

Bahrain Chamber hails the role of Customs Affairs in economic development

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The Bahrain Chamber hailed the vital role of the Customs Affairs of the Ministry of Interior in serving Bahrain's private sector and streamlining its business endeavour.

The International Customs Day is celebrated this year under the slogan "Customs bolstering recovery, renewal and resilience for a sustainable supply chain".

The Chamber expressed pride in the strenuous efforts of Customs Affairs spearheaded by Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Bahrain Cham-

ber highlighted the Customs Affairs' successful transformation and adoption of latest technologies, which resulted in the seamless flow of goods despite the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Chamber hailed the pioneering standing of Bahrain's Customs Affairs and its role in economic development, and underlined the importance of reinforcing cooperation between the Chamber and the Customs Affairs in sharing information and statistics, and developing the legislative and legal framework for economic, commercial, and customs matters.

Four Seasons names Sayess regional VP, General Manager

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Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts has appointed Rami Z. Sayess as Regional Vice President and General Manager at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Sayess will take over the reins from Richard Raab, who is relocating to Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace St. Petersburg as General Manager. He moves to St. Petersburg after a tremendous three years driving the successful launch of the hotel's private beach, waterpark and additional leisure facilities.

Sayess will be based in Bahrain and oversee several Four Seasons hotels and resorts in Europe, Middle East and Africa region (EMEA).

Sayess leaves Beirut after five years, which he describes as "very unusual to say the least, having witnessed record results since the Hotel opening, thanks to Lebanon's stability during the years 2016-2019, and the outstanding performance by my amazing team, all of which was followed by an



Rami Z. Sayess

incredibly challenging 2020. My time in Beirut has been rewarding both personally and professionally having worked with an extraordinary group of professionals and an extremely supportive owner."

Sayess also shares his excitement on the new position. "Bahrain is renowned for its amazing hospitality, friendly people and Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is an icon by itself. Located on its own private island, the Hotel has become a popular choice for local vacationers and international travellers alike."

Google workers to form global union alliance



Reuters

Google employees from across the globe are forming a union alliance, weeks after more than 200 workers at the search engine giant and other units of parent company Alphabet Inc formed a labor union for US and Canadian offices.

Alpha Global was formed in coordination with UNI Global Union, a union federation that represents about 20 million workers globally, and includes unions from countries such as the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, and the UK, UNI Global Union said.

"The problems at Alphabet - and created by Alphabet - are not limited to any one country, and must be addressed on a global level," UNI's General Secretary Christy Hoffman said.

Alphabet was not immediately available to comment.

China's Xi calls for greater role for G20

● Xi spoke at a virtual meeting of the World Economic Forum

Reuters

China's President Xi Jinping yesterday called on the world to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination and bolster the role of the G20 in global economic governance as he pointed to a "rather shaky" recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking at a virtual meeting of the World Economic Forum - a gathering usually held in a Swiss ski resort - Xi said the global economic outlook remained uncertain and public health emergencies "may very well recur" in future.

Xi, making his first appearance at the forum since his vigorous defence of free trade and globalisation in an address in Davos in 2017, struck a similar tone this time around, advocating multilateralism as the way out of current challenges in a roughly 25-minute speech.

"We should build an open world economy ... discard dis-



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland

criminatory and exclusionary standards, rules and systems, and take down barriers to trade, investment and technological exchanges," he said.

The G20 - an international forum grouping 19 of the biggest developed and emerging economies, plus the European Union - should be strengthened as the "main forum for global

economic governance" and the world should "engage in closer macro-economic policy coordination", Xi added.

The international community should be governed in accordance with rules and consensus reached by all countries, instead of by one or several issuing orders, he said, without naming the countries.

Yellen set for Senate confirmation vote as first woman Treasury secretary

Reuters | Washington

The US Senate is set to vote on Janet Yellen's nomination as the first woman Treasury secretary, putting her quickly to work with Congress on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief proposal.

Yellen on Friday sailed through with a unanimous approval vote in the Senate Finance Committee, indicating that she has enough votes to easily win confirmation. Republicans pledged to work with her despite expressing concerns about Biden's massive spending



Janet Yellen

and tax hike plans.

Senate Democrats, who now

control the evenly split chamber's schedule, have planned the vote for 5:30 p.m. EST (2230 GMT). The Senate is due to receive articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump 90 minutes later at 7 p.m. EST.

Biden has proposed a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief plan and has pledged to invest \$2 trillion in infrastructure, green energy projects, education and research to boost American competitiveness. He has said he also plans to raise the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% and increase taxes on those making

over \$400,000 a year.

Finance Committee Republicans expressed concerns over the price tag and increased debt in a return to fiscal conservatism after running up deficits during Trump's term with the 2017 tax cuts and nearly \$5 trillion in coronavirus spending.

A confirmation for former Federal Reserve Chair Yellen less than a week after Biden took office is quick by recent standards. Her Republican predecessor, Steven Mnuchin, was not confirmed until three weeks after Trump's 2017 inauguration on a party-line vote.

The All New 'MG 6' Redefines Sport Sedan Experience

TDT | Manama

An iconic combination of sporty looks and performance, with the utmost comfort a contemporary sedan could offer, the all-new MG 6 stands out from its competitors with peerless features and specifications that gained it vast popularity among different generations of drivers through the region.

The MG 6 is available only at Zayani Motors, the exclusive distributor of MG in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with competitive instalments rates and MG's unmatched six-year or 200,000 km manufacturer warranty, whichever comes first, across the Middle East.

Equipped with a powerful 1.5-litre turbo engine, which delivers maximum power of 169hp and maximum torque of 250Nm, you could accelerate the MG 6 to 100KM/H in only seven seconds, while its 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DTC), with paddle shift



option, guarantees a smooth and effortless performance, topped with an efficient fuel consumption of 5.8L/100KM.

This fastback's attractive cabin harmonically reflects its sleek and sporty exterior, with a smartly configured dashboard and central console, complemented by stylish leather-wrapped two-colour seats and full entertainment features, including an 8" standard touchscreen multimedia with Apple

Carplay and lots of controls on the quasi-flat-bottom multifunctional steering wheel.

The MG 6 comes with the most interior space in its segment, with a spacious boot that can be extended from 424L to 1170L, along with 22 storage features within easy reach. It is also equipped with the most modern and innovative specifications, such as push start button, keyless entry, auto hold function, tyre pressure monitor-

ing system, rear parking camera and a dual-zone cool climate control system, including rear air-conditioning vent.

Additionally, with its 5-star safety rating, this model has the latest safety technologies, including dual frontal, side-chest and side-head curtain airbags, as well as Antilock brakes (ABS), Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD) and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) as standard for optimum security of the driver and passengers.

The MG 6 and other models from MG are available on www.mg-bahrain.com, where you can enjoy the privilege of customising and purchasing your future MG with a simple click, and through seamless and secure electronic payment methods.

For more information and test drives, please call Zayani Motors showroom in Ma'aameer on 17 703703 or follow MG.Bahrain on Facebook, mg_bah on Instagram or MG.Bahrain on Twitter. Terms and conditions apply.

SpaceX launches record spacecraft in cosmic rideshare programme

Reuters

A veteran rocket from billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX aerospace company launched 143 spacecraft into space on Sunday, a new record for the most spaceships deployed on a single mission, according to the company.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off at 10 a.m. EST from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. It flew south along the eastern coast of Florida on its way to space, the company said.

The reusable rocket ferried 133 commercial and government spacecraft and 10 Starlink satellites to space - part of the company's SmallSat Rideshare Program, which provides access to space for small satellite operators seeking a reliable, affordable ride to orbit, according to the company.

SpaceX delayed the launch one day because of unfavourable weather. On Jan. 22 Musk, also chief executive of Tesla Inc., wrote on Twitter: "Launching many small satellites for a wide range of customers tomorrow. Excited about offering low-cost access to orbit for small companies!"