

**OMAN'S SUMAYA FIRST
ARAB WOMAN TO WIN
STARS OF SCIENCE**

Sumaya bint Said Al Siyabi became a much-acclaimed figure in the Sultanate of Oman on Friday after news broke out that this Omani innovator had won the top honours at the prestigious Stars of Science programme. **>A3**



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HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria on his re-election as his country's president for the second term. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of success to the president and for his country's people further progress and prosperity and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries further development and progress. **-ONA**



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HM'S DIRECTIVES ON NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS WELCOMED

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The recent decision by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to set up Oman Sustainability Centre and declare 2050 as the deadline for net zero carbon emission by the Sultanate of Oman is a "huge step in the right direction."

Experts and businessmen have also welcomed His Majesty's stamp of approval to the new labour law that is expected to boost investment in the country.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Dr. Abdullah Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority (EA), said:



Dr. Abdullah Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority

"Oman, as per the Paris Agreement, is committed to reducing carbon emission in the country. We are serious in our efforts to save the global environment. Global warming is affecting the world and the decision to make Oman a net zero carbon emission country by 2050 is a step in the right direction. We are already focusing on renewable energy projects in Oman."

He added: "Most countries have chosen the year 2050 for carbon neutrality, including the Sultanate of Oman and, we will strive to achieve this and ensure that we reach our goal." **>A4**

RENEWED RENAISSANCE

Women as partners in Oman's progress

MUSCAT: In recognition of the women's key role in the renewed renaissance of the Sultanate of Oman led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Monday, 17th October will be celebrated as the Omani Women's Day (OWD).

The theme of the celebrations will be 'Women are partners in development' recognising their increasing role in the growth of the Sultanate in all spheres.

This role of the women has been made possible by the Royal keenness to ensure the rights of women guaranteeing them by law. It is by this enabling atmosphere that women have continued to be partners in creation of an inspiring condition for a bright and sustainable future at all levels and, at the time, exercised her role in the various do-

mains and fields to achieve the goals of development.

Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of His Majesty the Sultan, has reaffirmed and valued on various occasions the great efforts of the Omani women in establishing and supporting their families and for social, national and humanitarian contributions in various fields.

The number of Omani women holding general education diploma amounts to 313,745, while holders of higher education diploma amounts to 53,232 and holders of bachelors' degree and above amounts to 152,422, according to the statistics of the National Centre for Statistics and Information for 2021. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Times Inter School Quiz finals on Oct. 28-29

1 The wait for the popular Times of Oman/Al Shabiba Inter School Quiz is almost over. The finals of Oman's most sought-after inter-school quiz event will be held on October 28-29. **>A3**

WORLD

Turkey mishap kills 14

2 A coal mine blast in Turkey has left 14 workers dead, the country's interior minister said. **>A7**

MARKET

Bank Muscat profit up

3 Bank Muscat posted a net profit of OMR148.29mn for the nine months ended 30 September. **>B1**

AL MOUJ

Salma Ali Al Hashmi awarded Knighthood by the President of Italy

MUSCAT: Salma Ali Al Hashmi, Board Member of the Omani-Italian Friendship Association, received the highly prestigious decoration of Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy.

This esteemed order of chivalry is bestowed by decree of the President of the Italian Republic, on the recommendation of Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs, in acknowledgment of those individuals who have achieved extraordinary results in the preservation and promotion of bilateral relations between Italy and other nations. Her Excellency Federica Favi, Italian Ambassador to Oman, presented the Knighthood, on behalf of the Italian President saying: "We are delighted to recognise the significant and enduring contribution Mrs Al Hashmi has made to strengthening the social, cultural, sporting and business ties between Italy and the Sultanate."

Mrs Al Hashmi, Vice President of Marketing at Al Mouj Muscat SAOC and a Board Member of the Mazoon Dairy Company, has drawn on her considerable business acumen to create new networking, information exchange and investment opportunities for the benefit of both nations. Beyond her work with Omani-Italian Friendship Association, Mrs Al Hashmi has been instrumental in establishing several successful initiatives, ranging from youth exchange programmes to fund raising for pandemic research at an institute in Rome, and establishing op-

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO RECOGNISE THE SIGNIFICANT AND ENDURING CONTRIBUTION MRS AL HASHMI HAS MADE TO STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, SPORTING AND BUSINESS TIES BETWEEN ITALY AND THE SULTANATE.

portunities for bilateral trade.

Commenting on the award, Mrs Al Hashmi said: "I am deeply honoured to have been awarded the decoration of the Order of the Star of Italy. It has been a great privilege to be able to contribute to the commercial and cultural exchange and fruitful cooperation between our two great nations."

"I very much look forward to building on this valuable relationship, as we continue to foster beneficial opportunities for our youth, our business communities and our cultural institutions."



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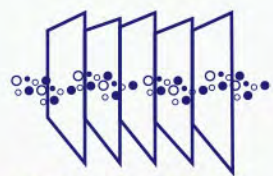
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OMAN

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Dhuhr.....	11:58pm
Asr.....	3:17pm
Maghrib.....	5:46pm
Isha.....	6:56pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:49am



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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

IPU summit focuses on women's leadership and political participation



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Council of Oman concluded its participation in the meetings of the 145th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Kigali, Rwanda from 11 to 14 October.

The meeting stressed the significance of empowering women at the parliaments, confronting the challenges facing youth in the parliamentary councils and establishing associations between the local communities and economy for achievement of comprehensive sustainable development.

The meetings saw the participation of over 10,000 representatives from the various regional and international parliaments who discussed the latest developments and issues related to sustainable development, human rights, international peace and security, the UN issues and the causes of women and youth among other issues.

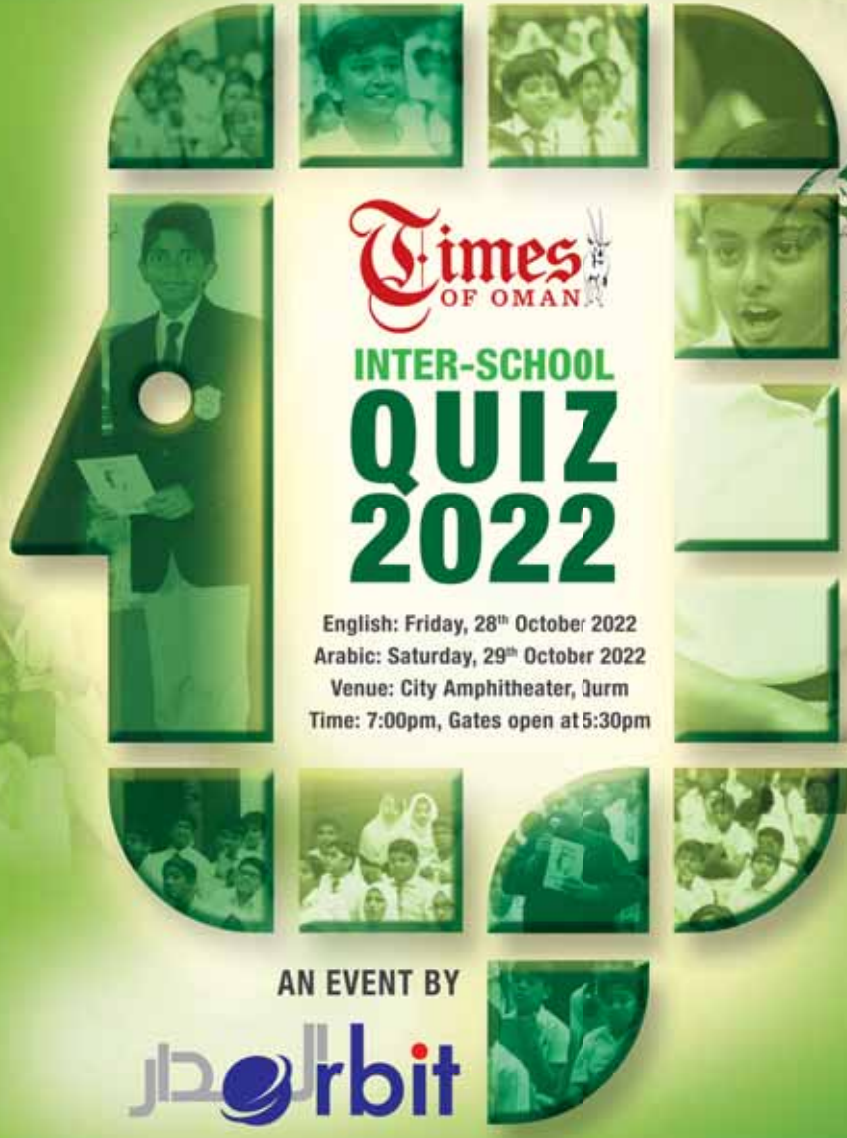
The Council of Oman has actively participated in the meetings of the General Assembly, the 210th session of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the meetings of the Executive Committee and the permanent and specialised committees through five consecutive days in Kigali.

The Council participated in the activities of the meetings of the permanent committee of the 145th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the 34th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, which discussed the role of the parliaments in provision of further support to empower women.

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman](https://timesofoman.com/oman)



PRESENTS



Times OF OMAN

INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ 2022

English: Friday, 28th October 2022
Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022
Venue: City Amphitheater, Qurm
Time: 7:00pm, Gates open at 5:30pm

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ACHIEVER

Oman’s Sumaya becomes first Arab woman to win Stars of Science programme

DOHA: Sumaya bint Said Al Siyabi became a much-acclaimed figure in the Sultanate of Oman on Friday after news broke out that this Omani innovator had won the top honours at the prestigious Stars of Science programme.

This is the first time that an Arab woman has won the first prize in the Stars of Science programme, organised by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Sumaya, who works at the Sultan Qaboos University, won the prize at the 14th edition of the Stars of Science programme for her innovation in the environmental field, ‘Bio-analysis of microplastics in a new way of biology and nanotechnology’.

In the various stages of the prize programme, the Omani innovator was able to overcome several challenges and won the votes of the programme jury several times, to be able to progress through the stages and reach the final stage. Sumaya’s entry into the final was also the first time that a woman scientist from GCC had reached that level.

Sumaya bagged the first place with a total of 82.3 points, while the Jordanian Noureddin Al-Diri came in second with 38.9 points and the Libyan Shatha bin Nabih came in third with 33.8 points, according to the Oman News Agency (ONA). The top prize for Sumaya was US\$300,000 to implement her project.

Speaking to the ONA, Sumaya said: “This coronation came as a result of the great support of various government and private institutions and members of the Omani society and from the Gulf and Arab countries through voting. I thank them all and I am



Sumaya bint Said Al Siyabi

happy that I was able to prove the importance of scientific innovation and its role in preserving the environment and the health of the human being.”

Sumaya hoped that her project would be implemented at the local and global levels to benefit from it and will open new horizons for environmental protection. She called for support for her project by all concerned authorities in the Sultanate of Oman. Sumaya had worked for the past two years on this project at the Sultan Qaboos University. The scientific innovation of Sumaya offers a promising solution to eliminate and dispose of microplastics in a safe and environmentally friendly manner using microbial confinement and a nano-ZnO catalyst.

Stars of Science is one of the leading programmes in the Arab world and focuses on innovation to support and encourage aspiring entrepreneurs in the field of science and technology in the region. The idea is to allow the evaluation and development of innovations by progressing through several competitive rounds to qualify for the final qualification stage of the programme. -ONA

QUIZZING

Nurture curiosity to learn: Pickbrain Times/Al Shabiba Inter School Quiz finals on October 28-29

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The wait of school-children for the popular Times of Oman/Al Shabiba Inter School Quiz is almost over. Come October 28-29, the finals of Oman’s most sought-after inter-school quiz event will be held at the City Amphitheatre, Qurum, and the man who would be conducting the English Quiz will be one of most loved quizmasters, Giri ‘Pickbrain’ Balasubramaniam.

The Times of Oman/ Al Shabiba Inter School Quiz is one of the largest and most popular educational events in Oman and there has been a huge interest among the quiz-loving students in the schools here.

Orbit Events is organising the event and to encourage maximum participation, it has offered mock question sets to the interested participants. Ahead of the event, renowned quizmaster Giri ‘Pickbrain’ Balasubramaniam spoke at length and said that “efforts should be made to nurture the curiosity to learn among students.”

Pickbrain has been the face of the Times of Oman Quiz for past many years and students look forward to interacting with him.

The forthcoming edition of the inter-school quiz will feature many international schools, Indian schools and Omani private bi-lingual schools. Excerpts of the interview with Giri ‘Pickbrain’ Balasubramaniam:

Q: Can we prepare for quizzes as we prepare for an exam?

A: Please don’t do that. A quiz is a fun activity that tests your awareness of what is happening in the world. If you read a newspaper, watch TV, are on the internet then that is enough to take part.

Q: How and what should they do to equip themselves with the knowledge required to win a quiz?

A: Taking part in itself is a form of starting a learning process. Never play a game to win, play to enjoy the game. Once a school or a child starts taking part you start improving and over time you win.

Q: It is generally believed



Quizmaster Giri ‘Pickbrain’ Balasubramaniam.

that quiz is a game for toppers. Is that really so?

A: This is a common myth. In fact, in our decades of experience at hosting quiz shows, we find several students who are NOT necessarily toppers doing well at such shows. This is also because they tend to have more varied interests like sports, movies, gaming and spend a lot of time on the internet. This actually helps them have a decent knowledge of the world, which comes handy at such quiz shows.

Q: With so many international and Omani schools participating, will the format and questions for the quiz being held in Oman be different?

A: Yes, absolutely. We fully understand that the sport of quizzing is new to the Omani schools. The rounds will be more like game show with aided questions. Most of the research is based on news items that appear in the newspaper. It is largely a current affairs based quiz, though a current incident can lead to a historical reference. The entire quiz will also be in Arabic, hosted by a quizmaster who is from Oman, Faiz Al Mamari to ensure the children are comfortable with the language and accent.

Q: How does quizzing help students?

A: Quizzing is one of the best ways to develop curiosity among

children. Curiosity is the fuel for innovation as it ignites the power of questioning. Quizzing is also a fun way to learn new things, be it about the world we live in or about your subjects at school. A quiz like this one, helps you comprehend the world we live in better.

Q: These days, when students apply to international colleges for higher education, they ask for several co-scholastic certificates. Does being an avid quizzier or a certificate of participation in a mega quiz event help?

A: Absolutely yes. In fact, students with such co-scholastic interests are preferred by universities across the world. Marks alone are not enough in the modern world we live in. Institutions in the higher education domain are looking for students who are versatile and can be problem solvers in a futuristic world. Aspects like quizzing interest are a big plus point on the profile of a child as it is indicative of a continuous learning interest and interest beyond their academic boundaries.

Q: As one of the most celebrated quizmasters, what advice do you give to schools, students and parents?

A: My advice is simple. As parents and educators, it is our duty to provide our children with as many learning experiences as possible and to provide them a wide horizon of perspectives through that learning. Let us accept one reality. The jobs of the future that our children will engage in, do not exist as on date. So, we must focus on the learning experience and nurture the curiosity to learn.

Q: Do you recommend that schools must have a Quiz Club? How would it help?

A: Surely, this is a great idea. Let me give an example. I was at a school in Singapore a few years ago and I spoke of how quiz clubs can help with nurturing of classroom learning, innovation, discussion on current trends and so on. The school took it up a little differently and started a ‘Curiosity Club’. Over time these students were discussing various topics and in two years they won many quizzes, just because the spectrum of knowledge had become wider.

Q: How has been your experience with the quizzes that you have conducted in Oman?

A: It is well documented that I have been overwhelmed with the talent I have seen at Oman. In fact, the Arabic language quiz in 2019 was also way higher in terms of competitiveness and speed of response than what we thought it would be. The other aspect is the way the quiz itself is organised like a Wimbledon. It just does not get bigger than this.

Q: Finally, what is your advice to the students?

A: Have fun and never miss an opportunity to have fun. This quiz is one such opportunity, so grab it and take part. Only two things happen, either you win and learn or you learn. The funny part is you don’t know how good you are until you take part. Either way you benefit and end up having fun.

PUCK are the presenters for this event. And it is supported by Zynova (Oman Pharma), Milano by Danube, AV Partners – AudioTech, Production Partners – Alphabetic Graphics, Water Partner – Oman Oasis – Mai Alkaline, Gift Partners – MRT Gifts, Print Partners – Mazzon Printing, Publishing & Packaging, Strategic Partners – Muscat College.

GLOBAL MEETING

Minister of Health heads for World Health Summit

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Excellency Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al-Sabti, Minister of Health, left the country on Saturday to head the Sultanate of Oman’s delegation at the World Health Summit, which will be conducted from 16 – 18 October in the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin.

The World Health Summit has become one of the most important gatherings on global health. With the World Health Organization, this year’s Summit will focus on the commitment to global public goods, health equity, strong multilateral action for global health, and sharing scientific development and innovation.

The Summit will engage an even broader group of multisectoral actors and significantly increase the participation from low- and middle-income countries. This year’s World Health Summit will address global risks and threats, such as climate change and ecosystem degradation, as well as epidemics, natural and human-created disasters, conflicts, and violence. It will also focus on the game changers such as digital transformation and new ap-



His Excellency Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al-Sabti, Minister of Health

proaches to investment in health.

Furthermore, the Summit will explore challenges of providing universal health coverage, ensuring smarter surveillance, and building resilient health systems. It will highlight the need for strong political commitment and multisectoral action.

It is worth mentioning that the Sultanate of Oman will deliver a speech about the global initiative of Health for Peace. This initiative was proposed by the Sultanate of Oman in partnership with Switzerland and the World Health Organization. It made achievements at the country, regional and global levels.

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Six-day Oman Science Festival concludes

The concluding ceremony began with a panoramic film on the festival and the visitors' interaction

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Majid bin Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Financial and Administrative Affairs, the activities of the Oman Science Festival 2022 concluded on Saturday at Oman Convection and Exhibition Centre

The exhibition saw six days of more than 450 activities in 70 corners, with the participation of 110 government, private, military, and civil institutions.

The concluding ceremony began with a panoramic film on the festival and its visitors' interacting with the activities in all of the festival's corners.

After that, Dr. Khamis bin Abdullah Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, Chairman of the Main Committee of Oman Science Festival delivered the Ministry's speech in which he expressed thanks and gratitude to all the 32 sponsoring committees and institution, and the 104 institutions of education, higher education, private and governmental, and societal.

He also expressed gratitude to all volunteers in the festival. A second panoramic film was showed on the passion of visitors for science and their interaction with the participants in the corners of the festival.



Majid bin Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Financial and Administrative Affairs, sponsor of the ceremony, honoured participating committees and institutions and sponsors of the festival's activities.

At the end of the ceremony, a concluding film was shown that showcased activities of the festival on the course of its six days.

In the final day of the festival, Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, sponsored the honouring ceremony of the winners of Oman Information Olympiad for programming, with the presence of Dr. Ali bin Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of Information Technology at the Ministry of Transportation, Communication, and Information Technology, at the Ahmed bin Majid Theatre.

The Oman Information Olympiad for Programming is an annual competition in programming that targets school students grades 7-12 in goal of motivating them to consider computer sciences and information technology majors.

Students' participation in this competition is dependent on two factors, the first being the students' skill level in procedural programming using one of the sophisticated programming languages and the second being their skill in problem solving such as rational thinking in designing algorithms and turning them into programming.

During the six days of the festival, 144 students competed in the second tournament in which they were divided into four groups consisting of 36 students. Nine students were qualified from each group to compete in the finale of which the top ten were honoured

the winning places at the ceremony.

From the corner of the Universe Wonders, Balqees Al Busaidi from Sultan Qaboos University, College of Education, said about the "Seeron" project: "the project is about power source reactor, and introduces a practical application of what students receive during their studies about its elements and components. The project focuses on providing visitors with information about the universe and the most recent scientific discoveries of the universe's secrets. The project also includes results of recent studies carried out by association concerned with cosmic motion studies."

Al Busaidi also added: "This corner's activities target the higher grades students and higher education students due to these activities being in scientific fields that are easier for those students to comprehend."

Royal Cavalry wins first, second places in French race

PARIS: The Royal Cavalry secured the first place and second place in the International Endurance Race of Fontainebleau in France.

The race was organised by the International Equestrian Federation for 103 kilometres.

The race comprised four stages; the first of which was for 27 kilometres, the second for 30 kilometres, the third for 24 kilometres and the fourth stage for 22 kilometres.

Tough competition

The race has seen tough competition among the participants at all

stages. The Royal Cavalry bagged the first place with horse rider being Hisham Al Farsi (Horse Kara) and the second place by horse rider Hussain Al Farsi (Horse Funshadow).

The third place was secured by Sheikh Issa bin Faisal Al Khalifa from Bahrain.

65 horse riders

The race saw the participation of 65 horse riders from 14 countries; which are the Sultanate of Oman, France, Bahrain, UAE, Switzerland, Spain, Argentine, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Germany, USA, the Netherlands and Britain. —**ONA**



BRING LAURELS: The race comprised four stages; the first of which was for 27 kilometres, the second for 30 kilometres, the third for 24 kilometres and the fourth stage for 22 kilometres.

ZERO CARBON EMISSION PLANS

National plan drafted to improve environment performance

< FROM A1 Alkesh Joshi, Partner, MENA Energy & Sustainability Tax Leader at EY, said: "Oman's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 is a huge step in the right direction as it also aligns well with the Paris Agreement in reducing carbon emissions and hopefully stop the earth from overheating."

"This really means that we will have to find ways to reach negative emissions. One of the many ways to achieve this is by way of having lots of trees around."

"The European Commission countries have already begun with legislations to achieve net zero emission by 2050. Some of them have already put in place plans to achieve net zero emissions earlier than 2050. "This commitment of Oman to become net zero emitter by 2050 will create a whole host of career opportunities for our young people. Our commitments will also ensure that we continue to have access to the green funding sources as well."



Alkesh Joshi



Redha Mehdi Al Lawati



Manoj Didwania

Oman Sustainability Centre
As part of Royal attention to improve environment performance and alleviate the impact of climate change, a national plan has been drafted, along with the setting up of Oman Sustainability Centre to supervise and follow-up on of zero carbon emission plans and programmes.

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to all units of the state's

administrative apparatus to co-operate and ensure the success of this national plan.

Labour laws

On the new labour law, which will come into force soon, Joshi said: "It is an excellent step and has been expected for a while. The provisions of the new labour law are expected to be people and employer friendly. We will have to wait for

the finer details to be made available. The law is expected to protect the interests of employees and employers. This step will surely contribute towards an improvement in the ease of doing business rankings for Oman."

Redha Mehdi Al Lawati, a Muscat-based businessman, said the new labour law is eagerly awaited. "This law is being eagerly awaited including companies, in-

stitutions, citizens, businessmen, workers and job seekers. We hope that all the features of the law will take into account the rights of citizens, companies and institutions. I hope the law will boost investments in the Sultanate."

He added: "His Majesty Sultan Haitham's address to the Council of Ministers last week was important and his comments on the labour law were among the major highlights. We know that one of the main attractions for foreign investors is a friendly labour law of a country. Oman has a huge potential to bring in investment in the oil, tourism and infrastructure sectors."

Al Lawati said: "The current labour law doesn't differentiate between an owner who has invested OMR 100 million or OMR 10,000. This is unfair as entrepreneurs who have made huge investments will naturally expect more from the government with regard to the labour situation in their company." Al Lawati hopes that the new la-

bour law will be in line with Oman Vision 2040.

"The current labour law is certainly not in line with Oman Vision 2040. In fact, the current law impedes the policies of Oman Vision 2040. I hope with the new labour law coming into force, the situation would be more conducive to investment opportunities in Oman."

Another expatriate investor, Manoj Didwania, said: "The new labour law reforms are the need of the hour and they would complement Oman's 2040 Vision of 'Sustained Prosperity'. We expect that skills and performance-based remunerations will be emphasized in the new law."

"This would not only ease the obligations from the existing businesses but certainly encourage new ventures from across the world. Omani youth are ambitious and would certainly take up the opportunities and meet the challenges as enshrined in the proposed new labour law."

OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

Omani women's contribution in various sectors praised

< FROM A1 The number of Omani women (aged 15+) working in the government sector stands at 89,164 and those working in the private and family sectors at 126,737. The number of Omani women's associations amounts to 64 associations with 8,483 members. The number of Omani women benefiting from social insurance system amounts to 86,633 representing 67% of the total beneficiaries.

Sayyidah Dr. Noor bint Bader Al Busaidi, Director of National Diabetes and Endocrine Centre and chairperson of Oman Diabetes Association said the Omani Women's Day is a recognition of the contributions of the Omani women in various economic, health, education, administrative and sports fields where she has succeeded and made a difference in the society or represented the Sultanate on the regional arena and international competitions and has won prizes and awards. It also

represents a recognition of her role in the development march. Despite the challenges she faces and her family commitments, the Omani woman has managed to overcome such challenges and obstacles and to excel regardless of the field where she is involved, she added.

Dr. A'isha bint Khalifa Al Ki-yomi, Specialist in Vocational Education and Rehabilitation of the Disabled and Vice Chairperson of the Gulf Disability Society said the Omani woman has played a leading role in all fields. The celebration of the Omani Women's Day is a realisation of the significance of women's participation at all levels in forming the present and future of the country along with men.

Dr. Sihambint Salim Al Sinani, Sr. Consultant of Pediatric, gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition and Vice President for Professional Competency at Oman Medical Specialty Board said the Government of Oman has made available to the Omani

woman all capabilities in order that she plays her role in comprehensive and sustainable development in various fields. The Omani woman has made her presence felt in the international arena and in the local, regional and international scientific, academic, economic fields, she added. Jamilah Al Bakhli, Senior Project Director at Oman Air said the government has made available the motivating environment for the Omani woman to work in the private sector and for being a partner in development through the key logistics sectors which require high-level competence and skills.

Engineer Sihambint Ahmed Al Harthy, CEO and Founder of Siham Development and Investment Company said that celebrating the OWD is an opportunity to honour the Omani woman and voice thanks and appreciation from late Sultan Qaboos bin Said for the efforts extended by the Omani women in the renaissance march. — **ONA**

جامعة التقنية والعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

إبراء
Ibra

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES

LOCAL ONLINE TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tender shown in the following table:

Tender No.	Tender subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
35/2022	Supply of equipment for networks and computer laboratories at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Salalah College of Technology)	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent, First, Second, Third and Forth Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	24/10/2022 at 14:30 pm	30/10/2022 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Sunday 16/10/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

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CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

59 Follow-Up Units to be set up for Oman Vision 2040

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fifty-nine government offices are to be set up which will serve as Follow-Up Units of the Oman Vision 2040, under the current five-year plan.

In an interview on the *Ma'a Al Shabiba* show, Sultan bin Hamad Al Rohmi, Supervisor of Strategic Partnerships and establishment of offices of Oman Vision 2040, said this was in pursuance to the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on initiation and activation of fifty nine offices in government departments and entities for following-up implementation part of Oman Vision 2040. On the integration of the roles of the offices with the role of the Unit for Implementation of Oman Vision 2040, Al Romhi pointed out that the Unit is concerned with implementation of Oman Vision 2040 and that its role is similar and analogous with that of the offices which will work as a mini-model of the Unit and will also be named after the name of the Unit due to similarity in their roles.

He said the key role of the offices of Oman Vision 2040 is to create an association between planning and implementation and to set performance indicators, if and

when necessary.

Zanzibar President's visit to strengthen ties

Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Araiimi, Chairman of Oman Journalist Association (OJA) said the visit of the President of Zanzibar to the Sultanate comes within the visits aimed at achieving high level of coordination on several issues, including economic, between the Governments of Oman and Zanzibar.

The visit aimed to enhance and further develop these fields.

The visit also comes within the joint coordination and enhancement of relations.

Opportunities available

The opportunities, mainly in the field of logistics are available in the Sultanate, he said, pointing to the fact that Zanzibar enjoys several tourist sites related to the Omani heritage in Zanzibar.

There are also other opportunities in the Sultanate in the field of investment in tourism and aviation. Zanzibar is considered the heart of Africa with a strategic location and is promising in the field of food, minerals and tourism sectors.

The coming stage would see signing of agreements, mainly on

investments in the logistics field, he added. Al Araiimi said the Sultanate is rich in economic and tourism potentials and political stability and security are main factors motivating the countries and mega companies to establish partnerships with the economic and investment establishments and entities in the Sultanate.

Cybersecurity exercise organised

The eighth National Cyber Security Exercise, organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and represented by the National Center for Information Safety, kicked off from 11-12 October with the participation of 20 government establishments.

Dr. Haitham bin Hilal Al Hajri, Cyber Security Executive, National Center for Information Safety, said that the exercise in the field of cyber security targeted several sectors of the government entities in the Sultanate and aimed to boost the culture of cybersecurity and to enhance the capabilities of the human cadre involved in the field and handling information security incidents and the optimal methods for dealing with such incidents on occurrence.

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 No	Title of the Tender
DISC/W/TENDER/MAN/2022/011	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF REVERSE OSMOSIS WATER DESALINATION PLANT AT HADBEEN
Tender Fee	RO 525.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender documents from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents
Experience	minimum of three (3) years experience in the maintenance and operation of Desalination Plant, out of which at least two (2) years in Reverse Osmosis Sea Water Desalination Plant
Pre-qualification	The tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The tenderer must show previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 30 th October 2022
Site Visit	2 nd November 2022
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 7 th November 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 10 th November 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 17 th November 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.



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة

Dhofar Integrated Services Company

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
ص.ب. 2609، ط.ج. 211، 23 شارع جليل، خلف مركز صلالة الصحية
P.O. Box: 2609, P.C: 211, 23rd Jaleel Street, behind West Salalah Health Center
Salalah, Sultanate of Oman - Toll Free: 80077700
info@disc.nama.om www.disc.nama.om



IN VARIOUS GOVERNORATES

Tenders worth over OMR80mn awarded to repair damaged roads

MUSCAT: Acting in coordination with the committee tasked with speeding up process of damage repair, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has awarded tenders worth over OMR80 million to companies specialised in infrastructure.

Damaged by recent rains

The tenders cover damages in the infrastructure, particularly roads, caused by the recent rains and overflow of wadis in various governorates of the Sultanate

of Oman, including the Governorates of South and North Al Batinah, the Governorate of Musandam and the Governorate of North A'Sharqiyah. — **ONA**





شركة الطحين العمانية س.م.ش
Oman Flour Mills Company S.P.C



REF: OFMIADM22- 001 FOR SALE OF COMPANY REGISTERED CARS

Oman Flour Mills Co. (SAOG) invites for the sale of company-owned commercial vehicles:

C1	ALTIMA NISSAN	64181/D
C2	ALTIMA NISSAN	17440/H
C3	ALTIMA NISSAN	32314/D
C4	NAVARA Pickup NISSAN	7954/ BK
C5	NAVARA Pickup NISSAN	1415/YW
C6	MERCEDES BENS VAN	7097/YB

For more information and site visit, please contact our Admin department from 07:00 am To 03:00 pm.

Mr. Rashid Al-Habsi
Mobile no. 92753587

The closing date of the tender will be 25 October 2022, 2:00 PM and Interested parties need to enclose a warranty for bidding, RO.100/- that is refundable and drop them to the tender box of our Atyab Investment Building, Reception.



MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

ADVERTISEMENT NO. (38/2022)

Companies specialised in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tender documents for the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below:

Tender No.	E- Tender No.	Description of Tender	Tender Fee	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date	Grade
PRE/22/027	2022/MM/QS-66	Graveyard refurbishment works at Muscat (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	Second
PRE/22/126	2022/MM/QS-67	Construction of proposed solutions to resolve water stagnation at Al Amerat: phase 8 (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	First
PRE/22/132	2022/MM/QS-68	Supply and installation of steel pedestrian rail in Sidab area (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	SME(Forth)
PRE/22/133	2022/MM/QS-69	Excavating graves at Al Amerat (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	Forth
PRE/22/135	2022/MM/QS-70	Beautification of the residential area in Al Wadi Al Kabir (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	First
PRE/22/137	2022/MM/QS-71	Renewal of license and maintenance of mobile device management (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	Specialist
PRE/22/138	2022/MM/QS-72	AMC for Muscat Municipality applications (E-Tender)	25	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	Specialist
PRE/22/139	2022/MM/QS-73	Supply of spray equipments for Muscat Municipality (E-Tender)	25	27/10/2022	13/11/2022	Specialist
PRE/22/076	2022/MM/QS-37 (Re-Cal)02	Construction of proposed solution to resolve water stagnation at Bousher in Al Khuwair area (E-Tender)	25	27/10/2022	13/11/2022	First
PRE/20/093	28/2021/MM/) HQ-25) Re-Call	Development of MBD area at Muttrah (Re-Tender) (E-Tender)	150	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	Excellent
PRE/22/013	2022/MM/HQ-16	Construction of balance works of internal roads at Al Amerat (E-Tender)	54	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	First
PRE/22/145	2022/MM/QS-74	Stray dogs control project (E-Tender)	40	01/11/2022	21/11/2022	Specialist

Tender Conditions :-

1- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically accompanied with an electronic copy of a bond issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat Municipality. The bond shall be (1%) of the tender value valid for ninety (90) days starting from the date of bids submission. Any tenders which do not meet the required bond shall not be accepted.

2- Tender Bonds shall be E-Bond and to be submitted through E-Tendering System, addressed to Muscat Municipality.

3- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>).

4- For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

5- For technical support of E-Bond through e-tendering system please send an email to (esnad@gstb.gov.om) or call (+96824402200/24402330).

WEBSITE: WWW.MM.GOV.OM



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VIRTUAL MEETING

India highlights its collaborative efforts in education with partner EAS countries

NEW DELHI: India participates in the 6th East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting held on Friday in Hanoi, Vietnam.

According to the Education Ministry "Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Ministry of Education virtually addressed the gathering and informed about the key initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and India's collaborative efforts in education and research with partner EAS countries.

While addressing, she said that NEP 2020 encourages a holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary approach to education as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is based on foundational pillars of access, equality, quality, affordability and accountability and is aligned with SDG 2030 goals.

She also mentioned the recently-launched PM SHRI scheme



under which more than 14,500 schools will be developed across India with all components of NEP 2020 as exemplar schools. These schools will offer mentorship to

other schools in their vicinity.

She said that online, open and multi-modal learning has been promoted vigorously under our PM- eVidya and also mentioned various e-learning platforms like DIKSHA, SWAYAM MOOCs platform, Virtual Labs, e-PG Pathshala and National Digital Library, and many others.

Neeta Prasad underlined that NEP 2020 focuses on the internationalization of education and building collaborations with other countries.

She added that India greatly values educational cooperation with EAS countries. She also emphasised India's commitment to working with EAS member countries. —ANI



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UNITED KINGDOM

New finance minister named

LONDON: Jeremy Hunt has been appointed as Chancellor of the Exchequer of the British government on Friday after Prime Minister Liz Truss sacked Kwasi Kwarteng after the economic turmoil unleashed by his mini-

budget. This new development came after the value of British government bonds plunged in the wake of the new "mini-budget" of September 23, which created the outrage that ultimately cost him his job. — ANI



THE ROYAL GUARD OF OMAN
TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

The Royal Guard of Oman, invites tenders for the following:-

Tender Reference	Subject	Tender Document Value	Submission Date
02/2022	Provision for Insurance Policy Covers for The Year 2023	R.O. 100/- non-refundable	14th Nov 2022
03/2022	Supply of Tyres for The Year 2023	R.O. 100/- non-refundable	21st Nov 2022
04/2022	Supply of Transport Mode & Equipment	R.O. 100/- non-refundable	21st Nov 2022

Specialized Companies registered with the Government Tender Board, having Grade I & above, can collect the tender document from the Tender Committee Secretariat, Royal Guard of Oman, Seeb during working hours from Sunday 16th to Thursday 20th Oct 2022.

Wax-sealed Tenders addressed to the Chairman - Tender Committee should be submitted to RGO before 1200 hours on the submission date along with a Tender Bond or Endorsed Cheque in the name of the Royal Guard of Oman equivalent to 1% (One Percent) of the value of the Tender from any registered Bank in the Sultanate of Oman, valid for a period of 120 days from the bid submission. The tenderer shall not reveal his identity rather than the tender title and the address mentioned below.

No Tender will be accepted after the submission date. Tender submitted without the bond will be rejected. The Royal Guard of Oman reserves the right to accept or reject any Tender without giving reasons.

Tender Committee
P.O Box 381C.P.O, Postal Code 111



REF: OFM/SC-02-2022
SCRAP SELL

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites for the "Scrap sell" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/SC-02/2022
Tender subject	Scrap sell
Tender fee	RO.100/- (refundable)
Closing date of the tender	25.10.2022
Mode of payment of tender fee	By cash - Finance dept.
For communication	Mr. Mohamed Al Balushi # 93912022 Mr. Shabib # 98047984

Interested parties need to submit the bids separately in a sealed envelope with our ref. Nos duly mentioned and drop them to the tender box in Atayb Investment Building, Reception.



IN PAKISTAN

Corruption plagues flood relief efforts

ISLAMABAD: A UN official has expressed concerns regarding the use of flood assistance in Pakistan, amid the country's continuing struggle to procure sufficient aid to recover from losses from the unprecedented disaster.

Although the UN is working extensively to procure aid for Pakistan, reports emerged last month that less than a quarter of the \$160 million has actually been dedicated to on-the-ground relief efforts. UN Humanitarian Coordinator Julien Haneis earlier said of the total amount pledged, only \$38.35 million has been converted into assistance. "We are still in early days; not enough has been delivered and we need to speed up the response. UN and NGOs have some reserve monies in hand, those are being redirected to respond to emergencies, but there is a limit how much we can do. So use against scale, we need money quickly that can be converted into assistance," Haneis told said. — ANI



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Sailors jostle for top positions

Oman’s Tamim Al Balushi and Mayed Al Ali of UAE are level on points at the top of the Optimist leaderboard

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The penultimate day of the Arab Sailing Championships ended with prizes in all classes still up for grabs. Sailors jostled for position in near-perfect conditions at the Barceló Mussanah Resort, but a series of close finishes left congested fleets across the seven events with



a tense final day in store. Oman’s Tamim Al Balushi and Mayed Al Ali of UAE are level on points at the top of the Optimist leaderboard going into the final day. Both sailors faced difficulties

in races but will go into tomorrow with a point to prove. Mohammed Al Marzouqi of the UAE is currently third and Oman’s Abdulateef Al Qassmi moved up to fourth. Firas Al Nab-

hani ended the day in tenth, while teammates Hood Al Noufli and Hassan Al Wahaibi are close behind in 11th and 12th. In the women’s category, Egypt’s Karma Walid Mohamed continues

to excel, leading by 16 points and sitting third overall. In second place currently is Malak Al Doseri of Bahrain in second and Talia Hussein Emad of Egypt remains in third. UAE’s Othman Al Hammadi extended his lead over teammate Alharith Al Ali to 15 points in the ILCA 4 class, but Khalifa Al Doseri of Bahrain moved ahead of teammate Waleed Daraaninto third. While first place seems assured, the battle for second and third will go down to the final day. Ganna Mohamed Shaalan of Egypt leads the Women’s category, and ended the day fifth overall, 30 points ahead of Asmaa Wael Mahfouz of Egypt, while Algeria’s Ourabah Sofia moved ahead of UAE’s Ghala Al Beshr into third. Al Farooq Al Amoudi of Saudi Arabia, currently 20th in the ILCA 4 event, said, “This is my first time competing at the Arab Sailing Championships and I have learned

a lot. I am looking forward to improving and gaining more knowledge at future events. The Omani sailors here are among the toughest I have ever raced against, and I have been watching them, hoping to learn from their performances. I hope to be able to race here again in the future.” Almutasim Al Farsi of Oman retained the lead in the ILCA 6 class, moving 12 points ahead of Bahrain’s Dawood Abdullah ends the day in second and Ahmed Younis of UAE who had a great day on the water and moved up one place into third in the Women’s category, Egypt’s Khoulood Moustafa Mansy continues to dominate and now sits second overall, nine points behind Al Farsi, seven points ahead of Algeria’s Karassane Mallia of Algeria in second and nine points ahead of Dhuha Al Beshr from UAE in third. The top three in both categories will need to be at their best tomorrow to secure their final positions.

WOMEN’S CRICKET

India clinch seventh Asia Cup title, defeat Sri Lanka by eight wickets

SYLHET : An all-round India crushed Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the final match of the Women’s Asia Cup 2022, clinching their seventh title. The day was extremely memorable for India as tight bowling from bowlers, Renuka Singh (3/5) in particular, restricted Sri Lanka to 65/9 in 20 overs. The target of 66 was chased down with very little inconvenience and it was Smriti Mandhana who top-scored with an unbeaten 51* off 25 balls. Chasing 66, India was off to a solid start as they managed to score nearly half of their target before spinner Inoka Ranaweera dismissed Shafali Verma (5 off 7 balls) after the batter was stumped by wicket-keeper Anushka Sanjeevani. India was at 32/1, with Mandhana having scored unbeaten 26 runs in just 14 balls with two elegant fours and two sixes. Jemimah Rodrigues was the next batter on the crease. She was bowled by Kavisha Dilhari for just two after her off stump was dislodged while she attempted to come forward to slog the ball. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur was next up on the crease. At the end of the power-play in six overs, India was at 42/2, with Mandhana (28*) and Kaur (6*).



a comprehensive eight-wicket win, finishing at 71/2 in 8.3 overs. Mandhana, unbeaten at 51 off 31 balls, finished the match with a huge six. Kaur was unbeaten at 11 on the other end. Earlier, fiery power-play spell from pacer Renuka Singh and top-notch performance by spinners Sneha Rana and Rajeshwari Gayakwad helped India restrict Sri Lanka to 65/9 in their 20 overs in the final of the Women’s Asia Cup final at Sylhet on Saturday. Electing to bat first, Sri Lanka was off to a horrendous start. Pacer Renuka Singh was absolutely terrorising on the field, running out skipper Chamari Athapaththu (6) and dismissing Harshitha Madavi (1) and Hasini Perera (0). Another run out cut short the four-ball stay of Anushka Sanjeevani

(2) on the crease. Sri Lanka was reduced to 9/4 in 3.5 overs, with Renuka involved in three of these dismissals. Kavisha Dilhari’s bat was beaten and her stumps were dislodged by Renuka, who got her third wicket of the match. Dilhari was back in the hut after scoring just one run. SL could not catch a breather in the entire power-play and were left at a shambolic 16/5 with Nilakshi de Silva (5) and Oshadi Ranasinghe (0) at the crease. The miseries of Sri Lanka did not end even after the power play as Nilakshi de Silva (6) was deceived by spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad while attempting to cut. Sri Lanka was 18/6 at this point and someone had to intervene to stop this downward spiral. Team India continued to domi-

nate their opponents, this time with spin. Sneha Rana caught and bowled Malsha Shehani for a five-ball duck. At the end of 10 overs, Sri Lanka was at 26/7 with Sugandika Kumari (0*) and Oshadi Ranasinghe (8*). Oshadi Ranasinghe had kept one end steady all this while, being the only second player yet to have played 10 balls or more. Ranasinghe’s resistance against India’s world-class bowling ended after a delivery from Gaekwad landed full outside off stump and while the batter tried to swipe it over long-off, she missed it and it landed on the stumps. The batter was out for 13 off 20 balls and was the sole batter to reach double figures. Sri Lanka was at 32/8. At the end of 15 overs, Sri Lanka was at 40/8, with Kumari (5*) and Inoka Ranaweera (3*). Sugandika Kumari and Inoka Ranaweera stitched the first double-digit partnership for their side however it was cut short at 10 runs only after a Rana delivery rattled Kumari’s stumps, sending her back for 6 off 24 balls. SL was at 43/9 at this point. Sri Lanka managed to scratch their way towards the 50-run mark at 17.5 overs. Ranaweera also touched a double-digit score. The batter hit two boundaries in the final over to finish Sri Lanka’s innings at 65/9. -ANI

T20 WC

‘I already have my XI against Pakistan’

MELBOURNE: As the Indian team gears up for the blockbuster clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in the upcoming T20 World Cup, India skipper Rohit Sharma said that the playing XI for the match has been decided and he doesn’t believe in a last-minute decision as he wants them to prepare well. The India-Pakistan clash in the 2022 T20 World Cup is among the most awaited sporting events of the year. The two arch-rivals clashing against each other at a stadium as iconic as the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in the marquee event, it really does not get much better than this. Both India and Pakistan are part of Group 2 in the Super 12 stage alongside South Africa, and Bangladesh while two teams will join them from the qualifiers. “I don’t believe in last-minute decisions. We want to keep our boys informed about team selection before so that they can prepare early. I already have my XI for the Pakistan match. Already those players are informed. I don’t believe in a last-minute thing. I want them to prepare well. We understand the importance of India vs Pakistan match but there is no point in talking every time, even when we met during Asia Cup, we keep talking about the families, which cars do you have,” Rohit Sharma said in a press conference.



“Teams have become fearless and we’re looking to adopt the same approach. 140 used to be a winning total back then but now teams aim to reach there in 14-15 overs,” he added. Mohammed Shami has replaced Jasprit Bumrah in the final 15-man squad for the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup in Australia. Shami was originally named amongst the three-man list of reserve players but has now been added to the main squad ahead of the tournament. “Mohammed Shami I haven’t seen but whatever I have heard it is good. We have a practice session in Brisbane on Sunday and I am looking forward to seeing Shami,” said the India captain. -ANI

SIXTH EDITION

Sultan Qaboos Stadium Complex to host Gulf Hockey Fiesta-2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The sixth edition of the Gulf Hockey Fiesta – 2022 is coming to Oman soon. An all-encompassing and inclusive movement for hockey is set to take place in Muscat, on October 28 and 29 at Sultan Qaboos Stadium Complex, Baushar, Muscat. The official inauguration of the event is scheduled to be at 6pm on October 28, though the matches start from 2 pm to 11 pm while matches will start from 2 pm to 9 pm on October 29. This year’s event is extra-special for us as Oman is going to host 5 A side world cup in 2024. The final match will be at 8 on October 29. This event is under the patronage of the Oman Hockey Association and it is an approved event of the Asian Hockey Federation.



In the spirit of promoting hockey and as a longtime supporter of hockey in the Middle East, the event has 6 teams internationally and 6 teams locally participating. Besides, there will be exhibition matches between boys and girls of Indian Schools at 3pm on October 29. Technically supported by UTSC, a sports club which has branches in Dubai, Saudi and India, UTSC established as a union of sports-loving people, is committed to the future of competitive and recreational sports. The tournament includes Omani teams, showcasing the interest and enthusiasm of Omanis in this sport. Hockey is fast gaining recognition and acceptance as a popular sport for young Omanis and Indians. The tournament will generate international inter-

est from these teams. The first time Oman national women’s team will be playing friendly matches with visiting teams. Dr Marwan Juma Al Juma, Chairman, Oman Hockey Association (OHA) and the brain behind bringing the prestigious tournament to the Sultanate says, “We are all set for a successful and high-calibre international tournament. It is a world-class event. And we are proud it is happening in Oman. We are confident that this event will promote tourism in a big way and provide a platform for foreign players to exhibit their skills in hockey to the Omani sports-loving public.” “We offer our heartfelt gratitude to Dr Marwan- the chairman of the Oman Hockey Association for all the support and

guidance given to us.” UTSC, over these, has nurtured and unleashed many sportsmen covering a large spectrum of sports such as cricket, hockey, football, and basketball, to name some, with many of its members participating in regional and international competitions. Through this participation, it aims at promoting the social, physical & cultural welfare of its members and players. UTSC thus plays an important role in identifying and promoting talents and sanctioning representatives of their respective sports in the Sultanate. Responsible for developing and growing their sport, UTSC Oman for an interesting combination, crucial to the sporting scene. Having its presence in many countries, the Middle East wing of UTSC with its motto “ Experience

and share the joy of living better through sport” has witnessed encouraging participation and support of Local teams and players for Hockey. Team Oman has taken part in many International tournaments and won. UTSC is of the firm belief that a sport of this nature for every young Omani and expatriate, calls for recognition and support. The same can be said of cricket, football, basketball and other sports too. Keen to spot the talent, nurture him/her and provide them with all the facilities and support be it training, development, coaching, on-field guidance, financial or otherwise. Many UTSC members and supporters have done a lot of hard work and preparation for making this a successful event, proving that “Together we make a Difference”.

VISIT TO SOHAR PORT

Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and his accompanying delegation visited Asyad Group at Sohar Port and Freezone. During the knowledge-sharing visit, Asyad Group showcased its role as Oman's logistics arm.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



HUAWEI INNOVATION DAY

Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, held the second annual Huawei Innovation Day with customers, partners and technology experts from the Middle East and Africa.

Bank Muscat's net profit rises by 5.8% to reach OMR148.29mn

Net interest income from conventional banking and net income from Islamic financing stood at OMR254.93 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial institution in the Sultanate, announced its preliminary unaudited results for the nine months ended 30 September 2022.

The bank posted a net profit of OMR148.29 million for the period compared to OMR140.16 million reported during the same period in 2021, an increase of 5.8 per cent.

The key highlights of the results for the period are as follows:

Net interest income from conventional banking and net income

from Islamic financing stood at OMR254.93 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2022 compared to OMR252.48 million for the same period in 2021, an increase of 1.0 per cent.

Non-interest income was OMR117.10 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2022 as compared to OMR105.85 million for the same period in 2021, mainly due to higher income from the sale of investments.

Operating expenses for the nine months ended 30 September 2022 was OMR156.18 million as com-

pared to OMR144.33 million for the same period in 2021, an increase of 8.2 per cent.

Net Impairment for credit and other losses for the nine months was OMR41.58 million as against OMR46.77 million for the same period in 2021. The decrease is mainly attributed to the precautionary and collective provisions created by the bank in 2021.

Net loans and advances including Islamic financing receivables increased by 0.8 per cent to OMR9,229 million as against OMR9,158 million as of 30 September 2021.

Customer deposits including Islamic customer deposits increased marginally to OMR8,709 million as against OMR8,698 million as of 30 September 2021.

The full results for the nine months ended 30 September 2022 along with the complete set of unaudited financial statements will be released following the approval of the Board of Directors of the bank at its meeting scheduled later in October 2022.



GCC PROJECTS MARKET UPDATE

Total value of contracts awarded in GCC falls by 40.8%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total value of contracts awarded in the GCC declined by 40.8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) during the third quarter of 2022 to \$11.1 billion compared to \$18.8 billion during the third quarter of 2021, according to a new report.

"All the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, barring Qatar that saw a smaller decline, witnessed a double-digit fall in their aggregate the third quarter (Q3) of 2022 in the value of projects awarded," the Kuwait-based investment strategy and research firm Kamco Invest said in its 'GCC Projects Market Update October-2022'.

GCC project awards contracted during the third quarter of the year as global economic challenges mounted. The decline was intensified by high inflation and continuing supply chain problems mainly due to China's intermittent COVID-19 restrictions as well as the US-EU sanctions on Russia, the report added.

In addition, the increase in benchmark rates by global and regional central banks to combat runaway inflation also affected project funding.

The UAE overtook Saudi Arabia as the largest projects market in the GCC during Q3-2022 recording a total of \$3.7 billion worth of contracts awarded against \$3.5 billion awarded by Saudi Arabia. Qatar ranked third during the quarter with total contract awards at \$3.4 billion as compared to \$3.6 billion during Q3-2021. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar accounted for



a combined 96 per cent of the total value of contracts awarded in the GCC during the quarter, the Kamco Invest report said.

Total projects awarded in Kuwait during Q3-2022 declined by 69.1 per cent to \$162 million down from \$525 million for Q3-2021. Oman witnessed Q3-2022 new projects awards drop of 68.1 per cent y-o-y to \$154 Mn. The aggregate value of contracts awarded in Bahrain reached \$125 million in Q3-2022 as compared to \$659 million during a similar period in 2021, the report said.

"In terms of sector classification, only the chemicals sector witnessed an increase in the value of projects awarded during the quarter recording a \$540 million y-o-y increase in new contract awards to reach a total of \$1.1 billion during Q3-2022," the report said.

The total value of contracts awarded in the GCC during the first nine months (9M) of 2022 declined by 26.2 per cent to \$53.0 billion, down from \$71.7 billion in

9M-2021. Saudi Arabia accounted for more than half of the total projects awarded in the GCC for the first nine months of the year. The Kingdom's total value of contracts awarded during 9M-2022 increased by 14.9 per cent to reach \$30.3 billion up from \$26.3 billion in 9M-2021. The withdrawal of COVID-19-related restrictions and higher oil prices have contributed to the rise in the Kingdom's projects market during 2022.

Comparatively, the UAE's aggregate value of contracts awarded during the first nine months of the year dipped 5.8 per cent to \$12.4 billion against \$13.1 billion in 9M-2021.

The projects market pipeline in the GCC region continues to remain strong with data from MEED Projects showing around \$2.50 trillion worth of projects planned or underway in the GCC as of mid-October-2022 as compared to \$2.61 trillion at the end of June 2022. The aggregate value of projects in the pipeline (pre-execution stage) in the GCC stood at \$858

billion as of October 12, according to data from MEED Projects.

In terms of countries, Saudi Arabia makes up 44.8 per cent (\$384.5 billion) of the GCC projects in the pipeline followed by UAE with 17.2 per cent (\$147.8 billion) and Kuwait with 14.7 per cent (\$125.8 billion). In terms of sectors, the Construction sector accounted for 28.4 per cent or \$243.9 billion worth of projects in the pre-execution stage in the GCC followed by the Transport and Power sectors with projects worth \$145.6 billion and \$122.0 billion, respectively.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's Q3-2022 aggregate value of project awards reached \$3.5 billion suffering the worst third-quarter contract awards since the peak of the pandemic in Q3-2020, reflecting worsening global economic forecasts combined with higher inflation. The value of contracts awarded in the Kingdom during Q3-2022 witnessed a quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) decline of 78.5 per cent and reached \$3.5 billion down from \$16.5 billion in Q2-2022.

UAE

The UAE projects market recorded the highest aggregate value of contract awards in the GCC during Q3-2022 which reached \$3.7 billion, overtaking Saudi Arabia for the first time in 8 quarters. Despite topping the Q3-2022 project awards market in the GCC, the total value of projects awarded in the UAE during Q3-2022 fell 5.9 per cent y-o-y and 11.9 per cent month-on-month.

OFFICIAL VISIT



Zanzibar President visits shrimp aquaculture farm

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and his accompanying delegation visited Qurun Shrimp Aquaculture Farm in Jalan Bani Bu Hassan South Al Sharqiya Governorate, as part of his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

During this tour at the farm Fisheries Development Oman showcased how its aquaculture developments focus on sustainability, competitiveness, in-country value, supporting national food security objectives, creation of employment opportunities, and diversification of aquaculture sector production streams.

The president's tour at the Shrimp Aquaculture Farm in Qurun included going through the different farming process stages starting from the hatchery, and

nursery to the grow-out ponds. The farm includes 220 grow-out pods at 5000 metres squared each. The farm has great economic potential and a high impact on Oman's fish production.

Ali Mwinyi expressed in a statement his happiness to visit the Sultanate of Oman, describing it as "fruitful."

Mwinyi said that his visit to Quroon shrimp farm is an opportunity to explore many areas of cooperation with the Oman Investment Authority, whether they are investments in Tanzania or Zanzibar in particular.

He also expressed his admiration for this farm and what he saw among many projects during his visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He stressed working with Oman to ensure the knowledge he acquired and the projects he visited in Zanzibar.

RECOGNITION

Al Mouj Muscat wins 3 titles at International Property Awards

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's premier oceanfront lifestyle and leisure destination, has won three titles at the highly prestigious International Property Awards affirming its reputation and profile as a global leader within the real estate industry.

The International Property Awards is an annual event that recognises the highest levels of achievement in real estate where companies from all over the world compete for the prestigious mark of excellence. Divided into four areas of Architecture, Development, International Design and Real Estate, the winners were announced this week at a glittering ceremony in Dubai.

Two of Al Mouj's title wins are in the Best Residential Development 20+ Units category and relate to its exclusive collection of villas Golf Beach Residences which is adding 51 exceptional contemporary five and six-bedroom oceanside villas to its impressive property portfolio. It achieved Best Residential Development for 20 Plus Units



both for Oman and Arabia.

Al Mouj also won best Development Marketing. The award is a recognition of Beyond Dreams, an innovative and unique campaign that supported the launch of Golf Beach Residences. This is the second international win for Beyond Dreams as in July it scooped the Real Estate Asia prize for Marketing & Brand Initiative of the Year.

The Beyond Dreams campaign

captured the imagination of prospective buyers, with the retelling of a fairy tale about a gentle, yet-bold female protagonist and a mythical unicorn who find a home within each other. Featuring a film, it became the most-watched viral advertisement in Oman, with around 38 million views contributing to 90 per cent of the first phase being sold within four weeks. Al Mouj has also won the

best Marketing Brand Creation at the international level.

Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said: "I am delighted that these International Property Awards recognise what sets Al Mouj Muscat apart and we welcome the global profile that they will bring. They reflect both the extraordinary talent of our people and the outstanding quality of our homes as we continue

to have a positive economic impact on Oman. Our oceanside setting and first-class dining, leisure and retail amenities, along with an award-winning golf course which is in the region's top two plus an elegant 400-berth marina, has earned Al Mouj a reputation as our country's finest and most vibrant lifestyle destination. And in addition to attracting close to 4 million visitors a year which helps

boost opportunities for local businesses, our residents experience a true sense of belonging."

The Sultanate's premier community of 8,000 residents from 85 nationalities continues to deliver a positive economic impact for Oman, having already secured \$884 million in foreign direct investment and asset growth of 777 per cent since it was established in 2006.





MARKET



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Huawei event highlights innovation for sustainable digital future

Huawei MEA Innovation Day gathered the region's government leaders from different sectors, industry analysts, ICT ecosystem partners and international standardisation, and Huawei's senior leadership team

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, held the second annual Huawei Innovation Day with customers, partners and technology experts from the Middle East and Africa.

Held in parallel with GITEC GLOBAL 2022, the Huawei MEA Innovation Day 2022 was organised in partnership with the Arab ICT Organisation (AICTO) under the theme of 'Collaboration to Un-

leash Innovation for Sustainable Digital Future'. The annual event gathered the region's government leaders from different sectors, industry analysts, ICT ecosystem partners and international standardisation, and Huawei's senior leadership team.

Jeff Wang, Global President of Public Affairs and Communications Huawei, delivered the opening keynote speech to highlight Huawei's commitment to supporting the MEA digital transformation and ICT sustainability future.

Participating in a panel discussion



tion that covered the importance of empowering the role of women in technology, Dr Eman Said Al Abri, Dean of the College of Computing and Information Sciences, the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Oman, said, "I'm delighted to be part of Huawei MEA Innovation Day 2022. Online education and work-from-home environments have eliminated the physical barriers that

held back women from achieving their full potential in the Middle East and Africa. Now, we can further leverage technology to boost inclusivity through online training and upskilling." She added, "As a university, we see the immense value of engaging the government and private sector in preparing our students for the job market and closing the gap between theory and practical knowledge. Additionally,

industry training and professional certificates effectively empower students with practical knowledge to further their careers."

The panel, moderated by Caroline Faraj, CNN VP and CNN Arabic Editor-in-Chief, was attended by Dr Fatma Taher, IEEE UAE Section Chair, Dr Mardin Abdullah Anwar, Director of ICT and Statistics at Salahuddin University, Erbil, Iraq, and Rania Halimeh, Regional Director, META, Logical Operations. Panellists discussed the importance of improving university curriculums and programs in light of ICT accelerated innovation, and filling the talent gap in cybersecurity, among other topics.

Eng. Mohamed Ben Amor, Secretary General of AICTO, the event partner, delivered the keynote speech, highlighting the importance of collaboration between various regional stakeholders and global partners to build an integrated ICT ecosystem for a sustainable digital economy.

Steven Yi, President of Huawei Middle East & Africa, added: "We are honoured with the distin-

guished audience in our Innovation Day MEA 2022. Our mission remains to bring the broadest ICT ecosystem together to inspire change and deliver socioeconomic growth. We are hopeful the lessons we take from the event will help bring us closer to an open, intelligent world that has been our mission from Day 1."

The second panel discussion, hosted by Toni Eid, founder of Telecom Review Group & CEO of Trace Media, covered the importance of open partnerships and collaborations for shared success in building the ICT Ecosystem in MEA, the role of Digital Power in telecom networks, and green solutions in the cloud.

The panel was attended by Dr Elsadig Gamaleldeen ElsadigKarrar, Director General of the Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority of Sudan (TPRA), Dr Jassim Haji, President, International Group of Artificial Intelligence and Dr Ammar Al Husaini, Deputy Director General at Central Agency for Information Technology, Kuwait.

GROWTH

India's overall exports in April-September estimated to be \$382.31 billion

NEW DELHI: India's overall exports in April-September 2022 are estimated to be \$382.31 billion, exhibiting a 21.03 per cent growth over the same period last year. Overall imports in September 2022 are estimated to be \$76.26 billion, showing a positive growth of 10.73 per cent over the same period the previous year.

India's merchandise exports rose by 4.82 per cent to \$35.45 billion in September, even as the trade deficit widened to \$25.71 billion,

the data released by the commerce ministry showed on Friday. Imports during the month too grew 8.66 per cent to \$61.61 billion. The trade deficit in September 2021 stood at \$22.47 billion.

India's overall exports (merchandise and services combined) in April-September 2022 are estimated to be \$382.31 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 21.03 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-September 2022 are estimated to be

\$469.47 billion, registering a positive growth of 37.77 per cent over the same period last year.

The merchandise trade deficit in September 2022 was estimated at \$25.71 billion as against \$22.47 billion in September 2021, which is an increase of 14.42 per cent whereas the merchandise trade deficit for April-September 2022 was estimated at \$148.46 billion as against \$76.25 billion in April-September 2021, which is an increase of 94.69 per cent. -ANI

ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Asyad Group showcases its role as Oman's logistics arm

MUSCAT: Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and his accompanying delegation visited Asyad Group at Sohar Port and Freezone.

During the knowledge-sharing visit, Asyad Group showcased its role as Oman's logistics arm offering competitive advantages and world-class solutions to promote trade and economic activities between Oman and Zanzibar.

The guests went on a tour of Sohar Port and Freezone facilities as Asyad Group introduced its full suite of logistics solutions including its first-rate ports, free zones, shipping and drydock services and assets, in addition to its direct container lines, transshipment, cold chain, e-commerce, and last-mile delivery solutions.

The visit was an opportunity to restate the strategic role played by Asyad Group in boosting the competitiveness of Oman's ports and linking them with direct shipping lines and offering business players rapid access to global markets.

Talks were held about the tangible benefits Zanzibar business players can derive from Omani ports to export their goods to neighbouring regional and Asian



markets. The bilateral discussions stressed the importance of promoting Omani exports and opening new prospects for Omani products in the African markets.

The president's visit included an introductory tour of the port's premium operations and infrastructure. The port, being a gateway to the world and situated at the crossroads of navigational routes, is well-positioned to provide accelerated access to more than 3 billion people across the globe. The port's operations are bolstered by the integrated logistics solutions provided by Asyad Group, ensuring the efficiency of global supply chains.

The guest was furthermore in-

troduced to the investment incentives offered by Sohar Freezone to attract major global companies to expand their investments in Oman and access emerging markets, including the burgeoning markets across Africa.

Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of the Asyad Group, said: "This celebrated visit of the President of Zanzibar to Asyad Group commemorates Oman's long-standing history with Zanzibar and represents a significant opportunity for Asyad to retell its story of logistics excellence. This historic event solidifies the Group's strategy to expand its presence in African and global markets, benefiting from the Belt and Road Initiative."



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CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS CAN BE BOOSTED BY EARLY SELF-REGULATION



Teaching children how to manage their attention and impulses in primary school has a positive long-term effect on their later educational success, suggests the findings of a study by the universities of Zurich and Mainz. Self-regulation, i.e., the ability to manage attention, emotions and impulses, as well as to pursue individual goals with perseverance, is not a skill that we usually associate with young children. However, the school closures due to the pandemic and the increased usage of digital media by children have now shown how important these abilities are, especially for children. Studies show that people who demonstrated self-regulation as children go on to have on average higher income, better health and greater life satisfaction. They also show that the ability to exert self-regulation can already be trained in a targeted manner in childhood. How can the training of self-regulation skills be integrated into the standard elementary school day without taking up too much teaching time? Is it possible to teach young pupils an abstract self-regulation strategy in an appropriate way? Does teaching

such skills have the potential to improve long-term educational success? **Self-regulation improves even with short training units** An international team from the Department of Economics at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and from the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Germany) examined these questions. Using a randomized controlled study in elementary schools involving more than 500 first graders, the research team was able to show that even a short training unit led to a significant and sustainable improvement in self-regulation. The training did not just affect self-regulation abilities; the children had significantly improved reading ability and an improved focus on careless mistakes one year after the training and were also considerably more likely to be admitted to a selective academic secondary school (Gymnasium) three years after the training. “Our study has shown how the training of this skill can be explicitly embedded in primary school teaching at an early stage. An increase in self-regulation enables children to

“Our study has shown how the training of this skill can be explicitly embedded in primary school teaching at an early stage. An increase in self-regulation enables children to

take on more responsibility for their own learning and to set goals on their own and work toward them,” says Ernst Fehr, professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Zurich. According to the last author, children’s comprehensive key skills that are of fundamental importance for good educational attainment and successful later life can be improved thanks to the simple scalability of the program. **Easily integrated into the regular timetable** Due to concerns from previous practical experience, the study authors designed the training units in an extremely cost-effective and time-saving manner, in such a way that they could be introduced in any primary school setting: the training unit lasted only five hours, and teachers participated in a three-hour training session and received completely developed teaching materials which they could integrate directly into the regular class schedule. The training units were based on the MCII Strategy (“Mental Contrasting with Implementation Intentions”), which has already been the

subject of excellent research studies in adults and older students. The teachers presented the abstract strategy in a playful manner using a picture book and the role model of a hurdle jumper. In the first step, the children imagined the positive effects of reaching a goal. They contrasted them with the obstacles that might face on the way (“Mental Contrasting”). The children then identified specific behaviours to face the obstacles and develop “when-then” plans (“Implementation Intention”). **Positive effect on society** “The special feature of our study is the long-term ripple effects that this short training unit can have. These effects benefit the child, and they are transferred in many ways to society as a whole over the course of the child’s life,” says first author Daniel Schunk, professor of public and behavioural economics at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. “The fact that early investments in such fundamental skills not only benefit the child alone but also society should be given more attention in education policy.” -ANI



ROUND-UP





REHAAN RESTAURANT - SHERATON OMAN HOTEL

THE PERFECT CUISINE FOR YOUR TASTEBUDS

MUSCAT: If you want to have a perfect getaway on your weekends, right in the centre of the city, Sheraton Oman is the obvious choice for you.

Situated in Muttrah wilayat, this iconic hotel has brought a sumptuous brunch for you on Friday afternoon.

Located on the poolside, Reehan restaurant provides the perfect menu for you to tickle your taste buds.

With temperatures going down, you can enjoy your brunch under open skies breathing fresh air and listening to the live western music. Lovely music and sizzling steaks take you to a different world.

Liliya Vafina, the marketing manager, said: "The idea is to bring all the recipes of our restaurants under one roof. Healthy, Hip and Happening gives you ample choices. If you are a lover of sea foods, you can gorge on sea foods. There are also various kebabs and Turkish food and not to miss the Indian and Arabic dishes. Priced at OMR18 per person, the food is more than its worth."

Liliya was all praise for her chef Adil Sheikh who poured his heart out to make the entire cuisine happen.

"The food was a melange of colour. Though it's a team effort, Adil's efforts are outstanding."

One can enjoy this food either by the pool side or in the cool comfort of a restaurant inside. But with a cool breeze blowing, even taking lunch outside in cool climate is very pleasing. There are also fresh juices and soups to choose from. The options are many for non-vegetarians but even vegetarians won't be disappointed with plenty of choices. And to top it all the variety of desserts including almost eight to 10 types of ice creams is really jaw dropping. Even if you choose only the type of desserts, it will be enough to fill your stomach.





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ROUND-UP



Kempinski Hotel Muscat signs agreement with Oman Food Bank

This agreement solidifies the hotel's continuous efforts in food management

MUSCAT: As part of Kempinski Hotel Muscat's continuous corporate social responsibility initiatives, the hotel officially signed with Oman Food Bank: Dayma to minimise the wastage of food and help create better awareness of the importance of food management, especially within hotels. It is at the core of Kempinski Hotels to create a sense of responsibility towards a sustainable yet

luxurious guest experience that is respectful of the environment. One of the partnerships that Kempinski Hotels has formed is with BE Health, which brings hotels under one corporate social responsibility vision: a world where health is contagious. BE Health's mission is to care for people's health from the workplace to the local community by establishing individual hotel health prevention programmes under the name of BE Health. In this programme, individual hotel objectives are achieved by building capacity through health promotion and prevention and empowering people at the workplace and in local communities through health awareness and promotion so that each will be able to protect themselves. Oman Food Bank is a non-profit organisation that seeks to help in-

dent families and meet their food needs. The organisation's vision is to provide a decent life for those in need through successful projects and initiatives within a system that operates efficiently. Kempinski Hotel Muscat's General Manager, Carsten Wiegandt said, "Through this partnership and many other similar projects that the team has been involved in, we hope to raise better awareness on how local businesses can contribute to the community that they are operating in. Five-star hotels produce large quantities of food, especially with a property of our size and the number of outlets, there is much to be donated to people who are in need in different parts of the country. As Oman Food Bank is also looking for additional support, we are delighted to have some of our team members volunteer as well."



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



KR Eshraqa signs pact with Ministry of Education for infrastructure development in Wilayat Dima Watayeen

MUSCAT: As part of its conscientious efforts to strengthen the education sector in the sultanate, Khimji Ramdas Group's (KR) Eshraqa has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education (MoE), to enhance the infrastructure of government schools in Wilayat Dima Watayeen, by equipping them with Smart televisions, smart interactive boards, desktops and security cameras. The MoU was signed by Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group, and Majid bin Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the third Oman Science Festival, held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). By providing digital amenities such as smart televisions and interactive boards, Eshraqa aims to help the schools make lessons more engaging, interactive and productive for both students and teachers. Commenting on the MoU, Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group said, "In line with Oman's Vision 2040 goals, our constant support to 'education' comes as a continuation of Eshraqa's initiatives to develop and improve the sector, by providing infrastructure that is at par with modern education globally. The infrastructure and learning environment of schools

have a direct impact on students and teachers, and the quality of education. This MoU is thus an endeavour to empower students; and support the efforts of educators in Dima Watayeen, to deliver a comprehensive educational experience that will positively contribute to the future of Omani youth and strengthen the sultanate's human capital." Expressing her appreciation, Majid bin Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs mentioned: "Children across the country deserve a quality education to embark on their life's journeys successfully and become the leaders of tomorrow. We thank Khimji Ramdas' Eshraqa for their commitment to the development and progress of local communities, and urge other private sector companies to participate in similar efforts that help strengthen the education sector." As a body that focuses on community well-being in multiple capacities, Eshraqa has and will always support learning initiatives as part of its core belief to build better communities through education. Under its core pillar 'Eshraqa Learns' the team has delivered a broad range of initiatives across Oman, since its inception in 2016, and has supported 82 government schools across five wilayats namely Samail, Bidbid, Izki, Ibra, and Bidiyah.

LUXURIOUS SEDAN

Experience amazing luxury with Lexus ES

MUSCAT: The Lexus ES is a luxurious sedan that offers luxury enthusiasts numerous opportunities to make the most of every journey. The Lexus ES is designed to make instant impressions. Its range of advanced technology, safety features and inspiring luxury make the ES one of the most desired luxury vehicles on the road. The Lexus ES is available with two powertrain options. The ES350 is powered by a 3.5-liter 24-valve V6 engine that produces 298hp and 36.3 kg-m of torque. While the ES250 is powered by, high-efficiency 2.5-liter 16-valve DOHC engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg-m of torque. The two powertrains on ES350 and ES250 are paired to an eight-speed direct-shift automatic transmission. The class-leading ES hybrid electric model is available with batteries that come with 8 years /160,000kms warranty and is automatically charged either by petrol engine or during braking or decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. Furthermore, it hosts number of advanced technologies, yet drives like any other conventional car and does not require special fuel. The ES300h offers an impressive 24.1 km/L mileage. The powerful and aggressive



tions. In addition to a thrilling exterior that highlights its bold and aggressive personality, the Lexus ES350 FSPORT features numerous such as a retuned suspension, 19-inch wheels and tyres, and unique aluminium interior trim that gives the machine a more dynamic look and feel. Completing the Lexus ES' distinct personality is its exquisite interior that invites the driver and passengers to enjoy a range of advanced features offering a refined cabin experience. They include Dual Zone Auto Air-conditioning, Voice Recognition, Power Rear sunshade, Premium Touchscreen Audio System, Android Auto & Apple CarPlay and much more. Highlighting Lexus' unrelenting focus on safety, the vehicle ensures complete peace of mind with an advanced safety technology package that includes Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) / Traction Control (TRC) / Brake Assist System (BAS) / Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD) / Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) among many others.

TRENDY FLAGSHIP SMARTPHONE

Huawei launches nova 10 Pro in Oman

MUSCAT: Huawei Consumer Business Group (BG) announced the launch of the Huawei nova 10 Pro, a beautiful trendy flagship smartphone with the ultimate front camera and fastest charging that meet the contemporary, ever-evolving trends among future-minded youth of today. The 10th generation of nova inherits the design of the Huawei nova Series, bringing together innovative design and cutting-edge craftsmanship. It takes on the dazzling and chic Star Orbit Ring classic design. More especially, the smartphone has evolved its front camera capabilities with new added features, allowing nova users to express themselves more confidently while staying in trend. The Huawei nova 10 Pro will be available in an exciting Colour No. 10 as well as in a premium and subtle Starry Black colourways in Oman on October 20 with pre-orders starting on October 13 at a price of 254.9 OMR from Huawei's online platforms as well as Huawei's experience store at Mall of Oman.



The nova moniker is derived from the Latin word "novas", signifying that every rising star is born to shine, akin to the passion of youth when chasing their dreams of a better future. Created on the foundation of innovative technology, every generation of the Huawei nova series strives to represent the ideology of an innovative piece of technology that has an on-trend design, powerful cameras, excellent performance and offers smart interaction experiences. With that ideology in mind comes

the launch of the new Huawei nova 10 Series, taking the series into its 10th generation. As of July 2022, the nova Series has accumulated a total of more than 200 million users worldwide. The Huawei nova 10 Pro comes in an attractive Colour No. 10 in addition to Starry Black colourways. Both of these two colours represent a distinct aesthetic style, and they both adhere to a trendy, youthful design philosophy. Colour No. 10, depicts exquisite and elegant aesthetics. Combining the chic metallic silver colour with the golden Star Orbit Ring and Icon, the 3D curved display of the phone is complemented, sparkling with layer upon layer to showcase fascinating colour changes under different light and shadow. The Huawei nova 10 Pro innovatively adapts a double colour coating process to enhance the design language of the Star Orbit Ring, creating a sense of harmony and symmetry. The Star Orbit Ring fuses technology and fashion. Lastly, the Huawei nova 10 Pro

features a brand-new COP encapsulation technology, allowing the display's bottom bezel to measure just 2.56mm each allowing for a more immersive visual experience for users. With the Huawei Multi-Vision Photography, the Huawei nova 10 Pro sports high-quality dual front camera lenses. One lens features the industry's first front-facing 60MP Ultra-Wide Autofocus Camera, supporting 100-degree wide angle and 4K video quality, which offers excellent resolution and light sensitivity. Additionally, the front-facing 8MP Portrait Close-up Camera, another industry's first, supports 2X optical zoom and up to 5X digital zoom, which allows users to shoot 0.7X-5X zoom videos. Users can freely adjust the zoom range with the nearest effective focal length of 14cm to better present the scene and to improve the vlog-shooting experience, thus expanding the limits of human perception and bringing you the ultimate close-up portrait experience.

ALL-NEW CARENS

Own Kia Carens and get chance to win fully paid trip to World Cup



MUSCAT: Kia's all-new Carens is now available with Kia's most popular offer. Buy the all-new Kia Carens and get an opportunity to win a fully paid trip to watch FIFA World Cup event in Qatar. During this campaign, Kia customers owning a brand new Kia can get a chance to Scratch & Win more than 100 match tickets where they can witness teams like Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Japan and more, live in action. Apart from FIFA Qatar match tickets, customers will also get Comprehensive Service up to 50,000 kms and 1 Year Insurance. The campaign will end on 4th November 2022. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia

showroom for details.) The Kia Carens is a recreational vehicle (RV) that sports a perfect balance of being a family mover and a SUV in one compelling package. The three-row Kia Carens is comfortable and spacious with the longest wheelbase in its class. The Kia Carens is powered with a 114 HP, 1497 cc MPI, Euro 4 engine with 14.7 kg.m. torque. This is paired to a CVT for smooth and thrilling drives. The Carens' stylish exterior embodies Kia's latest design philosophy - 'Opposites United.' The SUV-like exterior design shows the confidence and innovation of the Kia Carens. The LED DRL in

the headlamps is designed based on Kia's new signature lighting concept - 'The Star Map'. The interior of the Kia Carens is impressive. The sophisticated interior features soothing colours, plenty of storage space with a layout designed to put all occupants at ease. The One Touch Easy Electric Tumble in the second-row ensures easy ingress and egress of the patrons in the car. The second row also features recline and slide functions for utmost comfort. In addition to the optimum space and recline functions, the third-row seats can also be flattened in the boot to ensure maximum cargo space. The car

also incorporates cooling cup holders & Easy Push Retractable cup holder. Giving the Interior of the Carens an even more appealing look is the dashboard which has a wide high-gloss black panel that accentuates the overall design. The door trims look stylish and are uniquely designed for offering storage space. Inspired by airplane seats, all three-seat rows in the Carens combine comfort with aesthetics by matching materials, patterns and colours in an elegant manner. The centre switches are uniquely designed so that they highlight the smart experience the Carens offers.



ROUND-UP



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Good time to own tech-savvy and stylish crossover INFINITI QX55

Customers who purchase INFINITI QX55 during the promotion period are eligible for free registration, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card

MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has announced a special offer on the premium INFINITI QX55, the impressive crossover coupe that offers style, super technology, comfort, space, and an assortment of elements which underscore its position as a luxury vehicle. Customers who purchase IN-

FINITI QX55 during the promotion period are eligible for free registration, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card. The special promotion is valid till November 24, 2022. The scheme is applicable for all the customers purchasing IN-



FINITI QX55 for personal use only. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school,

ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. The scheme is applicable for retail billing only. Confident, stylish and tech-sav-

vy, the premium INFINITI QX55 is a remarkable crossover coupe from every angle. The soul of the iconic INFINITI FX lives on in the QX55, bringing an eye-catching crossover coupe silhouette together with performance-inspired details to create something truly, unapologetically individual. The INFINITI QX55 has an entirely new shape with more stylish details and a modernised interior. From a provocative design perspective, the INFINITI QX55 is the spiritual successor to brand's iconic FX series. The vehicle's striking roofline and unapologetic shape are in tune with equally courageous buyers. A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, "Enjoying a luxury status, INFINITI QX55 hits the right notes, combining comfort, innovative technology, and trendsetting style in equal meas-

ure. "Our valued customers can now avail the special offer to buy their favourite INFINITI." All customers purchasing INFINITI QX55 in the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration. Customers purchasing INFINITI QX55 in the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of three years or 50,000 kms (whichever is earlier). This offer excludes battery and wear& tear components. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000Kms. INFINITI QX55 purchased in the scheme period will have a three years / 100,000 kms manufacturer's warranty. Free AAA / Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI vehicles, for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman & UAE.

BANK MUSCAT

Success of Green Sports 2022 programme celebrated with gala event for 20 winners

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to youth empowerment and its pioneering role in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, recently hosted a gala event in Muscat to felicitate the 20 winners of the 2022 edition of the bank's flagship CSR programme. The ceremony was attended by Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, the bank's Management Team members, a number of dignitaries from the government and private sectors, and journalists from top media houses in the country. Since its inception in 2012, the landmark Green Sports programme has been supporting Omani youth, strengthening the role of sports teams in various governorates and developing new sports-related infrastructure across Oman over the years. Year after year, the programme sees excellent participation by sports teams from across the Sultanate confirming its tremendous success and popularity with Omani youth. Speaking at the event, Hamza Abbas Al Ajmi, Deputy General Manager - Credit, Bank Muscat, expressed his happiness with the success and achievements of the Green Sports programme. He said: "Bank Muscat pays special attention to all programmes focusing



on developing the youth as it is the best investment in Oman's future. The programme is truly one of its kind and we are proud of all the achievements so far, which are very much in line with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's directives on taking care of the aspirations of Omani youth and providing them with a suitable environment to fully develop their skills and talents. The importance of this programme is evidenced by its many positive results and the participation of a large number of sports teams annually in the programme. It is a matter of great pride that Green Sports has further enhanced Bank Muscat's leading role in implementing sustainable programmes to support Omani youth in various fields." Hamza Abbas Al Ajmi added that the programme has so far benefitted 163 teams with over

50,000 members across the Sultanate of Oman since its launch in 2012. The bank is keen to continue strengthening its strong partnership with Omani youth and help them achieve their aspirations, including those on the sports field. Encouraged by the overwhelming response to the programme over the years, the bank increased the number of annual winners to 20 on the occasion of the programme's 10th anniversary in 2021. This year too, the winning teams will benefit from the bank's support in providing natural / artificial grass football pitches, lighting systems and water desalination equipment." He also thanked the teams for their contributions and cooperation in making the programme a grand success. During the event, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar commended the 20 winners, which are from different

governorates across the Sultanate. The winners include: Al Shabab Sports Team from the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi, Al Sooad Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Dima WaTaieen, Al Yahmadi Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Ibra, Falaj Al Ouhi Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Sohar, Al Abyad Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Nakhl, Al Istqlal Sports Team from the Wilayat of Yanqul, Al Ma'ali Sports Team from the Wilayat of Qurayyat, Ittihad Al Awabi Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Al Awabi, Azaiba Cultural and Sports Team from the Wilayat of Bawshar, Al Haram Sports Team from the Wilayat of Barka, Batha Al Oud Sports, Cultural and Social Team from the Wilayat of Al Suwayq, Al Hail Team from the Wilayat of Ibri, Al Rabi Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Al Buraimi, Al Shabab Sports Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Saham, Al Wadiyat Sports Team from the Wilayat of Shinas, Al Tathamun Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Al Rustaq, Al Ittihad Sports Team from the Wilayat of Bahla, Al Ain Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Wadi Al Maawil, Al Afifa Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Sohar, and Al Owaid Team from the Wilayat of Al Mussannah.

AL RAZI PHARMACY OPENS NEW RETAIL OUTLET

Al Razi Pharmacy opened a new retail outlet at Fanja to serve the community. The outlet was inaugurated by Dr Humood Ali Humaid Al Marshodi, the Wali of Bidbid, and Fatma Yousuf Alawai, vice chairman of Dolphin international in the presence of eminent guests from various fields. It was followed by a video presentation and a tour of the pharmacy by the pharmacist in charge under the guidance of Dr Mahmoud Shabrawy, general manager of Al Razi Pharmacy.

— Supplied picture



ATTRACTIVE OFFER

Joyalukkas adds sparkle to Diwali celebrations with festive offer

MUSCAT: Joyalukkas is offering their patrons an exclusive festive offer to add to their Diwali festivities. Customers can now enjoy OMR 5 gift voucher on the purchase of gold jewellery worth OMR 250 and OMR 20 gift voucher on the purchase of diamonds, polki and pearl jewellery worth OMR250 and more. In addition to the exciting offers, customers can now pay just 10% advance and get assured gold rate protection from Joyalukkas. The gold rate protection ensures that the booking rate prevails in case gold rates increase on the day of purchase or if gold prices drop. This enables patrons to enjoy jewellery shopping at a lower gold rate. Announcing these offers, Joy

Customers can now enjoy OMR5 gift voucher on the purchase of gold jewellery worth OMR250 and OMR20 gift voucher on the purchase of diamonds, polki and pearl jewellery worth OMR250 and more

Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group, quoted, "We always aim to make every celebration special. Our offers are designed to delight our consumers. "This Diwali, our customers can enjoy gift vouchers and assured gold rate protection. Simply put,

our customers save big and celebrate big with Joyalukkas." The festive offers are available at all Joyalukkas showrooms in Oman from October 13 to 25. Celebrate a sparkling Diwali and add to your festivities with exclusive offers and more.

PARTICIPATION

Vodafone brings sensory science to life at Oman Science Festival

MUSCAT: Inaugurated under the patronage of Eng. Saeed bin Hamoud Al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Vodafone in Oman took to the stage at the 3rd Oman Science Festival with an interactive showcase that brings sensory science to life through tangible experience. Immersing visitors of all ages in Vodafone's digital world, powered by technology and driven by innovation, the showcase is demonstrating how the digital transformation journey that starts with the smallest interaction between humans and technology can drive change and enable growth. Held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre from October



10 to 15, the Oman Science Festival is bringing to the public a new dimension of creativity, passion, and inspiration. Vodafone's participation and sponsorship of

the festival stem from its commitment to bring to Oman its global experience, knowledge and best practices when it comes to digitalisation.



Winter Offers
Offer valid from 14th August to 13th November 2022.
Existing Oman Oasis 5 Gallon returnable bottle customers and Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible for the offer.



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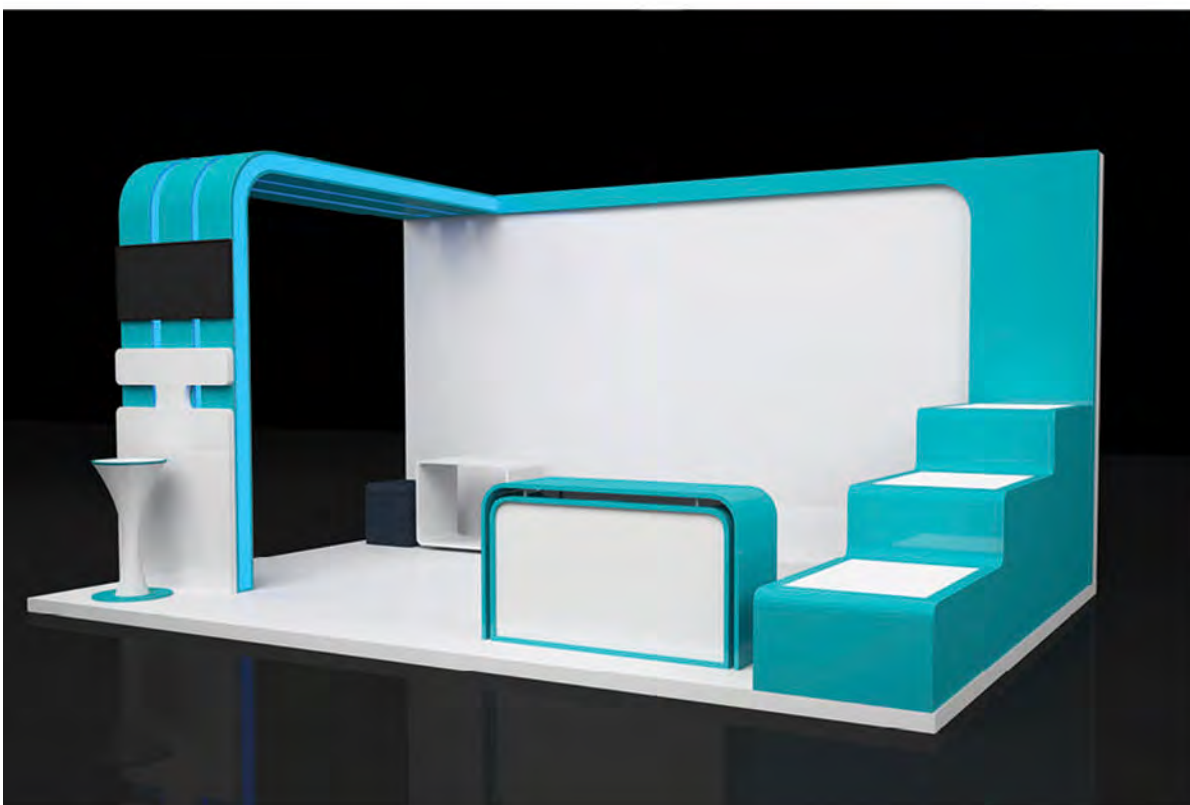
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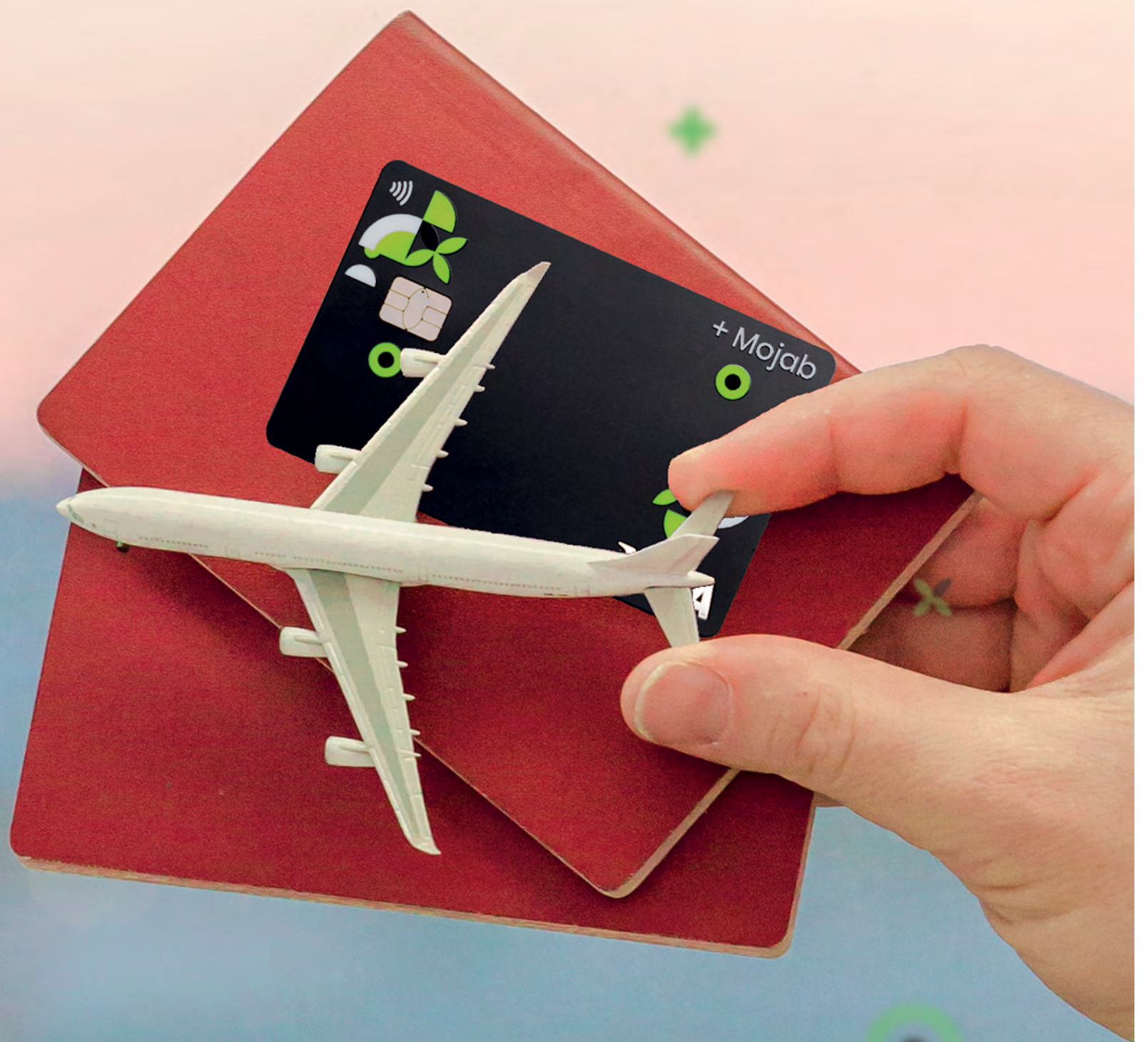


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