

**HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN
GREETES PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen of the Republic of Austria on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Bellen. His Majesty also wished the people of Austria further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



HM CONGRATULATES UK PRIME MINISTER

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Rishi Sunak on becoming the Prime Minister of UK. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments to Prime Minister Sunak, wishing him good health, happiness and success in carrying out his duties to achieve further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries and their peoples further development and growth. - **ONA**



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OMAN, BAHRAIN KEEN TO SPUR INVESTMENTS, EXPAND TRADE

His Majesty the Sultan and King of Bahrain held an official session of talks on Tuesday

MUSCAT: A joint statement was issued by the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain on the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Kingdom of Bahrain, reading as follows:

"In response to a cherished invitation from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik made a visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 24 to 25 October 2022.

In an atmosphere of amity and fraternity embodying the depth of historical relations between Oman and Bahrain and their peoples, an official session of talks was held by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, and King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the presence of Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The two sides explored the march of bilateral relations and areas of joint cooperation, with a view to upgrading them to more comprehensive levels to help realise the common goals and meet the aspirations of the two peoples.

The two sides also underscored the significance of developing joint cooperation in economic, commercial and investment fields to open wider vistas for the engagement of the private sector in the two countries, to exchange visits of trade delegations and augment commercial exchange in a manner that generates benefits for all.

Agreements

In this context, emphasis was laid on the sincere efforts exerted by the Supreme Joint Ministerial Committee to consolidate ties of fraternity, develop cooperation in different spheres and elevate it into more comprehensive spheres to help meet the aspirations of the two countries' peoples.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the signing of agreements, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes in different fields, noting that this would contribute to the refurbishment of cooperation and the enhancement of fraternal relations between the two countries' peoples.



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returns home. - **ONA**

Following the keenness of the two countries' leaders to maximise the volume of investments and expand trade exchange, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry inked documents to initiate the establishment of 'Bahrain-Oman Investment Company' to serve as a cornerstone for streamlined investment, a meeting point for investors and a springboard for more partnership aimed at generating fruitful business among private sector enterprises.

The two sides discussed the GCC march and the efforts made by member states to consolidate cooperation. They stressed the need to secure the solidarity of the GCC and ensure the collaboration of its countries and peoples so that they could confront all current challenges and realise the GCC

economic unity.

The two sides expressed their aspiration for a positive outcome from 31st Arab Summit, to be held in Algeria early next month (November 2022), hoping that the summit would enhance joint Arab action, protect Arab national security and achieve the aspirations of Arab peoples for more security, growth and prosperity.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. They underlined the importance of their joint cooperation and co-ordination within regional and international organisations and forums in a way that serves their mutual interests, enhances efforts to consolidate the pillars of regional security and stability and help maintain international peace and security. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Business rebounds

1 With the end of the pandemic, all the sweet shop-owners saw a glimmer of hope and revival of sales to the pre-pandemic level. **>A3**

OMAN WhatsApp outage

2 The two-hour WhatsApp outage started in Oman around 11am. **>A6**

MARKET Top-loading station

3 OOMCO and Taif Altmayz inked pact for top-loading station in Duqm. **>B1**

FINAL ROUND OF QUALIFIERS

Times/Shabiba inter-school mega prelims quiz from today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Thousands of students from over 80 schools will take part in the final round of qualifiers to decide the finalists of the *Times of Oman* and *Shabiba* quizzes.

The mega prelims for both the Times of Oman Interschool Quiz, and its Arabic counterpart, Al Shabiba's Musabakat Bayn Madaris, is set to start from Wednesday.

Schools will be fighting it out in both English and Arabic languages to win a seat at the Grand Finals which will take place on Friday, 28 October for English and on 29 October 2022 for Arabic at City Amphitheatre, Qurum.

This year, schools from Muscat,

Seeb, Barka, Suwaiq, Sohar, Niwza, Jalan, Sur, Buraimi, Salalah, Muladha and many more wilayats are participating.

Nearly 22 schools are participating in the quiz for the first time. The event which began in 1996, is by far the largest educational event in Oman.

The Arabic quiz, Al Shabiba - Musabakat Bayn Madaris, was introduced for the first time in Oman in 2019 by Orbit. This year the event is being organised and managed by Orbit Events Management (part of Orbit Leading Projects LLC), an Omani SME. "We are truly delighted to see the response this year. We have worked tirelessly to take Times of Oman/Al Sha-

biba quizzes to an all-Oman level," said Ramesh, CEO of Orbit Events.

The most sought after Quiz Master from India, 'Pick Brain' Giri, who has become synonymous with Times of Oman Inter School Quiz, arrived in Muscat from India on Tuesday evening to conduct the English Quiz.

To conduct the Arabic Quiz, a dynamic young Omani, Quiz Master Faiz Ibrahim Al Mamari was introduced in 2019 who won everyone's heart. Faiz is a certified coach, trainer, author and an award-winning public speaker, with a great sense of humour. His stage presence and chemistry with children and audience will make the Arabic Quiz dear to all once again.



**Sayyid Theyazin to
preside over Oman Youth
Day ceremony today**

A5



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PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....11:56pm
Asr.....3:12pm
Maghrib.....5:38pm
Isha.....6:49pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:54am



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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of labor

ANNOUNCEMENT

Online Public Auction

The Ministry of Labour announces an online public auction to sell some equipment and furniture. The auction will be held online through the website (www.safqa.om) for the Directorate General of Labour in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate on Tuesday and Wednesday corresponding to 08 and 09 November 2022.

The auction will be held according to the following terms and conditions:

1. Bidders have to register and subscribe to the website (www.safqa.om).
2. The bidder must pay the insurance amount of RO 500/- through the website.
3. The successful bidder must pay the value of the commodity by electronic transfer within a maximum period of three working days after the end of the auction, in addition to the auctioneer's fees at (3%) of the commodity value.
4. The successful bidder must transfer the materials that have been purchased and whose value has been paid in full no later than one week after the end of the auction; otherwise, the Ministry will not be responsible for their loss, transfer, or destruction.
5. The materials offered for sale can be inspected in coordination with the Directorate General of Labour in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, two days before the start of the auction and also through the website (www.safqa.om).
6. The offered materials shall be sold as is. The Ministry has the right to cancel or postpone the sale without giving any reasons.
7. The insurance amount will be forfeited in two cases:
A. If the bidder does not pay the value of the purchased items within the specified period.
B. If the bidder does not transfer the purchased materials within the specified period.

Auction type	Inspection place	Date and time of inspection	Date of auction start online
Equipment and furniture	The Directorate General of Labour in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate	06-07/11/2022 from 9:00 am to 12: pm	08-09/11/2022

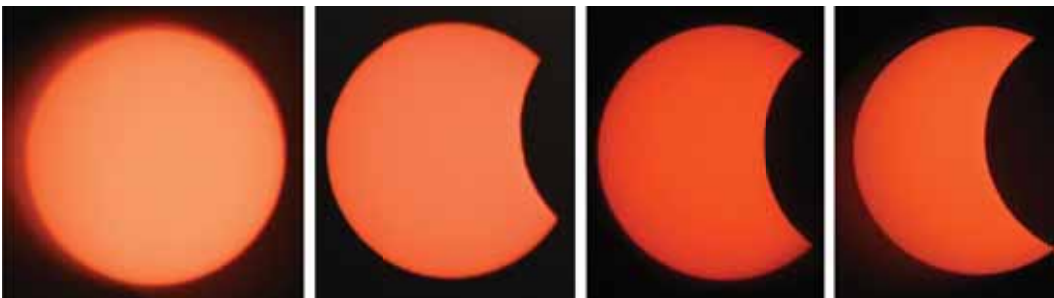
Best regards

labour_OMAN



CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

Partial solar eclipse visible in a number of wilayats



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A partial solar eclipse was visible in a number of wilayats of Oman which many interested individuals and researchers were keen to monitor and watch.

Today, the world, including the Sultanate of Oman witnessed a partial eclipse of the sun, beginning approximately at 2:40 pm and reaching the climax at 3:57 pm in the Governorate of Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate.

In the Wilayat of Salalah, south of Oman, the eclipse began at 3:03 pm, reaching its climax at 4:03 pm, in the Wilayat of Nizwa in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah, the eclipse began at 2:50 pm reaching its climax at 3:57 pm and in the Wilayat of Sohar, north of the Sultanate, in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, the eclipse began at 2:45 pm reaching its peak at 3:54 pm.

The duration and timing of the eclipse in all wilayats taken together, lasted from 2:50 pm to

5 pm, approximately two hours, peaking at 3:57 pm.

There were no effects or changes in the weather conditions after the eclipse as this is a routine phenomenon and occurs at intervals. It is advised to watch this phenomenon with specially designed glasses and in no case it should be watched with naked eyes.

It may be mentioned that a solar eclipse occurs when the moon blocks the sun either in part or in totality, as seen from Earth.

INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Labour ministry, Opaz sign pact

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour yesterday signed a cooperation programme with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ).

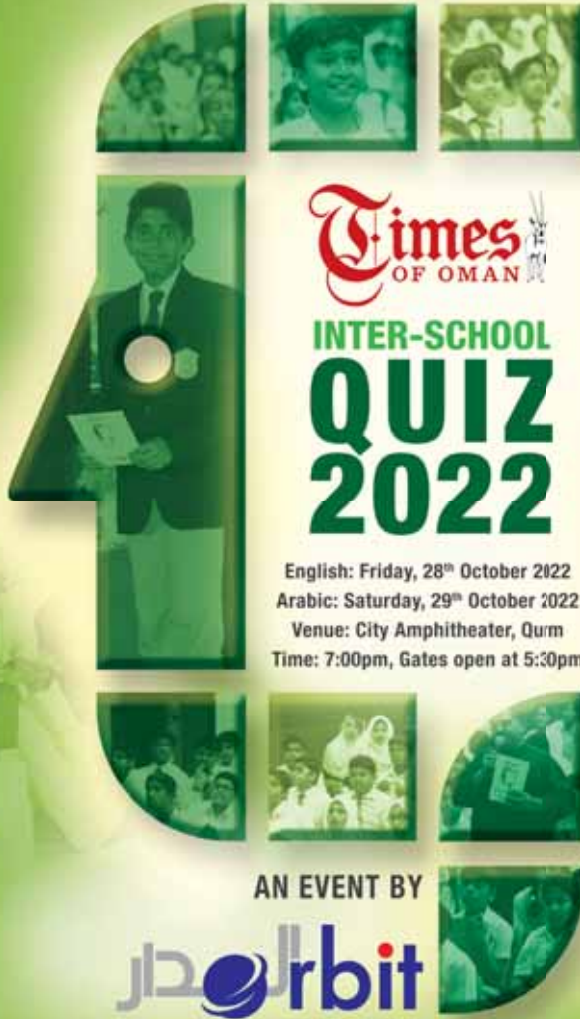
The step seeks to urge investment projects to contribute more actively to the empowerment of Omanis to occupy jobs available at OPAZ divisions.

The agreement was inked by Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour, and Dr. Ali Masoud Al Sunaidi, Chairman of OPAZ.

-ONA



PRESENTS



Times OF OMAN
INTER-SCHOOL
QUIZ
2022

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

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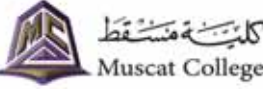
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Business rebounds for sweet shops in Oman this Diwali

With the end of the pandemic, all the sweet shop-owners saw a glimmer of hope and revival of sales to the pre-pandemic level



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Diwali is a festival associated with lights and sweets. After a long gap of two years, Diwali was celebrated in an atmosphere free from COVID-19. With the end of the pandemic, all the sweet shop-owners saw a glimmer of hope and revival of sales to the pre-pandemic level. One of the leading shopkeepers in Muscat, Vajihi, owner and director of Bombay Sweets & Bakery, said: "Thanks to our dear customers and their continued patronage, we celebrated 31st

year of our establishment this Diwali." "I'd like to convey our sincerest gratitude and wishes to everyone who celebrated this Diwali with us. Their support keeps our business running," he added. "We are seeing green shoots of recovery and for local legends like Bombay Sweets, the business is on road to recovery," Vajihi said, adding that this time they were able to hit their sales target, after months of planning, monitoring and execution. With the public sentiment and economic demand changing drastically over the last few years, Vajihi said that Diwali is one of the most important festivals of the year for the sweets industry, and "it is extremely vital for us to ensure we deliver the best taste, with highest quality and best rates." With over 50-plus varieties of sweets, snacks and savoury options, Bombay Sweets offered their customers a few other seasonal favourites this Diwali like Kaju Katli, Rolls, Bon Bons, Cas-sattas, Toblers etc., Special Ras Malai, Gulab Jamun, etc. Much to the delight of customers, they received these mouth-watering Indian delicacies with utmost enthusiasm. "The hope is to continue with the momentum. We strive to deliver our best every single day," Vajihi added. And as the year comes to a close, we hope many other local businesses just like theirs see similar progress and prosperity.

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HM the Sultan returns home

His Majesty was on an official two-day visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Tuesday evening after concluding an official two-day visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in response to an invitation from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

Sayyid Fahd
His Majesty the Sultan was received at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said,

Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of Shura Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiki, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hamad Al Ghafri, Commander of the

Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed bin Tamen Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF).

Official delegation
His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by a high ranking official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance and Sayyid Faisal bin Hareb Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain.— **ONA**



VISIT

Fruitful talks held between HM the Sultan, Bahrain King



MANAMA: Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Bahrain's Chairman of Shura Council has said that bilateral talks between His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, incarnate the deep-rooted historical ties and the monarchs' joint vision for the enhancement of development and prosperity of the two nations.

The two countries' signing a

number of agreements, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes affirm their resolve to go ahead with accomplishments in economic, political, investment, educational and health fields, among other areas, and realize the aspirations of their people's interests and ties of kinship, Al Saleh added.

He pointed out that "The blessed visit of His Majesty the Sultan

reflects the high status of bilateral relations, which keep gaining impetus and bringing the two nations closer to each other".

Historic visit
The historic visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham will open wider vistas for the two nations and expand the scope of commercial and investment cooperation, said the Chairman of the Shura Council.

"The legislative authority took keen interest on utilizing parliamentary diplomacy and strengthening parliamentary relations with the Sultanate of Oman, besides emphasizing the principles of consultation and coordination, notably at global parliamentary events where a spirit of fraternity and cooperation prevails," said Al Saleh at the conclusion of his statement. — **ONA**

Asset Management Bank Muscat Money Market Fund

(Daily subscription and redemption)

1 year*: 3.61%
*annualized return

	Unaudited Statement of Comprehensive Income for 9 months ended 30th September 2022		Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 30th September 2022	
	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-21	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-21
	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000
Interest Income	1306	1249	34,352	27,091
	1306	1249	24,938	15,508
Expenses:			856	581
Management fees	(160)	(139)	(34)	(3,235)
General and administrative	(52)	(81)	60,112	39,945
	(212)	(220)		
Net Profit for the period	1,094	1029	47,520	32,718
Earnings per unit	0.023	0.031	12,592	7,227
			60,112	39,945
			1,264,976.8	1,220,682.6

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman and Bahrain discuss regional security, stability

< FROM A1 The two sides also expressed their keenness to advance efforts aimed at consolidating the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence among countries of the world in a manner that realises security, peace and prosperity for all peoples of the world in implementation of the principles of the UN Charter and the International Law.

They stressed the need to reach a fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause—a solution that achieves the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for the establishment of a Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the Two-State Solution and related international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

The two sides also underscored the significance of pursuing the UN efforts to achieve a permanent and comprehensive truce in the Republic of Yemen and reach a political solution to the Yem-



eni crisis in accordance with approved international measures in a manner that ensures the security, stability and unity of Yemen and achieves the aspirations of Yemeni people for security, stability and development.

The two sides expressed their keenness on joint action to maintain regional security and foster cooperation towards protecting the freedom of navigation and international trade and combating terrorism, and ter-

rism financing and fanaticism.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik voiced his thanks and gratitude to King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, for the hospitality accorded to him. He wished the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of King Hamad. His Majesty the Sultan also invited King Hamad to visit Oman, an invitation that was greatly welcomed by the King of Bahrain." — **ONA**



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VISUAL DISPLAY PRESENTED



His Majesty visits Bahrain Economic Development Board

MANAMA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq on Tuesday visited Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) as part of his official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Upon the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan at the premises of Bahrain EDB, he was received by Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Economic Development Board. His Majesty the Sultan was also received by Bahraini ministers and senior officials of Bahrain EDB. The Crown Prince of Bahrain welcomed His Majesty the Sultan and the accompanying delegation.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan watched a visual display on the Bahrain Economic Development Board presented by Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, who outlined the roles of the Board in enhancing the performance of the Bahraini economy.

The presentation highlighted the relentless efforts exerted by Bahrain EDB in promoting the portfolio of Bahrain at various global markets and attracting investment opportunities to achieve Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

His Majesty the Sultan commended the efforts made by those in charge of the Bahrain Economic Development Board. He wished the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain success in realising the nation's aspirations. — **ONA**

OPENING OF NEW YOUTH CENTRE

Sayyid Theyazin to patronise Omani Youth Day ceremony

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, will preside over the inauguration of Youth Centre Facilities and the announcement of winners in the Youth Excellence Contest launched by the ministry in September 2022.

The event marks Omani Youth Day, which falls on 26 October every year.

The celebration reflects the attention accorded to Omani youth, as proclaimed earlier in a Royal speech by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, who said: "Youth are the wealth of nations and their inexhaustible resource. They are the hands that build. They are the nations' present and future, and we are keen to listen to them to perceive their needs, interests and aspirations. They will undoubtedly receive the attention that they deserve."

The ceremony includes the opening of halls and integrated facilities that provide services for young people in various cultural, artistic and technical fields such



as photography, music, painting, emerging technologies, studios and laboratories equipped with the latest equipment.

The facilities also include training and multi-purpose halls, specialised paper and electronic books, Braille books for visually impaired persons and a Creative Industries Incubator, which was established in cooperation with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED). — **ONA**



Ministry of Defence
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Document Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF LITHOTRIPSY MACHINE FOR AFH AL-KHOUDH	24/2022	14/11/2022	21/11/2022	205.5 RO
SUPPLY OF DENTAL EXPENDSIBLE ITEM FOR ARMED FORCES HOSPITAL FOR THREE YEARS	25/2022	28/11/2022	05/12/2022	212.5 RO
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF X-RAY AND ULTRASOUND MACHINES FOR AFH AL-KHOUDH	26/2022	14/11/2022	21/11/2022	62.5 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

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*absolute

Unaudited Statement of Comprehensive Income for 9 months ended 30th September 2022

	30-Sep-22 RO'000	30-Sep-21 RO'000
Income:		
Dividends	1,116	1,105
	1,116	1,105
Expenses:		
Management fees	(656)	(575)
General and administrative	(432)	(341)
	(1,088)	(916)
Net Investment income	28	189
Fair value Gain or (Loss)	1,942	3,579
Realised Gain or (Loss) on sale	2,090	8,306
Net Profit for the period	4,060	12,074
Earnings per unit	0.228	0.713

Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 30th September 2022

	30-Sep-22 RO'000	30-Sep-21 RO'000
Assets		
Investments	46,675	40,701
Debtors and Receivables	35	26
Bank & Cash	338	1,054
Total Assets	47,048	41,781
Liabilities:		
Creditors and accruals	(102)	(81)
	(102)	(81)
Net Assets	46,946	41,700
Composition of net assets:		
Units issued	17,785	16,938
Retained Earnings	29,161	24,762
	46,946	41,700
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	2.640	2.462

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

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Rishi Sunak takes over as UK PM, Truss gives final speech

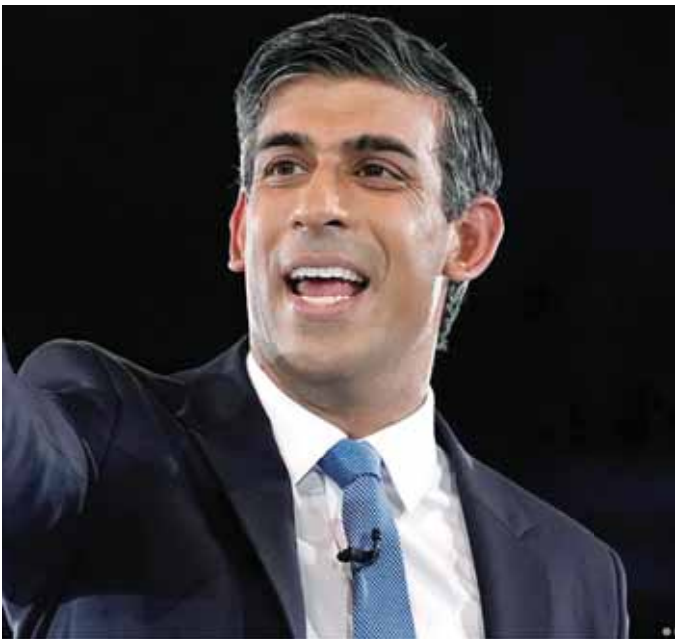
Sunak was appointed as the Prime Minister after an audience with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace

LONDON: Rishi Sunak became Britain's Prime Minister on Tuesday, replacing Liz Truss, who announced her resignation last week.

Sunak was appointed to the position after an audience with King Charles III in Buckingham Palace.

During his speech at No 10 Downing St, Sunak said "mistakes were made" by the previous government and pledged to bring about stability in the face of a "profound economic crisis."

Sunak said that he would put



the public's needs above politics and work to restore trust in Britain's government.

Liz Truss gives final speech

In a final, short speech as prime minister, Truss said that it was a "huge honor" to the lead the UK during the mourning period for Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension of the king.

"We need to take advantage of

our Brexit freedoms to do things differently. This means delivering more freedom for our own citizens and restoring power for our democratic institutions," Truss said. She also mentioned the need to lower taxes to support growth. Her scrapped plan for unfunded tax cuts had sent the UK economy into further turmoil amidst soaring inflation.

"Our country continues to battle through a storm. But I believe in Britain. I believe in the British people. And I know that brighter days lie ahead," Truss said. She wished Sunak "every success."

How did Rishi Sunak rise to power?

Sunak became the leader of the Conservative Party after Penny Mordaunt failed to secure enough nominations from party lawmakers.

In the leadership race that saw Truss come to power, Sunak had been the second in the running for the PM's office.

Sunak is the first person of color and the first Hindu to become British Prime Minister. **ANI**



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GLOBAL DISRUPTION

People relieved as WhatsApp is back

Times News Service

MUSCAT : For nearly two hours, everyone felt he was handicapped in communicating with others. Frantic calls to friends, shutdown and restart of phones and checking Twitter updates – these were the methods used to find out what went wrong as popular messaging service WhatsApp got disrupted across the globe and in Oman as well, on Tuesday.

The outage started in Oman around 11am and was restored gradually by 1pm with users complaining of glitches even after 1pm. It was only later that it normalised fully.

It is said to be the longest-ever outage of the messaging app.

A spokesperson of Meta, which owns WhatsApp, besides Facebook and Instagram, was quoted by a news agency saying: "We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We've fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience."

However, the spokesperson did not elaborate on the reason(s) for the disruption.

During the outage, most reports said the messages were not going through, while others mentioned server disconnection or the app crashing altogether.

Besides Oman, users in India, WhatsApp's biggest market in



terms of user base, also posted on Twitter and other platforms about the WhatsApp being stuck at "connecting". It was down for users across the UK, the BBC reported.

Over 2 billion users rely on WhatsApp for communication and payments.

A meme fest with the hashtag #WhatsAppDown began on Twitter and other platforms. Many users said they first thought their internet service was the problem. It was the first such global outage since last year.

The outage once again exposed the huge reliance of people on this popular messaging service and many had a sense of being "crippled" in interacting or chatting with their friends or sending messages, forcing most of them to use phones to interact.

DRAW IN IRAQ

Oman in tough group in Arabian Gulf Cup

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Two-time champions Oman have been pooled in a tough group at next year's 25th Arabian Gulf Cup after the tournament's draw was held in Basra, Iraq, on Tuesday.

Oman have been pooled in Group A that includes fancied

Saudi Arabia, hosts Iraq and Yemen. Group B comprises Asian Cup champions Qatar, holders Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE.

The eight participating teams will vie for the coveted title from January 6 to 19, 2023.

The Oman delegation at the draw ceremony was represented by Qutaiba al Ghailani,

Oman Football Association (OFA) board member, Maqbool al Balushi, national team manager, Salah al Araiimi from the national teams department and Younis al Ghafri from the media section.

Qatar Football Association (QFA) president and chairman of Arab Gulf Cup Football Fed-

eration (AGCFF) Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani, Iraq's Minister of Youth and Sports Adnan Dirjal, Governor of Basra AsaadAbdulameer Al Eidani, AGCFF secretary-general Jassim Al Rumaihi and other representatives of the participating nations attended the draw ceremony.

PARTNERSHIP SEVERED

Adidas ends ties with Kanye West

BERLIN: German sportswear giant Adidas said on Tuesday that it terminated its partnership with the controversial American rapper Kanye West.

The celebrity — known formally as Ye — recently made a slew of antisemitic remarks, triggering widespread outrage and resulting in his accounts on Twitter and In-

stagram being restricted.

The company said in a statement that it "does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech." **dw**

TENDER NOTICE

The Internal Tender Committee of Port of Duqm Company SAOC., hereby announces the following Tender:

Tender No.	Description	Last Date of receiving Specifications	Date of Bid Submission	Suppliers	Tender Fee OMR (Inclusive of VAT 5%)	Place of Submission
ITC/T/010/2022	Providing Clinic and Health Services for Port of Duqm	06 th Nov 2022	28 th Nov 2022	Only Specialized Companies	110/- Non Refundable	Port of Duqm Company 3rd floor

Taking into consideration the following:

All specialized companies that wish to participate in the tender must deposit the tender amount into the bank account of the Company (details of the bank account is set out hereunder) and submit the original payment receipt of the tender along with a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate and the contact details of the authorized individual (business card) to the address presented below.

From 08:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 (Sunday – Thursday).

Payment Information:

1- Bank Transfer:

Account Name	Port of Duqm Company S.A.O.C
Account Number	0423047518510013
Bank Name	Bank Muscat
Branch	Ghala Corporate Branch
Bank ID Code	BMUSOMRXXX

Complete Tender documents should be submitted in sealed envelope with red wax with tender number and title and addressed to the "Chairman of Internal Tender Committee". The envelope should not make any reference to the bidder details.

All applicants are required to submit the Tender in the Tender box in the main office of Port of Duqm Company at or before 16:00 PM on the assigned date for submission of the Tender. Tenders submitted after the above mentioned date and time shall not be considered.

* The company is not obliged to accept the lowest offer or any other offer without any justifiable reasons.

* The company reserve the right to issue the order either in part or full for the quoted items without any justifiable reasons.

*The company reserve the right to reject the tenders not complying with the tender documentation requirement.

For any clarification, please contact us through tenders@portofduqm.om

Port of Duqm Company S.A.O.C.
PO Box: 2409, PC: 111, Sultanate of Oman,
Almashreq Building, 18 November Street, N. Azaiba
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سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

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

TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MTCT/HQ 150/2022	DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES	25/10/2022	02/11/2022	21/11/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (ALL GRADES)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
MTCT/HQ 151/2022	DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK	25/10/2022	07/11/2022	07/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (FIRST GRADE)	(300/-) THREE HUNDRED OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
MTCT/HQ 149/2022	CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO STUDY OMAN GOVERNMENT NETWORK	25/10/2022	07/11/2022	06/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (FIRST GRADE)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to (Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee). And hard copy of the same should be submitted manually to the Tenders Section, Tenders and Contracts Department (1st Floor), Ministry of Transport Building at Al Khuwair before 11:00 am on submission date.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:
Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE

[@mtcitoman](mailto:etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om)

www.mtcit.gov.om



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WORLD



DIWALI BASH

White House hosts biggest Diwali reception ever

WASHINGTON: White House on Monday hosted the biggest Diwali reception ever on Monday which also saw the presence of several Indian Americans from the Biden administration.

“We are honoured to host you. This is the first Diwali reception of this scale in the White House ever to be held. We have more Asian Americans than ever before in history and we want to thank you for making the Diwali celebration a joyous part of American culture,” US President Joe Biden said during a reception to celebrate Diwali at the White House. Wishing a happy Diwali to more than one billion Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists celebrating this Festival of Lights in the United States, India, and around the world, Biden thanked the Asian American community in the US for making the Diwali celebration a joyous part of American culture.

“As we host the official White House Diwali reception, we are honoured to light the diya surrounded by members of the most diverse Administration in American history—led by Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black American and South Asian American to become Vice President.”

Biden thanked for the optimism, courage, and empathy demonstrated by the incredible South Asian community all across America.

“Together, South Asian Americans reflect the soul of who we are as a nation, whether helping us emerge stronger from this pandemic, building an economy that works for everyone, or serving and protecting our communities and our country.”

As the world celebrates this gathering of light, he said, “as this community has experienced too often—that there is always darkness lurking. American history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we are all created equal and the



harsh reality that we have never fully lived up to it. By marking the victory of light over darkness, Diwali is a reminder that each of us has the power to bring light to the world, whether here in America or around the world.”

“With prayers, dances, fireworks, and sweets, Biden said may all who observe Diwali enjoy the chance to celebrate and connect, to feel the pride of the community, and to remember the power in the gathering of light.”

Moreover, US vice-president Kamala Harris also delivered remarks from the White House on the occasion of Diwali celebrations. She said, “White House is the people’s house and together our president and first lady have made this place where every American can celebrate their honour and tradition.”

Tonight, Vice President Harris said, the Biden administration joins over 1 billion people around the world to light the ‘Diya’ and celebrate the fight for good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and light over darkness.

Moreover, First Lady Jill Biden praised the Asian American community in the US for “helping us light our way forward.”

“With persistence, with faith,

with love, I am grateful that today these diyas have guided you to this home. A home that belongs to all of you,” the first lady said.

Diwali is an auspicious festival that symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. Spectacular lights, firecrackers, irresistible traditional sweets and exchanging gifts mark the festival.

While, the Hindus celebrate this festival to commemorate the homecoming of Lord Rama after 14 year-long years in exile and his victory over Ravana, for the people of Jain faith, this festival carries the essence of spiritual upliftment because it marks the achievement of Nirvana or Moksha by Mahavira, the last Tirthankara.

Diwali is popularly known as the “festival of lights” and is observed incessantly for five days that kicks off in late Ashwin and concludes in the early Kartika month according to the lunisolar Hindu calendar.

Each day of the festival is associated with six different principal stories. In North India, worshipping of Lord Ganesha and Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, is an important part of Diwali that signifies the welcoming of prosperity and wealth. **ANI**



UBAR HOTELS & RESORTS SAOG

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Email: info@goldentulipnizwa.com, Website: www.goldentulipnizwa.com, www.parkinn.com/hotel-muscat

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of UBAR Hotels and Resorts SAOG, it is our pleasure to present the Un-Audited Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the period ended 30 September 2022.

Performance Review

For the period ended till 30 September 2022, the Company has generated consolidated revenue of RO 1,726,169/- which is on a higher side by 11% compared to the last year's revenue of RO 1,550,880/-.

For the same period, the Company has a net loss of RO 849,543/- against a net loss of RO 821,158/- of last year. Due to the current pandemic situation, which commenced in March 2020 and is ongoing, the hospitality industry including our company, like many others, has been impacted in its operations and the Board along with the management team has been constantly reviewing the various steps which needs to be taken to address the difficult conditions in order to minimise the losses and improve the liquidity situation. All efforts have been exerted in order to maintain the company's stability and ensure the continuity of its operation.

After the removal of the travel restrictions by the Government from March 2022 onwards, the leisure segment has shown considerable improvements and the Company was able to achieve slightly higher revenues as compared to the same period of last year. Management is hoping that the Business will start resuming from the coming season starting from October 2022 onwards.

Both the hotels are targeting the corporate segment, local tourism, and leisure segment. They have launched various promotional offers for all the segments to increase the revenue. All efforts have also been put in place to control the costs in every area and to reduce the overall losses.

Omanization,

The Company has been encouraging Omanization by employing Omanis in various departments. All efforts are made to comply throughout the Year to achieve the Omanization level as per the Government's requirement.

Future Perspective

The Board is hopeful that the current pandemic scenario will show signs of improvement in the coming period, and Oman will witness the increased influx of leisure tourists by the end of the year.

It will continue to remain a desired destination among travelers. The Board assures the shareholders that the Company shall strive and continue to achieve better results in the coming months with the proven, hard, and sincere efforts of Management and its staff.

Conclusion,

The Board looks forward to the continued growth of the tourism industry in the Sultanate of Oman. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the Shareholders, have a great pleasure to extend their profound thanks, loyalty, and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tark, God Bless Him, for His Majesty's inspiring leadership and wise policies, especially during these challenging and difficult times when the entire nation is fighting the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very confident that our nation will continue to walk on a path of progress and prosperity under His Majesty's able leadership.

Thanking You.

Chairman/Director

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Parent Company		Group	
	2022 RO	2021 RO	2022 RO	2021 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	1,738,217	1,870,564	9,729,280	10,103,442
Right-of-use asset	101,067	54,348	101,067	54,348
Loan to a subsidiary	1,440,000	1,800,000	-	-
Margin deposit	83,941	-	83,941	-
Deferred Loan Cost	-	38,047	-	38,047
Investment in a subsidiary	4,104,906	4,104,906	-	-
Total non-current assets	7,468,131	7,867,865	9,914,288	10,195,837
Current assets				
Inventories	68,714	74,149	100,031	107,925
Other current assets	25,432	21,065	72,481	63,672
Trade receivables	38,160	67,790	148,040	179,013
Due from related parties	1,691,999	1,550,057	-	-
Other receivables	4,550	4,550	5,550	5,550
Loan to a subsidiary	270,000	-	-	-
Cash and bank balances	8,019	92,890	52,973	113,889
Total current assets	2,106,874	1,810,501	379,075	470,049
Total assets	9,575,005	9,678,366	10,293,363	10,665,886
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
EQUITY				
Share capital	5,001,750	5,001,750	5,001,750	5,001,750
Legal reserve	759,398	759,398	983,531	983,531
Special reserve	508,515	508,515	508,515	508,515
Replacement reserve	-	-	1,039,007	995,390
Retained earnings / (Accumulated losses)	(184,230)	430,000	(1,690,421)	(416,682)
Total equity	6,085,433	6,699,693	5,842,382	7,062,304
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Employees' end of service benefits	200,103	187,798	281,176	269,489
Deferred government grant	72,629	79,297	72,629	79,297
Deferred tax liability	-	80,870	-	80,870
Term loan	1,435,500	1,800,000	1,435,500	1,700,000
Lease liabilities	68,089	54,023	68,089	54,023
Total non-current liabilities	1,776,321	2,201,988	1,857,394	2,183,679
Current liabilities				
Term loan & RSTL	512,624	-	512,624	-
Bank overdraft	301,609	167,274	301,609	167,274
Trade and other payables	341,839	304,850	914,663	685,350
Accrued liabilities	488,965	299,930	796,236	562,409
Lease liabilities	43,192	4,631	43,192	4,631
Income tax payable	25,022	-	25,261	239
Total current liabilities	1,713,251	776,685	2,593,587	1,419,904
Total liabilities	3,489,572	2,978,673	4,450,981	3,603,582
Total equity and liabilities	9,575,005	9,678,366	10,293,363	10,665,886
Net assets per share	0.122	0.134	0.117	0.141

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Parent Company		Group	
	2022 RO	2021 RO	2022 RO	2021 RO
Revenue	771,151	739,725	1,726,169	1,550,880
Operating costs	(1,115,347)	(1,094,784)	(2,454,651)	(2,250,392)
Operating loss	(344,196)	(355,059)	(728,482)	(699,514)
Finance income	79,908	84,452	-	-
Finance cost	(115,376)	(110,010)	(121,796)	(123,941)
Other income	592	2,085	735	2,295
Loss before taxation	(379,072)	(378,532)	(849,543)	(821,158)
Taxation	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive and net loss for the year	(379,072)	(378,532)	(849,543)	(821,158)
Attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	(379,072)	(378,532)	(849,543)	(821,158)
Basic and diluted loss per share attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.017)	(0.016)

الشرقية لتحلية المياه Sharqiyah Desalination		INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022 (UN-AUDITED)			
P.O. Box: 685, Jibroo - 114, Sultanate of Oman. Tel.: +968 24693890, Fax: +968 24693845 http://sharqiyahdesalination.com		Unaudited 30 Sep 2022 RO	Unaudited 30 Sep 2021 RO	Audited 31 Dec. 2021 RO	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022		ASSETS			
Dear Shareholders, On behalf of the Board of Directors of Sharqiyah Desalination Company SAOG (the "Company"), I am pleased to present the unaudited Financial Statements of the Company for the period ended 30th September 2022. Operational Highlights The Sur Independent Water Plant ('the Plant') has increased its production volumes of water with a total water delivery to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company ('OWWSC'), previously known as Public Authority for Water ('PAW') of 31,223,176 m3 compared to 30,663,364 m3 in the same period of previous year (i.e. an increase of almost 1.8%). The average scheduled plant availability for the year reached 98.8%. This consistently high availability is the result of a strict maintenance program followed and implemented by the operation & maintenance team, as well as improved coordination with OWWSC. The Company continues to maintain its excellent reputation as a provider of potable water to the Sharqiyah region. On March 15, 2022, the Plant successfully completed the Annual Performance Test for the contractual year 12 (CY13). The demonstrated water capacity during the test was equal to 5493.225 m3/h (100% of the Guaranteed Water Capacity). The Company has signed an agreement with Total Energies, to start the construction of a 17 megawatt-peak (MWp) solar project to be installed at the Plant which will be the first of its kind to be installed in the Sultanate and one of the largest solar photovoltaic (PV) systems providing power for a desalination plant in the region. Starting from the beginning of 2023, the plant will produce annually over 30,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of green electricity. Which is enough to cover more than 33% of the plant's daily consumption and will avoid some 280 000 tons of CO2 emissions. It also contributes to Oman's National Energy Strategy to convert 30% of its electricity use to renewable sources by 2030. Business Continuity As the COVID-19 threat unfolded in 2021 and well-into 2022, it has created a challenge for the company to overcome. While the global crisis caused a status of emergency, the company continued to find solutions to this new unforeseen obstacle and ensured the safety of its employees as well as the smooth operation of the plant, and subsequently, the continuous supply of desalinated water to the region as it always has. Financial information Revenue has decreased by 0.4% as compared to the same period of previous year (RO 40K). This is mainly due to the decrease in annual contractual water capacity charge rate as per the contract signed back in July 2014. The cost of sales has increased by 2.8% as compared to the same period of previous year (RO 195K) mainly due to higher O&M capacity tariff and higher output. Finance expenses have decreased by 5.3% as compared to the same period of previous year (RO 106K). This is mainly due to the impact of the decrease in outstanding loans payable to lenders. Current period profit before tax represents 8.1 % of the revenue. Current period profit after tax represents 6.9% of the revenue.		Non-current assets			
		Property, plant and equipment			
		Finance lease receivable			
		Right-of-use assets			
		Derivative financial instruments			
		Total non-current assets			
		Current assets			
		Finance lease receivable			
		Trade and other receivables			
		Derivative financial instruments			
		Amount due from related parties			
		Cash and bank balances			
		Total current assets			
		TOTAL ASSETS			
		EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
		Equity			
		Share capital			
		Legal reserve			
		Retained earnings			
		Cumulative changes in fair values			
		Total equity			
		Liabilities			
		Non-current liabilities			
		Derivative financial instruments			
		Long term loan			
		Deferred tax liability			
		Deferred revenue			
		Employees' end of service benefit			
		Lease liabilities			
		Total non-current liabilities			
		Current liabilities			
		Derivative financial instruments			
		Long term loan			
		Deferred revenue			
		Lease liabilities			
		Trade and other payables			
		Amount due to related parties			
		Total current liabilities			
		Total liabilities			
		TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			

Internal Control and Corporate Governance				
The Management of the Company believes in a strong internal control system, overseen by our Internal Auditor in compliance with regulations prescribed by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and The International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF).				
The Company has in place high standards of corporate governance, which are compliant with the Code of Corporate Governance promulgated by the Capital Market Authority.				
Acknowledgements As Chairman of the Board, I would like to thank our shareholders, not only for their confidence, but also for their continued support and for the expertise they bring to the Company.				
The Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to OPWP, OWWSC, the Authority for Public Services Regulation, Muscat Clearing and Depository, the Capital Market Authority and the Government of Oman for their tremendous support in regulating and developing the water sector, and for their assistance, which comforts the smooth functioning of our operations.				
Finally, we would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour for his wise leadership; we pray to Almighty to shower him with blessings, keep him in good health and give him a long life.				
Thank you and kind regards, Sebastien Chauvin Chairman				
INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 (UN-AUDITED)				
	Unaudited 3 month ended 30 Sep 2022 RO	Unaudited 3 month ended 30 Sep 2021 RO	Unaudited 9 month ended 30 Sep 2022 RO	Unaudited 9 month ended 30 Sep 2021 RO
Revenue	3,601,306	3,622,551	10,402,396	10,441,841
Cost of sales	(2,496,628)	(2,491,823)	(7,126,857)	(6,929,669)
GROSS PROFIT	1,104,678	1,130,728	3,275,539	3,512,172
Administrative and general expenses	(149,233)	(170,578)	(525,870)	(519,792)
Finance expenses- net	(646,219)	(666,524)	(1,906,915)	(2,013,314)
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	309,226	293,626	842,754	979,066
Taxation	(48,176)	(43,995)	(126,351)	(147,139)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	261,050	249,631	716,403	831,927
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
<i>Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>				
Fair value adjustment on derivatives	593,253	144,733	4,405,301	2





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STOINIS, MAXWELL DAZZLE IN PERTH

Disciplined bowling by the Aussies kept Sri Lanka quiet for the major part of their innings but Asalanka and Karunaratne helped Sri Lanka reach 157/6

PERTH, AUSTRALIA: Marcus Stoinis played an outstanding knock of an unbeaten 59 from 18 deliveries to help Australia chase down 158 in their Super 12 encounter of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup against Sri Lanka in Perth on Tuesday.

Disciplined bowling by the Aussies kept Sri Lanka quiet for the

major part of their innings but Charith Asalanka and Chamika Karunaratne added 37 runs from the last 15 deliveries to help Sri Lanka to reach 157/6.

Asalanka remained unbeaten on 38 from 25 deliveries while Karunaratne scored a useful 14 from seven deliveries after walking in to bat at number eight.

Pathum Nissanka (40) and Dhananjaya de Silva also got off to good starts but they couldn't accelerate, ending their innings at underwhelming strike-rates of 88.89 and 113.04 respectively.

The bowlers stepped up after Asalanka and Karunaratne gave Sri Lanka a defendable total. They kept the Australian batters absolutely leashed as the hosts struggled to score quick runs.

The spinners bowled brilliantly in the initial overs and Maheesh Theekshana also gave Sri Lanka their first breakthrough as he dismissed David Warner for just 11 runs.

Australia didn't lose a heap of wickets after that but skipper Aaron Finch and Mitchell Marsh

Sri Lanka vs Australia		Scoreboard
SR LANKA		M Stoinis 2-0-17-0, M Marsh 1-0-14-0, G Maxwell 1-0-5-1
P Nissanka run out	40	AUSTRALIA
K Mendis c Marsh b Cummins	5	D Warner c Shanaka b Theekshana 11
D de Silva c Warner b Agar	26	A Finch not out 31
C Asalanka not out	38	M Marsh c Rajapaksa b D de Silva 18
B Rajapaksa c Cummins b Starc	7	G Maxwell c sub (K Bandara) b Karunaratne 23
D Shanaka c Wade b Maxwell	3	M Stoinis not out 59
W Hasaranga c Wade b Hazlewood	1	Extras: (b 4, lb 2, w 10) 16
C Karunaratne not out	14	TOTAL: 158/3 in 16.3 overs (RR: 9.57)
Extras: (b 6, lb 5, w 12) 23		Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-60, 3-89
TOTAL: 157/6 in 20 overs (RR: 7.85)		Bowling: B Fernando 0.5-0-5-0, D de Silva 2.1-0-18-1, L Kumara 3.3-0-22-0, C Karunaratne 3-0-21-1, M Theekshana 3-0-23-1, W Hasaranga 3-0-53-0, D Shanaka 1-0-10-0
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-75, 3-97, 4-106, 5-111, 6-120		
Bowling: J Hazlewood 4-0-26-1, P Cummins 4-0-36-1, M Starc 4-0-23-1, A Agar 4-0-25-1,		

found it very difficult to read the Lankan bowlers.

It looked like the game was heading towards a close finish but Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis took the Sri Lankan spinners apart. It was Maxwell who started the carnage with a 12-ball 23 and Stoinis followed it with

massive fireworks as he made his way to an unbeaten 59 from just 18 deliveries, an innings consisting of four fours and six huge sixes.

Their assault helped Australia in chasing down the target with seven wickets and 21 deliveries to spare, giving them a huge boost in their NRR. -icc



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ICC T20 WORLD CUP

Simmons quits as West Indies coach



HOBART, AUSTRALIA: The exit of West Indies from the first round of the ongoing T20 World Cup has led to the resignation of the coach Phil Simmons.

Simmons described the exit from T20 World Cup in Australia, as "unfathomable".

West Indies were eliminated after finishing bottom of their group in Hobart, beating Zimbabwe in their second game but losing to Scotland and Ireland either side.

"I acknowledge that it's not just the team that is hurting but the proud nations we represent as well," Simmons said in a statement released by Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Monday night. "It's disappointing and heart-wrenching but we just didn't turn up."

"We weren't good enough and we now have to watch a tournament play-out without our involvement. It's unfathomable and for that I deeply apologise to our fans and followers."

Simmons' second spell in the job started in October 2019, after an initial 18-month tenure in which he helped steer West Indies to the 2016 T20 World Cup, uniting a squad of big personalities and encouraging a pioneer-

ing batting approach focused on six-hitting.

The Test team's results have gradually improved during that time, with series wins over England and Bangladesh earlier this year. But T20Is have been a different story and they have suffered early exits at the last two World Cups, losing four games out of five in 2021 and two out of three in Australia last week.

Simmons will remain in charge for the upcoming two-Test series against Australia, which starts on November 30 at Optus Stadium in Perth. Simmons added that he had been considering his position before the tournament. "From a personal perspective this is not a knee-jerk reaction, but a move I have been considering for some time, he said.

"Now is the time to make public that I will step down as West Indies head coach at the end of the Test series against Australia.

"It is earlier than hoped for, but I will now focus my energies in Australia on continuing to build on the excellent progress the Test team has made. Of course, as the president has pointed out, we will also carry out the necessary review into our World Cup campaign.

- With inputs from agencies

Quote of the Day



TRENT BOULT, NEW ZEALAND PACER

"I've only played a handful of games really at the MCG, but yeah, an amazing stadium. Obviously to get out there and be on the World Cup stage [vs Afghanistan on Wednesday] is going to be pretty special as well."

Points table

GROUP 1							
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS	NRR
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	0	+4.450	2
England	1	1	0	0	0	+0.620	2
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	0	+0.450	2
Australia	2	1	1	0	0	-1.555	2
Afghanistan	1	0	1	0	0	-0.620	0
Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	-2.467	0
GROUP 2							
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS	NRR
Bangladesh	1	1	0	0	0	+0.450	2
India	1	1	0	0	0	+0.050	2
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	+0.000	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	0	1	0	+0.000	1
Pakistan	1	0	1	0	0	-0.050	0
Netherlands	1	0	1	0	0	-0.450	0

Today's matches



08:00am
England vs Ireland



12:00pm
Afghanistan vs New Zealand

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$89.98, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.36 from the price of Monday, which was \$88.62. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,410.38 points, up by 0.84 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.25 per cent at 471.00 points. Renaissance Services, up 8.84 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 7.06 per cent, was the top loser.

Agreement signed to build first top-loading station in Duqm

Expected to be operational in Q1 2023, the station will offer its services from the Duqm light industrial area according to the latest safety and security standards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to expand its fuelling service offerings for local and regional customers, Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) has signed an agreement with Taif Altmayz for

General Trading to build the first top-loading station in Duqm.

The new station will also feature a strategic distribution centre for OOMCO's lubricants and the first OOMCO Maximo and Optimo Swift Centre for car and truck care. The agreement was signed by



Tarik Mohammed Al Junaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Oil Marketing Company, and Imad Salim Al-Bahri, Chief Executive Officer of Taif Altmayz for General Trading, at OOMCO's head office. Expected to be operational in Q1

2023, the station will offer its services from the Duqm light industrial area according to the latest safety and security standards and stringent regulations and specifications. Part of the company's long-term strategy to transform

Oman's fuel industry, the contract complements its existing operations at the strategically significant Duqm industrial areas, free zone and Port of Duqm, where it launched its bunker fuel terminal in late 2021 to serve the international shipping market.

"Bringing the first specialised top-loading diesel fuel tanker station to Duqm will maximise bulk fuel supply to our customers in Oman and the region who are looking for a convenient, reliable, and efficient fuel supply for their operations. In addition, we always pride ourselves on having a deep understanding of the importance of adhering to the laws and requirements related to the safe storage and handling of bulk fuel alongside its economic and environmental impact on us and our

customers' operations," said Tarik Mohammed Al Junaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Oil Marketing Company.

He added, "We value our partnership with Taif Altmayz for General Trading and look forward to seeing this project go online as planned early next year."

"The new top-loading station in Duqm will provide a consistent supply of diesel stock, which promises to stimulate industrial and economic development projects," said Imad Salim Khalfan Al-Bahri, Chief Executive Officer of Taif Altmayz for General Trading. "This partnership with OOMCO aligns with our strategy of contributing to a resilient energy sector in Oman and we look forward to further nurturing this collaboration in the upcoming period."

SHARE OF PRODUCTION

Tethys third quarter oil production in Oman reaches 900,491 barrels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of production from Blocks 3&4 during the third quarter (Q3) 2022, before government take, amounted to 900,491 barrels of oil, corresponding to 9,788 barrels of oil per day.

The net entitlement, Tethys Oil's share of production after government take, amounted to 378,742 barrels of oil, corresponding to 42 per cent of the total production, the company said in a statement on Tuesday. A total of 420,474 barrels of oil were sold in the quarter with an achieved oil price of \$107.2 per barrel.

Net entitlement is the share of production available for sale by Tethys Oil and is calculated monthly in accordance with the terms of the Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement for



Blocks 3&4. The net entitlement will vary depending upon the level of production, oil price and recoverable costs incurred during the period. For further explanation of the calculation of net entitlement,

see Tethys Oil's annual report for 2021.

The oil sales of 420,474 barrels in the third quarter 2022 reflects the July, August and September lifting nominations as well as the

June nomination which was lifted in early July. Consequently, the third quarter 2022 achieved oil price reflects the Official Selling Price of June, July, August and September 2022.

Tethys Oil's interim report for the third quarter 2022 will be published on November 8, the company statement further said.

Tethys Oil is an oil exploration and production company with focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58.

Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P reserves of 26.2 million barrels of oil (mmb) and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 15.6 mmb and had an average oil production of 11,136 barrels per day during 2021.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA organises workshop on customer care skills

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To improve the quality of customer service and the art of dealing with customers, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) held a workshop titled 'Customer Care and Skills of Dealing with the Public', targeting customer service employees in insurance companies in cooperation with Abdel Nasser Al Saigh Management Consulting Firm.

The workshop was held within the framework of the CMA's continuous endeavour to facilitate communication between the public and insurance companies, which in turn creates a constructive environment and ensures the improvement of insurance services for policyholders.

The workshop acquainted the participants with the skills of dealing with the public, customer care and understanding their behaviour

in accordance with quality and excellence system with the required efficiency and effectiveness.

During the workshop, the participants learned about the difference between the customer service system and the customer care system, in addition to the standards and indicators for improving the quality of services, and the skills of perceiving, understanding and managing the psychological, behavioural and organisational aspects of customer service, in addition to identifying thinking patterns of the customers and ways to deal with them. The workshop also touched on the most common errors in dealing with the public and customer service.

CMA has paid special attention to developing channels of communication with the public, in addition to creating special sections for serving insurance policyholders.

EXPO

Hundreds of construction and infrastructure experts gather at Project Oman 2022



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Gathering hundreds of local and international construction & infrastructure experts under one roof, the International Construction Technology, Infrastructure, and Building Materials Exhibition, Project Oman 2022 going strong on its second day.

Exhibitors from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Lebanon and Austria are show-

casing a broad range of products, equipment, and innovations at Project Oman. Companies like Raysut Cement, the event's platinum sponsor are showcasing their latest products and technologies in the construction sector.

Organised by IFP Group and Al Nimr International Exhibition Organizers, Project Oman is being held from October 24 to 26 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre and is open daily to

trade visitors from 11am to 7pm.

With a mission to accelerate innovation and highlight current and future trends in the construction and infrastructure sectors, Project Oman is hosting specialised workshops, held by experts who will discuss the latest developments and technologies in these sectors.

For more information about the exhibition and workshops, visit www.project-oman.com

 شركة بركاء لتحلية المياه Barka Desalination Company		Tel: +968 22350653 , 25350662, Fax: +968 24568131 Address: P.O. Box 252, P.C. 103, Bareeq Al Shatti, Sultanate of Oman	
Board of Directors' Report		Unaudited statement of financial position as at 30 September 2022	
Dear Shareholders,			(Audited) 30 Sep 2022 31 Dec. 2021 RO'000 RO'000
On behalf of the Board of Directors ("the Board") of Barka Desalination Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure to present the unaudited financial statements for the nine months period ended 30 September 2022.			
Operational Highlights		ASSETS	
The activity of the Company is to develop, finance, design, construct, own, operate and maintain a reverse osmosis desalination plant at Barka in the Sultanate of Oman with a capacity of 281,000 m3 per day.		Non-current assets	
The Company commenced commercial operation on 13 June 2018. Since then, the Company has been supplying potable water to Oman Power and Water Procurement Company in accordance with the Water Purchase Agreement. The Company has supplied 62,044,712 m3 of water during nine months period ended 30 September 2022.		Property, plant and equipment	98,059 100,485
The average scheduled plant availability for the period was over 99%, result of a strict asset management program implemented by the Operator. The Company continues to uphold its reputation as the largest provider of potable water in the Sultanate.		Right-of-use assets	567 588
On March 9th and 10th, 2022, the Plant successfully completed the Annual Performance Test for the contractual year 5 (CY5).		Interest rate swap used for hedging	6,072 -
Financial Highlights		Total non-current assets	104,698 101,073
Revenue has increased by 3.0% (by RO 450K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to higher Operating and maintenance charge as well as higher Water output charge and higher Electricity charge.		Current assets	
The cost of sales has increased by 6% (by RO 586K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to higher Capacity payment to operator pursuant to O&M contract.		Trade and other receivables	2,078 2,934
The administrative and general expenses have increased by 19% (by RO 52K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to additional expenses applicable to the Company incurred being a listed public company.		Cash and cash equivalents	1,269 2,180
Finance expenses have decreased by 28% (by RO 925K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to the impact of the decrease in outstanding loans payable to lenders and shareholders along with hedge arrangement.		Total current assets	3,347 5,114
Current year profit before tax has increased by 88% (by RO 731K) as compared to the same period in the previous year, due to the above reasons.		Total assets	108,045 106,187
Current period profit before tax represents 11% of the revenue.		EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	
Current period profit after tax represents 7% of the revenue.		Capital and reserves	
Based on the financial results, the shareholders to the AGM approved authorizing the Board of Directors' to determine and distribute cash dividends to the Company's Shareholders in April 2022 and October 2022 out of the retained earnings as per the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2021, provided that the aggregate amount shall not exceed 12 Baizas per share.		Share capital	7,552 7,552
Outlook for 2022		Legal reserve	386 282
The Company is taking endeavor to ensure that it continues to take reasonable and prudent measures to improve its performance for FY2022, by improving the Plant's reliability and availability, without compromising on HSE matters.		Retained earnings	4,660 4,149
Acknowledgement		Hedging reserve	5,079 (1,003)
I would like to extend my personal thanks to all personnel associated with the operation of the plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as well as to those others such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.		Shareholder loan reserve	543 571
Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said and His Government for their continued support and encouragement to the private sector by creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy and to dedicate our achievements to the building of a strong nation.		Total equity	18,220 11,551
On behalf of the Board of Directors		Non-current liabilities	
Murtadha Ahmed Sultan Chairman of the Board		Long term loan	73,312 77,020
		Shareholders' loan	4,748 4,960
		Interest rate swap used for hedging	- 1,129
		Lease liabilities	556 569
		Provision for end of service benefits	23 18
		Provision for decommissioning obligation	1,388 1,323
		Deferred tax liability	4,155 2,560
		Total non-current liabilities	84,182 87,579
		Current liabilities	
		Current portion of long-term loan	3,670 3,572
		Current portion of Shareholders' loan	556 768
		Current portion of lease liabilities	52 52
		Current portion of interest rate swap used for hedging	- 56
		Trade and other payables	1,365 2,609
		Total current liabilities	5,643 7,057
		Total liabilities	89,825 94,636
		Total equity and liabilities	108,045 106,187
		Unaudited statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the nine months period ended 30 September 2022	
		30 Sep 2022 RO'000	30 Sep 2021 RO'000
		Revenue	14,436 13,986
		Operating costs	(10,260) (9,674)
		Gross profit	4,176 4,312
		General and administrative expenses	(333) (281)
		Other income	39 45
		Profit from operations	3,882 4,076
		Finance costs	(2,321) (3,246)
		Profit before tax	1,561 830
		Income tax expense	(521) 5
		Profit for the period	1,040 835
		Other comprehensive income	
		Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:	
		Change in fair value of cash flow hedge	6,082 2,582
		Total comprehensive profit for the period	7,122 3,417
		Basic and diluted earnings per share	
		Basic earnings per share (Baizas)	13.77 13.62



MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Renaissance Services, up 8.84 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 7.06 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,410.38 points, up by 0.84 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.25 per cent at 471.00 points. Renaissance Services, up 8.84 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 7.06 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 132 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.31 million, with more than 2.97 million shares changing hands. Out of 22 traded securities, 10 advanced, 7 declined, and 5 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR10,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR9,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR1,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,029.39 points, up 0.34 per cent.

Prices of Bank Muscat, and Bank Nizwa were up by 2.47 per cent and 2.13 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment and United Finance were down by 4.52 per cent and 4.48 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,960.85 points, down 0.28 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 4.52 per cent, and 0.92 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Ray-sut Cement, Gulf International Chemicals and Oman Cement were down by 3.15 per cent, 1.41 per cent, 1.11 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.35 per cent before closing at 1,558.96 points. Prices of Renaissance Services, SMN Power Holding, Al Batinah Power, Oman Oil Marketing, and Ooredoo were up by 8.84 per cent, 6.67 per cent, 5.71 per cent, 2.22 per cent and 2.01 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination shares were down by 0.90 per cent. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,431.00	4,373.86	4,373.86	4,417.50	-43.64	-0.99	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,060.12	7,005.68	7,005.68	7,044.42	-38.75	-0.55	
Industry Index	6,028.55	5,977.86	5,977.86	6,038.02	-60.16	-1.00	
Services Index	1,559.50	1,538.24	1,538.24	1,556.64	-18.41	-1.18	
MSX Shariah Index	475.84	469.83	469.83	475.84	-6.01	-1.26	
MSX TR INDEX	5,588.53	5,516.45	5,516.45	5,571.50	-55.04	-0.99	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,387.63	7,330.66	7,330.66	7,371.20	-40.55	-0.55	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,619.39	1,597.31	1,597.31	1,616.43	-19.12	-1.18	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,256.62	6,204.01	6,204.01	6,266.45	-62.44	-1.00	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,322,362	2,798,069	418	23,032,123,975	6	24	10	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 25

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFR	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM00000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	747	670	2	0.884	0.900	0.884	0.900	0.884	0.016	1.810	0.900	0.000	0.892	0.100	62,100,000
OM00000001533	OMINVEST	61,160	20,193	8	0.330	0.332	0.330	0.332	0.330	0.002	0.606	0.332	0.330	0.332	0.100	221,897,321
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	17,050	4,433	4	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.259	0.001	0.386	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	422,746,058
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	275	37	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.132	0.135	0.100	263,203,758
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,260,474	729,842	118	0.574	0.584	0.566	0.566	0.566	0.000	0.000	0.566	0.566	0.510	0.100	2,124,310,369
OM00000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	286,800	27,227	10	0.096	0.096	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	431,465,855
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	803,330	684,541	24	0.860	0.860	0.852	0.852	0.864	-0.012	-1.389	0.852	0.852	0.780	0.100	639,000,000
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	56,994	20,238	4	0.356	0.356	0.354	0.354	0.360	-0.006	-1.667	0.354	0.354	0.356	0.100	77,880,000
OM00000001525	OMAN INVS&FIN	997,597	49,508	20	0.125	0.125	0.124	0.124	0.127	-0.003	-2.362	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.100	29,388,000
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	79,693	22,545	1	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.290	-0.007	-2.414	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.100	93,636,977
OM00000003968	OOREDOO	319,815	129,417	5	0.400	0.406	0.398	0.398	0.408	-0.010	-2.451	0.398	0.398	0.368	0.100	259,075,804
OM00000002440	AL SHARGIA INV.	9,500	665	6	0.068	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	6,300,000
OM00000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	154,819	14,526	7	0.095	0.095	0.092	0.092	0.096	-0.004	-4.167	0.092	0.092	0.094	0.100	23,796,886
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	172,176	75,954	9	0.440	0.446	0.430	0.430	0.450	-0.020	-4.444	0.430	0.430	0.406	0.100	101,656,300
Total	14	3,620,503	1,779,795	219												
Parallel Market																
OM00000002036	Muscat Thread MILL	100	6	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.054	0.004	7.407	0.058	0.050	0.058	0.100	932,214
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	303	43	1	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.141	0.002	1.418	0.143	0.133	0.143	0.100	10,799,646
OM00000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	10,000	1,460	1	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.690	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.100	13,140,000
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	600	96	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.106	0.110	0.100	9,350,000
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	591,711	45,222	18	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.073	0.100	15,400,000
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	20	16	1	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.000	0.000	0.820	0.820	0.864	0.100	77,900,000
OM00000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	351,500	10,545	26	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.100	5,989,068
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	69,500	2,989	3	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.100	10,750,000
OM00000005685	PHOENIX POWER	500	22	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.000	0.044	0.100	64,354,464
OM00000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,360	118	2	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.080	0.087	0.100	15,225,000
OM00000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	6,200	1,428	2	0.232	0.232	0.230	0.230	0.233	-0.003	-1.288	0.230	0.221	0.230	0.100	9,569,212
OM00000003139	ALUMINIUM PHOD	10,000	761	2	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.289	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	2,551,430
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,205,555	743,981	5	0.142	0.143	0.141	0.141	0.143	-0.002	-1.399	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.100	422,485,552
OM00000002274	UNITED FINANCE	354,054	22,352	20	0.062	0.067	0.062	0.067	0.068	-0.001	-1.471	0.067	0.062	0.067	0.100	23,392,576
OM00000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	81,500	4,721	5	0.060	0.060	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	54,410,601
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,230,350	117,550	52	0.094	0.096	0.094	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2.083	0.094	0.094	0.087	0.100	210,273,585
OM00000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	110,391	9,477	6	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.085	0.087	-0.002	-2.299	0.085	0.085	0.095	0.100	6,919,234
OM00000002784	RAYSUT CEMENT	50,059	7,108	10	0.145	0.145	0.141	0.142	0.147	-0.005	-3.401	0.142	0.140	0.142	0.100	28,400,000
OM00000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,900	1,800	2	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.940	0.040	4.259	0.900	0.900	0.920	0.100	53,147,500
OM00000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	71,894	8,699	6	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.127	-0.006	-4.724	0.121	0.118	0.123	0.100	201,998,610
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	63,800	2,233	4	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.037	-0.002	-5.405	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.100	23,621,060
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	289,350	14,026	9	0.053	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.055	-0.003	-5.455	0.052	0.052	0.054	0.100	15,971,609
OM00000001068	OMAN PACKAGING	6,000	1,491	2	0.240	0.291	0.240	0.240	0.285	-0.025	-9.434	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.100	7,784,006
OM00000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	211,312	19,139	17	0.095	0.095	0.090	0.090	0.100	-0.010	-10.000	0.090	0.090	0.094	0.100	15,387,056
Total	24	8,698,059	1,015,254	197												

OFSEC exhibition on fire, safety and security begins



MUSCAT: OFSEC 2022 - Oman's only and most comprehensive exhibition on fire, safety and security was inaugurated by His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Kais Al Said yesterday. The exhibition is held from 10am – 6pm at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, Muscat and will end today.

OFSEC in its 6th edition is bringing together over 70+ exhibitors from over 10 countries who will showcase their avant-garde solutions, latest technologies, cutting-edge innovations, cost-

effective products and services to meet the requirements of governments, businesses, industrial and commercial entities, aviation, construction, infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing, oil and gas and utility sectors.

OFSEC is designed to meet the needs of the local, regional and international markets by linking practitioners, suppliers, distributors and manufacturers from the fire, safety and security industry, with key decision-makers from the government and private sec-



tors making it a definitive networking platform, where new projects and partnerships are initiated and visionary objectives are implemented. This event also aims to create synergy and strengthen the collaboration between the authorities and the industries.

The event will lay the foundation and be the gateway to the current and future market trends in the fire, safety and security sectors, for the industry professionals to communicate, share ideas, identify solutions, operate effectively and

efficiently and stay abreast with the latest global trends. OFSEC will confluence and strengthen local and international business engagement and encourage investment.

The OFSEC summit will feature an expansive line-up of 30+ stellar speakers, case studies, panel discussions, and unique presentations providing access to a wealth of industry-leading knowledge, sharing best practices and experiences, spotlighting trends, information exchange, insights and outlooks with actionable takeaways.



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Offer valid from 1st October to 31st December 2022. Raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Azaba with a total of 3 raffle draws. Dates: 3rd November, 5th December 2022 and 4th January 2023. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Promotion at Lulu, Nesto, Carrefour, Makkah Hypermarkets & The Sultan Center.

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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Tejarah Talks to explore ‘Gen Z and creative industries’

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) will hold its sixth session of Tejarah Talks on November 2 at 7:30pm. Entitled ‘Gen Z and the Creative Industries’, the event will be held at the Omantel headquarters in Airports Heights.

Organised in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth, Oman Business Forum and generously supported by HSBC, Sohar Port & Freezone, Omantel and Oman FM, the Tejarah Talks panel line-up includes His Highness Sayyid Dr Adham Al Said, Founder & CEO, The Firm (Moderator); Dr Mona Ismail, Dean, Scientific College of Design; Dr Abdul Azeez Al Ghareebi, Assistant Professor, University of Technology & Applied Sciences; Samah Al Ansari, Founder, Studio Sein; and Maryam Al Kharbooshi, Director, Cultural Identity Department, Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth.

Highlighting the part Gen Z and the creative industries already play in Oman's diversifying and ambitious economy and their potential to make a significant contribution to the goals of Oman Vision 2040, MoCIIP's OBF & PPP Director, Maymuna Al Adawi commented: “It's often said art feeds the soul, but culture and the arts also fuel the economy. The creative industries - architecture, advertising, broadcasting, film, fashion, pub-



lishing, software, the performing arts and arts-related retail - play a key role in enhancing a country's profile and international reputation and its attractiveness to new business, residents, visitors and foreign investment.”

She continued: “According to Unesco, the creative industries generate over \$2 trillion a year, 3% of global GDP. They employ in excess of 30 million people - 1% of the planet's active population. And incredible as it might seem, the sector's revenues exceed those of telecom services and employ more people than the car industry of Europe, Japan and the US combined - 30 million jobs versus 25 million.”

The MoCIIP director went on to point out that successful countries depend on a critical mass of creative professionals in areas such as the arts, IT and education, noting: “In fact, there's a growing

body of evidence that suggests thoughtful investment in the creative industries generate significant economic benefits. The argument runs that if a country is vibrant culturally, then this will serve as a magnet to attract business, talent and investment. I am sure this is something that will be covered during the Tejarah Talks discussions and deliberations along with a variety of other relevant issues.”

With a firm focus on Oman's current and future business, export and investment environment, Tejarah Talks is a series of informal, interactive evening discussions that brings together some of Oman's most inspirational and innovative thinkers to share their stories, insights and ideas with an enthusiastic crowd. It is a platform for positive interaction.

Tejarah Talks is free-of-charge and open to everyone.

STATISTICS

Saudi's non-oil merchandise exports increase by 16.6% in August

RIYADH: The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) issued on its official website the International Trade Publication of Saudi Arabia for August 2022.

The value of merchandise exports in Saudi Arabia during August 2022 reached 134 billion riyals, compared to 90 billion riyals in August 2021, with an increase of 44 billion riyals, a percentage of 49.1 per cent, according to the data contained in this publication.

The value of oil exports during August 2022 reached 107 billion riyals, compared to 67 billion riyals during August 2021, with an increase of 40 billion riyals, a percentage of 60.2 per cent.

The value of non-oil exports (including re-exports) during August 2022 reached 27 billion riyals, compared to 23 billion riyals during August 2021, with an increase of 4 billion riyals, a percentage of 16.6 per cent, the publication results noted.

The value of merchandise imports in Saudi Arabia during August 2022 reached 61 billion riyals, compared to 51 billion riyals during August 2021, with an increase of 10 billion riyals, a percentage of 20.0 per cent.

GASTAT is the only official statistical reference for statistical data and information in Saudi Arabia. -SPA



LIFESTYLE

LEARNING HOW TO LEARN CAN SLOW DOWN RATE OF FORGETFULNESS

Iowa State Psychology Professor Shana Carpenter has said that combining two strategies - spacing and retrieval practice - is key to success when trying to ace a test or pick up a new hobby.

Carpenter is the lead author of a paper in Nature Reviews Psychology that examined more than 100 years of research on learning. “The benefits of spacing and retrieval practice have been confirmed over and over in studies in labs, classrooms, workplaces, but the reason why we’re showcasing this research is that these two techniques haven’t fully caught on. If they were utilized all the time, we’d see drastic increases in learning,” said Carpenter.

In the paper, Carpenter and her co-authors describe spacing as a strategy to learn in small doses over time. It’s the opposite of cramming the night before an exam. In one study, medical students who received repeated surgery training over three weeks performed better and faster on tests 2 weeks and 1 year later compared to medical students who had the same training all in one day.

Carpenter says there isn’t a universal rule about how much time to schedule between practice sessions. But research shows returning to the material after forgetting some - but not all - of the content is effective.

Retrieval practice is a strategy that involves recalling what was learned previously. It can take many forms, including flash cards, practice tests and open-ended writing prompts, and helps learners recognize what they do and don’t know. The paper’s authors emphasize that people who check their responses for errors or get feedback right away learn even better.

More than 200 studies show people generally retain more information for longer periods of time with retrieval practice compared to strategies that do not involve retrieval (e.g., re-reading a textbook.)

The authors argue people who combine spacing and retrieval practice have the best chance of remembering information.

bering information.

“Forgetting is a very natural thing; you can’t stop forgetting even if you try, but you can slow down forgetting by using retrieval practice and spacing,” said Carpenter.

HIGHLIGHTERS AND ILLUSIONS OF LEARNING

Students studying at Iowa State University. Christopher Gannon/Iowa State University Carpenter says false beliefs about learning are part of the reason retrieval practice and spacing aren’t used more widely.

“Probably the number one misconception is that learning has to feel easy in order to be working, and that’s just not true at all. You’ll learn more durably and more effectively if you persist and get through those challenges than if it had felt easy the whole time,” said Carpenter.

Simply highlighting or re-reading a textbook feels easier than writing responses to practice essay questions. But without the knowledge check that comes with trying to retrieve learned information, there’s a greater risk of being lulled into what the authors call an “illusion of learning.”

Carpenter acknowledges many people do not like making mistakes or realizing they don’t understand the material as well as they thought. It may dredge up insecurities, a fear of failing or some other emotion they want to avoid. But there’s a good chance they’ll eventually have to confront what they don’t know when the stakes are higher, like during an exam or presentation at work.

BRINGING IT INTO THE CLASSROOM

Carpenter says she uses digital tools (e.g., online practice quizzes, and clicker questions) to incorporate retrieval practice and spacing into her university courses, but there are other ways to bring these strategies into the classroom.

She gives the example of an elementary school math teacher whose techniques were highlighted at a recent conference. A few days after a lesson on fractions, the teacher asked her students to share whatever they could remember about fractions. It was an open-ended and communal activity.

“The more they talked, the more they started to remember, and those kids were excited to talk about fractions,” said Carpenter.

She shares another story of a middle school teacher who routinely projects practice questions from previous lessons on a screen. The students jot down responses on note cards and then check their answers on their own or discuss them as a group.

Carpenter emphasizes the teachers in both examples did not grade the activities. Rather, they provided low-and no-stakes practice opportunities to help students learn and recognize mistakes as an important part of that process, which benefits students beyond the classroom.

“Learning how to learn is going to ensure that anywhere you go after the formal education years, you’re going to know how to learn something and be successful,” she said. -ANI

Oman to organise Football Fan Festival

The festival allows visitors to enjoy watching all the matches live, in addition to many accompanying events



MUSCAT: Bringing the spirit and celebration of the World Cup to the country, the Oman World Cup Programme announced the details of the Football Fan Festival, which will be hosted for the duration of the entire tournament.

The Festival is set to bring fans and their families closer to the World Cup in Qatar with a variety of exciting activities, competitions, food stalls and more for everyone to enjoy.

Every World Cup match will also be broadcast live at the Festival, which will take place at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) Gardens between 20 November and 18 December 2022.

Speaking on the upcoming Festival, Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Tourism and Head of the Steering Committee overseeing the Oman World Cup Programme, said, "The World Cup is one of the most significant sporting events to be held in the region in recent years. The 'Oman World Cup Programme,' aims to leverage our position as a satellite city to support Qatar's World Cup efforts and attract fans looking for the ideal base to stay in and explore while attending the tournament. With the Football Fan Festival as the main attraction of the programme, we intend to bring the excitement and atmosphere of the World Cup to local and visiting fans while also showcasing

all Oman has to offer – its unique history, heritage, beauty and renowned hospitality."

The CEO of OMRAN Group, Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, said, "From the outset, our aim has been to make this a family-oriented, memorable festival that brings fans closer to the action while providing them and their families with fun, exciting, and innovative ways to connect and engage through football. With all matches broadcasted live against the stunning backdrop that is our state-of-the-art convention centre, the Football Fan Festival will provide the best possible way for football enthusiasts to experience the World Cup with other fans and family."

An area of more than 9,000 square metres at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre Gardens will be dedicated to the Football Fan Festival, which will feature a specially constructed fan village catering to all ages, whether they are football fans or not. All World Cup matches will be broadcasted live throughout the Festival, with visitors also able to enjoy a wide range of interactive games, innovative technologies, football competitions, live performances, and food and drink outlets offering both local favourites and international cuisine. SMEs from over 60 different categories are currently involved



in bringing this ground-breaking project to life.

The Football Fan Festival has appointed Oman's football icon Ali Al Habsi as the official brand ambassador alongside favourite sports personalities Khalil Al Balushi, Fatma Al Nabhani and Mohammed Al Noufali. They will all join the Festival's promotional activities and on-site activations.

Oman has taken several steps to welcome overseas World Cup 2022 travellers. To facilitate easy access to Oman and frequent travel to Doha to attend the World Cup matches, all Hayya Card holders and their immediate family members will be eligible for a free 60-day multi-entry visa.

Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, will operate dedicated daily flights between Muscat and Doha from 20 November to 03 December to facilitate travel for World Cup

fans. The one-hour flights can be booked easily and come with a fast-track airport service for a seamless World Cup journey, offering a touch of Omani hospitality. With exciting kick-offs on the horizon, Oman Air makes sure fans get to the match in award-winning comfort and with exceptional onboard service.

There is so much more to Oman than just an amazing World Cup experience. The country offers a range of exclusive hotel packages and special tour rates available for visiting fans, as well as those accompanying them. These include over 20,000 hotel rooms across all budgets, plus a dedicated transportation network to ensure a seamless travel experience. Hayya cardholders can choose from a variety of customised day tours packed with thrilling adventures, breathtaking natural beauty, and Oman's centuries-old history. -OMA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Barca, Atletico Madrid to face tough Champions League games

MADRID: FC Barcelona have a vital UEFA Champions League game at home against Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Barca are in third place in Group C, three points behind Inter Milan, but if Inter win their home match against Viktoria Plzen in a game that kicks off two hours before Barca's game at the Camp Nou, Barca can't finish second, having lost 1-0 in Milan before drawing 3-3 at home against Inter a fortnight ago.

That means that, for the moment, they have to prepare for Wednesday's match as if there is everything to play for, but when the game begins, all that could be at stake is a place in the knockout stages of the UEFA Europa League.

"There is a minimum amount of hope," commented Barca midfielder Pedri in Spanish sports paper Marca. Barca go into the match after 3-0 and 4-0 home wins against Villarreal and Athletic Bilbao, in which they had the games resolved by halftime. However, they lost Sergi Roberto to injury after he dislocated his shoulder on Sunday, and he joins Ronald Araujo, Andreas Christensen and Memphis Depay on the injury list.

Hector Bellerin will probably return at right-back, while any other changes Barca coach Xavi Hernandez makes could depend on the score between Inter and Viktoria Plzen.

Atletico Madrid also have a key match at home against Bayer Leverkusen, as they look to reach the last 16.

Atletico are third in their group, two points behind Porto, who visit Club Brugge in another early kick-off. Atletico will have the advantage of knowing Porto's result against a side that has already qualified for the last 16, but if Porto win in Belgium, anything but a win would leave Atletico to battle for a place in the Europa League.

Coach Diego Simeone will almost certainly continue with the in-form Antoine Griezmann and Alvaro Morata in attack against a rival that currently sits 15th in the Bundesliga and continues to ship goals despite the arrival of Xabi Alonso as head coach. A former Real Madrid player, Alonso can expect a hostile reception in the Metropolitan Stadium. xinhua

GULF HOCKEY FIESTA SET TO TAKE PLACE IN OMAN

The sixth edition of UTSC Gulf Hockey Fiesta is set to take place in Muscat on October 28 and 29, 2022 at Sultan Qaboos Stadium Complex, Bausher. The official inauguration of the event is scheduled to be held at 6.00PM on 28 October 2022. This year's event is extra-special as the UTSC is celebrating 12th anniversary since its establishment under its new logo launched recently by Olympian Dhanraj Pillai. This event is being held under the patronage of the Oman Hockey Association and an approved event of the Asian Hockey Federation.



ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA

Jason Roy returns as England announce team against Australia

LONDON: Opening veteran Jason Roy made a return to the national side as England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced a 15-man squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia on Tuesday, which will start from November 17 onwards.

"England Men's selection panel have named a 15-strong squad for the three-match ODI series against Australia starting in November," said ECB in a statement. From the current ICC Men's T20 World Cup squad, 11 players will remain in Australia when the series gets underway at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday 17 November.

Seam bowler Olly Stone, who will join Nottinghamshire from November 1, will be looking to add to his four ODI caps, having last played for England in this format in October 2018 against Sri Lanka.



Hampshire batter James Vince returns to the squad, having last played in July 2021 at Edgbaston against Pakistan.

Kent middle-order batter Sam Billings is also recalled and will be looking to add his 25 ODI caps.

The three-match series will be played over six days, with matches in Adelaide, Sydney and finishing in Melbourne on November 22. England Men's ODI Series versus Australia Schedule:

First ODI: Australia v England, Thursday November 17, 2022, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide (1.50 pm local) Second ODI: Australia v England, Saturday November 19, 2022, SCG, Sydney (2.20pm local) Third ODI: Australia v England, Tuesday November 22, 2022, MCG, Melbourne (2.20pm local) England Men's ODI squad: Jos Buttler (Lancashire) Captain, Moeen Ali (Warwickshire - from 1 November), Sam Billings (Kent), Sam Curran (Surrey), Liam Dawson (Hampshire), Chris Jordan (Surrey), Dawid Malan (Yorkshire), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Jason Roy (Surrey), Phil Salt (Lancashire), Olly Stone (Nottinghamshire - from 1 November), James Vince (Hampshire), David Willey (Northamptonshire - from 1 November), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Luke Wood (Lancashire). ANI

TENNIS

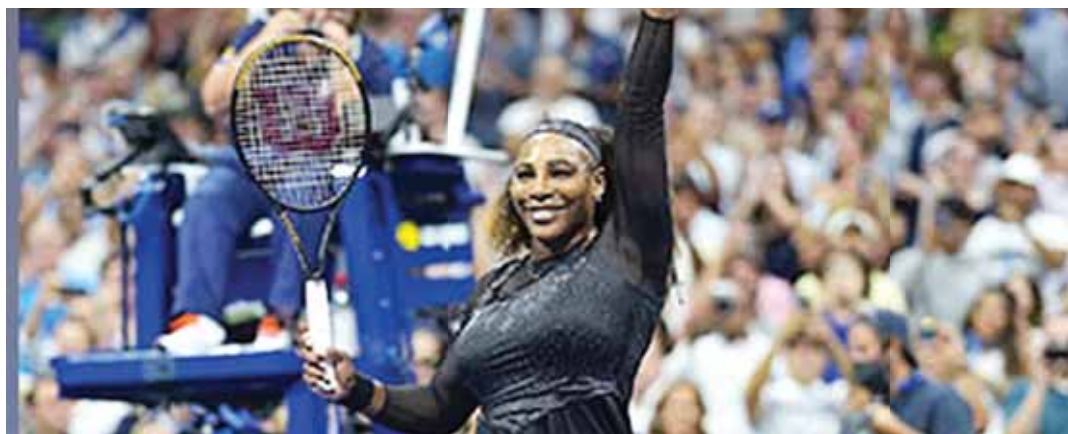
I am not retired, the chances of return are very high, says Serena Williams

SAN FRANCISCO: The 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams on Monday said she has not retired from tennis yet and that the chances of her returning to the court are "very high" after she previously indicated that she would step away from the sport after the recently concluded US Open.

"I am not retired," Williams said at a conference in San Francisco while promoting her investment company. "The chances (of a return) are very high. You can come to my house, I have a court," she added.

Williams announced her retirement from tennis on August 9, saying she is "evolving away" from the sport.

The 40-year-old tennis star said that the best word to describe



what she is up to is "evolution" and that she wants to grow her family.

"I have never liked the word retirement. It doesn't feel like a modern word to me. I've been

thinking of this as a transition, but I want to be sensitive about how I use that word, which means something very specific and important to a community of people," Serena said in an article for

Vogue magazine.

Serena has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the open era, and the second-most of all time, only behind Margaret Court's 24. ANI

TENNIS

Karman becomes India's No.1 singles woman tennis player

SAGUENAY: Karman Kaur Thandi is now India's number 1 women's singles tennis player, following her recent triumph at the W60 ITF event in Saguenay, Canada on Sunday.

WTA

She has displaced resident Ankita Raina. This victory is the biggest singles title win of Karman's career so far and it has pushed her 91 positions up in the latest Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings to the 217th position, as per Olympics.com.

Olympian Ankita is now placed at 297th position after slipping down 13 places. Rutuja Bhosale, who is down nine spots to 411, Riya Bhatia, at world number 490 after slipping down five places and Sahaja Yamalapalli, up by 20 spots to world number 508, are the top five women's singles players in India.

Karman accomplished her career-best 196 ranking in 2018. The win at Saguenay is Karman's third singles title and second this year. She had won a W25 tournament back in June at Gurugram. Karman won her maiden singles title in Hong Kong in 2018.

In the final match against Canada's Katherine Sebov, Karman Kaur bounced back from being a set down to winning the title by 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Earlier in the tournament, Karman had caused an upset by defeating the second seed Robin Anderson (USA) in the first round and Japanese Ena Shibahara, one-half of the French Open 2022 mixed double champions in the second round.

The year 2022 has been great for the Indian, who was ranked outside 400 back in February.



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ROUND-UP



Lulu launches ‘Kick Offers’ campaign

The campaign, will be held from October 24 until the end of November

MUSCAT: The football season is on and so is the excitement. As part of its efforts to delight customers and football fans alike, Lulu has launched the “Kick offers” promotional campaign to coincide with the upcoming World Cup to be held in Qatar in November 2022.

The campaign, which will be held from October 24 until the end of November, was officially inaugurated by Ali Abdullah Harib Al-Habsi, the ever-popular former Omani goalkeeper.

The promotion is a great opportunity to celebrate the excitement surrounding the event, which is being held in the region for the first time and take advantage of the dis-



counts and offers on selected product categories during this period.

As part of the promotion, Lulu will be offering special discounts on products under categories such as electronics, IT products, mobiles, consumer electronics & accessories, home appliances, football clothing, footwear, luggage, and furniture. Lulu will also bring the best of the football season with aggressive discount schemes on electronics, which will include 20 to 40% off on 50” and above TVs; and 20% off on JBL and Sony headphones. Customers can also be a part of the Scratch & Win event organised by

Hisense. Additionally, there will also be special deals on food and beverages, snacks, chips, biscuits, juices, soft drinks, quick meals, and ready-to-eat boxes throughout the promotional period.

To add to the excitement and fun, a whole lot of in-store events have been planned and customers will get a chance to participate in various entertainment activities, such as Goal Kick Challenge, Ball Heading Challenge, and Freestyle football dancing, and win amazing prizes.

Speaking about the event, Shabeer K.A, Regional Director – of Lulu Hypermarkets Oman stated,

“We are excited to organise the Kick Offer promotion, inspired by the flavour of the season. We are sure that the promotion will no doubt provide a one-of-a-kind experience to our customers and generate unlimited excitement amongst football fans. It is a matter of great pride for us to be a supporter of such a prestigious sport which is being held on the global stage in this region. The special offers, events, and activities are sure to create happy faces, enthusiasm, and positive vibes among our customers. This is also an incredible opportunity to bring to life our brand values through such a platform.”

“The beauty behind such a promotion is about bringing people and communities together to celebrate this beautiful game of football we all love, alongside a lively atmosphere of fun and entertaining activities. Through this promotion at Lulu, they have transformed the store into a one-stop destination where every football fan will be glad to shop and have fun! We hope the customers have a great time shopping at Lulu,” said Ali Habsi after the inauguration.

ARA Petroleum organises blood donation campaign

MUSCAT: In partnership with the Ministry of Health’s blood bank department, ARA Petroleum, one of the Zubair Corporation’s specialised energy and natural resource companies, hosted a blood donation drive at its facility in Azaiba for the second consecutive year.

Hamed bin Said Al Shibani, Manager of Quality, Health, Safety and Environment said, “ARA Petroleum is committed to enhancing its employees’ institutional values through the establishment of several community initiatives, in collaboration with its partners from the public and private sectors.”

“This is the company’s second campaign. Our aim is to raise the spirit of volunteering among employees, as well as to increase the stock of the blood bank in Oman. These initiatives also serve to express the employees’ empathy toward patients throughout their treatment journey, and is an opportunity to promote the culture of donating blood within the community as well,” he added.

Volunteer Abeer Al Ajmiya expressed her gratitude to ARA Petroleum, saying, “I thank ARA



Petroleum for giving me the opportunity to participate in this noble cause. This isn’t my first time donating blood. In addition to aiding patients in need, donating blood has several health benefits.”

Abeer Al Ajmiya added, “It is an important initiative to contribute to blood banks and I request everyone who can donate blood, to do so to create a healthy and productive society.”

Mercedes-Benz celebrates Oman’s 52nd National Day with 55% discount on parts

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman is marking Oman’s 52nd National Day with its latest celebratory offer. Between November 1 and 30, customers can take their Mercedes-Benz vehicle for an oil filter change and take advantage of a 55% discount on parts.

Available at Mercedes-Benz Oman Service Centers in Muscat, Sohar and Salalah, car-owners will benefit from the expertise of highly qualified technicians as well as Mercedes-Benz genuine oil filters and recommended oil.

Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer, said: “Mercedes-Benz Oman shares a long history with the Omani people and we are proud to celebrate the 52nd National Day with them. As usual, we are marking the occasion with an exclusive offer that has been designed to add value to our customers’ lives. When it comes to engines, quality comes first, which is



why the offer ensures they remain in the best possible condition, running smoothly and operating the way they are intended to, giving drivers

even greater peace of mind.”

The National Day offer is valid for all models registered before 1st January 2019, excluding Mer-

cedes-Maybach, Mercedes-AMG GT, Mercedes-AMG G-Class, Mercedes-Benz SLR, and Mercedes-Benz Viano.

Burjeel Hospital holds blood donation camp



MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing corporate social responsibility efforts in the sultanate, Burjeel Hospital recently organised a blood donation drive, in partnership with the Baushar Blood Bank.

Expressing his gratitude to all donors that took part in the blood donation camp, Nelson Prabhakaran, Director of Operations of Burjeel Hospital mentioned: “Burjeel Hospital continues to play an active role in furthering the health and wellbeing of citizens and residents of the sultanate, through initiatives such as the blood dona-

tion drive; and has always taken the lead when it comes to giving back to society. The response from donors as well as our staff has always been positive when it comes to blood donation or any other humanitarian effort. We are both proud, and thankful to them for turning up in large numbers, along with their families and friends to donate blood.”

Praising the hospital’s initiative, Omani blood donors said that blood donation gives satisfaction to the donors in this world and rewards in the hereafter.

Tantalising celebration of international cuisine at Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara

MUSCAT: Taste the world this November on an extraordinary culinary journey with leading chefs from across the globe. A week-long event takes place at Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara in Oman, captivating local diners and visitors with a diverse array of international cuisine.

Nestled between a beach and freshwater lagoon, Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is the first and only luxury resort in the Dhofar region of southern Oman with

private pool villas.

The resort sits on a pristine 250-metre beach and features a sparkling infinity pool along with three exquisite dining options and an Anantara Spa. Located just 15 km from Salalah International Airport and directly adjacent to Al Baleed Archaeological Park, Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is the perfect place for relaxation, adventure and culinary experiences.

Exclusive dinners and demonstrations will run from 22 – 27

November 2022 in the resort’s acclaimed restaurants.

Oman Air and Amouage will once again support these culinary events.

Some of the leading chefs participating in the enticing Al Baleed Food Festival 2022 include:

Three Michelin-star Chef Thomas Bühner from Germany

Two Michelin-star French Chef Patrick Jeffroy

Michelin-star Chef Peter Gast from the Netherlands

Portuguese Michelin-star Chef Louis Anjos

Michelin-star chef Roger Van Damme from Belgium

Oman food specialist Dina Macki

The food festival will culminate in a gala dinner at Al Mina on 27 November, where each chef will present two of their signature dishes. The unparalleled oceanside location will only serve to enhance a night of exquisite culinary wonders and impeccable service.



Neswa Savings Account meets aspirations of modern Omani women

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman celebrates the Omani Women’s Day, which falls on October 17 every year to highlight the important role of women in society and their achievements in various fields. On this occasion, Meethaq Islamic banking from Bank Muscat showcased the Neswa Savings Account which is designed specifically for women to ensure greater ease of access to various financial services as well as to provide unique benefits suited for their needs.

On the occasion, Sami Arfah Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking expressed his happiness and pride in the achievements made by Omani women across various fields. By working along with their male brethren, Omani women are contributing greatly to the economic progress and development of the Sultanate as it journeys on the path of its renewed renaissance. He added that Meethaq

offers unique products and services aimed at enriching the lives of women from different sectors.

Neswa account holders have access to a wide range of features, which include a Visa Debit Card with an ATM withdrawal limit of OMR800, access to the largest network of ATMs and CDMs across Oman, complimentary Takaful life cover up to OMR10,000, coverage up to OMR1,000 for loss of wallet or handbag resulting in misuse of cards and coverage up to OMR100 for loss of ID cards and keys. Account holders can also receive attractive indicative profit rates on their average monthly balance and are eligible for up to 50% discount on the first year’s rental charge for safe deposit lockers.

All Omani and resident women above the age of 18 are eligible to open a Neswa savings account with a minimum balance amount of OMR300 or a minimum salary transfer of OMR 500.



Kia K5 now available with chance to win fully paid trip to World Cup

MUSCAT: The stylish and hard-to-resist Kia K5 is now even more exciting to own. Customers buying the K5 now have a chance to win a fully paid trip to watch FIFA World Cup event in Qatar.

Besides the K5, Kia customers buying 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 km and 1 year insurance. The campaign will end on November 4. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details.)

Lending the K5 its stylish looks is its angular design language that represents another chapter of boldness and passion. Adding to this is the K5’s low-slung and fastback silhouette from the side, highlighted by a chrome garnish that spans the roofline and wraps



around the rear glass.

Giving the K5 more than just a single look are a number of exterior design features that include LED Headlamps, LED Daytime Running Lights, LED Front Fog Lamps, LED Rear Fog Lamps, LED Rear Combination Lamps, 18” Alloy Wheels, Solar Glass,

Panoramic Sunroof and Dual LED Headlamps. Powering the exciting to drive K5 is a powerful 2.5L GDI engine that offers 191 HP and 25.1 KG.M. Torque.

The engine is paired to an 8-speed Automatic Transmission. In the K5 a range of features enhance every experience.



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Nissan X-Terra: Incredible balance between luxury and utility

In the increasingly competitive class of SUVs, the Nissan X-Terra is many steps ahead

Marwah Mahmood Al Raisi

MUSCAT: If there is something about the seven-seater Nissan X-Terra that stands out, it is exceptionally competent at nearly everything it does. No wonder it has a huge fan following in Oman.

In the increasingly competitive class of SUVs, the Nissan X-Terra is many steps ahead. It is designed for adventure and the outdoors, but it delivers more. It offers a hard-to-beat combination of technology, power, style, features, space and comfort. The gorgeous and well-equipped interior is balanced by numerous safety features and excellent driving dynamics.

A 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine with seven-speed automatic transmission power the X-Terra. The engine delivers 165 hp and 241Nm of torque that guarantees an exhilarating drive of speed and acceleration making it perfect for adventure. What is impressive is the X-Terra has a solid four-wheel drive system, including a four-wheel lock, brake limited slip differential and electronic locking rear differential.

This doesn't mean it is not perfect for city driving. Its sleek lines and modern look make this adaptive vehicle ideal for all occasions. Besides, having a robust and reliable SUV does not mean passengers miss out on comfort and modern features. From the Zero Gravity seats to the stadium seat layout of the second and third row, families and large groups can ride comfortably with best-in-class interior volume.



Interestingly, the SUV's sturdy frame simplifies its resilience and pragmatism, while the future-forward aesthetics are exhibited in the quad LED projector lamps and a bold new V-motion grille. The revised rear and new LED taillights add to the X-Terra's athletic look. X-Terra is 4.9m in length, 1.9m in height and just over 2.1m in width – with a ground clearance of 243 mm.

For those who have a fetish for

colours. The model is available in seven exterior colours, including bright brown and burgundy. The chic exterior is matched by premium black and light grey interior colours that add to the richness of the vehicle, along with a choice of cloth or leather seat fabrics, depending on the grade.

Young drivers will be impressed that the instrument panel has a full-width horizontal design, with

its movement stretching from door to door to emphasize the spaciousness of the cabin. The shapes are bold and strong yet finished in comfortable soft-touch materials. The big 9-inch intuitive touchscreen display screen dominates the centre, with big, user-friendly dial controls for audio and ventilation functions while the layering of the different materials, including the dynamic silver finisher, adds

an extra level of sophistication.

For those who give importance to fuel efficiency and safety, this SUV is perfect. The SUV features a handle on the system that allows drivers to quickly shift from two-wheel drive to a 4x4 drive – providing maximum fuel efficiency on the highway to confidence and control during adverse weather conditions.

Active safety systems in the Nissan X-Terra make it stand apart from the competition. Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Warning, Intelligent Forward Collision Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Intelligent Driver Alertness and Intelligent Emergency Braking are all available. These features tell the driver when there is a possible danger – chiming when they stray out of their lane or when another car is in their blind spot or approaching while the vehicle is reversing. They also help to actively prevent issues by braking the vehicle when a possible collision is detected while driving.

Nissan's Intelligent Around

View Monitor with Moving Object Detection is another class-exclusive feature in the X-Terra. It gives a bird's-eye view of the X-Terra's surroundings which is perfect for backing up and parallel parking and determining any moving objects. These advanced safety features along with the X-Terra's on-and-off-road capability, comfort and the latest technology are a perfect match for today's adventure-seeking SUV buyers.

Technology and infotainment features in the Nissan X-Terra include an 8 or 9-inch touchscreen, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, driver information display, Bluetooth, navigation, 11-inch rear display, and a 4 or 6-speaker sound system or a Bose sound system with 8 speakers.

If you are looking for a midsize SUV, you would do well to consider Nissan X-Terra. And why not? After all, this class leader promises a buffet of features, great fuel economy and pamper occupants with a wealth of standard convenience, tech and safety features.

FOR CREDIT CARD HOLDERS

Buy now, pay later with ahlibank's interest-free Easy Payment Plan

MUSCAT: Expressing its intent to enhance customers' purchasing power and cater to their ever-changing lifestyles, ahlibank has launched its Easy Payment Plan for credit card holders offering zero interest, flexible instalment options for a variety of merchant categories.

With instalment periods of 3, 6 and 12 months, and merchant categories comprising travel, furniture, electronics, jewellery and schooling, credit card holders can look forward to a host of easy deals on purchase transactions of OMR200 or above. EPP facility can be availed on purchases at merchant outlets and internet transactions. While customers incur no additional fees on the three-month plan, the charges for extended periods have been kept to a minimal – OMR5 for 6 months and OMR10 for 12 months.

Under the travel category, the plan will be extended to travel agents, airlines, as well as hotels, making it a very lucrative option for customers with travel on their minds. The tuition fee category, on the other hand, will also include higher education, covering not only schools and colleges but also universities, to offer respite for customers seeking easy financial solutions.



Commenting on the bank's EPP, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution at ahlibank, said, "Easy and convenient" are the bywords of our Payment Plan, which is structured to enrich our customers' purchasing power and to open up newer avenues for them to shop without worrying about immediate payments. As the fastest-growing bank in the country, we believe the onus is on us to constantly upgrade and customize our products and services to meet and exceed the expectations of our customers. We have

achieved that by incorporating flexible instalment options and promoting more categories in the merchant portfolio. Whether it is travel and entertainment or accessories and schooling, our credit card holders will benefit from the easy monthly payment option."

As per the plan, customers can enjoy the convenience of paying large-value transactions in small, equal and affordable monthly instalments; they can obtain the payment plan of their choice, depending on their financial flexibility.

OMAN AIR HOLIDAYS

Experience wonders of Oman this winter with two new packages

MUSCAT: Offering travellers a true Omani adventure, Oman Air Holidays has introduced two new packages that showcase the best of Oman's nature, culture, and hospitality. Launched just in time for the popular winter season, the bespoke packages offer visitors the choice of an all-inclusive, eight-day tour around the country's must-see attractions, or, for those just stopping through, a relaxing one-day mini-break in the charming capital city of Muscat. From rolling deserts to lush mountains, pristine beaches to historic villages, Oman is the perfect destination for those who like to go off the beaten track.

"With untouched natural landscapes, a rich and captivating heritage, and renowned warm hospitality, Oman is a true bucket-list destination. Our Best of Oman and Muscat Mini-Break packages are designed to ensure visitors don't miss a thing while providing them with plenty of choices, flexibility, and value," said Mundher Al Shaikhani, Senior Manager of Oman Air Holidays. "Both packages offer great rates and a variety of customisable add-ons based on individual travel requirements. Plus, with our parent company Oman Air connecting travellers



to Oman via its international network, our guests can count on an exceptional experience for their entire journey."

Catering to long and short-stay visitors, Oman Air Holiday's new packages provide them with appealing options that meet their distinct travel needs. The Best of Oman eight-day tour will take guests on a mesmerising journey to some of the country's most charming cities and glorious natural landscapes, including the traditionally rooted capital, Muscat; Al Jabal Al Akhdar, or 'green mountain'; the historic city of Nizwa; the magical desert dunes of Al Sharqiya Sands; the quaint port of Khasab, the subtropical city of Salalah, and much more.

Meanwhile, for stopover visitors looking for an unforgettable 24-hour getaway, the Muscat Mini-break offers the chance to explore the capital, complete with breathtaking mountains, immaculate beaches, and historical landmarks, all for just \$99 per night.

Offering a wide selection of tailored packages, Oman Air Holidays excels in creating amazing and unique travel experiences for some of the world's most exciting destinations. With the introduction of its new Oman-focused packages, it is welcoming more and more international tourists to discover the beauty of Oman, complemented by the award-winning service and hospitality of Oman Air.



Winter Offers

Offer valid from 14th August to 13th November 2022.
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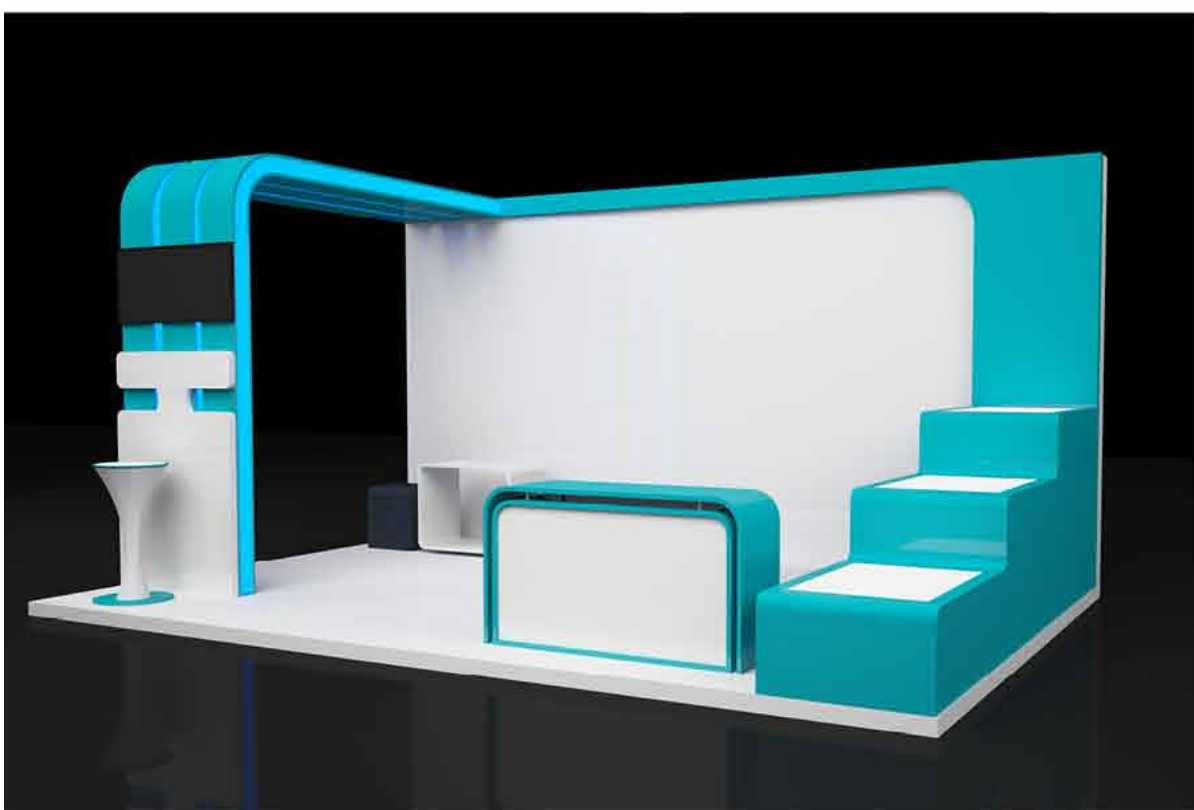
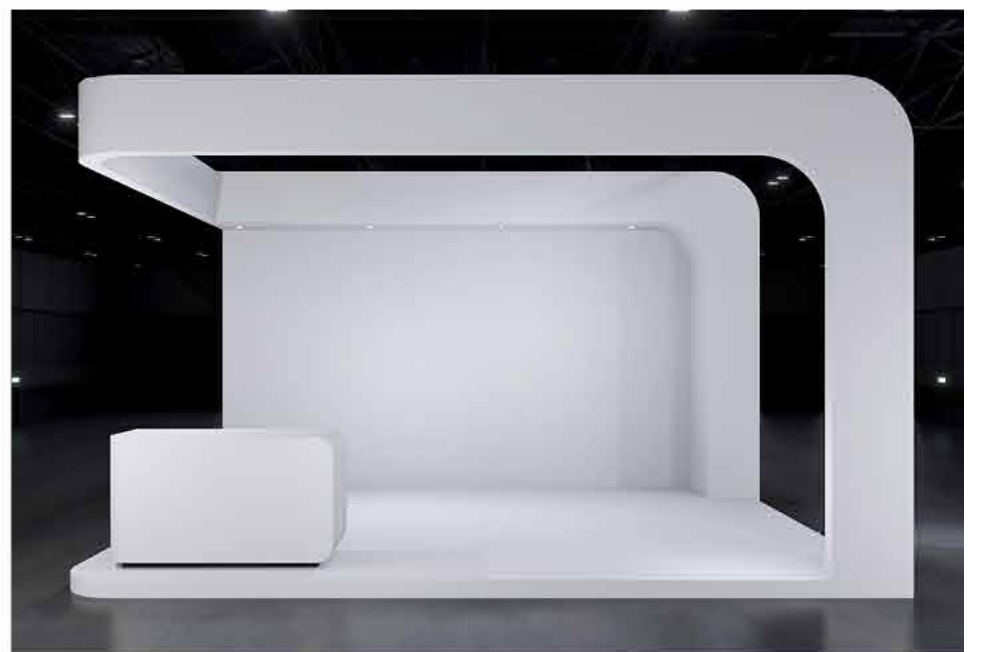
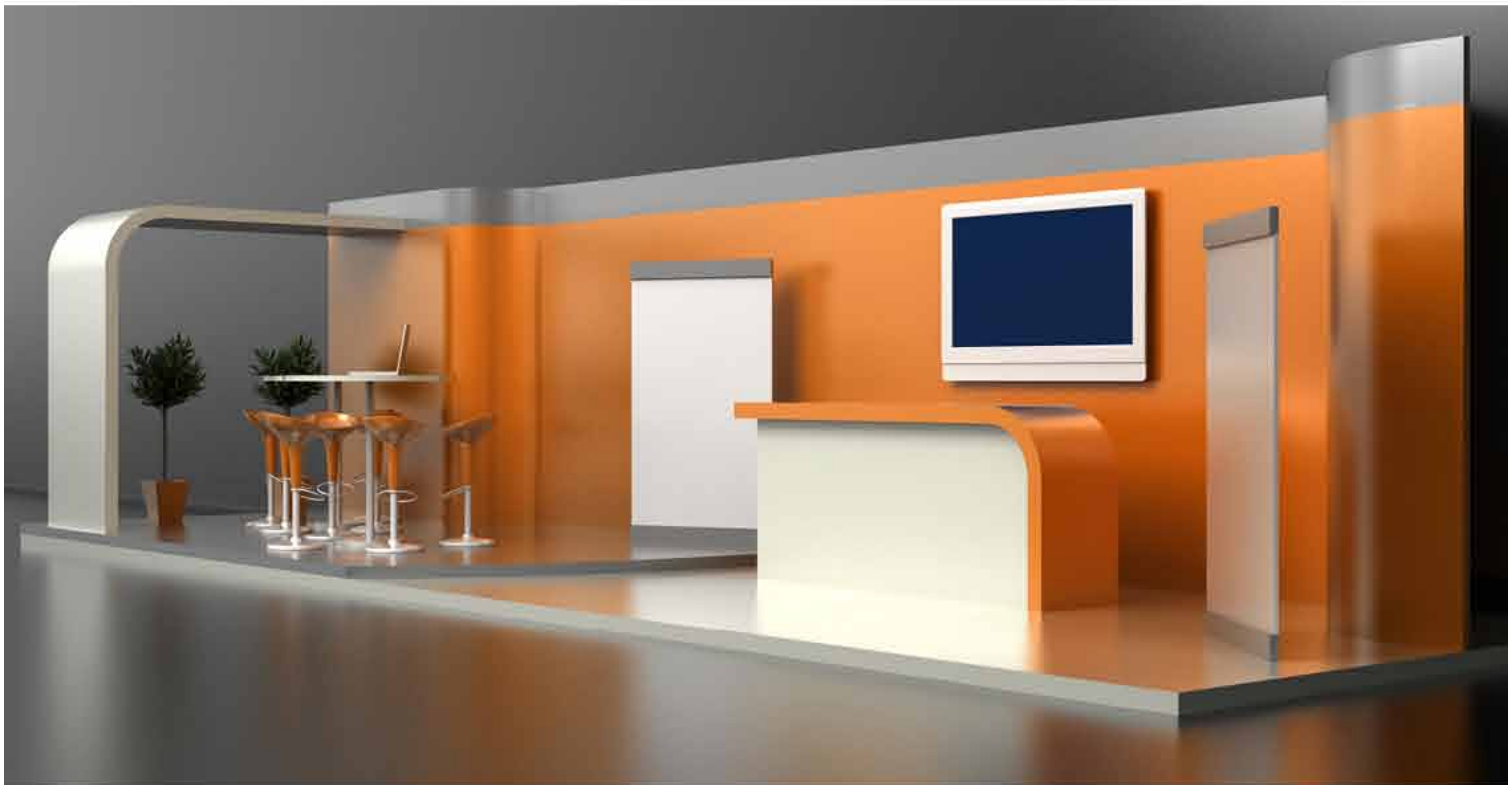
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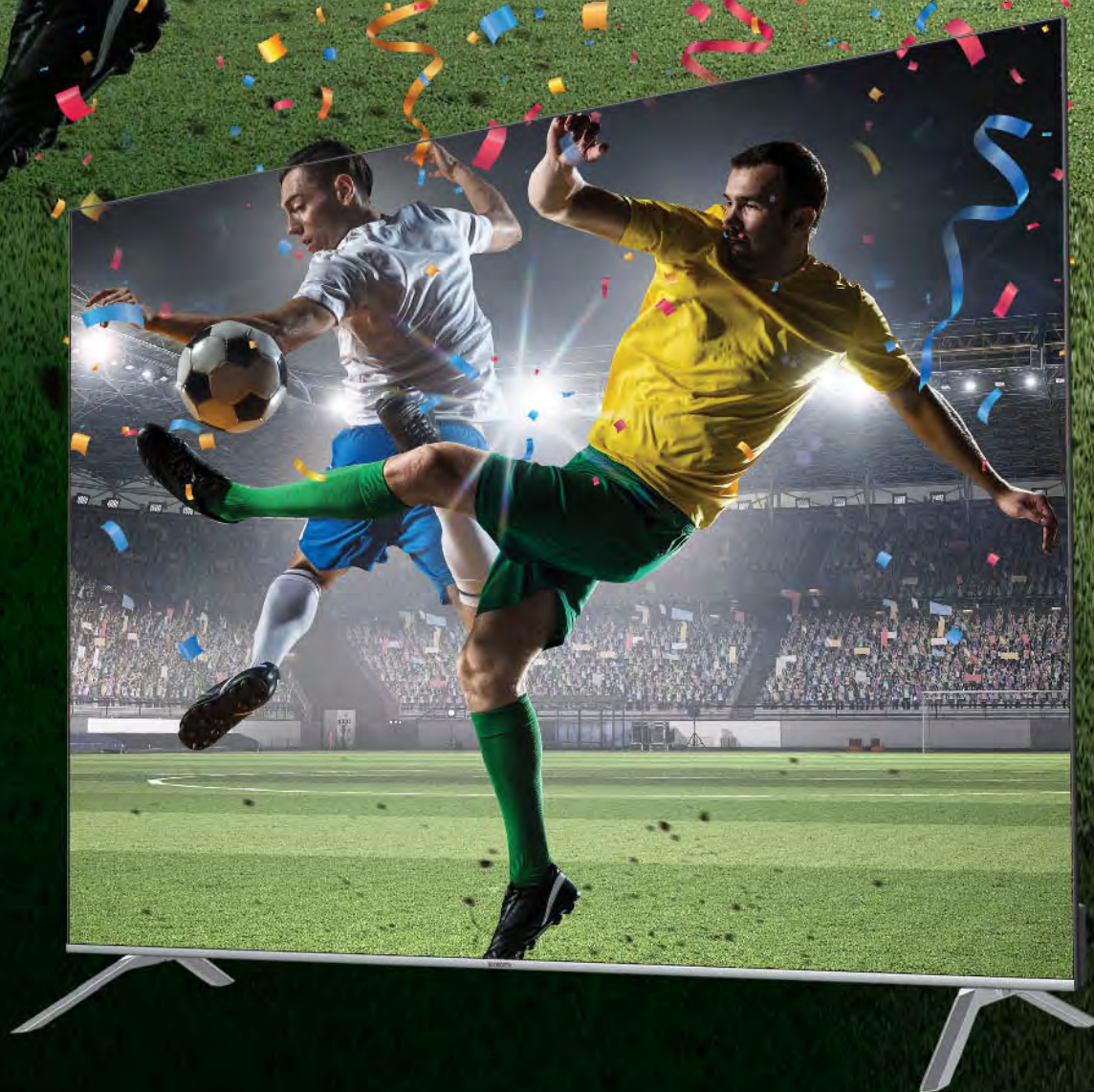
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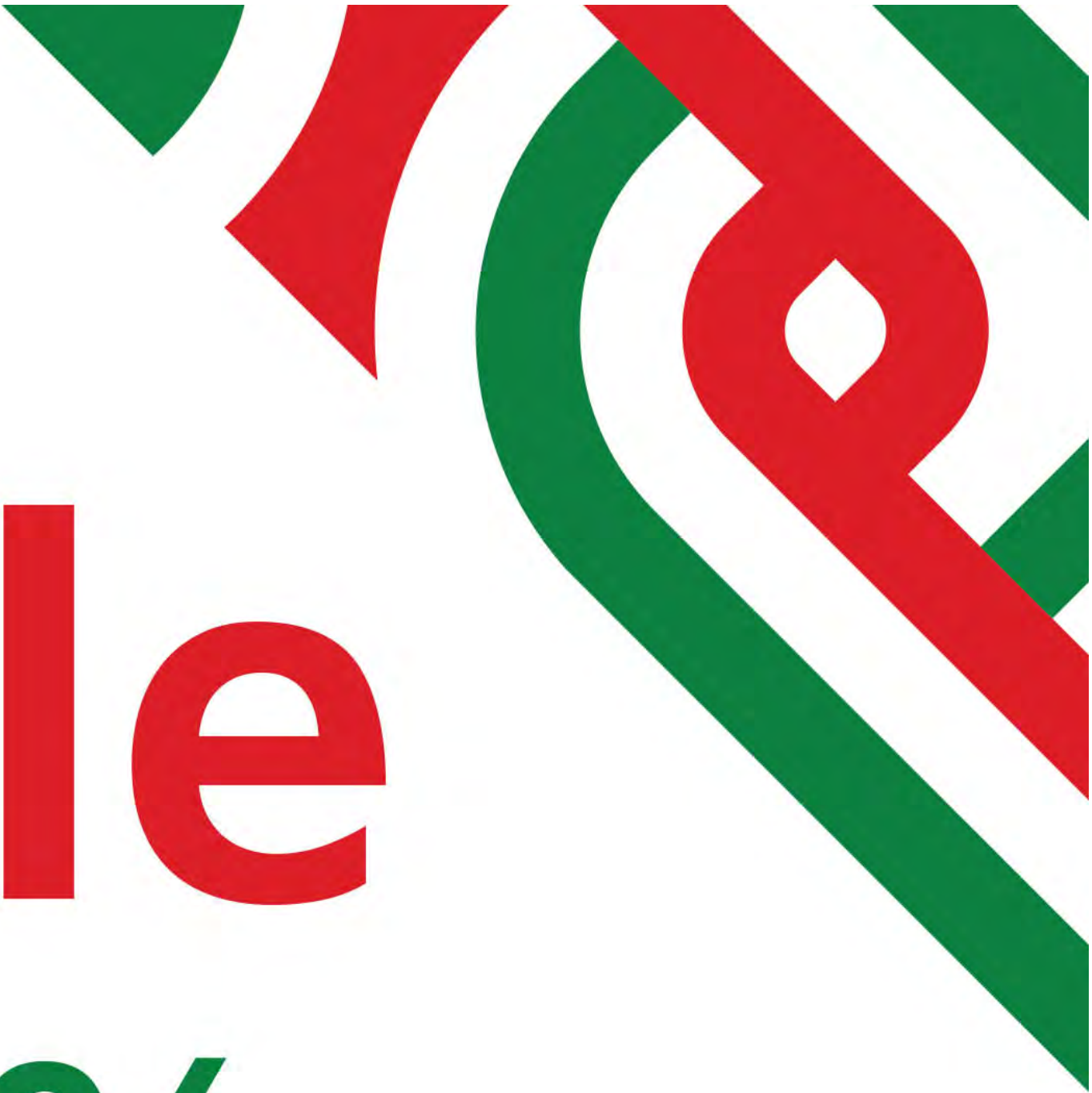
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