See also >A3, A4, A5 & A6

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Maghrib.....	6:53pm
Isha.....	8:14pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:55am

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TALKS SESSION

Oman, Bangladesh hold bilateral talks

MUSCAT: The 3rd political talks session was held on Sunday between the foreign ministries of the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The session discussed several issues and regional and international developments of mutual interest.

During the session, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed means of enhancing cooperation in the fields of trade exchange, investment, food security and labour relations, as well as other areas that serve joint interests. The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic



Affairs, while the Bangladeshi side was headed by Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The talks session was attended by Mohammed Nazmul Islam, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Oman and Yousef Issa Al Zedjali, Head of Asia and the Pacific Department and several officials from the two countries' foreign ministries. -ONA

FAREWELL

Sayyid Badr meets Philippines envoy



MUSCAT: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi received on Sunday Imelda Pano-long, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty.

Sayyid Badr expressed his appreciation for the ambassador's efforts in consolidating relations

between Oman and the Philippines. He wished her success in her upcoming assignments.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Said Al Jaradi, Head of the Protocols Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Yousef Issa Al Zedjali, Head of Asia and the Pacific Department at the Foreign Ministry. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

Going back to your roots



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

It is funny how people suddenly go back to their roots when they are in deep trouble. It is usually after many years have elapsed when the gap is too wide to close. For some, the attempt is a desperate measure to mend severed links for personal benefits.

When one middle-aged man lost his job, he was faced with a serious problem. He needed support and he needed it fast. It was only natural for him to turn to his relatives for help. They welcomed him though the man had ignored them for years. You would think he would spare a moment apologising but instead, he poured out his problems and he found many listening ears. They rallied around him and got him everything he needed. These are the same relatives he never visited or even turned up for funerals when his personal life was in full bloom!

Not everybody who deserted their background found a welcoming mat when they go back. When a businessman found himself in liquidation, he saw all the doors of his relatives slamming shut. They remembered him as a big show-off, arrogant and self-centred. They did not want to welcome him in their lives, why should they and rightly so, too. The irony was that he found himself looking for charity although he never was charitable in the good old days.

Long and lasting bonds have deep roots. You cannot profess undying love when you have nowhere to go. It

does not work that way. Many of us take for granted the fact that we can reach for our relatives by just lifting the phone. We rarely do it and the drift becomes like a wall that grows bigger all the time. I guess it all has got to do with personal ambitions and the need to be left alone when the going is good.

In Oman, one family elder turned his farm into a big sanctuary inviting every member of his family in need to live there. He sheltered over forty individuals during his lifetime in his attempt to foster good ties among his relatives. Ten years after he died, the population of the farm double and one would assume that it was a very close-knit community. It was far from the idealism the old man had envisioned. They put boundaries within the farm and every family lived alone in separate areas. Years later, only a couple of families remained. The rest of them sold up their split-up lands and moved on. Why should they share when they could break up for personal benefit? It is hard to keep the bond in time of prosperity. Who needs it anyway when you have everything you want?

No wonder that now they start to talk about establishing state-run old people's homes. Here in the Gulf, believe or not, many elderly relatives are increasingly left alone. It is something unheard of twenty years ago. Children only come back to their parents to claim their inheritance.

Who needs his roots when they are no crops to harvest? No wonder that in the West some elderly people now decide to leave their entire estates to cats or dogs. They find more comfort from animals than from their own families as they enter the twilight of their lives. It is not all gloom, though. They are still close-knit families around watching over each other to the very end. However, the tradition is a dying breed and the Gulf is no exception. There are no longer tents that keep a big family together anymore but a concrete jungle with thick walls that keep them away.



*May Her Soul
Rest in Peace*



A photograph showing four men seated at a long table during a formal meeting. They are all wearing blue traditional Indian attire (kurta) with yellow borders and various styles of turbans. The man second from the left wears a white turban. They are looking towards the right side of the frame. On the table in front of them are microphones, water bottles, and some papers. The background is a patterned wall.



Oman United Insurance Co.



HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES GUARD OF HONOUR



TEHRAN: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq on Sunday arrived in the Islamic Republic of Iran on a two-day official visit. An official reception ceremony was held in honour of His Majesty the Sultan. Upon the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan's motorcade at the presidential building of Saadabad Palace in Tehran, Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, headed the welcoming party. The Iranian President wished His Majesty the Sultan and his accompanying delegation a happy stay.

Then, Dr. Ebrahim Raisi accompanied His Majesty the Sultan to the dais of honour, where the Omani Royal Anthem and the Iranian na-

tional anthem were played. After that, His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by the Iranian President, inspected the guard of honour, which saluted His Majesty the Sultan.

After that, the two leaders headed to the reception building, where His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with senior members of the welcoming party, from the Iranian side, who were: Dr. Hossein Amirabdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ehsan Khandozi, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs (Head of the Mission of Honour), Brigadier Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani, Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, Javad Owji, Minister

of Oil, Mehرداد Bazrpash, Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Gholam-Hossein Esmaeili, Head of the President's Office, Mahdi Niazi, Acting Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade, Mohammad-Reza Farzin, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Mohammad Jamshidi, Deputy for Political Affairs at the President's Office, Ali Bagheri, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mehdi Safari, Deputy Minister for Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman.

Then, Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan.

Earlier, when His Majesty the Sultan arrived at Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran, he was received by: Mohammed Mokher, First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ehsan Khandozi, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs (Head of the Mission of Honour), Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of Iran to Oman, Ibrahim bin Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of Oman to Iran, several high-ranking Iranian officials and several members of Oman's Embassy at Iran. - ONA



PHOTOS: ONA

PRESS CONFERENCE

Oman, Iran to settle region's issues by peaceful means

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi and Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian today held a press conference in Tehran within the context of the official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sayyid Badr said that the visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Iran constitutes an extension of the deep-rooted bilateral relations and will usher in a new era of concert-

ed action aimed at achieving fruitful cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Bilateral agreements

Sayyid Badr pointed out that the two countries will join hands in activating bilateral agreements that they signed with the prime objective of enhancing cooperation in various fields, including oil, gas, renewable energy, tourism, agriculture, industry, seafaring and establishing direct links

between Omani and Iranian ports.

He underscored the two countries' keenness to continue to resolve and find peaceful solutions for issues and developments in the region.

For his part, Dr. Hossein said that the meeting that took place between His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and the Iranian President focused on various political, economic, commercial and cultural issues.

He added that the meeting also

laid emphasis on consolidating bonds of cooperation on maritime transport, activating shipping lines between the two countries and reviewing agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the two sides.

The Iranian minister commended the Omani foreign policy, its stands on regional and international issues and the positive role that the Sultanate of Oman undertakes in realising regional security and stability.





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MEETING

Oman, Iran discuss ties in energy and mineral fields

TEHRAN: Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, met with Javad Owji, Minister of Oil of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the Iranian presidential building in Tehran on Sunday.

The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields, especially those related to cooperation in the field of energy and minerals.

The meeting also dealt with the agreements being negotiated and the projects related to the development of the Hengam-Bakha field and the export of gas to the Sultanate of Oman.



MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Over 50 workers arrested for violating Labour Law in Muscat

MUSCAT: More than 50 male and female workers were arrested in Muscat Governorate for violating the provisions of the Labour Law.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Labour (MoL) said: “The Ministry of Labour in co-operation with the Royal Oman Police (ROP), conducted an inspection campaign in the Wilayat of Seeb for private homes in which unlicensed work was practiced. The Ministry has arrested 49 female workers and 4 male workers violating the provisions of the Labour Law.”

— Times News Service



Indian Social Club Oman

TENDER NOTICE

Expression of Interest

The Indian Social Club Oman is planning to build its new club house at Al Amerat on DBF (Design, Build & Finance) basis. The total Built up area of the project is approx. 4,000 sq.mtrs. with associated facilities and car parking.

The ISC Oman invites interested companies with the relevant experience to send the expression of interest to eoiscoman@gmail.com



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The table below shows the instructions for participation: -

Participation	Enquiries	Tender Submission	Guarantee	Terms and Conditions
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إعلان مناقصة Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology In Al Khuwair invites for the Following Projects:

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MTCIT/ HQ 15/2022 - Recall - 2	DESIGN AND BUILT OF BOATS CRANE DOCK AND COMPLETE THE REMAINING WORKS IN BUILDINGS AT HARMUL HARBOR (SOHAR PORT)	29-5-2023	8-6-2023	13- 7-2023	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (EXCELLENT CLASS)	(25/-) TWENTY FIVE OMANI RIAL NON- REFUNDABLE
MTCIT/ HQ 109/2023	CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DEVELOP DIGITAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMS	28-5-2023	8-6-2023	13- 7-2023	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (FIRST CLASS)	(50/-) FIFTY OMANI RIAL NON- REFUNDABLE
MTCIT/ HQ 110/2023	DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PEOPLE'S MARKET BUILDING AND PARKING AREA ON AL-SHARQIYAH EXPRESSWAY (AL-DAKHILIYAH & AL SHARQIYAH GOVERNORATE)	29-5-2023	8-6-2023	13- 7-2023	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (SME FOURTH CLASS)	(25/-) TWENTY FIVE OMANI RIAL NON- REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:
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His Majesty leaves for Iran on Iranian president invite



His Majesty the Sultan left on an official two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq left on Sunday for the Islamic Republic of Iran on an official two-day visit, during which he will meet the Iranian President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi. The visit, made in response to an invitation by the Iranian President, underscores the advanced relations between the two countries. His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at the Royal Airport by



HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, HH Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin

Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin



Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Maj. Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of

the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman and Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed bin Taiman Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force. During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan is accompanied by a high-ranking official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin

Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdusalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, ambassador at large Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Hinai and Ibrahim bin Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of Oman to Iran. May Allah the Almighty guard His Majesty the Sultan in his travel and grant him good health, wellbeing and success in all his endeavours to realise the good of the nation. -ONA

IRAN

'Royal visit confirms the attention HM accords to ties between two countries'

MUSCAT: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi has said that the two-day visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to the Islamic Republic of Iran stems from the significance attached to bilateral relations by the two countries' leaders. "The visit comes in pursuance of constructive cooperation and consultation about different issues on the regional and international arenas," he explained. Speaking to Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper on the occasion of the Royal visit to Tehran, Sayyid Badr said, "It is a well-known fact that Oman and Iran have developed historic relations of good neighborliness based on firm principles of mutual confidence and respect. Sayyid Badr pointed out that the visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Iran takes place in the midst of a new phase of positive regional relations. "It is a step forward in enhancing consultation and cooperation to address many current issues that will undoubtedly be the topic of discussion between the two leaders," said Sayyid Badr,



noting that such discussions seek to consolidate the pillars of security and stability. He stressed that the Royal visit confirms the attention that His

Majesty the Sultan accords to relations between the two countries and their peoples. "We in the Sultanate of Oman are optimistic that this historic

visit will reflect positively on the region's stability and security and that its outcome will be beneficial in regional and global terms," Sayyid Badr said. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS



<FROM A1 Agreements inked

The first MoU was signed by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Ehsan Khandozi, Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs. The second MoU was signed by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, Iran's

Adviser to the President and Secretary of the High Council for Free Zones. The two agreements were inked by Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Ali Akbar Mehrabian, Iran's Minister of Energy. The signing ceremonies were attended by the official delegations from both sides. -ONA



TURKEY ELECTION

Erdogan wins new presidential term

ANKARA: The Turkish electoral authority declared Erdogan the winner of the election which will see him secure another five-year term.

“Based on provisional results, it has been determined that Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been elected president,” Supreme Election Council chairman Ahmet Yener was quoted as saying by the An-

adolu state news agency.

Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, saying his victory was “the logical result” of his dedicated work as head of the Turkish Republic. Putin also praised Erdogan for his “personal contribution to the strengthening of friendly Russian-Turkish relations.” Separately, Hungary’s

Viktor Orban praised Erdogan’s “unquestionable election victory” on Twitter.

Opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu pledged to continue “leading this struggle” against the Erdogan regime.

“My real sadness is about the difficulties awaiting the country,” he said, without explicitly conceding defeat. —**OW**



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NEW INDIA

Indian PM dedicates new parliament building to nation

NEW DELHI: Stating that the ‘Amrit Kaal’ will give a new direction to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the new parliament building should be a shining example of the country’s vision and resolve of New India.

PM Modi said that the construction of the new complex gave employment to over 60,000 labourers, and a digital gallery has been created to honour their hard work. Addressing the ceremony, PM Modi said, “Several years of foreign rule took away our pride from us. But today, India has left behind that colonial mindset. India is the mother of democracy. It is also the foundation of global democracy. Democracy is our ‘San-skaar’, idea and tradition”.

He further said that there was a need for a new parliament and the new building is equipped with modern facilities and the latest gadgets.

“There was a need for new parliament. We also have to see that the number of seats and MPs will increase in the coming time. That’s why it was need of the hour that a new Parliament is made,” he said.

PM Modi added, “This building is equipped with modern facilities and has latest gadgets. It has given employment to over 60,000 la-

bourers. We have created a digital gallery to honour their hard work”.

The Prime Minister further said that the inspiration is the same from Panchayat Bhawan to Sansad Bhawan.

“As we sit in the new parliament, I find immense satisfaction in the accomplishment of building 4 crore homes and 11 crore toilets for the people, constructing 4 lakh kilometres of rural roads, constructing 50,000 Amrit Sarovar, and creating 30,000 new Panchayat Bhavans. From Panchayat Bhawan to Sansad Bhawan, our inspiration is the development of our country and its people,” the Prime Minister added. He added that ‘Amrit Kaal’ will give a new direction to our nation to fulfil our vision of New India and this new building should be a shining example of our vision and resolve.

“This new Parliament will become witness to the rise of a self-reliant India. When India surges ahead, the world also moves forward. Along with India, the new Parliament building will also contribute to the world’s progress,” the Prime Minister said.

After concluding his speech in the Parliament, PM Modi interacted with several leaders in the new Parliament. — **ANI**

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Summer Times. – KEEP YOUR CHILDREN HYDRATED AND HEALTHY

It’s summer again. Mercury rising day by day..
Sweat, exhaustion, heat stroke...
Is children are more at risk of heat injuries?
Yes, for many reasons

Dr Abdul Razik
Pediatrician
Al Hayat International Hospital,
Al Ghubra, Muscat

Avoid dehydration in hot weather.

1. Make sure your child is having frequent drinks. Fresh water is the best choice
2. Breastfeeding mothers, feed your baby as often or more often in hot season. Have plenty of fluids for yourself. Bottle feeding also may need to increase. Babies who are more than six months old can be offered small amounts of cooled boiled water, after or between feeds.
3. Avoid outdoor activities in the hot hours and in summer, food also matters for rehydration. Include more fruits and vegetables, especially those with more water content. Like water melon, oranges etc, which can contribute the fluid intake.

Never leave babies or children in cars!

Why leaving a child unattended in a hot car can be dangerous?

Temperatures inside a parked car can rise by approx 3 degrees Celsius within just ten minutes and by more than 10 degrees within 30 minutes. Even if the windows are opened, temperatures inside the car can still rise quickly.

How to travel safely during summer

These are some important things you can do to make your summer journeys safe:

1. Never leave your child unattended in the car, even for a brief stopping! Because Most of the temperature rise happens in the first few minutes after closing the car

2. Protect your child’s head from any direct exposure to sun rays to prevent heat strokes
3. A child’s body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult’s – making the impact of heat on their small bodies almost immediate.
4. Covering the side windows with sun shades can protects your child from direct sun exposure.
5. Don’t overdress your child; it could also cause them to overheat.
6. Don’t leave babies to sleep in a pram – they can be hot and airless.

Summer dressing

1. Loose fitting, 100 % cotton dresses, preferably light colored. Cotton allows air to reach the body surface and cooling it and lets the sweat evaporates.
2. Try to include a wide brimmed hat in kids summer wear, will give some good protection to the head and neck or more.

SUNSCREENS

Sunscreen are an option for children more than 6 months. Use sunscreens of SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 or above. Above 50 preferred. Use non chemical sunscreens, apply adequate amount, and may have to re apply every 2 hrs if necessary. In babies, 6 months or less opt for other sun protection methods like, covering dressing, shades etc.

So dear children and parents, enjoy the summer, but health is first...



Rayudu announces retirement from IPL

AHMEDABAD: Ambati Rayudu announced his retirement from the IPL on Sunday. In a tweet he said the “IPL 2023 final for Chennai Super Kings against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad will be his last game in the tournament and that he will not be making a ‘U-turn’ on his decision.”

Last year, Rayudu had posted a tweet in which he had said IPL 2022 would be his final season in the competition. He, however, deleted it after intervention from the CSK management. That wasn’t the first time Rayudu had taken back a decision about his future in the game. In 2019, he had announced his retirement from all cricket after being snubbed for the 2019 ODI World Cup. But he then returned to domestic and IPL cricket.

Rayudu has been a big part of the CSK set-up, having been with the side since 2018 after playing for Mumbai Indians from 2010 to 2017. This year, he’s largely

played as an impact substitute for CSK - coming in to bat in the middle order in place of/being substituted by a bowler - on their way to the title clash.

Rayudu is among the top-ten most experienced IPL cricketers, and the second-most successful IPL cricketer, with five titles, with Mumbai Indians and CSK. Only Rohit Sharma (six) has won the IPL more times and Rayudu has the chance to equal the record if CSK win the final.

Under Rohit, Rayudu won the 2013, 2015 and 2017 IPL titles with Mumbai Indians and then won the 2018 and 2021 IPL titles with CSK. Rayudu had missed the first two years of the competition because of his association with the Indian Cricket League.

Rayudu is currently on 203 IPL games. He has made 4,329 runs with 22 half-centuries and one century, which came against Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2018.

RAIN PUSHES IPL FINAL TO MONDAY

If there is no play possible on Monday, Gujarat Titans will be declared champion by virtue of having finished ahead of Chennai Super Kings in the league table

AHMEDABAD: Relentless rains led to the postponement of the 2023 IPL final between the Gujarat Titans (GT) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Narendra Modi Stadium to its reserve day on Monday.

On Sunday, dark clouds started hovering around the arena an hour-and-a-half before the scheduled match start time of 7.30pm (local time). And within 30 minutes, fans who had nearly filled three-fourths of the stadium were searching for cover.

The downpour, accompanied by strong winds, relented around 9pm, and much to the supporters’ joy, covers went off and players trooped on to the turf for their warm-ups.

But their hopes were quickly dashed as the heavens opened up again and the rain continued intermittently into the night, turning vast swathes of grounds into puddles.

On Monday, the same playing conditions as on the original day will apply. In case there is a weather disruption again, the final can start as late as 9.35pm without any reduction in the number of overs. A five-overs-a-side contest can begin at 12.06 am (Tuesday).

If there is no play, GT will be declared champion by virtue of having finished ahead of CSK in the league table. The forecast on Monday includes some rain as well, but it’s in the hours leading into the game. The skies are supposed to clear up by 6pm (local time).

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory

In this time of profound sorrow, our hearts reach out to
Mahesh D. Kala
who mourns the heartbreaking loss of his cherished wife,

Pushpa Kala

We extend our deepest sympathies as we stand united with the family during these difficult moments. May the support and love of colleagues, friends and family surround Mahesh, his sons, and close family, offering them courage and the reassurance that they are not alone.

With deepest sympathy,
National Publishing & Advertising LLC - Media One LLC

MERCHANT SOLUTIONS
OMPay exhibited its digital wallet and merchant solutions at the 32nd Edition of Comex, Oman's official technology show held at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat.

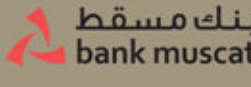
MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,630.45 points, down by 0.24 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.71 per cent at 466.12 points. Renaissance Services, up 6.08 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser.





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Oman issues bylaw to regulate charging of electric vehicles



The regulation boosts Oman's drive towards achieving carbon neutrality (zero emissions) by the year 2050

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation has issued a bylaw to regulate the charging of electric vehicles (EVs). Besides endorsing the regulatory framework for electric vehicles' charging activities, the new bylaw sets out the technical requirements for connecting charging stations and devices to the network.

The regulation boosts Oman's drive towards achieving carbon neutrality (zero emissions) by the year 2050. It stems from the country's environmental commitments and international pledges to reduce carbon emissions.



It also underlines the strategic approach of Oman Vision 2040, notably within the context of establishing a sustainable environment based on effective, balanced and flexible ecosystems.

In addition, the regulation highlights advancing Oman's goal of transitioning into a green economy and striking a balance between the requirements of development and environmental sustainability.

The bylaw is the outcome of concerted efforts made by various government departments to boost

the country's transition into zero emissions in the transport sector.

The regulation provides for offering customs incentives and tax exemptions for the import of electric cars and their spare parts.

Besides encouraging the acquisition of these cars, the regulation helps in setting targets for the number of electric cars as part of the government's plans to replace conventional cars with electric ones.

The bylaw sets the tariff for electric vehicles' charging and it floats

this activity for private sector investors.

According to the law, no person is allowed to build and install a private or public electric charging point until they obtain the approval of the electricity distribution licensee after providing them with all necessary data.

The article 3 of the law reads: "Every person who owns or operates a private or public electric charging point must comply with the regulatory and technical requirements approved by the

authority and the concerned authorities. According to article 5 of the law, "The tariff specified in accordance with the provisions of the approved tariff regulation for connection and supply of electricity shall be applied to the consumption of the aforementioned electric charging point, and according to the type of category of consumption for subscriber account.

"The tariff specified in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff Reflective Regulation of the aforementioned cost shall

be applied to the consumption of the public electric charging point, without being restricted to the minimum electricity consumption."

In addition, the law allows people to obtain a private electric charging point at home according to article 8: "The property owner is responsible for installing and operating the private electric charging point, and if the property is rented, the tenant must obtain the written consent of the property owner before installing or commissioning a private charging point. In all cases, the property owner remains responsible for the tenant's obligations in the event of non-compliance updating the subscriber's account data in the name of the lessee in the system of the licensed electricity supplier.

Article (9): The owner of the private electric charging point shall bear the costs of the sub-meter for measuring the electric vehicle charging consumption and the costs of its installation.

Article (10) read, the owner of a private electric charging point is prohibited from allowing others to benefit from the services of the electric charging point its own for commercial purposes.

-With ONA inputs

PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

Madayn continues its road repair work in Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) continues its efforts to repair the roads in Al Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City, with a tender awarded to a local company that has commenced the implementation and repairs on the damaged roads.

The work is carried out during the evening hours to minimise disruption to traffic during the day, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Eng. Badr Al Abri, Director of Al Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City Project, pointed out that Wadi Kabir Industrial City is one of the oldest service industrial cities in Muscat Governorate. "Due to the significance of ensuring utmost security, safety and environmental health



standards and the necessity of re-planning the industrial city and enhancing the work environment, the decision came regarding trans-

ferring the affiliation of Al Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City to Madayn."

Al Abri added, "Since Madayn took over the management of Al

Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City, specifically the industrial blocks: (142, 144, 146, 154, 158), a tender was awarded for the consultancy services project for the rehabilitation and design of Al Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City. The project has commenced with design work and preliminary studies, with a completion rate of 50 per cent achieved so far."

Madayn has also prepared a three-year implementation plan for Al Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City project and has identified the proposed industrial activities to address their respective situations. Furthermore, the management's office has been completed, Masar Service Centre is now operational, offering a wide range of services to investors, and the electronic platform for the industrial city has been completed.

COMEX

Pact inked to provide cloud servcies, complete infrastructure services and Microsoft licences

Times News Service

MUSCAT: On the sidelines of the activities of the 32nd edition of the Comex exhibition at the Oman International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Transom Handling signed an agreement with Oman Data Park for the provision of Infrastructure services and Microsoft licences.

The agreement was signed by Sheikh Saud bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Azizi, CEO of Transom Handling and Eng. Maqbool bin Salem Al-Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Data Park Company.

Under this agreement, Oman Data Park will provide cloud services, complete infrastructure services, and Microsoft licenses to



Transom Handling, in addition to managed services and cyber security services.

Sheikh Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Azizi, CEO of Transom Handling Company, stated: "Transom's lead-

ership in the field of ground handling ranks it at the forefront of keeping pace with the latest developments in the field of information technology and digital transformation that enhances the efficiency

of the company's operations and improves its performance as well."

For his part, Engineer Maqbool bin Salem Al Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Data Park, said: "We are delighted with our partnership with Transom Handling, as it is a leading company in ground handling services at the airports of the Sultanate of Oman." He added, "The expansion of the handling operations of our client Transom Handling enhances the expansion of our customer base since we will have great present through them at the various airlines that they deal with."

Transom Handling is the leading company in providing ground handling services to local and international airlines at all airports in Oman.

CHATGPT PHISHING FANTASIES



Will AI chatbots help fight cyberscam?

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Kaspersky experts have conducted research studying ChatGPT phishing link detection capability. While ChatGPT had previously demonstrated the ability to create phishing emails and write malware, its effectiveness in detecting malicious links was limited. The study revealed that although ChatGPT knows a great deal about phishing and can guess the target of a phishing attack, it had high false positive rates of up to 64 per cent. Often, it produced imaginary explanations and false evidence to justify its verdicts.

ChatGPT, an AI-powered language model, has been a topic of discussion in the cybersecurity world due to its potential to create phishing emails and the concerns about its impact on cybersecurity experts' job security even despite its creators' warnings that it is too early to apply the novel technology to such high-risk domains.

Kaspersky experts decided to conduct an experiment to reveal ChatGPT's ability to detect phishing links, as well as the cybersecurity knowledge it learned during training. Company's experts tested gpt-3.5-turbo, the model that powers ChatGPT, on more than 2,000 links that Kaspersky anti-phishing technologies deemed phishing, and

mixed it with thousands of safe URLs.

In the experiment, detection rates vary depending on the prompt used. The experiment was based on asking ChatGPT two questions: "Does this link lead to a phishing website?" and "Is this link safe to visit?". The results showed that ChatGPT had a detection rate of 87.2% and a false positive rate of 23.2% for the first question. The second question, "Is this link safe to visit?" had a higher detection rate of 93.8%, but a higher false positive rate of 64.3%. While the detection rate is very high, the false positive rate is too high for any kind of production application.

The unsatisfactory results at the detection task were expected, but could ChatGPT help with classifying and investigating attacks? Since attackers typically mention popular brands in their links to deceive users into believing that the URL is legitimate and belongs to a reputable company, the AI language model shows impressive results in the identification of potential phishing targets. For instance, ChatGPT has successfully extracted a target from more than half of the URLs, including major tech portals like Facebook, TikTok, and Google, marketplaces such as Amazon and Steam, and numerous banks from around the globe, among others - without any additional training.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Renaissance Services, up 6.08 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,630.45 points, down by 0.24 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.71 per cent at 466.12 points. Renaissance Services, up 6.08 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 574 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.86 million, with more than 8.58 million shares changing hands. Out of 49 traded securities, 12 advanced, 23 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR256,000 while GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR155,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR102,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,546.96 points, down 0.41 per cent. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments, Al Anwar Investment and Bank Muscat were up by 2.74 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 1.18 per cent and 0.39 per cent respectively. Prices of Ahli Bank, Takaful Oman, Sohar International Bank, United Finance and Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 2.63 per cent, 2.00 per cent, 1.94 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 1.39



per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,008.52 points, down 0.36 per cent. Prices of Oman Flour Mills and A'Saffa Foods were up by 0.73 per cent and 0.69 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Raysut Cement, Oman Chromite and Oman Cables Industry were up by 3.81 per cent, 3.41 per cent, 2.70 per cent and 0.52 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

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INDECIES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,660.66	4,615.39	4,630.45	4,641.78	-11.33	-0.24
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,588.91	7,519.92	7,546.96	7,577.67	-30.71	-0.41
INDUSTRY INDEX	6,057.10	5,983.80	6,008.52	6,029.99	-21.47	-0.36
SERVICES INDEX	1,690.35	1,652.39	1,673.39	1,678.28	-4.89	-0.29
MSX SHARIAH INDEX	467.91	465.73	466.12	469.46	-3.34	-0.71
MSX TR INDEX	6,127.37	6,067.87	6,087.66	6,102.56	-14.90	-0.24
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,266.89	8,191.74	8,221.19	8,254.65	-33.46	-0.41
SERVICES TR IDX	1,858.24	1,816.51	1,839.60	1,844.97	-5.37	-0.29
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,470.49	6,392.19	6,418.59	6,441.53	-22.93	-0.36

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,587,386	1,859,328	574	23,635,772,194	12	23	14	49

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 28

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	277,804	100,460	20	0.362	0.384	0.360	0.384	0.362	0.022	6.077	0.370	0.364	0.370	0.100	90,781,440
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,000	2,118	3	1.040	1.080	1.035	1.080	1.035	0.045	4.348	1.080	1.080	1.080	0.100	74,520,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	351,354	26,354	6	0.073	0.076	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.002	2.740	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	6,750,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	184,111	11,218	22	0.061	0.062	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.687	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.100	12,200,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	283,244	273,144	26	0.964	0.968	0.960	0.964	0.960	0.004	8.417	0.964	0.964	0.972	0.100	723,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,103,124	547,247	109	0.260	0.263	0.260	0.260	0.259	0.001	0.386	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	1,951,663,236
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	290,268	78,197	5	0.270	0.270	0.269	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	439,005,516
OM0000001517	HSPC BANK OMAN	465,109	72,092	9	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.100	310,048,482
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	26,040	9,893	6	0.378	0.380	0.378	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.378	0.418	0.100	253,978,862
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	58,168	18,571	8	0.316	0.320	0.316	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.332	0.100	105,879,267
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	114,686	32,113	3	0.283	0.283	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.270	0.280	0.100	61,600,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	239,280	67,032	7	0.280	0.290	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.290	0.100	34,971,429
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	351,682	61,896	10	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.000	0.000	0.176	0.176	0.180	0.100	527,357,853
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	25,000	6,551	8	0.262	0.263	0.262	0.262	0.263	0.001	0.380	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.100	26,200,000
OM0000003968	OCREDDO	88,221	31,560	27	0.380	0.380	0.356	0.356	0.358	-0.002	0.559	0.356	0.356	0.358	0.100	231,736,146
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	402,080	41,923	9	0.113	0.113	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.001	0.962	0.104	0.103	0.105	0.100	25,880,400
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	340,131	28,241	20	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	5,000	355	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	1.389	0.071	0.071	0.075	0.100	8,632,125
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	288,258	16,245	10	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	19,943,129
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	3,345	344	2	0.103	0.103	0.101	0.101	0.103	-0.002	1.942	0.101	0.101	0.106	0.100	463,596,291
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	50,745	4,229	6	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.085	-0.002	2.353	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.100	16,569,755
Total	21	5,949,650	1,429,783	317												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	26,648	774	6	0.029	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.029	0.001	3.448	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.100	20,246,623
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	9,000	505	2	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.001	1.818	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	17,200,194
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	302,896	25,906	10	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.086	0.086	0.089	0.100	17,200,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	153,640	15,224	16	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.097	0.107	0.100	8,415,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	29,400	16,092	5	0.546	0.550	0.546	0.550	0.546	0.004	0.733	0.550	0.550	0.554	0.100	86,625,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	6,224	1,806	4	0.288	0.292	0.288	0.290	0.288	0.002	0.694	0.290	0.274	0.290	0.100	34,800,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	53,296	2,067	7	0.036	0.039	0.036	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.038	0.039	0.100	3,315,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	209,000	37,497	14	0.184	0.186	0.173	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.173	0.204	0.100	37,756,479
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	336,052	31,223	10	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	208,036,632
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	6,969	664	4	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.091	0.096	0.100	14,932,838
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	37,683	4,484	2	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.119	0.127	0.100	50,547,655
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	242,097	71,311	70	0.293	0.296	0.293	0.294	0.295	0.001	0.338	0.294	0.292	0.295	0.100	226,438,800
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	36,000	69,480	10	1.930	1.930	1.930	1.930	1.940	-0.010	0.515	1.930	0.000	1.930	0.100	173,121,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	119,687	18,133	7	0.151	0.152	0.151	0.152	0.153	0.001	0.654	0.152	0.138	0.152	0.100	253,750,320
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,000	188	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.001	1.053	0.084	0.083	0.089	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000004447	OMAN REIT FUND	486,897	39,926	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.100	38,657,294
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	64,662	3,168	3	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.001	2.000	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.100	12,250,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,010	885	2	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.900	-0.020	2.222	0.860	0.860	0.880	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	10,781	3,621	7	0.185	0.185	0.180	0.185	0.190	-0.005	2.632	0.185	0.181	0.185	0.100	380,698,631
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	2,809	10,112	7	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.700	-0.100	2.703	3.600	3.600	3.600	1.000	10,800,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	107,061	18,367	11	0.175	0.175	0.170	0.170	0.176	-0.006	3.409	0.170	0.170	0.185	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	144,798	4,071	17	0.029	0.030	0.028	0.028	0.029	0.001	3.448	0.028	0.027	0.029	0.100	20,003,378
OM0000005961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	17,100	1,070	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.104	-0.004	3.810	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	8,221,678
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	33,504	3,350	3	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.104	-0.004	3.846	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	95,457,195
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	120,832	7,518	20	0.061	0.066	0.061	0.061	0.064	-0.003	4.688	0.061	0.061	0.064	0.100	89,218,689
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	14,358	862	3	0.065	0.065	0.060	0.060	0.065	-0.005	7.692	0.060	0.060	0.065	0.100	9,600,000
Total	26	2,585,404	380,071	250												

FEATURE

IIFA AWARDS 2023



ABU DHABI: One of the most watched Indian award shows, the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA 2023) returned to Yas Island, Abu Dhabi for the second year in succession, but the celebrations were much bigger, grander and magical.

Media partners
Times of Oman and TFM are the official media partners for the Oman market for IIFA Rocks and IIFA awards being held at Yas Island in Abu Dhabi and Nexus Novel Advertising is the marketing partner for Oman market.
The IIFA Awards 2023 was held at Yas Island in Abu Dhabi on Fri-

day and Saturday with the IIFA Rocks event held on May 26, and the main awards on May 27.
Several B-town celebs including Hrithik Roshan, Salman Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Varun Dhawan, Abhishek Bachchan, Nora Fatehi, and Sara Ali Khan among others marked their presence at the award night. Actors Hrithik Roshan and Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor - Male, Female trophies for their performances in the films 'Vikram Vedha' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'. Ajay Devgn's thriller film 'Drishyam 2' was awarded Best Picture and R Madhavan won the Best Director award for his film 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect'.



FULL LIST OF WINNERS

THERE WERE MANY BIG WINS AT THE CEREMONY

1. **Best Picture** - Drishyam 2

2. **Best Director** - R Madhavan, Rocketry: The Nambi Effect

3. **Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male)** - Hrithik Roshan, Vikram Vedha

4. **Best Performance in a Leading (Female)** - Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi

5. **Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Male)** - Anil Kapoor, JugJugg Jiyo

6. **Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Female)** - Mouni Roy, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva

7. **Best Debut (Male)** - Babil Khan, Qala and Shantanu Maheshwari, Gangubai Kathiawadi

8. **Best Debut (Female)** - Khushalii Kumar, Dhokha: Round D Corner

9. **Best Playback Singer (Male)** - Arijit Singh, Kesariya, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva
10. **Best Playback Singer (Female)** - Shreya Ghoshal, Rasiya, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva

11. **Best Music** - Pritam Chakraborty, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva

12. **Best Lyrics** - Amitabh Bhattacharya, Kesariya, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva

13. **Best Story Original** - Jasmeet K Reen and Parveez Sheikh, Darlings

14. **Best Story Adapted** - Aamil Keeyan Khan and Abhishek Pathak, Drishyam 2

15. **Outstanding Achievement in Regional Cinema** - Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza, Ved

16. **Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema** - Kamal Haasan

17. **Outstanding Achievement for Fashion in Cinema** - Manish Malhotra



SPORTS

India, Pakistan share the spoils in Salalah thriller

Hundreds of expatriates turned up to watch the exciting Pool A game between the arch-rivals in AHF Junior Asia Cup

SALALAH: It was a match that was expected to have ingredients of a thriller and in the end it did have as arch-rivals India and Pakistan shared the spoils with a 1-1 draw in the AHF Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 hockey tournament in Salalah on Saturday night.

Played in front of a packed stadium, the mouth-watering Pool A clash provided thrill and excitement throughout the 60 minutes.

India's Sharda Nand Tiwari drew the first blood with a goal in the 24th minute. Basharat Ali found the equaliser for Pakistan 20 minutes later.

Both India and Pakistan are unbeaten in the tournament so far and have accumulated seven points each from their respective three games so far in Pool A. However, Pakistan are leading the pool on the basis of goal difference.

Playing at the Salalah Sports Complex, India went on the offensive right from the start while Pakistan looked to defend in numbers. India enjoyed the bulk of the possession but failed to make it count as the first quarter ended goalless. India continued with the same momentum and took the lead via a penalty corner. Tiwari drag flicked the ball into the net to give the team a 1-0 lead going into the half-time break.

The third quarter saw Pakistan play with intent and put the Indian defence under pressure. They found the equaliser when Basharat netted from a close distance. In the fourth quarter, both teams searched for the winner but failed to find a goal and settled for a draw.



FRENCH LIGUE 1

PSG claim crown as Messi breaks Ronaldo's record

PARIS: Lionel Messi scored another record-breaking goal as Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) won an unprecedented 11th French Ligue 1 title with a draw at Strasbourg on Saturday.

Messi's strike, a fine finish from Kylian Mbappe's pass, is his 496th in Europe's top five leagues - taking him past Cristiano Ronaldo's mark of 495.

It is his 32nd for PSG, and could be his last as he is expected to leave this summer. Kevin Gameiro bundled in an equaliser but PSG only needed a point.

The full-time celebrations were muted with PSG's superior goal difference over second-placed Lens meaning they had the title practically secure last week.

The final minutes were played at a slow pace with both sides happy with a point - Strasbourg are safe from relegation now.

Christophe Galtier's future remains in doubt despite helping PSG win a ninth title in the past 11 years. He took charge at the start of the season, having led Lille to the 2020-21 title, but their Champions League last-16 exit to Bayern Munich was a major blow.

Galtier said: "This afternoon I watched the last day of the season in



the Bundesliga and you can see that it is very difficult to win the league, any league. The reigning champions in all European leagues have often had problems this season, so we appreciate what this means.

"It is a title and we must not believe it is normal to win, even if we are Paris Saint-Germain."

PSG moved past Saint-Etienne and Marseille's previous record of 10 French titles. Messi's goal in the

title-sealing game ensures his time at PSG will end more positively than expected at the start of May.

The former Barcelona player was suspended for two weeks after travelling to Saudi Arabia without PSG's permission.

The club stepped up security at his home after fans chanted against him - and many did not expect him to play for PSG again after that ban ended. - Agencies

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern Munich clinch 11th successive title

BERLIN: Front runners Borussia Dortmund were held to a 2-2 draw with Mainz, which allowed the second-placed Bayern Munich to snatch their 11th consecutive Bundesliga title and 33rd overall thanks to Jamal Musiala's last-gasp 2-1 winner against Cologne on Saturday.

Bayern needed a victory over Cologne to maintain their title chances as well as a draw or defeat from Dortmund against Mainz. Bayern caught a fairy-tale start as Kingsley Coman finished off a counterattack from the edge of the box into the top right corner with eight minutes gone.

Cologne got the equaliser in the 80th minute when Dejan Ljubicic converted a hand ball penalty to stun the visitors. Bayern then pressed frantically and got rewarded in the 89th minute after substitute Musiala danced through Cologne defence before drilling the ball past goalkeeper Marvin Schwabe for a 2-1 win.

Later, Bayern Munich announced that its chairman Oliver Kahn and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic have been dismissed. Jan-Christian Dreessen will take over as chairman.



Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund gave away the title as they were held to a 2-2 draw by Mainz which wasn't enough due to Bayern's goal difference. Leipzig completed the season on the third spot after easing 4-2 past Schalke, who were relegated after finishing the season on the 17th spot.

Union Berlin booked their berth for the Champions League after finishing fourth thanks to a 1-0 win over Werder Bremen.

Eintracht Frankfurt stunned Freiburg 2-1 while relegation-threatened Bochum stayed in top flight after thrashing ten-men Bayern Leverkusen 3-0. Wolfsburg missed the chance to play in Europe after losing 2-1 to already-relegated Hertha Berlin.

Stuttgart shared the spoils with Hoffenheim and will have to go through the relegation play-off while Borussia Mönchengladbach overpowered Augsburg 2-0. - Xinhua

SERIE A

Inter seal Champions League spot

ROME: Inter Milan booked their Champions League berth for the next season after edging out Atalanta 3-2 at San Siro on Saturday.

It was a head-to-head for the top-four finish as Inter and Atalanta ranked third and fifth respectively before Saturday's game, with five points separating them.

The home side were off to a dream start as they surged into a 2-0 lead just three minutes into the game. Romelu Lukaku broke the deadlock through a solo effort, before Nicolò Barella doubled the advantage with a volley. Atalanta pulled one goal back in the 36th minute when Mario Pasalic slotted home.

Inter restored the two-goal margin in the 77th minute when

Lukaku's smart pass sent Marcelo Brozovic clear who drew out the goalkeeper and selflessly assisted for Lautaro Martinez to tap it in.

Luis Muriel got another back for La Dea in the stoppage time as his free kick hit the wall, but he followed to release a blockbuster which rebounded into the net after striking off Andre Onana and the crossbar.

With one round left, Inter now sit second on 69 points, securing the Champions League place for the sixth consecutive season.

Elsewhere, Roma's top-four hope was spoiled by Fiorentina after a 2-1 setback. Also on Saturday, Torino crushed Spezia 4-0 away, while Salernitana saw off Udinese with a 3-2 victory. - Xinhua



LA LIGA

Rodrygo's brace in Madrid's victory

MADRID: Rodrygo scored twice as Real Madrid came from behind to beat Sevilla 2-1 in their penultimate game of the La Liga season on Saturday.

Rafa Mir fired Sevilla into the lead after Bryan Gil's shot was blocked.

Rodrygo placed a perfect free-kick into the bottom corner and then scored a fine solo goal for second-placed Real.

Sevilla ended the game with 10 men as Marcos Acuna was shown his fourth red card of the season, this time for a wild lunge on Dani Ceballos.

Sevilla, 10th in the table, could be facing a first season without Eu-



ropean football since 2012-13 - unless they beat Roma in the Europa League final on Wednesday.

Madrid, who won the Copa del Rey, FIFA Club World Cup and Uefa Super Cup this season, were without the injured Karim Benzema and Vinicius Jr. - Agencies

Microsoft participates in Comex 2023 as official innovation partner

Microsoft’s innovative and leading technologies are enabling digital transformation across all industries and organisations, driving growth and productivity by delivering new opportunities to engage with customers, empower employees, optimise operations, and reinvent products and business models

MUSCAT: Microsoft participated in Comex 2023 as the official Innovation Partner, where demonstrated industry-leading technological innovations and highlighted the key role artificial intelligence (AI) plays in the successful digital transformation journeys of governments and businesses.

In an interview with Sheikh Saif bin Hilal Al Hosni, Country Manager, Microsoft Oman and Bahrain, he confirmed that this participation reflects the company’s commitment to supporting the accelerated adoption of technology amongst individuals, organisations, and across key industries contributing to Oman Vision 2040 which places communications and information technology at the centre of its economic strategy to reimagine a more sustainable future for all. He added Microsoft’s innovative and leading technologies are enabling digital transformation across all industries and organisations, driving growth and productivity by delivering new opportunities to engage with customers, empower employees, optimise operations, and reinvent products and business models. We are committed to driving economic growth by fostering innovation in Oman and encouraging a culture of tech intensity – the ability to not only adopt new technologies but also build digital capabilities. He added “Fueled by our mission to empower every person and organisation to achieve more, we are uniquely positioned to help our customers and partners achieve digital transformation success as well as accelerate the Digital Oman Strategy (eOman) which aims to enhance government services, enable businesses, and empower individuals with the skills to transform Oman into a sustainable, knowledge-

based economy. We will continue to serve as a key enabler and trusted partner in Oman’s journey to create a diversified and sustainable economy based on technology, knowledge, and innovation and support Oman’s adoption of its National Digital Economy Program which aims to build and develop a prosperous digital economy that responds to the requirements of the future.”

When asked about the artificial innovations the company had showcased, he said, “AI is the defining technology of our time. It has the power to revolutionise many types of work, bringing people greater satisfaction and providing substantive productivity gains and a differentiator for organisations. We believe we are in the midst of the next massive shift in computing with AI, an inflexion point similar to the magnitude of the personal computer, the internet, mobile devices and the cloud. With this shift come immense opportunities for people and organisations.

“We’re seeing rapid advancements in large models and generative AI that are not only capturing our imaginations, but unlocking even more possibilities across search, productivity, creativity, and in uses like healthcare or security. Microsoft’s advancements in AI align with our company mission to help every person and organisation on the planet to achieve more. Our investment in AI spans the entire company and it’s our goal to democratize our breakthroughs in AI through Azure to help people and organisations be more productive, and solve the most pressing problems of our society. We’re committed to making the promise of AI real – and doing it responsibly.”



The future of work

Microsoft is focused on responsibly creating AI that enables people to achieve greater productivity, growth, and satisfaction in the work they do. When people are freed from repetitive or tedious tasks, they can tap into their human ingenuity to focus on more strategic or creative tasks. And it’s not just productivity gains, a recent survey showed the vast majority (89%) of people who have access to automation and AI-powered tools, feel more fulfilled because they can spend time on work that truly matters. We’re just scratching the surface of the power of these large AI models. Building on the idea of GitHub Copilot, Bing Chat and Microsoft 365 Copilot, we envision a world where everyone, no matter their profession, can have a copilot for everything they do.

Responsibility

With these advances in AI, there is even greater responsibility for those building and deploying AI. Microsoft believes that when you create technologies that can change the world, you must also ensure that the technology is used responsibly. We are committed to creating

responsible AI by design. Our work is guided by a core set of principles: fairness, reliability and safety, privacy and security, inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability.

Social impact

Microsoft is focused on helping organisations take full advantage of AI, and we are investing heavily in programs that provide technology, resources, and expertise to empower those working to create a more sustainable, safe, and accessible world. Microsoft AI is helping customers solve some of society’s greatest challenges, whether it’s helping make farming more sustainable, protecting vulnerable communities from climate change, studying endangered species, or cleaning up the world’s oceans. Our cloud and AI services help businesses cut energy consumption, reduce physical footprints, and design sustainable products themselves.

Securing cyberspace in a multi-cloud world

When asked about the company’s efforts to protect customers’ data; he said, “As businesses increase adoption of cloud technologies,

it is creating an even bigger need for organisations to focus on cloud security solutions. We are facing a moment of reckoning as the world witnesses a rise in increasingly sophisticated and expansive cybersecurity attacks.

“This reality – coupled with work entering its next great disruption, the move to hybrid environments – has created an urgent opportunity for all companies around the world to adopt a Zero Trust approach and assume all activity, even by trusted users, could be an attempted breach.

“Signals across the industry highlight that every company needs to create a culture of security and modernise their approach to ensure they are protected. This is why Microsoft will invest \$20 billion over five years, a four-fold increase from current rates, to speed up our cyber security work.

“Our approach to security is unmatched as we provide a truly end-to-end solution, we are the only company that brings together security, compliance, identity, and management. Through the power of the cloud and AI, our integrated approach enables us to think holistically about security

and address the most challenging problems confronting the world today, like passwords, decentralised identification, data regulations, and more.

New technologies require new skills

Talking about the importance of building the digital capabilities of the local workforce, Al Hosani said, “While technologies are part of the equation, at Microsoft we believe that the other critical aspect of successfully deploying them lies in knowledge transfer. Beyond continuously investing in technology infrastructure, an important part of our empowerment mission is our commitment to skilling and enhancing the digital capabilities of the Omani population.

To date, we have trained 135,000, and more than 80,000 teachers and 600K students in Oman have access to Microsoft Education solutions. All students and teachers in Oman public schools have access to O365.

Under our Partnership with Oman Technology Institute, we aim to skill students and graduates on Cloud and AI (200 students to be trained in Artificial intelligence per year, 300 students to be certified yearly as part of a national program with the Ministry of Higher Education.)

We also launched in collaboration with Oman Information Technology Society (OITS), the “MaharaTec” initiative, to upskill the nation’s future leaders and talent, enhancing their capabilities in the field of communications and information technology.

We signed an MoU with the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology (MTCIT) in support of Oman’s Digital Transformation efforts and line with The Digital Competency Qualification Initiative (Makkeen).

Launched the ‘Build the Skills of the Future’ training programme focusing on cloud, data and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI Business School Masterclass for Leaders

Launched “AI Business School Masterclass for Leaders in the Public Sector” to help enhance the knowledge of non-technical leaders in the government sector about artificial intelligence solutions and capabilities and how to benefit from them in building smart government institutions within the government digital transformation programme in line with Oman Vision 2040.

CYBERSECURITY SOLUTIONS

Trend Micro offers cybersecurity solutions to secure data



MUSCAT: Trend Micro, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, has been helping organisations in securing their digital transformation and helping them to secure their data, Assad Arabi MD, Trend Micro, said.

Speaking to TFM at the just concluded Comex 2023, Arabi said, “We are offering cloud services and helping organisations as

well as customers in securing their information assets. We provide all cybersecurity solutions to organisations so that there are well protected in this complicated cyber security world.”

Leveraging over 30 years of security expertise and technology foresight, Trend Micro is transforming the chaotic world of cybersecurity, Arabi said to TFM.

Elaborating further about Trend Micro’s presence in Oman, Arabi said that the company is working with various organisations in the banking sector, financial companies and oil and gas sector. We are offering our customised solutions to these companies to help them secure their company information and data to protect their operations so that it is not being impact-

ed by any cyber threats.

Speaking about how important cybersecurity innovations are for Oman Vision 2040 document, Arabi said that cyber security depends on digitisation and on digital transformation that should be done smoothly without facing any major interruptions.

“We are seeing a lot of resilience in Oman’s economy for the past

three to four years and we have invested more in our presence in the country to offer advanced cybersecurity solutions.”

When asked what types of solutions Trend Micro is offering, Arabi said that besides big corporates the company has also been helping small and medium businesses (SMBs) who are also facing cyber security threats.

“We know statistically that around 70 per cent to 80 per cent of SMBs go out of business after cybersecurity attacks and it is a risky business. It is very difficult for these SMBs to get protection from cyber threats. We at Trend Micro have tailor-made solutions for such SMBs where with little spending they can get the protection of their assets.”

ROUND-UP

ABA Oman International School celebrates Class of 2023 graduation

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said presented the coveted International Baccalaureate Diploma to the graduates, who have demonstrated remarkable dedication and perseverance throughout their educational journey

MUSCAT: ABA Oman International School celebrated the Class of 2023 graduation under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said. This highly anticipated event commemorated the achievements and academic journey of ABA's 34th cohort of graduates, marking a significant milestone in their lives. Sayyid Theyazin presented the coveted International Baccalaureate Diploma to the graduates, who have demonstrated remarkable dedication and perseverance throughout their educational journey. ABA Board Chair, Bikram Monga, complimented the graduates on completing the rigorous IB programme. Monga exhorted the graduates to take Oman's diversity to the world. "You depart as Ambassadors of this wonderful country to the world. Your actions, your growth, your impact on the world should resonate with both the education you gained and what Oman and ABA have moulded you to become." Addressing the cohort, Craig Williamson, ABA Head of School encouraged the graduates to build upon this accomplishment and



leverage their talents and abilities for the greater good. Williamson said, "Success is not a limited resource; it multiplies when we ensure that everyone has what they need to thrive." Sharing words of wisdom and encouragement with the graduating class, Simon Walker, High School Principal and Assistant Head of School remarked, "Graduation is not only a celebration of the achievements of the graduating class, it is also recognition of the support and commitment given by families and teachers. The Class of 2023 has 27 different nationalities represented and we encourage every student to go out into the world and make a positive difference as Global Citizens. We are honoured that this day has

been made even more memorable and historical by the presence of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said." The Class of 2023 was commended for their exceptional performances throughout the year. The valedictorians Noorah Husband and Ayaan Nadamal stated, "These years at ABA were some of the most crucial stepping stones in

our academic journey. They have provided us with a solid foundation and prepared us for the challenges that lie ahead." Anja Van Der Merwe was the recipient of the International Understanding Award for furthering the cause of internationalism in the community and beyond, while the High School Philippa Leggate Award for Citizenship was presented to Sarah Altaee for her valuable contribution to the ABA community. Other notable awards, including The Duke of Edinburgh International Award - Gold were presented to Alix Dupont, Maelle Storder, Sam Anthony, Georgia Isles and Ben Storer. Georgia Isles also received the Individual Sports Athlete of the Year award, while Daniel Helou and Gabriella Cooper received the overall Athlete of the Year awards for their exceptional performance during MESAC and other sports events. Guy Essex, Assistant High School Principal said, "We are confident that this cohort of future leaders and innovators will continue to inspire, empower and uphold The ABA Way, as they explore ways to make a positive impact in the world."

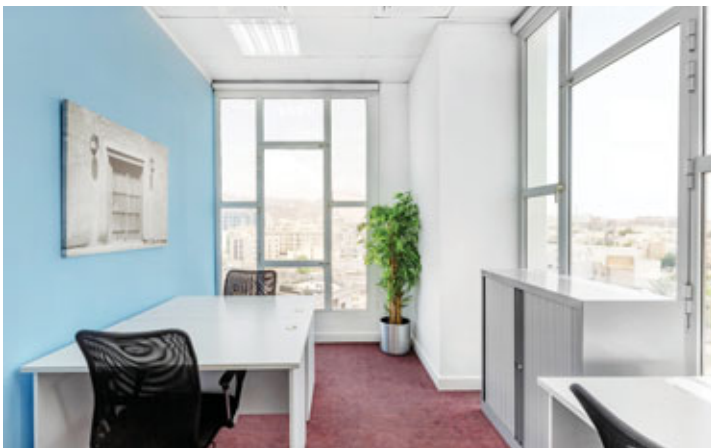
Through the coordinated efforts and guidance of University Counsellor, Jinane Traboulsi Helou, and IB Diploma Coordinator, Samantha Cole, ABA graduates have been accepted into leading universities around the world, illustrating the value globally of the gold standard IB qualification. Stanford University, GeorgiaTech, Georgetown University, University of Pennsylvania, UCL, Imperial College London, University of Toronto, Waterloo University, McGill University, University of Melbourne, Trinity College Dublin, Ecole Polytechnique Paris and the University of Groningen, are some of the prestigious universities where ABA graduates will be taking their educational journey forward in various fields of study such as Neuroscience, Biomedical Engineering, International Business, Finance, Law, Computer Science, Psychology, and Architecture, to name a few. The Class of 2023's graduation ceremony is the first to be hosted at the new ABA Al Irfan campus which was inaugurated in March 2022. ABA Oman International School is the leading, not-for-profit, IB Continuum School in Muscat, Oman.

FLEX AND OFFICE SPACE PROVIDER

IWG expands across Oman with 2 new headquarters offices in Muscat as demand for hybrid working rises

MUSCAT: IWG, the largest and fastest growing flex and office space provider worldwide, is marking its presence in the Sultanate of Oman with the opening of a flagship HQ flex office in Al Khuwair, as demand for hybrid workspaces continues to rise steadily in the Omani capital. The company will also deliver a new HQ office in the commercial centre of Al Azaiba in the capital city. Capitalising on the emerging signs of market stability in the real estate sector in Oman, IWG will occupy the ground, 1st and 2nd floor of the 7-storey Bait Eteen building in Al Khuwair. Spread across 1,274 square metres, IWG's new centre in Oman, scheduled for August 2023 opening, will offer 76 fully serviced private offices in an inspiring environment to focus, connect and collaborate with colleagues, clients and other like-minded businesses. Suitable for any size of the team, these flexible, fully customisable office rentals

are available for both short-term and long-term needs. Opening in partnership with building owners, the HQ centre at Bait Eteen building in Al Khuwair will also have six coworking desks, designed with collaboration in mind in a shared working environment, and four fully equipped meeting rooms with IT and tech support. An energy-efficient building, the new centre will be light and spacious and provide for all client needs. In a new deal announcement, IWG will also partner with Fahad Al Dughaisi, to deliver a new HQ location scheduled for December 2023 opening. Covering 1,269 square metres across the 5th, 6th and 7th floors of a centrally located building in Al Athaiba, the new centre is found in a prominent business, retail and banking area in the Omani capital. Easily accessible from the highway, the flex space will also provide ample parking facilities. IWG's professional and sociable



workspaces are designed for maximum productivity, collaboration and idea sharing, and are trusted by the world's largest companies including Microsoft, Disney, Uber, and Samsung, amongst a host of others. A leader in the workspace revolution, the brand already has a presence in more than 3,500 locations in 120 countries worldwide.

Omani capital, Muscat, currently has around 400,000 sqm of mid to higher-grade office space for the rental market with a further roughly 100,000 sqm of office space under construction. In the capital, the rising demand is for high-quality offices equipped with modern amenities and abundant natural light.

In the post-pandemic period, Oman witnessed a rapid evolution of the workplace with a growing potential for co-working spaces to better suit the requirements of start-ups and smaller companies who are key drivers of the ongoing economic transformation in Oman. As the city adapted to the new world of work, the culture of flexible and hybrid office spaces was further welcomed as these offered a different development approach to more traditional office spaces. Mark Dixon, CEO & Founder of IWG, commented: "We are establishing a stronger and much-needed footprint in the Sultanate of Oman with this latest opening. As an important business hub, Muscat is a fantastic place for us to boost our expansion plans. The need for high-quality flexible workspaces continues to soar as hybrid working becomes the new normal. We are very pleased to work in partnership with our partners to develop the HQ brand un-

der a management agreement that will add a cutting-edge workspace to their building. Our opening in centrally located Al Khuwair and Al Azaiba comes at a time when more and more companies are discovering that flexible working boosts employee happiness and satisfaction while helping the environment. Our workplace model is also proven to increase productivity and allows for a business to scale up or down at significantly reduced costs." IWG's multi-brand expansion strategy across the Middle East is designed to appeal to every type of business and entrepreneur. IWG creates personal, financial, and strategic value for businesses of every size, from some of the most exciting companies and well-known organisations on the planet to individuals and the next generation of industry leaders. All of them harness the power of flexible working to increase their productivity, efficiency, agility, and market proximity.



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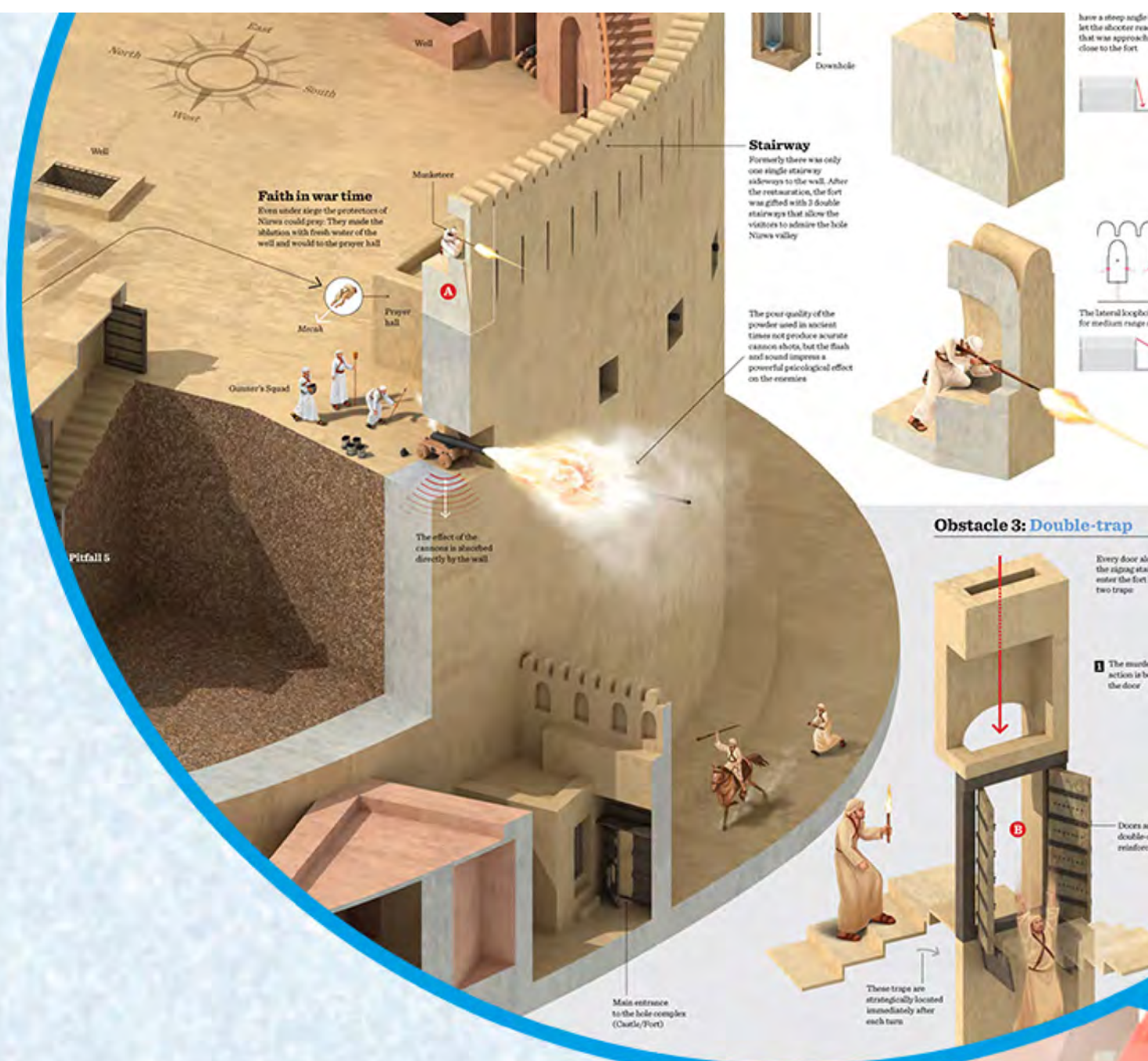
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