

Ukraine cuts gas use as subsidies phased out

Ukraine reported a one-third drop in its use of natural gas and general energy savings that will be cheered by its financial backers from the International Monetary Fund. The IMF has long identified Ukraine as one of Europe's most inefficient countries when it comes to fuel consumption. Data released by Ukraine's main energy transport company showed gas use falling by 32.7 percent.



Mexicans protest rise in gasoline prices

Hundreds of irate Mexicans marched in Mexico City on Sunday to protest a steep rise in gasoline prices. They carried signs denouncing President Enrique Pena Nieto, whose government announced last week that the price of gasoline would increase by as much as 20 per cent to 0.88 dollars per liter on New Year's Day, while diesel would rise by 16.5pc to 0.83 dollars. Pena Nieto has promised that fuel prices will eventually fall thanks to a landmark 2014 energy reform he instituted.



“When you're surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose, anything is possible”

Howard Schultz
Starbucks

Tips for small business marketing

As a small business, you may think it's impossible to get the word out about what you do. That's no excuse. And you don't need fads or gimmicks. Follow the proven, timeless tips and techniques of these entrepreneurs to help get the word out about your business and watch it grow.

Give Your Stuff Away
Ari Fleischer and Aly Moler of Frozen Pints have grown their craft beer ice cream business by leaps and bounds by attending craft beer shows and farmers markets to do one thing--give their product away. Once customers taste this unexpected combination (which happens to be delicious) for free, they line up at their local store to buy it or even request that the store carry it.



Send a Weekly E-mail
If you want to stay in relationship with your customers, there is nothing simpler than creating a weekly e-mail that provides something of value. Rick Houcek of Soar With Eagles sends one out every Monday that he calls the 2-Minute Monday Motivator. I look forward to getting it every week and often forward his advice to others.

Support a Cause
Mary Hester of LAN Systems throws an annual cookout with purpose every Earth Day. Party-goers are encouraged to bring their "e-waste"--old computer monitors and CPUs. At their most recent event they collected more than two tons of IT equipment, keeping it out of the landfills and creating goodwill with their customers, current and potential.



Attend Networking Events...
Desiree Scales of Bella Web Design is a master networker. She attends and presents at almost every event in town. Her contribution to the overall community makes her one of the first people that come to mind when anyone looks for an expert in her area of concentration: small business websites and drip marketing.



...Or, Create Your Own Event
If you don't like the events you are attending, invent your own! Darrah Brustein has created one of the most successful networking events in Atlanta: Atlanta Under 40. The event, which Darrah created to connect with other young entrepreneurs in her city, is now being franchised to other cities.

Sponsor an Organisation
Many local organisations are not that expensive to sponsor for a year if you consider the so-called per meeting cost. If your product or service is a good fit with their audience, you will get exposure every time the organisation sends out an e-mail and a mention every time they meet. Attendees always remember and appreciate companies who sponsor their favourite organisations. (Inc)



'EBRIT' begins trading on BHB



Dr. Khalid Abdulla rings the trading session opening bell at Bahrain Bourse (BHB)

Manama
Bahrain Bourse (BHB) yesterday commenced the trading on the units of Eskan Bank Realty Income Trust, under the symbol 'EBRIT', Eskan bank said.
The total number of units listed is 198,000,000 with a nominal value of BD0.100 per unit.
Trading in the units (ISIN: BH0005158K14) is open to GCC individual and institutional investors who can by place 'buy and sell' orders through a BHB-licensed broker, while clearing and settlement will be undertaken by Bahrain Bourse.
Marking the occasion, Eskan Bank General Manager Dr. Khalid Abdulla rang the trading session opening bell at the Bourse in the presence of BHB Chief Executive Officer Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Securities & Investment Company (SICO) Chief Executive Officer Najla

Al Shirawi, and other officials.
The Eskan Bank Realty Income Trust has a target of 6.5 per cent in net distributable income payable semi-annually, and is expected to offer lower risk and volatility than stocks and bonds due to long-term rents, prime-asset backing, and no current leverage.
The REIT comprises of two initial income-generating and unleveraged properties: Segaya Plaza, a mixed retail and residential property located in Manama; and the commercial components of Danaat Al Madina, a mixed-use property development situated in Isa Town. The properties currently have a combined occupancy rate of over 85 per cent, and the Trust intends to increase its property portfolio as and when suitable opportunities arise.
Congratulating Eskan Bank on the listing, BHB Chief Executive Shaikh Khalifa bin

Ebrahim Al Khalifa, said: "The commencement of trading of Bahrain's first Sharia-compliant retail real estate investment trust underlines the ongoing initiatives by the Central Bank of Bahrain and Bahrain Bourse to bring new products and services to the exchange."
Najla Al Shirawi, Chief Executive of SICO, which is the mandated lead manager for the offering, as well as the sub-investment manager and dedicated market maker said that this will add greater depth to the Kingdom's real estate sector, while helping to improve liquidity in Bahrain Bourse.
Eskan Bank General Manager Dr. Khalid Abdulla said: "This provides investors with the opportunity to share in the Bank's significant property development activities, and benefit from commercial and residential rental income across diversified assets."

Jassim Haji featured on 'Security Advisor'

Manama
The leading and most popular Information Security magazine in the region 'Security Advisor Middle-East' has published Dr. Jassim Haji, Gulf Air's Director Information Technology and a renowned Bahraini Information Security executive and expert on

its cover page for his 2016 achievements, contributions and innovation in the field of Cyber Security.
This is the 14th cover page of Dr. Haji in the past five years which makes him the most displayed and featured individual on the pages of technology magazines.

