

**OMAN, WIPO INK
LETTER OF INTENT**

Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, received here yesterday Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). **>A3**



**VALUE OF REAL ESTATE DEALS
SURPASSES OMR260 MILLION**

The total value of property transactions in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of January 2023 rose by 20.4% to reach OMR260.5 million, compared to OMR216.3 million during the corresponding period in 2022, according to the latest date issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). **>B1**



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HIS MAJESTY INAUGURATES ROYAL ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT IN MUSCAT



‘HM keen to boost leadership capabilities among Omanis’

MUSCAT: Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management, expressed his sincere appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for the Academy's inauguration. He affirmed that this Royal gesture reflects His Majesty's interest on taking up the approaches of knowledge and learning.

Royal gesture
The Royal gesture also reflects His Majesty's keenness to promote and develop Omani leadership capabilities so that they could play their role in serving the Omani economy, while at the same time augmenting in-country value (ICV) in line with global economic trends, Sayyid Khalid added. Meanwhile, Dr. Ali bin Qasim Al Lawati, Chairman of the Royal Academy of Management, expressed a feeling of pride and responsibility in the association of the Academy with His Majesty the Sultan's patronage. He reinstated the Academy's pledge to deliver His Majesty's ambition of positioning Oman among the global leading countries while maintaining the Omani originality.

>A2

His Majesty placed a symbolic key on the Academy gate's model

MUSCAT: Upon his arrival to the Royal Academy of Management's headquarters, His Majesty was received by Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management, and Dr.



Ali bin Qassim Jawad Al Lawati, the President of the Academy, and members of the Board of Trustees of the Academy. As a gesture marking the opening of the Academy, His Majesty the Sultan placed a symbolic key on the gate's model. After that, His Majesty went on tour of the Royal Academy of Management's facilities. The 5-storey building has multiple spaces that have been designed to enhance collaboration, efficiency and inspiration among the various teams at the Academy. The building has been also remodelled to offer an interactive, functional and smart user experience for both employees and the Academy's wider community. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Discussion on cutting down carbon emissions

1 A symposium titled 'CIGRE Muscat International' kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. The symposium discussed the impact of "an approach to cut down carbon emissions and switch to renewable energy" reflects on the infrastructure of the electricity sector. The event looked into measures to reach more durable, flexible and sustainable electrical systems. **>A3**

WORLD Amitabh Bachchan hurt during film shoot

2 Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan said that he sustained injury during the shooting of his upcoming film, Project K, in Hyderabad. He suffered injury during an action sequence of the film. **>A8**

SPORTS Liverpool thrash Man United 7-0

3 A terrific attacking display from Liverpool saw the Reds rout arch-rivals Manchester United 7-0 at Anfield in an English Premier League game. Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah each scored twice. **>B5**

RAPID GROWTH

16 new hotels coming up in North Al Batinah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sixteen new hotels and motels are under construction in North Al Batinah Governorate, according to Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah Governorate. Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi said, "Various government and private sector initiatives in the field of tourism have been made in the North Al Batinah and the number of hotels in the governorate stood at 36 with 1,320 rooms. There are 16 new hotels and motels under construction and we expect to have 2,000 rooms available on completion." He also said that the rapid industrial development coupled with



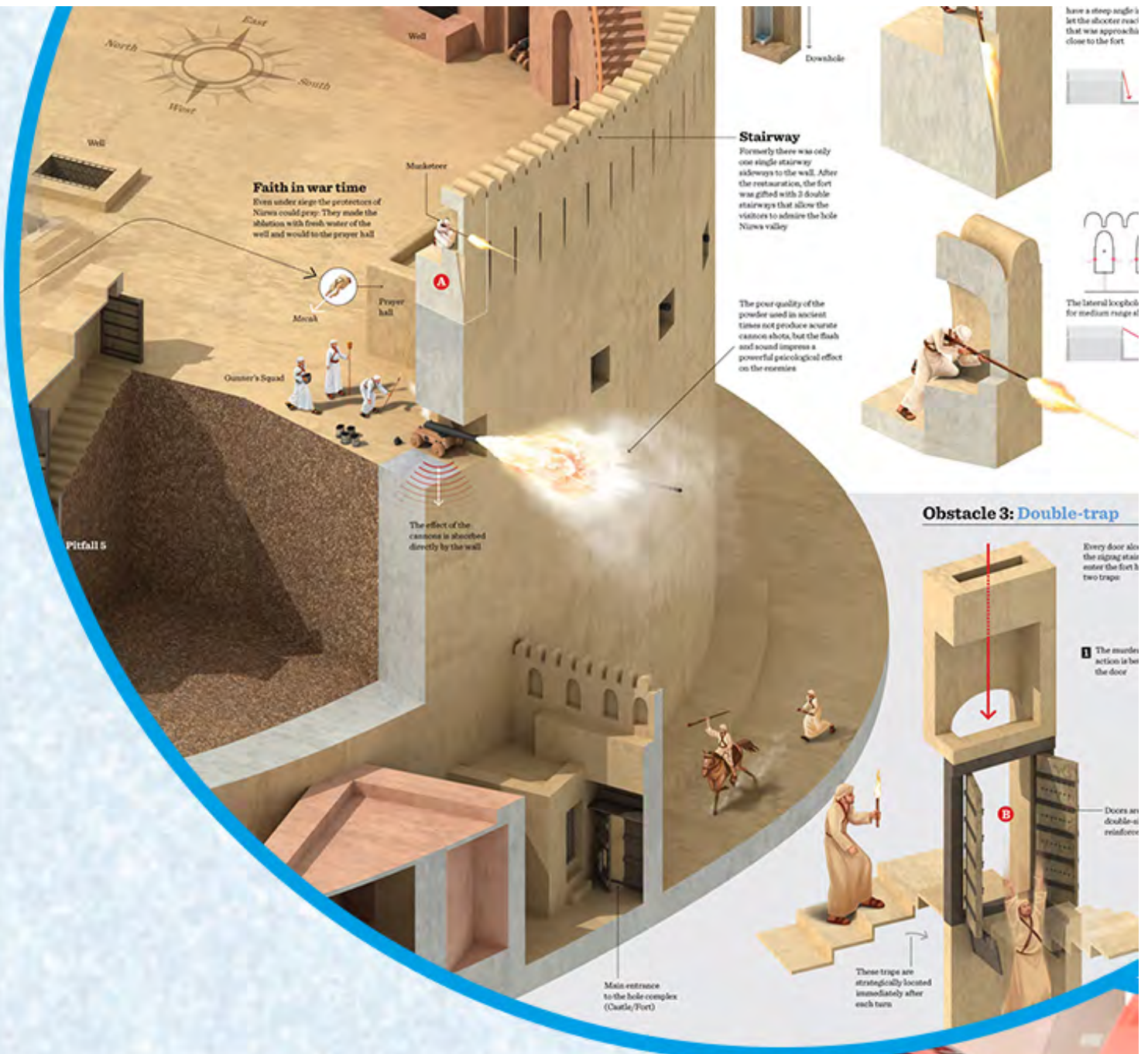
A 12-page special supplement, 'Sohar... so good' with this edition

the strategic location of North Al Batinah Governorate makes it one of the best places for business opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman. Kindi said: "The emphasis on logistics and industrial sectors has laid a strong foundation for the development of the governorate. We have provided an ideal business environment and that has been a key to the large investments made in the governorate. "Investors from abroad and local entrepreneurs have acknowledged the conducive environment that has led to the starting of many big projects." North Al Batinah Governorate offers free zones and industrial zones at strategic locations. The connection of Sohar Port with in-

ternational ports and good road network to neighbouring countries have also been the reasons for investments. Kindi informed that during the last quarter of 2022, many huge economic projects, including the launch of the first power transformer plant with a capacity of 400KW began. Sohar Titanium Company - one of the companies of Minerals Development Oman (MDO) Group, laid the foundation stone for its integrated project for the production of titanium dioxide in the Sohar Free Zone at a total cost of OMR43 million. Another major project launched by Oman Investment Authority was the Sanvira Carbon Project in Sohar Free Zone with an investment cost of nearly OMR60 million.



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OMAN

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Dhuhr.....	12:23pm
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Maghrib.....	6:17pm
Isha.....	7:27pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:08am



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Royal Academy of Management a beacon for developing efficient national leaders

The academy seeks to develop the capabilities of national leaders at all administrative levels in the public and private sectors

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM) enjoys the honorary Royal patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik since its inception by Royal decree on 11 January 2022.

The RAM seeks to develop the capabilities of national leaders at all administrative levels in the public and private sectors through an integrated system of specialized centres, initiatives and programmes based on the most prominent concepts and methods of modern management.

The RAM constitutes a beacon of leadership and modern executive management within the context of Oman's future vision. It is an edifice for executive learning, a centre for developing national leaders and administrative competencies from the public and private sectors. It also serves as a podium for thought, administrative development and knowledge, with a vision to enhance the prospects of the Omani economy in a work environment that stimulates the culture of efficiency, productivity and innovation.

The RAM presents its programmes and initiatives through four specialized, non-structural, self-dependent centres designed



to ensure rapid response to developments in the respective fields.

In terms of prominence, the "Government Leadership Centre", represents the first of RAM centres. It is inspired by the Royal directives on enhancing the efficiency of the state's administrative apparatus and the requirements and objectives of Oman Vision 2040. The centre undertakes the task of grooming national leaders within their administrative hierarchies in the government, targeting senior and executive leaders responsible for formulating and implementing strategies and projects of Oman Vision 2040.

The Government Leadership Centre undertakes to form a community of qualified leaders in a way that ensures sustainability, continuity and advancement of administrative missions in a systematic manner, notably to inculcate a culture of efficiency, productivity and innovation in the field of government work.

The second of these centres is the "Centre for Business Leaders", which is inspired by Royal directives on the importance of the private sector. It highlights the latest global trends and espouses a vision that embraces the most prominent innovations in the field of modern management. It targets leaders in the private sector at several levels, including the chairmen of boards of directors, CEOs and future leaders. Its objectives are realized through a range of initiatives and programmes aimed at enhancing leadership in institutions within the spectrum of globalized competition and a broad network of specialized and local, regional and international academic organisations.

The third pillar, the "Local Administration Development Centre", stemmed from the implementation of the directives of His Majesty the Sultan to direct



development to the governorates. The centre seeks to enhance readiness for investment, develop local roles and enhance decentralization of decision-making. The centre also aims to support local administration officials in the governorates in their endeavours to bring about balanced local development. It provides the officials with best practices in local administration, which reflects positively on the level of competitiveness of governorates.

The fourth pillar of the RAM is the "Centre for Future Studies", which comes in line with the priority of leadership and economic management in Oman Vision 2040 whose prime objective is to establish renewable senior management based on competencies that suit market dynamics, future expectations, and rapid development.

This centre focuses on studying future trends, transformations, and future agendas. It is embarked on identifying emerging opportunities in relevant fields and promising vital sectors, while at the same time providing a broader understanding of future approaches.

The Centre for Future Studies serves as a house of expertise that brings together national and international experts to forge innovative solutions and new ideas to develop knowledge structures that support the initiatives and programmes at the RAM.

Within the context of developing leadership hubs (leadership complexes), the RAM provides a platform for national leaders, the prime objective for which it has allocated programmes for each leadership category, including the Public Policy and Strategic Planning Programme and the National Programme for Leadership Development and future vision.

As for private sector leaderships, the RAM has allocated the National Programme for the Development of Executive Leaders, as well as a certified trainer programme in leadership.

For the leaders of the local administration, the RAM has allocated the National Initiative for the Development of Local Administration. The RAM has allocated a master's programme in leadership and management.

The programmes and initiatives of the RAM also target Undersecretaries, Directors of Departments, Heads of Departments and their counterparts. They also target private sector strategic leaders, senior leaders and medium scale leaders. Among local administration leaders, the RAM targets Undersecretaries and their counterparts, Governors, the heads of Muscat and Dhofar Municipalities, Walis, the Municipal Council chairpersons and other officials of local administration.

The establishment of the Royal Academy of Management comes in implementation of Oman Vision 2040. - ONA



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MINISTER OF THE DIWAN OF ROYAL COURT

'Royal academy will add scholarly dimensions to practical experiences'



< FROM A1 The Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management expressed a sense of pride and responsibility in the association of the Academy with His Majesty the Sultan's patronage. In this context, he valued His Majesty's wise directives that establish interest in human capital and placing the Sultanate of Oman among developed countries, without prejudice to Omani characteristics.

He added that the role of the Royal Academy of Management is by no means limited to leadership development but rather encapsulates an environment for the various leadership communities in the Sultanate of Oman through programmes, systematic dialogues and participatory spaces to shape ideas, initiatives and solutions.

He pointed out that the Royal Academy of Management will provide a stimulating working and learning environment that constitutes the pillars of creative ideas, exchanging knowledge, achieving interdependence and and to add scholarly dimensions to practical experiences.

- ONA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

On-the-job training scheme to create job opportunities for Omani youth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour (MoL) has taken another step towards empowering Omani cadres through on-the-job training initiative. This initiative provides an on-the-job training programme in companies working in technical and administrative areas which target general university degree holders and below.

A monthly stipend

The advantages of this initiative include a monthly stipend for the trainees according to their academic qualifications, registering in social insurance during the training period, gaining skills and experiences, and getting the job accordingly. Currently, the training programme ranges from three to six months in management or technical training areas. The MoL is conducting a study to extend the training period to 12 months with trainees being allowed to compete for other jobs outside of their training initiative.

The working mechanism of this initiative begins after receiving a funding request from the employing companies. Once the request is received, it undergoes a thorough analysis and review before it is approved. After approval, a site visit to the employing company is scheduled. The private enterprises



contracted by the Ministry of Labour post job opportunities on their official websites or their social media accounts.

"MoL has launched on-the-job training initiative to create job opportunities in the private sector for job seekers as it qualifies Omani cadre to fill the vacant posts in the private sector.

The ministry's role comes in su-

pervision and follow-up the training programme regularly to ensure that it meets the institution's and trainees' required targets with the Ministry also contributing in providing the trainees' monthly stipend,' said Ammar Nasser Al Mahrezi, from the Training Support Centre in the Ministry of Labour.

“It is worth noting that the contract of on-the-job training should be registered by three parties, Ministry of Labour, the trainee, and the institution” Al Mahrezi further added.

Saeed Hamid Al Rawahi, a beneficiary of the initiative with a Bachelor's degree in Operations Engineering who works as an Operation Operator, described the programme as "a training opportunity to highlight the trainees' skills and gain more experiences in the workplace that qualify them to have new experiences in the labour market."

CIGRE MUSCAT INTERNATIONAL

Discussion on cutting down carbon emissions



MUSCAT: A symposium organised by the International Council on Large Electric Systems (CIGRE) and titled "CIGRE Muscat International", kicked off on Monday at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

The symposium discussed the impact of “an approach to cut down carbon emissions and switch to renewable energy” reflects on the infrastructure of the electricity sector. The event looked into measures to reach more durable, flexible and sustainable electrical systems.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Muh-sin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

Al Hadhrami said that the symposium represented a global platform to learn about various international experiences in energy systems. The symposium explored the best practices used in this sector, notably by exchanging knowledge on technical and organizational aspects that focus on the flexibility of energy systems, as well as innovations, technologies and sustainable solutions.

More than 60 electricity experts took part in the symposium where they showcased the latest techniques and advanced solu-

tions in the fields of electric power systems, electricity transmission networks, renewable energy and a number of other topics.

The symposium elaborated on various topics, with emphasis on developing sustainable, flexible energy systems that are capable of accommodating the steady increase in renewable energy consumption quotas, the latest innovations and solutions in power storage and digitization and the impact of these on the future of electricity systems, Al Hadhrami explained.

Eng. Ahmed Nasser Al Nasr, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the GCC CIGRE, said that the symposium offered an opportunity for international experts of energy systems to meet and discuss ways to adapt infrastructure and electricity networks with the rapid developments in global energy sector.

In his turn, Ahmed Abdullah Al Rahbi, Senior Director of Asset Management at the Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), said that the symposium provided engineers and specialists at OETC and the entire electricity sector with an opportunity to communicate with their counterparts worldwide and learn about the latest trends and technological developments. — **OMA**

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

Oman and WIPO sign letter of intent



MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, received here on Monday Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of joint cooperation between the Sultanate

of Oman and WIPO in the intellectual property sphere.

Further, a letter of intent (LOI) was signed between the Foreign Ministry and WIPO dealing with training Omani diplomats in the field of intellectual property.

The meeting was attended by officials from both sides.

ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Oman attends UN Conference in Doha

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Economy, took part in the 5th United Nations (UN) Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), held in Doha, Qatar.

The conference aimed to con-

tribute to setting up a new and ambitious programme of action for the least developed countries.

Oman's delegation was headed by Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

- ONA



Royal Academy of Management enjoys HM's Royal patronage

< FROM A1 Focusing on creating an enabling environment for both working and learning, the natural lights and green spaces offer a healthy work environment, whereas the smart systems and meeting capsules create an ideal space to facilitate virtual meetings.

The building also consists of various joint work spaces and community areas shying away from the traditional fixed workstations.

During the tour, His Majesty met members of the International Advisory Board of the Royal Academy of Management.

At the conclusion of the Royal visit, His Majesty received a commemorative gift from the Royal Academy of Management. Presented by Dr. Ali bin Qassim Jawad Al Lawati. The gift was inspired by the inauguration event and embodies the Academy's official opening gate. It conveys a balanced openness to the world while maintaining national originality. The gate, in its essence, reflects strength and influence, it also features a key that indicates a crossing to the future with determination.

The official opening ceremony was attended by some members of the Royal Family, ministers, the chairmen of the State Council and the Shura Council, undersecretaries and members of the Board of Trustees and the Academy's International Advisory Board.

The Royal Academy of Management enjoys His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's Royal patronage, since its establishment by a Royal Decree on 11 January, 2022. Through its all-inclusive system of centres, initiatives and programmes based on advanced methods of modern management, the Academy greets national leaders at various administrative levels in the public and private sectors. **OMA**





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US AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Delegation received

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC) received here on Monday a delegation from the United States Air Force Academy.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several matters of mutual of interest that are related to academic and training fields.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the college's facilities and equipment. They also toured its various departments and halls.

The meeting was attended by some strategic instructors at the NDC and the academic representative of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) at the NDC.

— ONA



ISWK launches its Alumni Association

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir (ISWK) recently launched its Alumni Association during the formal farewell of its outgoing batch of class 12.

The launch ceremony took place in the presence of Chief Guest, Mr. Praveen Kumar, Chief Finance Officer, OHI Group of Companies; Anil Khimji, chief patron; Kiran Asher, former chairman of the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman; Rajendra Ved, executive director of ISWK and ISWK International; and Alkesh Joshi, honorary president of ISWK School Management Committee.

Other esteemed members of the School Management Committee, Principal D.N. Rao, as well as teachers, parents, students and well-wishers were also in attendance.

The president of the ISWK Alumni Association, Antony Kallukaran, a graduate of the 2004 batch, revealed the new ISWK Alumni logo while announcing the objectives, intentions and purpose of the Alumni Association. The members of the Alumni Management Committee were thereafter introduced:

Krunal Ahya (Vice-President), Nitin Arvind (Treasurer), Sascha Saldanha (Secretary) and Makushla Santimano (Director – Marketing and Events).

Speaking on the occasion, Antony said: "It has been a dream come true and is a wonderful feeling to be able to give back to our alma mater. This association was formed to provide a platform to keep the alumni connected with the school and constantly engage the members through a wealth of activities, education programs and events. The association will assist students and teachers in financial distress, sponsor school assets, award scholarship programmes and help students and alumni with mentoring programmes and career guidance."

The ISWK Alumni Association is proud to announce its calendar of events aimed at connecting and engaging its graduates. These initiatives are aimed at helping the alumni stay connected to the school and to each other. With these new programmes, graduates will have access to a plethora of resources and opportunities to enhance their professional and personal lives.

Full story at timesofoman.com/oman



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COMPANY REPORT

Respected Shareholders,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of my colleagues and the Board of Directors of Muscat Gases Company SAOG to the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company.

A summary of the results of the company performance for the year ending 31st December 2022 is presented below.

Operating Performance:

Revenue:

Total revenue for the year ended 31st December 2022 in the parent Company was OMR 19,568,390 and the total revenue in the group Companies was RO 19,913,402 compared with total revenue of OMR 16,511,264 in the parent Company and the total revenue of OMR 17,563,964 in the group Companies for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Net Profit:

Net Loss after tax for year ended 31st December 2022 in the parent Company was OMR (237,518) and OMR (230,710) in the group Companies, compared with Net Profit after tax figure of OMR 63,681 in the parent Company and OMR 133,097 in the group Companies for the year ended 31st Dec 2021.

Earnings per Share (EPS) in the parent Company is OMR (0.008) and OMR (0.008) in the group Companies, for the year ended 31st December 2022 compared with is OMR 0.002 in the parent Company and OMR 0.004 in the group Companies for the year ended 31st December 2021.

The board also reviewed the related party transactions as mentioned in note-26 which are within the normal business relationship.

Investment in Subsidiary Companies:

Muscat Gases Company holds 100% shares in the subsidiary Company called Al Aman Industrial and House Gas LLC, holds 99.99% shares in the subsidiary Company called Muscat Power Pioneer LLC and 99% shares in the subsidiary Company called United Marketing Solutions.

Market Share:

Muscat Gases is the biggest player in the LPG market in Oman offering a wide range of products (Cylinder Bottling, Bulk Gas Delivery, MGAP [Deodorized Gas], and export). MGC is planning a steady growth by increasing its products and service portfolio and opening new sales channels. MGC has been and shall be fully committed to play its national role in serving the customers with the necessary LPG needs. MGC continues focus on customer service and operational efficiencies.

Human Resources

Human Resources plays an important strategic role in the continuous development of MGC and employees are our key assets in this journey to success.

Omanization

Omanization and continuous development of National workforce has been given top priority. Majority of the functions and divisions are being headed by Omanis. Company achieved 48.7 % Omanization as on 31st December 2022 and we believe that the Omanization will be adding more value to the Company.

Health Safety & Environment

Muscat Gases Company is committed to high HSE standards and promote HSE culture among its employees and distributors.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

As part of its ongoing commitment to support the society and environment, Muscat Gases has embarked on number of CSR initiatives and programs related to its mandate and operating field as part of its commitment to protect the safety and foster convenience of customers. During the year 2022, the Company spent 500 OMR for the CSR Programme.

Future Outlook:

LPG: The Company formulated a 5 years growth strategy in different areas to increase the Company's performance in coming years. The Management's total focus on the LPG business has started yielding better results and the Company is committed to put all its efforts to maximize the shareholders return.

Thanks, and Appreciation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the staff, we are honored to express our gratitude to His Majesty Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimoor Al Said for His visionary leadership. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him all the health & blessings to continue to lead the country on the path of sustainable development. We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our shareholder & customers for their continued support that enabled us to achieve the results. With their support, we are confident that Muscat Gases will continue its performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence.

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Parent Company		Group	
	Year ended 31 Dec. 2022	Year ended 31 Dec. 2021	Year ended 31 Dec. 2022	Year ended 31 Dec. 2021
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Revenue	19,568,390	16,511,264	19,913,402	17,563,964
Cost of revenue	(19,045,979)	(15,840,998)	(19,313,733)	(16,716,898)
Gross profit	522,411	670,266	599,669	847,066
Other income	165,722	264,217	134,264	206,938
Allowance for expected credit losses	(113,453)	(2,317)	(113,453)	(2,317)
Administrative and general expenses	(782,851)	(758,715)	(822,944)	(795,952)
Loss / (profit) from operations	(208,171)	173,451	(202,464)	255,735
Finance charges	(71,442)	(81,972)	(72,004)	(82,309)
(Loss) / profit for the year before taxation	(279,613)	91,479	(274,468)	173,426
Tax credit / (expense)	42,095	(27,798)	43,758	(40,329)
(Loss) / profit for the year	(237,518)	63,681	(230,710)	133,097
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:				
Revaluation of land	90,000	-	90,000	-
Related deferred tax	(36,221)	-	(36,221)	-
Total other comprehensive income for the year	53,779	-	53,779	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	(183,739)	63,681	(176,931)	133,097
(Loss) / earnings per share	(0.008)	0.002	(0.008)	0.004

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Parent Company		Group	
	31 Dec. 2022	31 Dec. 2021	31 Dec. 2022	31 Dec. 2021
	RO	RO	RO	RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	2,991,712	2,622,800	3,198,791	3,078,475
Goodwill	-	-	996,800	996,800
Investment in subsidiaries	1,901,475	1,901,475	-	-
Right-of-use assets	241,551	211,285	241,551	211,285
Long term trade receivables	281,151	406,107	281,151	406,107
Total non-current assets	5,415,889	5,141,667	4,718,293	4,692,667
Current assets				
Inventories	1,495,440	1,127,349	1,596,924	1,155,131
Trade and other receivables	3,619,731	3,034,588	3,242,302	2,957,102
Cash and bank balances	2,235,750	2,419,246	2,249,085	2,459,438
Total current assets	7,350,921	6,581,183	7,088,311	6,571,671
Total assets	12,766,810	11,722,850	11,806,604	11,264,338
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,009,975	1,009,975
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Revaluation reserve	807,666	753,887	807,666	753,887
(Accumulated losses) / retained earnings	(172,109)	65,409	(105,860)	124,850
Total equity	6,092,624	6,276,363	6,168,848	6,345,779
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	168,270	348,279	168,270	348,279
Lease liabilities	244,983	199,797	244,983	199,797
Employees' end of service benefits	79,605	69,868	82,119	70,845
Deferred tax liabilities - net	147,149	153,225	144,695	154,740
Total non-current liabilities	640,007	771,169	640,067	773,661
Current liabilities				
Current portion of term loans	184,118	227,700	184,118	227,700
Bank overdraft	337,342	438,827	337,342	438,827
Current portion of lease liabilities	28,143	26,051	28,143	26,051
Trade and other payables	5,464,358	3,952,608	4,425,562	3,411,172
Income tax payable	20,218	30,132	22,524	41,148
Total current liabilities	6,034,179	4,675,318	4,997,689	4,144,898
Total liabilities	6,674,186	5,446,487	5,637,756	4,918,559
Total equity and liabilities	12,766,810	11,722,850	11,806,604	11,264,338
Net assets per share	0.203	0.209	0.206	0.212

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.



مستشفى الحياة الدولي

AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Quality Care Without Compromise



DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPEDICS

- All Trauma Cases
- Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), The posterior cruciate ligament (PCL)
- Medial patellofemoral ligament (MPFL), osteochondral autograft transfer system (OATS)
- Hip and Knee replacement surgeries
- Revision ACL reconstruction
- Revision TKR, THR

- Arthroscopies
- Shoulder Injuries
- HTO (High Tibial Osteotomy)
- Spine surgeries
- Microdiscectomy
- Spine fusion surgeries
- Anterior lumbar interbody fusion (ALIF)
- A transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion (TLIF)

2200 4000

9797 1672

9509 4944

Our Team of Orthopedic Specialists



Dr. Mohamed Al Mathani
Consultant - Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Khalifa Al Ghafri
Senior Consultant Spine Surgery



Dr. Ali Al Lawati
Consultant Trauma & Orthopedics



Dr. Shibu
Orthopedic Specialist



Dr. Omar Al Mahrouqi
Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Dayanand
Orthopedic Specialist

AGREEMENT SIGNED



Saudi Arabia signs deal to deposit \$5 billion in Türkiye’s central bank

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia signed an agreement with Türkiye on Monday to deposit \$5 billion (€4.7 billion) in the country’s central bank.

It comes as Türkiye is struggling with high inflation and the effects of last month’s massive earthquake.

The kingdom announced the deal through the state-run Saudi Press Agency, calling it “a testament to the close cooperation and historical ties that exist between the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Türkiye and its brotherly people.”

The decision was made on the order of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman it said.

The kingdom gave no details on how the cash would be used or if it could call for the amount to be returned. Deposits of this nature can help increase a national currency’s exchange rates against other international currencies.

In December of last year, Minister of Finance Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan had announced his country’s intention to make the deposit.

Last April, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid his first visit to Saudi Arabia since the Khashoggi killing, where he met Prince Mohammed before traveling to Makkah.

Prince Mohammed followed with a visit to Ankara in June.

— DW



OTE PRESENTS

HAVAL

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 شركة إسمنت عمان (ش.م.ع.) Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)					P.O. Box 560, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777																																																																																																																															
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT					STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION																																																																																																																															
Respected Shareholders, On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Cement Company (SAOG), it gives me a great pleasure to present you the Company's performances during the twelve months period ended on 31 December 2022. Company has continued its efforts to overcome the adverse impact of rise in prices of some major elements of cost, and extensive efforts have been made in this direction in the current period also with better cost management and sustained efforts to improve productivity. Your Company has produced and sold record quantities of Cement during the period to help the nation and the consumers in overcoming a scarcity created by various challenges faced by consumers due to short supply of cement from other manufacturers and prevailing global macroeconomic trends. The Company continues to be an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certified Company. It has also API Spec 10A (American Petroleum Institute) quality monogram certification for manufacturing and sale of Oil Well Cements.																																																																																																																																				
1. PRODUCTION (i) Clinker Production: The company has produced a total quantity of 2,526,980 MT of Clinker during the year as against 2,501,503 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by 25,477 MT (1.02%). (ii) Cement Production: Company has produced 3,462,446 MT of Cement during the year as against 2,393,963 MT produced during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by 1,068,483 MT (44.63%).																																																																																																																																				
2. TURNOVER & PROFIT (i) Company has achieved sales of 3,456,489 MT of Cement during the year as against 2,388,270 MT sale during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by 1,068,219 MT (44.73%). In value terms, the Company has achieved a sale of OMR 66.695 million of Cement during the year as against OMR 46.944 million sale during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by OMR 19.751 million (42.07%). (ii) During the year, the Company, on prudent basis, has recognised provision for impairment of Al Sahawa Project capital work-in-progress expenditures amounting OMR 1.178 million which is disclosed under property, plant, and equipment - capital work-in-progress. After recognition of impairment the Company has profit before tax of OMR 5.981 million during the year as against OMR 5.184 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by OMR 0.796 million (15.36%).																																																																																																																																				
(iii) The Company has earned profit after tax of OMR 5.040 million during the year as against OMR 4.447 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by OMR 0.594 million (13.35%). 3. INVESTMENTS The company has continued to place its surplus funds in fixed income investments in fixed deposits and call account deposits of commercial banks. 4. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE The company has complied fully with the requirements of Corporate Governance. In this regard reference may be made to: (i) Management Discussion and Analysis Report, which gives in detail the company's performance and expansion programs. (ii) Report on corporate governance. The above two reports demonstrate the company's determination to follow the best management practices.																																																																																																																																				
5. ASSOCIATE COMPANY Mondi Oman LLC Company's share of profit after tax in associate company amounting to OMR 652,475 during the year as against OMR 311,957 during the corresponding period of the previous year, as reported by the associate company, has been suitably accounted for in the financial statements of the Company. 6 The Company adopts a balanced policy of dividend to shareholders based on the results achieved taking into consideration the circumstances of the industry and market as well as the investors expectation and also with consideration to transfer to reserves to strengthen Company's competitive position in the market and to ensure a consistent dividend payout. The dividends declared by the Company during last five years are indicated in the table given below: <table><tr><td>Year</td><td>2017</td><td>2018</td><td>2019</td><td>2020</td><td>2021</td></tr><tr><td>Dividend on Paid up Capital</td><td>30%</td><td>30%</td><td>20%</td><td>10%</td><td>10%</td></tr></table>					Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Dividend on Paid up Capital	30%	30%	20%	10%	10%																																																																																																																				
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7. INTERNAL CONTROL: The internal control systems of the Company are being assessed regularly for effectiveness. 8. MARKET DEMAND & FUTURE OUTLOOK Cement market in Oman has continued to witness intense price competition plus supply chain constrains between major suppliers, which include local cement companies as well as cement manufacturers from neighbouring countries. The company has continued with its dynamic pricing policy and adjusted the pricing responsive to the market. The company continues to innovate varieties of product during the year coupled with its high emphasis on cost reduction while maintaining highest quality standards. Market demand in 2023 is expected to be stable.																																																																																																																																				
9. EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION & UPGRADATION (i) The company is in the process of implementing a project to promote the use of alternative energy by utilizing waste tires as an alternate fuel and the commissioning of the project is in progress. (ii) Al Sahawa Project to set up a new cement plant at Duqm with a capacity of 5,000 TPD of Clinker has encountered issues in the supply of gas. The matter is under discussion with Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) for exploring alternatives such as re-location of the plant site to a close proximity of facilities & utilities and other matters. (iii) The company is in the process of upgrading its capacity by setting up a new production line of 10,000 TPD clinker capacity and upgrading existing Line-3 to 5,000 TPD at its existing Plant location at Muscat. Tenders have been floated to select EPC contractor and final EPC offers have been received.																																																																																																																																				
10. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: On its Corporate Social responsibility initiative, the company continues to recognize its responsibility towards environment, societal and economical stewardship and in this direction, the Board has approved a CSR Policy. The company has been putting its efforts in this direction by demonstrating exceptional care for its communities by taking care of various aspects of resource conservation, energy efficiency and pollution prevention initiatives. The company has continued to make sustained efforts to improve the work environment to be safe and healthy. The company continues to arrange training for its employees in a major way both within the country as well as abroad to upgrade their knowledge and skill. In addition, several training programs have been organized by the company for its employees in health, safety, and environmental awareness. It has also taken care of the health of not only its employees but also the majority of their family members through health insurance policy. An employee benevolent fund takes care of assistance to employees in time of need. The company also has a liberal policy for granting donations for social and charitable purposes. Company supports building of new Mosques by way of providing free of charge some cement. The confidence and encouragement extended to the Board by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the shareholders is highly appreciated and the staff & management of the company pray Almighty Allah to continue to guide H.M. Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur, Sultan of Oman, for the common welfare of the country.																																																																																																																																				
Rashid Sultan Al Hashmi Chairman of the Board of Directors Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who request them in either Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt to the following address: Oman Cement Company SAOG, P.O. Box 560, P.C. 112, Sultanate of Oman																																																																																																																																				
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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2023 reaching \$84.11, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 79 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$83.32. - ONA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,833.15 points, down by 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 489.27 points. Al Batinah Development Company, up 8.70 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 8.40 per cent, was the top loser.

High crude oil prices help GCC economies to maintain growth

Higher interest rates could subdue economic activity worldwide and by extension in the GCC



Ahmed Negm



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The GCC countries have been able to maintain strong economic growth despite the deteriorating environment globally with high inflation and increasing interest rates, according to an industry expert.

"High oil prices have also played a strong role in improving public finances and company performance," Ahmed Negm, Head of Market Research Mena at XS.com, said.

India too has similarly shown resilience compared to many economies but it could be negatively exposed to the rising interest rates in the US and Europe and the resulting slowdown in the global economy. "However, the GCC and India could continue to perform better than the rest of the world," he added.

The content of the Federal Reserve's minutes has emphasised

the central bank's goal to fight inflation and its intent to use the necessary tools at its disposal to bring it down to its 2 per cent goal. As a result, expectations have shifted more towards the possibility of seeing interest rates go higher for longer. This in turn has affected sentiment in financial markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and elsewhere.

Higher interest rates could subdue economic activity worldwide and by extension in the GCC. Additionally, local central banks follow their US counterpart in setting monetary policy, which could also have a more direct impact on local companies, their bottom lines and their stock prices.

Similar to other economies, GCC countries could record a slowdown as interest rates could

keep climbing this year. The effect of a tighter monetary policy could be softer than in other regions of the world thanks to the strong local fundamentals. With Chinese economic activity improving after China's reopening, oil prices could move to higher levels which could be beneficial to the economies in the Middle East. "At the same, countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia are putting several economic programmes in place to boost activity which could alleviate the impact of a global slowdown," Ahmed Negm said.

The war in Ukraine has had strong effects on the global economy and has created serious disruptions in various commodities including agricultural and energy products. Oil prices have reacted strongly to the developments in

Eastern Europe and rose to high levels in the middle of last year before declining gradually.

This rise has put significant strain on several economies like India, while inflation increased and company earnings were squeezed. At the same time, high crude prices have alleviated the effects of the global economic slowdown in oil-exporting countries.

Elaborating further regarding the expectations of GCC and India after Fed and ECB interest rates hikes, Ahmed Negm said that the stock markets in India and the GCC could come under pressure as the ECB and the Federal Reserve continue raising interest rates. Investors' appetite for risk could decline and see more capital heading toward safer assets like treasury bonds in the US at the expense of riskier equities.

Despite strong volatility Indian rupee seen stabilising

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Like many currencies, the Indian rupee has declined against the dollar in reaction to the tightening of the US monetary policy, according to an industry expert.

"The Federal Reserve's fight against inflation has led to a continuous slide in the value of the rupee against the dollar," Ahmed Negm, Head of Market Research MENA at XS.com, said.

"However, the Indian currency has stabilised to a certain extent since the last quarter of 2022 despite strong volatility while hopes of a softer monetary policy took over the market. As a result, the rupee could see new losses if the US central bank maintains its hawkish stance," he added.

The rupee could continue to oscillate around current levels while doubts about US monetary policy could drive

expectations. The trading range could narrow while the Federal Reserve's meeting approaches.

"At that point, the behaviour of the currency pair could depend on the outcome of the meeting and a surprise could fuel strong volatility," he said.

Crypto-currencies in GCC

Crypto-currencies are finding a welcoming home in some GCC countries, which have put in place appropriate legal frameworks and have taken initiatives to develop the industry locally and attract large players, Ahmed Negm said. The UAE in particular has been quite successful in drawing global crypto exchanges and other market participants by creating the necessary regulation at a time when the attitude toward cryptocurrencies remains hostile in many jurisdictions.

NCSI DATA

Value of real estate deals rises by 20% to reach OMR260.5 million in Oman

MUSCAT: The total value of property transactions in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of January 2023 rose by 20.4 per cent to reach OMR260.5 million, compared to OMR216.3 million during the corresponding period in 2022, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The figures revealed that the total fees collected for all transactions by the end of January 2023 amounted to OMR5.8 million, comprising an increase of 2.6 per cent compared to the same period in 2022.

The traded value of sales contracts decreased by 11.7 per cent, to stand at OMR118.4 million by the end of January 2023, compared to OMR134.2 million at the end of January 2022. Sales contracts also saw a decline of 13.8 per cent, to stand at 5,746 contracts at the end of January 2023, compared to 6,664 contracts at the end of January 2022.

The statistics indicated a surge



in the traded value of mortgage contracts at the end of January 2023 by 76.1 per cent, to reach OMR141.3 million, compared to OMR80.2 million at the end of January 2022.

Meanwhile, the number of mortgage contracts reached 1,698 at the end of January 2023, comprising an increase of 13.9 per cent

over the same period of 2022 when it stood at 1,491 contracts.

The traded value of swap contracts declined by 56.3 per cent to reach OMR800,000 at the end of January 2023, compared to OMR1.9 million at the end of January 2022. The number of swap contracts went up by 3.1 per cent to reach 134 contracts, compared to 130 contracts by

the end of January 2022.

According to NCSI statistics, as many as 21,627 title deeds were issued by the end of January 2023, constituting a rise of 4.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, the number of title deeds issued for the GCC citizens surged by 113.5 per cent to reach 111 title deeds compared to 52 by the end of January 2022. - ONA

MEETING



Global trends in utilising intellectual property to support startups discussed

MUSCAT: Halima Rashid Al Zar'ee, Chairperson of the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (AS-MED) met with Daren Tang, Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting discussed global trends in utilising intellectual

property to support startups and means to enhance cooperation in the areas of commercial franchising, marketing and training for the SMEs. It also touched on the role played by intellectual property rights in encouraging innovation and creativity, as well as protecting innovations and transforming ideas into products and services, and enriching them with competitive advantages. - ONA

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

WIPO director-general hails Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: Daren Tang, Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) lauded the Sultanate of Oman's interest in intellectual property (IP) as it is considered "a catalyst for growth".

He added that the Sultanate of Oman is among the first Arab countries to join the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.

In a media meeting with Oman News Agency (ONA), the WIPO Director-General expressed his admiration for Oman Vision 2040 which targets economic diversification and building communities that fulfil the aspirations of the Omani youth. He added that the Sultanate of Oman enjoys a dynamic young population reaching more than 60 per cent of the overall population.

He said, "The Omani youth have become entrepreneurs, researchers and innovators, and they need to use intellectual property rights to protect their ideas and deliver their



innovative, high-quality products to various global markets."

He explained that his visit to the Sultanate of Oman aims to closely view future plans and to explore the possibility of applying intellectual property rights as a stimulating tool to create job opportunities,

attract investments and support innovations on the ground.

He elaborated that his visit to Oman also aims to offer various methods of support to protect various forms of Omani heritage, in particular the Omani frankincense products. Frankincense

is harvested, the WIPO Director General said, in a unique way that Omanis have been developing as a lifestyle for hundreds of years and passed down to generations. He added this unique product and the way its collection requires protection to become a high-quality

product in global markets.

He also touched on the Omani frankincense project, according to which the WIPO will train 10 entrepreneurs of Omani frankincense producers on how to use intellectual property rights as an important part of their business strategy, starting with protecting and packaging this product, to marketing and eventually delivering it to various markets with high quality. This will contribute to raising the standard of living of local communities depending on such products, he explained.

He pointed out that the WIPO geographical indications (GIs) help to protect the unique products from the land, from people, or different parts of the world, and function as support providers to local communities.

The WIPO, the Director General added, seeks to urge member states to adopt intellectual property rights to support young people in local communities to continue various heritage patterns and to generate jobs associated with

these life patterns.

He explained that the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration provides for the protection of the names of origin represented in the geographical designation of any country, region or party that is used to denote one of the products that arise in that country, region or entity, and that its quality or characteristics are completely or mainly attributed to the geographical environment, including natural and human factors.

He underscored the importance of the Lisbon agreement in exchanging ideas and experiences among the WIPO member states, and the potential of encouraging other countries to join this agreement. He commended the experience of the Sultanate of Oman in this regard and in particular the ongoing discussions with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to launch master's programmes in intellectual property rights and innovation management. - ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Batinah Development Company, up 8.70 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 8.40 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,833.15 points, down by 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 489.27 points. Al Batinah Development Company, up 8.70 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 8.40 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of SMN Power Holding were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 321 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.09 million, with more than 10.48 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 13 advanced, 12 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR39,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR37,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR2,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,828.86 points, down 0.26 per cent. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Oman Arab Bank, Global Financial Investments, Ahli Bank and Al Madina Takaful were up by 8.70 per cent, 1.72 per cent, 1.61 per cent, 1.18 per cent, 1.10 per cent respectively. Prices of National Bank Oman, United Finance and Bank Nizwa were up by 3.57 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.00 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at



6,073.83 points, down 0.17 per cent. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Raysut Cement and Galfar Engineering were up by 2.67 per cent, 2.36 per cent and 0.48 per cent respectively.

Prices of Voltamp Energy, Oman Fisheries, Gulf Mushroom Products and Oman Cement were up by 8.40 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.72 per cent and 0.67 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.52 per cent before closing at

1,735.44 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Barka Desalination, Dhafer Generating and

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDECIES

Index.....	High.....	Low.....	Value.....	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX.....	4,859.98	4,831.66	4,833.15	4,853.36	-20.21.....	-0.42
FINANCIAL INDEX.....	7,865.81	7,821.45	7,828.86	7,849.03	-20.17.....	-0.26
Industry Index.....	6,091.28	6,043.85	6,073.83	6,083.89	-10.06.....	-0.17
Services Index.....	1,750.00	1,735.44	1,735.44	1,744.57	-9.13.....	-0.52
MSX Shariah Index.....	489.61	488.71	489.27	489.61	-0.34.....	-0.07
MSX TR INDEX.....	6,136.55	6,100.79	6,102.67	6,128.18	-25.51.....	-0.42
FINANCIAL TR IDX.....	8,230.69	8,184.28	8,192.03	8,213.14	-21.11.....	-0.26
SERVICES TR IDX.....	1,856.52	1,841.07	1,841.07	1,850.76	-9.69.....	-0.52
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....	6,341.78	6,292.40	6,323.61	6,334.09	-10.48.....	-0.17

Trading Summary

Volume.....	Turnover.....	Trades.....	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
10,488,010.....	2,091,764.....	321.....	23,757,829,157.....	13.....	12.....	20.....	45.....

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 6

ISIN.....	SECURITY NAME.....	VOLUME.....	TURNOVER.....	TRADES.....	OPEN PRICE.....	HIGH.....	LOW.....	CLOSE PR.....	PREV. CLOSE.....	DIFF %.....	DIFF %.....	LAST PR.....	LAST BID.....	LAST OFFER.....	PAR VALUE.....	MARKET CAP.....
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000007407.....	DHOFAR GENERATING.....	194,000.....	13,878.....	6.....	0.072.....	0.072.....	0.069.....	0.069.....	0.066.....	0.003.....	4.545.....	0.069.....	0.064.....	0.069.....	0.100.....	15,334,560.....
OM0000003125.....	GLOBAL INV H.....	100.....	6.....	1.....	0.063.....	0.063.....	0.063.....	0.063.....	0.062.....	0.001.....	1.613.....	0.063.....	0.060.....	0.062.....	0.100.....	12,800,000.....
OM0000002200.....	AHLI BANK.....	721,987.....	123,460.....	4.....	0.171.....	0.171.....	0.171.....	0.171.....	0.169.....	0.002.....	1.183.....	0.171.....	0.171.....	0.172.....	0.100.....	333,391,427.....
OM0000001152.....	OMAN NAT. ENG.....	75,000.....	9,104.....	9.....	0.121.....	0.122.....	0.121.....	0.121.....	0.120.....	0.001.....	0.833.....	0.121.....	0.121.....	0.121.....	0.100.....	16,840,000.....
OM0000003153.....	OMINVEST.....	26,630.....	12,779.....	5.....	0.480.....	0.480.....	0.478.....	0.478.....	0.476.....	0.002.....	0.420.....	0.478.....	0.476.....	0.522.....	0.100.....	319,478,674.....
OM0000002176.....	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.....	20,000.....	5,620.....	2.....	0.281.....	0.281.....	0.281.....	0.281.....	0.281.....	0.000.....	0.281.....	0.281.....	0.281.....	0.300.....	0.100.....	35,986,327.....
OM0000000796.....	BANK MUSCAT.....	1,587,379.....	547,317.....	20.....	0.286.....	0.292.....	0.286.....	0.290.....	0.290.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.290.....	0.289.....	0.289.....	0.100.....	2,176,855,148.....
OM0000003000.....	ALMAHA PETROLEUM.....	8,000.....	6,215.....	1.....	1.130.....	1.130.....	1.130.....	1.130.....	1.130.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	1.130.....	0.000.....	1.130.....	0.100.....	77,770,000.....
OM0000003026.....	OMAN TELECOM.....	33,464.....	32,787.....	6.....	0.980.....	0.980.....	0.976.....	0.980.....	0.980.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.980.....	0.976.....	0.980.....	0.100.....	735,000,000.....
OM0000003398.....	SOHAR INT. BANK.....	222,473.....	23,137.....	6.....	0.104.....	0.104.....	0.104.....	0.104.....	0.104.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.104.....	0.104.....	0.107.....	0.100.....	477,366,478.....
OM0000003968.....	OREDOO.....	32,000.....	13,760.....	1.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.100.....	279,906,019.....
OM0000005005.....	ALMAHA CERAMICS.....	378.....	159.....	1.....	0.420.....	0.420.....	0.420.....	0.420.....	0.420.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.420.....	0.416.....	0.462.....	0.100.....	23,100,000.....
OM0000000749.....	OMAN CEMENT.....	26,805.....	7,974.....	5.....	0.300.....	0.300.....	0.298.....	0.300.....	0.300.....	-0.002.....	-0.667.....	0.298.....	0.294.....	0.306.....	0.100.....	98,600,068.....
OM0000003224.....	RENAISSANCE SER.....	402,426.....	175,322.....	29.....	0.440.....	0.440.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.440.....	-0.010.....	-2.273.....	0.430.....	0.430.....	0.484.....	0.100.....	101,656,300.....
OM0000003483.....	NATIONAL BANK OMN.....	1,048.....	283.....	1.....	0.270.....	0.270.....	0.270.....	0.270.....	0.280.....	-0.010.....	-3.571.....	0.270.....	0.270.....	0.284.....	0.100.....	439,005,516.....
Total.....	15.....	3,648,990.....	971,801.....	98.....												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002366.....	AL BATINAH DEV.....	168,702.....	8,435.....	7.....	0.050.....	0.050.....	0.050.....	0.050.....	0.046.....	0.004.....	8.696.....	0.050.....	0.050.....	0.050.....	0.100.....	1,500,000.....
OM0000004243.....	SMN POWER HOLDING.....	2,110,634.....	224,576.....	76.....	0.107.....	0.107.....	0.102.....	0.106.....	0.098.....	0.008.....	8.163.....	0.106.....	0.106.....	0.106.....	0.100.....	21,161,374.....
OM0000000870.....	BARKA DESALINATION.....	32,700.....	4,573.....	2.....	0.135.....	0.140.....	0.135.....	0.140.....	0.132.....	0.008.....	6.061.....	0.140.....	0.136.....	0.141.....	0.100.....	10,573,800.....
OM0000002028.....	GULF INT CHEM.....	14,500.....	1,117.....	2.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.075.....	0.002.....	2.667.....	0.077.....	0.076.....	0.077.....	0.100.....	1,617,000.....
OM0000004118.....	RAYSUT CEMENT.....	34,400.....	4,387.....	7.....	0.127.....	0.130.....	0.127.....	0.130.....	0.127.....	0.003.....	2.362.....	0.130.....	0.125.....	0.139.....	0.100.....	26,000,000.....
OM0000005260.....	OMAN ARAB BANK.....	6,000.....	708.....	1.....	0.118.....	0.118.....	0.118.....	0.118.....	0.116.....	0.002.....	1.724.....	0.118.....	0.116.....	0.118.....	0.100.....	16,969,930.....
OM0000004078.....	MADINA TAKAFUL.....	271,629.....	24,723.....	20.....	0.091.....	0.092.....	0.091.....	0.092.....	0.091.....	0.001.....	1.099.....	0.092.....	0.091.....	0.092.....	0.100.....	16,100,000.....
OM0000003521.....	GALFAR ENGINEER.....	2,079,018.....	438,352.....	21.....	0.210.....	0.210.....	0.205.....	0.209.....	0.208.....	0.001.....	0.481.....	0.209.....	0.205.....	0.209.....	0.100.....	42,424,167.....
OM0000000137.....	HSBC BANK OMN.....	500,000.....	32,530.....	2.....	0.034.....	0.035.....	0.034.....	0.035.....	0.035.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.035.....	0.034.....	0.035.....	0.100.....	320,051,610.....
OM0000001590.....	MUSCAT FINANCE.....	30,000.....	1,800.....	2.....	0.060.....	0.060.....	0.060.....	0.060.....	0.060.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.060.....	0.058.....	0.066.....	0.100.....	18,428,780.....
OM0000001681.....	OMAN EMIRATES HO.....	75,163.....	5,788.....	6.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.077.....	0.077.....	0.080.....	0.100.....	9,384,375.....
OM0000000275.....	SHELL OMAN MRK.....	5,500.....	490.....	2.....	0.888.....	0.892.....	0.888.....	0.892.....	0.892.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.892.....	0.876.....	0.980.....	0.100.....	84,740,000.....
OM0000002848.....	NATIONAL FINANCE.....	5,000.....	730.....	1.....	0.146.....	0.146.....	0.146.....	0.146.....	0.144.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.146.....	0.142.....	0.144.....	0.100.....	79,019,646.....
OM0000004825.....	ALBATINAH POWER.....	57,018.....	1,892.....	1.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.100.....	22,271,285.....
OM0000004833.....	AL SUWADI POWER.....	444,000.....	14,530.....	6.....	0.034.....	0.034.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.033.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.033.....	0.032.....	0.033.....	0.100.....	23,575,409.....
OM0000006979.....	OMAN QATAR INSUR.....	5,000.....	740.....	1.....	0.148.....	0.148.....	0.148.....	0.148.....	0.148.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.148.....	0.140.....	0.152.....	0.100.....	23,860,348.....
OM0000004711.....	MUSANDAM POWER.....	59,900.....	16,084.....	1.....	0.316.....	0.316.....	0.316.....	0.316.....	0.316.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.316.....	0.316.....	0.346.....	0.100.....	22,243,240.....
OM0000000820.....	BANK NIZWA.....	24,586.....	23,305.....	6.....	0.099.....	0.100.....	0.099.....	0.099.....	0.100.....	-0.001.....	-1.000.....	0.099.....	0.098.....	0.102.....	0.100.....	221,458,350.....
OM0000000274.....	UNITED FINANCE.....	223,000.....	14,367.....	17.....	0.094.....	0.094.....	0.094.....	0.094.....	0.094.....	0.000.....	0.000.....	0.094.....	0.094.....	0.094.....	0.100.....	3,996,000.....
OM0000001178.....	MUSCAT GASES.....	50,000.....	5,400.....	1.....	0.108.....	0.108.....	0.108.....	0.108.....	0.110.....	-0.002.....	-1.818.....	0.108.....	0.105.....	0.000.....	0.100.....	3,240,000.....
OM0000001060.....	NATIONAL GAS.....	103,000.....	11,051.....	9.....	0.108.....	0.108.....	0.107.....	0.107.....	0.109.....	-0.002.....	-1.835.....	0.107.....	0.099.....	0.098.....	0.100.....	9,095,000.....
OM0000000267.....	GULF MUSHROOM P.....	21,114.....	5,292.....	4.....	0.257.....	0.257.....	0.250.....	0.250.....	0.257.....	-0.007.....	-2.724.....	0.250.....	0.236.....	0.256.....	0.100.....	14,041,318.....
OM0000000784.....	MCT DESALINATION.....	2,223.....	211.....	1.....	0.095.....	0.095.....	0.095.....	0.095.....	0.098.....	-0.003.....	-3.061.....	0.095.....	0.094.....	0.098.....	0.100.....	14,777,288.....
OM0000001096.....	OMAN FISHERIES.....	35,450.....	3,068.....	6.....	0.088.....	0.087.....	0.088.....	0.087.....	0.090.....	-0.003.....	-3.333.....	0.087.....	0.087.....	0.087.....	0.100.....	15,840,821.....
OM0000005962.....	PHOENIX POWER.....	11,446.....	554.....	2.....	0.058.....	0.058.....	0.058.....	0.057.....	0.059.....	-0.002.....	-3.058.....	0.058.....	0.055.....	0.058.....	0.100.....	1,000,000.....
OM0000003661.....	VOLTAMP ENERGY.....	2,296.....	248.....	2.....	0.085.....	0.086.....	0.085.....	0.085.....	0.086.....	-0.001.....	-1.190.....	0.085.....	0.085.....	0.087.....	0.100.....	8,872,900.....
Total.....	26.....	6,564,216.....	892,912.....	206.....												

Oman Shell to highlight its key sustainability efforts at OSW

MUSCAT: Committed to meeting Oman's growing energy demands while maintaining the right equilibrium between economic growth and social and environmental needs, Oman Shell recently confirmed its participation at the upcoming Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) as the strategic partner.

The key national event, hosted under the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, is scheduled to be held from March 12 to 16 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). Dedicated to the future of energy, power, water, waste, environment and society, it will offer a platform for global stakeholders, sustainability experts and industry leaders from different sectors. Representing Oman Shell at the event will be Walid Hadi, Country Chairman and Senior Vice President and Malak Al Shaibani, General Manager, External Relations and ICV.

Through its dedicated booth, Oman Shell will share its inspiring journey toward driving sustainability while highlighting the progress it has made in contributing to carbon neutrality by developing green hydrogen in Oman through its green hydrogen for mobility project.

The company will also showcase the initiatives that were undertaken to empower the youth under its Shell Nawafidh and Shell NXplorers programmes. To honour the second batch of Nawafidh students and applaud their relentless dedication, Oman Shell will host a graduation ceremony as part of OSW.

Significant progress

Commenting on Oman Shell's participation in OSW, Al Shaibani said, "OSW is set to take place at an incredibly critical time as Oman has made significant progress in its energy transition agenda. An

event of such scale further reaffirms the country's unflinching commitment to attaining net zero emissions and shifting to a green, circular economy. With hydrogen being identified and promoted as a green fuel, ESG mandates becoming a mainstay across every sector and the establishment of Oman Sustainability Centre, the nation is uniquely positioned to set new benchmarks and pioneer innovative efforts in the realm of sustainability."

She added, "At Oman Shell, the values of sustainability are embedded into our DNA and are integrated into everything we do. We are indeed delighted to be a critical part of OSW and aim to showcase our key initiatives and exchange knowledge with our partners and other experts in the field. Through our projects, we also seek to inspire the larger community and encourage them to take concerted action."

TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) Announce the following Tender:

Sr. No	Tender No.	Tender Name	Last date for documents collection	Bid Submission Date	Grade	Tender Document's Fees (Including VAT) (RO)
1	113/2022 (Refloat)	Supply of Drinking Water Bottles for 3 Years	23/03/2023	18/04/2023	Local Companies with Experience in Same Field, Have A Valid Commercial Registration	26/250

Participation:	Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity Apply on E-tendering
Buying the Tender:	By E-Tendering System.
Fees:	Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document. (Payment Through Bank Transfer)
The deadline for clarification:	Before (21) Days from closing date.
Submission:	The submission of hard copy will be only for Bid Bond & other documents by E-Tendering
Terms and conditions:	• No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope. • The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from closing date. • The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from closing date, addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC). • Any bid no comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted. • OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.
Offer:	The bid bond should be submitted in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.
Company Address:	Muscat - Al Mawaleh, Road No: 2153 – Building No. 4230 Block No: 321 – Contact Details: 91777378
Email Website:	tenders@omangrid.com www.omangrid.com / link of E-Tendering System https://www.omangrid.com/en/Pages/Services.aspx



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Foxconn seeks cooperation with India in chips, electric vehicles

TAIPEI: Apple supplier Foxconn has said that it is seeking Indian partners to cooperate in areas like chips and electric vehicles, CNN reported. The development comes after Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) chairman and CEO Young Liu concluded his visit to India.

Taiwan's Foxconn has been looking to enhance its operations in the South Asian giant after suffering severe supply disruptions in China last year, as per the news report. However, the company bounced back from the disruptions early this year. On Saturday, Young Liu said that his trip to India supported Foxconn's efforts to deepen partnerships in new sectors such as semiconductor development and electric vehicles.

“India is a country with a large population,” CNN quoted Young Liu as saying.

"My trip this week supported Foxconn's efforts to deepen partnerships ... and seek cooperation in new areas such as semiconductor development and electric vehicles," he added.

"Foxconn will continue to communicate with local governments to seek the most beneficial development opportunities for the company and all stakeholders," Young Liu said as per CNN. **-ANI**

Liverpool inflict humiliation on arch-rivals Man United

Reds triumph 7-0 to record their biggest-ever victory over United at Anfield

LONDON: A terrific attacking display from Liverpool saw the Reds rout arch-rivals Manchester United 7-0 at Anfield in an English Premier League game on Sunday night.

Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah each scored twice, with Roberto Firmino adding a late seventh, as Liverpool produced a remarkable performance to record their biggest-ever victory over their traditional opponents and reassert their burgeoning bid for a top-four finish. Six of Jürgen Klopp's side's goals came during an irresistible second half after Gakpo had broken the deadlock two minutes before half-time.

Nunez and Gakpo made it 3-0 soon after the restart, with Salah smashing home his first in the 66th minute and Nunez then grabbing his second, prior to Salah overtaking Robbie Fowler as the club's record Premier League goalscorer.

And there was still time for Firmino to squeeze in number seven at the end of an unforgettable afternoon at Anfield.

The opening 10 minutes were



played almost entirely in United's half as the Reds, powered by the electricity of the atmosphere being created by the home crowd, flew out of the blocks.

Clear-cut chances were few and far between, however, with Salah curling an effort over before Lisandro Martinez intervened crucially as Nunez appeared certain to convert Robertson's delivery.

Bruno Fernandes nodded wide before Casemiro, who was several yards offside, saw a headed goal disallowed – but, moments later, Liverpool led through Gakpo.

Robertson injected urgency into a patiently built move from the back by darting infield with the ball and bisecting United's backline with a perfect pass into the No.18.

From there, Gakpo cut inside and arced a precise shot into the

far bottom corner to give his team the advantage shortly before the break.

Klopp's team emerged from the interval in the mood and, by the 50-minute mark, their lead stood at three.

Textbook holding midfield play from Fabinho set the opportunity up, the No.3 doggedly retrieving possession before Harvey Elliott's cross was headed home by Nunez.

Liverpool's third was a thing of beauty, a sweeping move from back to front with Gakpo involved throughout. The sequence concluded with Salah befuddling Martinez and slipping a weighted pass into Gakpo who, from a tight angle, dispatched a delicious dink over David de Gea.

The hosts were rampant and Robertson and Ibrahima Konate each went close to scoring prior to Salah doing so midway through the period.

Again, Liverpool were utterly ruthless in winning the ball back and finishing, Salah this time applying the last touch with unerring power and accuracy, the Egyptian's right-footed blast crashing in off the underside of the Kop-end crossbar.

There was to be no let up as the Reds mercilessly made the scoreline ever-more handsome.

Nunez's adroit header made it five, Salah scored a sixth before, just as he did in 2020, removing his shirt in celebration in front of the Kop and Firmino came off the bench to round off a scarcely believable result.

(With inputs from liverpoolfc.com)

ADIEU IN HYDERABAD

Indian tennis legend Sania bids emotional farewell

HYDERABAD: Indian tennis legend Sania Mirza bid an emotional adieu to the sport in her hometown of Hyderabad on Sunday at the venue where it all started for her as a 16-year-old.

Mirza played her two exhibition tennis matches at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium, where she made her WTA event debut back in 2003. She was playing as a wild-card entry at Hyderabad Open.

A year later, she won the doubles title at the very same event with South Africa's Liezel Huber. It was the first title of Sania's 44 WTA titles, out of which 43 came in doubles competition and only one in singles. She also clinched six grand slam titles and made four appearances at the summer Olympics in a decorated career that lasted for two decades.

She had earlier retired from professional tennis after Dubai Tennis Championships earlier this month.

Sania played two exhibition matches, featuring Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna, India's 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh and American tennis player Bethanie Mattek Sands - her 'best friend' and former doubles partner. She emerged victorious in both of her matches to the joy and delight of an



excited home crowd.

"I am so excited to play my last match in front of you all," she said as quoted by Olympics.com.

"The greatest honour for me has been to play for my country for 20 years. It is every athlete's dream to represent their country at the highest level. I was able to do that," Sania Mirza told the

fans in attendance. The crowd featured plenty of youngsters and schoolchildren, who were cheering for her.

The 36-year-old Sania was accompanied by her son Izhaan Mirza Malik and turned emotional on witnessing their reception.

"These are very, very happy tears. I could not have asked for

a better send-off," Sania Mirza explained. Prominent personalities like former Indian sports minister and current Law minister Kiren Rijiju, former Indian cricket team skipper Mohammed Azharuddin, famous movie star Dulquer Salmaan and popular rapper MC Stan also attended Sania's farewell. - ANI

BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

Smith to continue as captain in 4th Test

AHMEDABAD: Australia have confirmed that stand-in skipper Steve Smith will continue to captain the team for the final Border-Gavaskar Test against India in Ahmedabad.

Steve Smith stood in as captain for Australia after Pat Cummins flew back home after the second Test in Delhi. Cummins will remain at home in Sydney to be at the side of his mother Maria, who is in palliative care due to breast cancer.

Smith filled in for Cummins as captain in Indore and led Australia to their first Test win on tour. With Nathan Lyon leading the way with a 10-wicket match haul, the visitors spun their way to a nine-wicket victory at the Holkar Stadium.

With the win, Australia punched their ticket to the ICC World Test Championship Final 2021-23, which will be played at the Oval on 7 June. They now await to see who will join them for the marquee Test, with India and Sri Lanka as the two teams in the running.

No decision has been made yet on Cummins' availability for the ODI leg of the India series, which begins on 17 March in Mumbai. Cummins was appointed the ODI captain last year after Aaron Finch decided to step down.

One change was made to the ODI squad, with Nathan El-



lis coming in for the injured Jhye Richardson.

Richardson suffered a recurrence of a left hamstring injury while playing club cricket, which ruled him out of the ODI series. The express pacer also missed the latter half of the Big Bash League due to a hamstring issue.

Australia's squad for the ODI series against India: Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marcus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner and Adam Zampa. - ANI

ONE OF THE WORST DEFEATS

Definitely a strong setback and unacceptable, says United manager

LIVERPOOL: Manchester United, the most successful team in the English Premier League, suffered arguably its worst defeat in over 140 years, as Liverpool thrashed them 7-0 at Anfield.

While the mouthwatering Sunday Derby was tipped to be a closely fought affair, the Red Devils were flattened by a storm unleashed by the Merseysiders.

For the most part of regulation time and beyond, the in-form Red Devils appeared clueless and had simply no answers to whatever Juergen Klopp's struggling Liverpool threw at them on Sunday.

Dutch manager Erik ten Hag cut a desolate figure on the touchline as the Red Devils sank deeper into the mire.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, ten Hag, visibly shaken by the manner of the defeat, said, "It's 3-0, as a team you stick together. We didn't do that. I'm surprised to see this from our team, I don't think it's us, I don't think it's Manchester United."

"We didn't track back and it was really unprofessional. We have seen in the past we can bounce back. After Brentford, after Manchester City, This is definitely a strong setback and unacceptable. I'm really disappointed and angry about it. It is a reality check. We have to take this strong," ten Hag added.

Jolted by the shock defeat, some Manchester United stars took to social media platforms to offer fans words of support.

Their Spanish goalkeeper David De Gea tweeted, "I know this message doesn't sit well on such a day. This was a disastrous moment for us and these results shouldn't happen, especially with the journey we are all on. We have a duty to this club, a responsibility to represent the badge but we have many opportunities to look ahead, many games coming fast and we have to lock our focus on these."

Marcus Rashford has said he wishes Manchester United could "play today" to "put things right" after Sunday's loss.

Rashford, 25, said the squad must ensure the match does not "define their season".

"I wish we could play a game today to try and put things right," the forward tweeted. - ANI



SPORTS

CRICKET SCOTLAND

Watson appointed interim head coach

EDINBURGH: Cricket Scotland on Monday announced the former South African batter Douglas Watson will be the interim head coach of their men's squad. Watson, who is currently the head coach with the Auckland Aces, will start work with Cricket Scotland on April 8 and is contracted until July 31. During his period as the interim men's head coach, Scotland will compete in the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe in June, where Oman have also qualified. -ANI

Markram is new SA T20I captain

CSA announce the white-ball squads for the upcoming ODI and T20I series against West Indies



JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced the white-ball squads for the ODI and T20I series against West Indies starting from March 16 onwards, with batter Aiden Markram appointed as the new captain in the shorter format and former all-rounder JP Duminy announced as the full-time white-ball batting coach of the side. Markram has been appointed the new T20I captain. The 28-year-old takes over from Temba Bavuma, who stepped down as T20I captain last month. Markram has a wealth of leadership experience having previously led South Africa at the U19 level earlier in his career and also captained at the provincial and franchise level as well. Most recently, he led Sunrisers Eastern Cape to the inaugural SA20 title. Other notable selections include Lions player Bjorn Fortuin, and his teammate, all-rounder Sisanda Magala. Within the 50-over set-up, several core white-ball players have been rested for the first and second ODIs and will return for the third match. Pace pair Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada have also been given a much-needed break for the series. Four uncapped players have been named in the squad with Knights fast bowler Gerald Coetzee, Western Province batter Tony de Zorzi and Warriors batter Tristan Stubbs earning their

maiden ODI call-ups. Lions batter Ryan Rickelton makes his return to the ODI setup. Director of Cricket Enoch Nkwe commented: "I would like to congratulate Aiden [Markram] on his appointment as captain of the Proteas T20I team. "Leadership is extremely familiar to him having successfully led on so many levels. He is a player that inspires confidence and he has all the qualities to succeed in the role. We have no doubt that will help take South Africa to the next level." Head coach Rob Walter added: "This is a squad that is high on confidence after beating one of the best white-ball teams in the world, England, in their most recent series." "We have introduced a few new faces to the 50-over squad. I am personally excited to see how the likes of Tony de Zorzi get on in the ODI team, the same with Gerald Coetzee, following debuts for both of them during the ongoing Test series." JP Duminy has been appointed the full-time white-ball batting coach. The 38-year-old recently coached the Paarl Royals in the SA20 league and the Paarl Rocks provincial team this season. He also enjoyed a prosperous playing career for the Proteas, having garnered a combined 280 limited-overs caps, during which time he became the third leading run-scorer in T20Is for South Africa. **SA's T20I squad:** Aiden Markram (capt), Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Sisanda Magala, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs. **Squad for first two ODIs:** Temba Bavuma (capt), Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Sisanda Magala, Keshav Maharaj, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Ryan Rickelton, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tristan Stubbs, Lizaad Williams, Rassie van der Dussen. **SA squad for the 3rd ODI:** Bavuma (captain), Coetzee, de Kock, de Zorzi, Fortuin, Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Magala, Maharaj, Markram, David Miller, Mulder, Ngidi, Rickelton, Wayne Parnell, Phehlukwayo, Stubbs, Williams, van der Dussen. -ANI



JAZEERA STEEL

حديد الجزيرة

NOTICE & INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of **Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG** are delighted to invite the shareholders of the company to attend the Ordinary Annual General Meeting ("AGM") to be held on **Sunday, 26 March 2023 at 3.00 PM** through **Muscat Clearing & Depository website** (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event the legal quorum for the meeting is insufficient, a second meeting will be held on **Thursday, 30 March 2023 at 3.00 PM** to consider the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Director's Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.
- To consider and approve the Auditor's Report and the statement of financial position and the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.
- To consider and approve the sitting fees of the Directors and Subcommittees for the past year and determination of the fees for the next financial year.
- To consider and approve the proposed distribution of cash dividend of Fifteen (15) Baiza per share to the shareholders as on AGM date.
- To consider and approve the proposed sum of RO 100,000 (Rial Omani One Hundred Thousand Only) as remuneration for the Board of Directors of the Company for the year ending 31 December 2022.
- To note the related party transactions for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.
- To note the Corporate Social Responsibility spending for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.
- To discuss and approve the proposed Corporate Social Responsibility budget of RO 10,000 (Rial Oman Ten Thousand Only) for financial year ending 31 December 2023.
- To appoint the statutory Auditors of the company for the financial year 2023 and fix their fees.
- To elect a board member to fill the vacant position from among the shareholder and/or non-shareholders. Any person who wishes to stand as candidate shall fill the Nomination form. The completed form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company, that is not later than before 5:30 PM on Monday, 20 March 2023. No nomination form will be accepted after this time.

Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association and procedures issued by Capital Market Authority for holding General Meeting through electronic platform, we would like to draw your attention on the following points:

- A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the meeting of the General Assembly and vote on his behalf through electronic portal, provided that this natural person has an investor number with the MCD.
- Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three (3) days before the date of the AGM until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the AGM.

If you have any queries you may please contact Mr. Yousuf Ismail Al Kamali on telephone 26751763 / 4 / 5 Ext: 117.

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ROUND-UP

RECOGNITION



Saud Bahwan Group honoured with prestigious distinguished ‘Gulf Excellence Award 2022’ in UAE

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Group was recently honoured with the prestigious distinguished ‘Gulf Excellence Award 2022’ at the Sharjah Excellence Awards, held in the UAE.

The event was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Governor of Sharjah.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Group, Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Managing Director – Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group.

The Excellence Awards 2022, recognised the role and exceptional efforts taken by various categories of institutions in the GCC across nine categories.

Sharing his thoughts Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan said, “It is an honour to receive this prestigious award. The hard work, dedication and passion of each one in the group have made this benchmark recognition possible. Saud Bahwan Group has come a long



way by embracing excellence in all aspects and offering distinctive customer experiences. An award like this will encourage us to go even further on the journey of excellence.”

Saud Bahwan Group has been at the forefront of touching people’s lives with world-class products and services.

The group also plays a responsible role by contributing to the development of the nation, by bringing leading brands across various fields to Oman.

The fields include automotive & allied businesses, heavy vehicles, construction equipment, turnkey projects, industrial equipment, manufacturing, municipal & civic services and property & real estate.

At Saud Bahwan Group prompt attention to customer needs has always been a top priority. Towards this, the group has made substantial investments in building a nationwide network of branches and state-of-the-art facilities. These systematic efforts along with focused marketing strategies and unique customer care initiatives, ensure that customers have the finest experiences at any Saud Bahwan Group facility across Oman.

In the years to come, Saud Bahwan Group shall continue to raise its standards to achieve even higher customer satisfaction, all the while continuing to make a lasting difference to overall customer experiences.

Instant Cash organizes Champions Trophy Cricket tournament for agent partners in Oman



The players enjoyed a day of sport & music

In line with its mission to encourage an active lifestyle among its workforce, Instant Cash, one of the fastest-growing money transfer brands, organised the Champions Trophy Cricket tournament for its major agent partners in Oman. 6 teams from leading exchange houses in Oman clashed with each other in an outdoor tournament, which was held in Muscat this weekend.

The teams were charged up by the electrifying atmosphere, created by the competitive spirit amongst the players.

Inaugurating the tournament, Binoy Skariah, Senior Manager- Business Development, Lower GCC at Instant Cash told the players that, “Instant Cash wanted to do something for and with you, which is why we chose Cricket, since all of you are from the South Asian community and equally passionate about the game. As a brand, we believe

that physical fitness and mental health are of paramount importance, especially when one is away from the proximity of family & friends. The idea is to make friendships, enjoy the day and show camaraderie to each other.”

The event was attended by the senior management of several exchange partners including Unimoni Exchange, Joyalukkas Exchange, Hamdan Exchange, Global Money Exchange, Mustafa Sultan Exchange, Purshottam Kanji Exchange, and Instant Cash.

“We had conducted the Instant Cash Champions Trophy Cricket tournament in the UAE last year, which was extremely successful. The initiative was widely appreciated by the staff of our esteemed exchange partners, who usually have a desk job and not too many avenues for improving their fitness, while having fun.

Buoyed by the tournament’s success in the UAE, we decided to extend the tournament this year to Oman” said Rahul Krishnakumar, Senior Manager- Marketing, Instant Cash.

Unimoni won the tournament with Joyalukkas Exchange being the Runners Up. The Winning and Runners up teams were given Trophies and Medals.

About Instant Cash

Through strategic partnerships with banks and other licensed financial institutions, Instant Cash enables easy access to financial services for customers across the world, with a presence in over 150,000 agent locations worldwide, and through a variety of payment options, including cash pickup, bank transfers and mobile wallets.

Instant Cash is a part of the Emirates Post Group.



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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat honours 129 staff for completing long-service milestone

A number of Bank Muscat employees who were commended during the programme expressed their happiness and appreciation for the efforts made to develop Omani cadres in the financial sector

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently held a special event at the Hormuz Grand Muscat to appreciate and commend 129 long-serving employees at the bank in line with its commitment and efforts to acknowledge and recognise their role in the bank's successes and achievements over the years.

The event was attended by Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, and members of the Management Team. A total of 129 employees were given long-service awards for completing the significant mile-



stone of 20 years of service.

Addressing the gathering, Said Salim Al Aufi, General Manager - Human Resources & Administration, Bank Muscat, said: "We are immensely proud to recognise the contributions of our longest-serving staff members through these long-service awards. We thank all our colleagues who are here today for growing with the bank and continuing to inspire their colleagues. Thank you very much and we do hope that they will sustain their diligent performance in the coming years. It is a privilege to mark their outstanding contributions at the bank and honour them through today's special event."

Said Al Aufi continued that Bank Muscat realises the importance of human resources in achieving the development plans in the country. He stressed how each and every employee at the bank was playing an important role in the bank's operations and supporting its leadership in the financial services sector in Oman. He added that the bank has achieved a high rate of Omanisation by providing training, development, and opportunities to its employees to upgrade their skills and abilities.

A number of Bank Muscat employees who were commended during the programme expressed their happiness and appreciation



for the efforts made to develop Omani cadres in the financial sector. In particular, they pointed out to the professional atmosphere and the various efforts made by Bank Muscat to provide learning and development opportunities through on the job training as well as formal educational qualifications and certification.

Alya Mubarak Al Alawi, Head of Legal Services, Bank Muscat said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working at Bank Muscat, the leading financial institution in the Sultanate, for its very professional work environment and excellent HR practices. The bank pays great attention to developing its employ-

ees and I am grateful for the many chances I have had to grow my knowledge and skillsets and thereby develop further in my career. I thank Bank Muscat for providing me with many wonderful opportunities, which have made such a huge difference to my career and I also would like to thank all my senior colleagues who have mentored and supported me in this journey."

Qais Rabi'a Al Balushi, Branch Manager, Khasab, said that Bank Muscat is a preferred employer for young people in the Sultanate as the bank is committed to developing the skills of its employees. He thanked the bank for the various opportunities, which were instru-

mental in improving his career path. He also expressed sincere thanks to the management for the continuous support and care taken for the development of employees.

Speaking about her experience, Basma Mohammed Al Maamari, Assistant Regional Manager, North Al Batinah said: "My journey at Bank Muscat is an excellent example of how the bank encourages its employees to do well in their careers by providing them the right training, a professional work atmosphere, skills upgradation and cutting-edge technology and equipment. Our experiences over the years have taught us to absorb the art of management and overcome various challenges in our journey at the bank. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Bank Muscat, especially the Executive Management, for the support and attention accorded to employees."

As one of the top employers in the Sultanate of Oman, Bank Muscat constantly invests resources and time to further develop the skills of its employees and help them reach their peak potential. From the moment of joining the bank, suitable training and development opportunities are provided to make employees skilled with work-related processes and procedures such that they can deliver to the best of their abilities. In 2022, over 28,000 training seats were utilised by employees over a total of 34,000 training man-days in various training programmes. It is indeed a testament of the bank's excellent HR practices that most of the senior and middle management have attained their current positions by rising within the bank's ranks over the years.

INDIAN DINING



Shangri-La to celebrate festival of colours

MUSCAT: Holi, the festival of colours, is one of the most popular festivals in India, celebrated with spectacular vibrancy. Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, and Shangri-La Al Husn, Muscat, the luxury beach resorts by the shores of Muscat, will both mark this celebration in fervour, with a range of dining experiences, giving guests a taste of the vibrant Indian culture.

Holi fiesta

Savour a Holi-themed inspired buffet spread at Al Tanoor this Monday 6 March featuring a range of Indian and international dishes, with live cooking stations serving a variety of popular dishes like Pani puri, Dal Kachori, Baked Gujiya and many other delicacies.

Indulge in the rich flavours of India and experience the colourful joy of Holi at Shangri-La, where tradition meets luxury and celebration comes to life.

Colour your plate in style at Aangan by Rohit Ghai

Aangan by Rohit Ghai, a cuisine spearheaded by the internationally acclaimed Chef Rohit Ghai features a delicious 5-course set menu which can also be paired with your preferred beverage

options. The fine-dining Indian restaurant located at Shangri-La Al Husn, Muscat serves contemporary Indian cuisine, with a special touch by Rohit Ghai, and the Holi dinner is no exception. The menu features hand-picked and savoury vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes including exclusive platters just for this special day such as lotus seed palak, laal maas and much more. Available from March 8 to 11 exclusively at dinner time.

Holi-cious brunch

Located in Al Bandar, Al Tanoor offers a special Holi brunch during this week of festivities. The Friday Brunch menu features a mix of Indian and international cuisine, with live cooking stations offering an array of dishes. The live chaat counter the popular Indian street food is the favourite for both adults and kids. The dessert station features an assortment of cakes, pastries, and Indian sweets, which are a treat for the sweet tooth. The Holi-cious Brunch at Al Tanoor is perfect for all, to kick start the weekend, paired with incredible views and to the beats of DJ Nish, while they dine alfresco on the terrace overlooking the magnificent beach.

UNITED PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Excellence on display: UPS Stem Expo 2023

MUSCAT: United Private Schools (UPS) recently celebrated its inaugural STEM Week Festival. It was a showcase of unity and togetherness from both students and teachers. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and it's a field that is growing in importance worldwide. The festival culminated with the UPS Stem Expo - an opportunity for students and teachers to come together and collaborate on STEM projects.

Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity were key skills showcased during the exhibition. Students were allowed to create different projects with guidance from their teachers. The projects were impressive, ranging from robotics to coding, and students were able to work together to bring their ideas to life.

"The event demonstrated all that is good about what is happening at UPS," said the Director of United Private Schools, Charles Morris. "Visitors to the exhibition at either campus would have been impressed with the planning, execution, and administration of the project. I would like to express my gratitude to each member of our staff team for their efforts in ensuring that our students had the best opportunities to showcase their STEM skills. As I walked around the exhibition, I was struck by the student's imagination and their innovative ideas for Oman's future. I saw a lot of thought given to alternative energies, irrigation possibilities, and water desalination projects. I hope that this project will inspire at least some of the students to pursue a lifelong passion for science, technology, engineering, and maths."

One important aspect of this creativity expo at UPS was the



respect for Omani values. UPS is committed to upholding and promoting the cultural heritage of Oman, and this was evident in the projects that were showcased. Students were able to combine their technical skills with their knowledge of Omani culture to create truly unique projects.

It's worth mentioning that United Private Schools is a Cambridge International School that offers a range of Cambridge curricula, including Cambridge Primary, Secondary Checkpoint, IGCSE, and A Level. The Cambridge teaching and learning program is known for its rigorous academic standards and its emphasis on developing critical thinking skills. Ahmad As-saf, the Cambridge Senior Manager for the Middle East and Gulf Countries, was impressed with the projects showcased during the school's innovation day, a testament to the quality of education provided by UPS.

In addition to the expo celebration, UPS has another exciting development in the works. The school is moving to a new, bigger, and more sophisticated building in Al Khoud. The new building will



provide students with state-of-the-art facilities and an even better learning environment.

Hamza Plummer, the event organiser, expressed his gratitude for the partners who supported the event, saying, "They really stood out and generously gave their all to support our cause. Nothing was exchanged besides the passion, desire, and hunger to inspire. We extend our heartfelt thanks to IDP Education, Internet of Things Gates, and

Gulf Leco, for their warm, invaluable, and truly memorable support. May Allah bless you all."

Overall, the STEM exhibition at United Private Schools was a success, highlighting the school's commitment to providing a high-quality education that combines academic excellence with cultural awareness. With the move to a new building soon, UPS is set to continue its tradition of excellence for years to come.

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NORTH AL BATINAH PROVIDES AN IDEAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah Governorate, speaks to Times of Oman on investment opportunities in the governorate

"FROM BEGINNING we have focused on the logistics and industrial sectors and have worked on opening the door for investors from within and outside the Sultanate mainly in the promising fields," said Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah Governorate while speaking on investment in North Al Batinah. Highlighting on the Governorate's

plans he said the Governorate has taken right steps in consistent with the government's strategic plan on diversification of sources of income. North Al Batinah has reached an advanced stage in the field of infrastructure works, which is one of the basics on which investment is established. An ideal business environment is available in the governorate for

investors and entrepreneurs from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman. Doing business is available at free zones, industrial zones and commercial establishments.

In North Al Batinah Governorate, all the elements that attract the internal and external investor are available, as the Governorate enjoys a strategic location by being close to the GCC States as well as a number of regional countries, and the connection of Sohar Port with international ports, besides the availability of natural, industrial and commercial elements that attract various investments. This is in addition to the availability of legislative structure / framework that boosts investment and is supportive to all investors' requirements, which comes within the governorate's vision and strategic objectives.

"We have succeeded during the last quarter of 2022 in opening many giant economic projects, including the launch of the first power transformer with the capacity of 400 kilovolts, which is designed and manufactured by Voltamp Company in Sohar Industrial City," he said.

The power transformer manufactured by the company is the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman, GCC States, Arab countries and African countries, under international specifications. He said that Sohar Titanium Company - one of the companies of Minerals Development Oman (MDO) Group, celebrated laying the foundation stone for its integrated project for the production of titanium dioxide in the Sohar Free Zone, on an area of 120,000 square metres, with a production capacity of 150,000 tonnes annually. >C5



H.E Mohammed Suleiman Al Kindi,
Governor of North Al Batinah Governorate



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THE FIRST YEARS of school are an exciting and important time in any child's development. To encourage growth and development at a young age and in line with innovative standards in the sector, ABQ Sohar International School now also offers a dedicated Pre-KG nursery, ABQ Explorer, in Al Tareef. Humayun Kabir, ABQ Education Group Chief Executive Officer, says, "ABQ is proud to remain one of Oman's leading education providers with a progressive and connected community of students and educa-

tors. Our schools are trusted by thousands of Omani and expatriate families to educate their children and studies show that students who attend high-quality preschool programmes reap benefits that can last through school and their lives." ABQ Explorer follows the highly credited, UK-based International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC), adapted to the specific needs of students living in Oman. The IEYC is a research-based curriculum recognising global best practices in early childhood education and the developmental needs of 2 to 5-year-olds. The school strives to provide and promote a quality and nurturing environment for the developing young child. Dederick Swart, principal of ABQ Sohar International School, explains, "With this new addition to our School Family, we are able to accommodate children from as young as 18 months. We even offer an extended care option whereby working parents are able to drop off their child earlier and pick them up later than a typical 'mornings only' alternative." ABQ Explorer aims to create an environment that is beneficial to the growth and develop-

ment of its youngest students, which is also safe, engaging and fun. The learning spaces promote purposeful exploration and classrooms are equipped with purpose-built furniture, quality equipment and stimulating educational games which aid in the holistic development of all students. Swart continues, "Our students are supported and extended by dedicated and highly qualified staff who engage with them and ensure they achieve their best. We see ABQ Explorer as a wonderful opportunity to capture the curiosity of young children and instil in them a life-long love for learning." ABQ has a long and enviable record of academic success. Their diverse curriculum is shaped to meet individual needs in an environment designed for children to prosper. With close to 60 years of cumulative school operating experience and 300+ educators, ABQ has a wealth of knowledge and expertise within its group. This has enabled them to become the largest independent school operator in Oman - with 3 schools, 3000+ students, more than 400 staff members and 30 subjects offered.



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Traditional long boat rowing race organised in Sohar



THE MINISTRY of Culture, Sports and Youth, represented by the Omani Committee for Marine Sports in the Wilayat of Sohar, recently had organised a 30-foot long traditional boat rowing race. A number of rowing teams in the wilayats of North Al Batinah Governorate participated in the event. The race started from the fishing port to the waterfront of the Silver Jubilee Park for a distance of four kilometres. The number of competitors reached 70 in all boats, with ten competitors in each boat with the team leader, competing to reach the finish line.

At the conclusion, the winners coming first were crowned, and they will represent the Sultanate of Oman team in the rowing race in the Emirate of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates during the coming period of this year.



MARITIME FESTIVAL

Nearly 400,000 visitors attend North Al Batinah Maritime Festival



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The overwhelming success of the inaugural edition of the North Al Batinah Maritime Festival (Mad Jazer) has laid a strong foundation for hosting of future editions, according to Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah.

The marine festival, which was held from 28 January – 25 February, attracted a huge number of people with nearly 400,000 visitors recorded to have attended it from across the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE.

Another major benefit of the festival was a boost to the domestic economy with the families involved with the festival generating revenue of OMR40,000 approximately.

The various activities of the North Al Batinah Maritime Festival were held at Al Manial Park in the Wilayat of Sohar. Sayyid Sulaiman bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, inaugurated the festival in the presence of Mohammed bin Sulaiman Al Kindi,

The various activities of the North Al Batinah Maritime Festival were held in at Manial Park in the Wilayat of Sohar

Governor of North Al Batinah and a number of dignitaries.

A painting exhibition, traditional boat race, and paragliding show were among the highlights of the festival. There were also various other competitions organised during the festival.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah, said: "The North Al Batinah Maritime Festival was able to achieve goals that it had aimed for. The number of direct beneficiaries were 138 families and establishments, while the number

of participating craftsmen were 156. A total of 418 people, including 335 Omanis and 83 expatriates worked as kiosk owners and benefited from the festival.

"These people were direct beneficiaries and we are keen to facilitate the participation of these families and institutions. The financial returns for the participating families reached nearly OMR 40,000. The other goal that we succeeded in, was to find a recreational outlet for families and individuals. The presence of school students as they were having vacations helped the number of visitors reach 384,474, a true evidence of the success of the festival."

Following the conclusion of the festival, the wilayat of Al Khaborah, the wilayat of Shinas, the wilayat of Saham, the wilayat of Liwa and the wilayat of Suwaiq won prizes in different categories.

In the beach sports competition that was held on the sidelines of the festival, in which 12 teams participated, Al Taawun team, representing the wilayat of Saham, won first place.



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NORTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE

KNOWING SOHAR

Times News Service

SOHAR is one of the wilayats of the North Al Batinah Governorate in the northern part of the Sultanate of Oman, 234km north of the capital, Muscat. It is the ancient capital of Oman, and it is a city that relies on fishing, trade, and agriculture, but is known at the present time as the hub of Oman's industry.

Sohar is considered the administrative centre of the North Al Batinah Governorate in the Sultanate of Oman.

It is present on the low sandy coast in Al Batinah Governorate, overlooking the Sea of Oman.

To its south is Saham, towards the west is Al Buraimi, to the north is Liwa, and to the east is situated the Sea of Oman.

Sohar is geographically divided into three regions: the coastal strip, where it extends to approximately 45 kilometres along the Sea of Oman, starting from Majz al-Kubra in the south and ending in Majis in the north.

The coastal region, where this region extends in a flat manner along the coast to the Hajar region in the west for a distance of approximately ten kilometres. And the mountainous region, where this region, which includes most of the villages of the Wilayat of Sohar, is located within the western Hajar mountain range, and there are many valleys in it.

The Wilayat of Sohar has a large number of valleys, the most famous of which is Wadi Al Jizzi, which is located along Sohar-Al Buraimi Street, Wadi Ahin, the second largest valley in the wilayat after Wadi Al Jizzi, and Wadi Heebi, which is located about 20 km west of the Wilayat Roundabout and is character-

ized by abundance of water. In it, Wadi Al-Hilti, Wadi Al-Salahi and other valleys that are distributed throughout Sohar.

The geographical location of the Wilayat of Sohar in particular and the Sultanate of Oman in general governs the weather. The weather is often warm in winter and hot in summer. Despite the low rainfall in the Wilayat, some areas, especially those located in the Western Hajar mountain range, enjoy a more moderate weather.

As for humidity, it is high in the coastal strip areas in Sohar in the summer, especially in the months from May to September, but that percentage is low in the rest of the year.

The period from October to late March is an appropriate period for tourists to visit Sohar and enjoy its sights and attractions.

Sohar has many tourist attractions. Sohar is characterised by the presence of tall mountains, which are an attraction for mountaineering enthusiasts.

There are also many valleys that are rich in water throughout the year or the seasonal ones. One can see many families and gatherings, whether it is in Wadi Al-Jizzi, which is located along Sohar-Al-Buraimi Street, or Wadi Ahin, the second largest valley in the state after Wadi Al-Jizzi, and Wadi Habi, which is located about 20km west of the Wilayat Roundabout and is characterised by abundance of water.

In it, Wadi Al-Hilti, Wadi Al-Salahi and other valleys are distributed throughout Sohar. In addition to the mountains and valleys, the clean beaches of Sohar attract many tourists, whether citizens or visitors.



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INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

An ideal business environment in North Al Batinah

< FROM C1 and a total cost of OMR 43 million. Among the projects inaugurated on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day by Oman Investment Authority is the Sanvira Carbon Project in Sohar Free Zone, which comes in partnership between the Oman National Investments Development company "TANMIA" and Sanvira Industries Limited and United Business Company (UBC).

The project targets construction of a factory for petroleum coke calcining with capacity at the initial stage of 500,000 tonnes annually. The product will be used in aluminum smelters and other mining industries within and outside the Sultanate. The project, which has an investment cost of more than OMR60 million, will contribute to diversifying Omani industries, strengthening the presence of such industries in the local market and replacing imported industries.

"The project would export approximately 70% of calcined petroleum coke. The Omani Water and Wastewater Services Company also inaugurated its water supply project from Sohar in North Al Batinah Governorate to the Wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate," he said pointing to that there are many investment projects being established in various parts of the governorate besides important projects that will be opened during the last quarter of this year.

Speaking on the strategies of the Office of the Governor of North Al Batinah Governorate, he said that the strategy and vision of North Al Batinah Governorate focus on boosting the economic, commercial and investment aspects and on provision of job opportunities for the youth of the Governorate based on the density of the population and infrastructure required for the economic activity including the roads, ports and airports.

"Work is going on for execution of an agreement on construction of a railway to link Sohar City with UAE. The focus during the coming



period will be on investment projects in the industrial, commercial and tourism sectors that contribute directly to improvement of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employing young job seekers. There are a number of projects under study and analysis which will see the light after conducting their feasibility studies," he added.

Role of the private sector

On the role of the private sector he said that the private sector is a partner and a contributor to the implementation of any strategy. Development requires continuous coordination between the public and private sectors to achieve integration, which is the result of the existing cooperation between the two sectors. In North Al Batinah Governorate, we focused at an early stage on meeting with officials in the private sector and on presenting them with our vision and aspirations for cooperation and partnership. We also explained to them the importance of the private sector and its active role in supporting the economy and diversifying sources of in-



come in the country and its prominent contribution to the employment of young job seekers.

Initiatives for tourism

On the government and private sector initiatives for investment in the tourism, industrial and mining sectors in light of the investment potentials in the Governorate, he said that North Al Batinah Governorate enjoys many promising natural

external investors, he said adding that we very much welcome them and all procedures will be facilitated for them. The number of tourist establishments in North Al Batinah Governorate currently stands at 36 with about 1,320 rooms, he said adding that there are 16 other tourist establishments under construction in the governorate. The number of hotel rooms are expected to reach 2000 on completion. The governorate enjoys many industrial zones that are qualified to receive any size of investments in this aspect.

Mining sector is a promising sector

Sohar Industrial Estate and the Free Zone of Sohar Port attract thousands of local and international investments. He said that the mining sector is considered one of the promising sectors for economic diversification identified within the tenth five-year development plan, as the mining sector represents an attractive environment for investment in the various activities, which would increase revenues and exports, provide new job opportunities, and localize knowledge and technologies related to exploration and production activities.

He said that the mining activities represent an important wealth that could be optimally exploited through developing existing projects and finding new projects that contribute to the growth of the sector. North Al Batinah Governorate is one of the governorates that are rich in various minerals such as copper, gold and other precious metals that have been invested in with chances for other investments in the field of mining in various wilayats of the Governorate.

Sohar Port and other projects

North Al Batinah Governorate is one of the major economic governorates in the Sultanate of Oman as it accommodates a number of investments. The volume of

investments in Sohar Port and its free zone is more than OMR 10.4 billion, while the volume of investments in Sohar Industrial City (Madayn) is more than OMR 2 billion. Projects related to steel and aluminum factories, cement products factories, and foodstuff are among the most investment projects in the industrial sector in the governorate.

There are mega companies and factories in Sohar Industrial City and Sohar Industrial Port, whose investments exceed OMR100 million. These projects included Sohar Aluminum Company, Vale Oman Iron Ore Pelletizing, Jindal Shaded Iron and Steel Factory and Oman Aluminum Rolling Company besides OQ factories and other projects for which construction works would start soon.

Speaking on investment environment, incentives and legislations, he said that the government has offered several facilities and incentives for investors which facilities have been welcomed by private sector. The government is also working to overcome the challenges investors are facing, he added.

Speaking on the key projects under consideration by the Office of the Governor of the North Al Batinah Governorate, he said that the governorate is working to invest about OMR14 million over the next three years in various projects. These projects included humanization of cities urban renovation works, waterfronts projects, parks and gardens, in addition to beautifying the banks of valleys, developing sports tracks, and strengthening the infrastructure for ecotourism activities (coastal, desert, and mountain tourism).

This is in addition to investments related to truck stations. Work is underway to monitor existing investment opportunities in the governorate and create opportunities for future investment in the sectors of industry, logistics, real estate development, tourism and entertainment.

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SPECIAL
MONTHLY COVERAGE



SOHAR

SOJOURN

Sohar, Oman's capital city in ancient times, is one of the largest in the Sultanate today, housing one of the region's largest ports and many of the country's main industries. One of Oman's fastest growing cities, Sohar has many attractions, to truly feel its spirit and vibrancy. "Dotted with historic sights and breathtaking scenery, Al Batinah is considered the green belt of Oman with most of the country's fresh produce harvested on plantations in the area. Coastal towns are known for their fisheries and endless sandy beaches," says Oman's Ministry of Tourism.

SOHAR FORT

"Built in the 13th century, Sohar's distinctive square-towered fort allegedly boasts a 10km tunnel intended as an escape route during a siege," said the Ministry of Tourism. "Easier to find is the small museum in the fort's tower, which outlines local history, and the tomb of Sayyid Thuwaini Bin Sultan Al Busaid, ruler of Oman from 1856 to 1866. The fort has recently been beautifully restored, with several rooms furnished to give an idea of military life in 19th-century Oman."

Sohar Fort is considered one of the most important castles and forts in the North Batinah Governorate due to its outstanding location and the significant role it played over past centuries," added the ministry. "This fort dates back to the end of the thirteenth century and beginning of the fourteenth century." Archaeological excavations carried out at the fort confirmed that it was completed in the fourteenth century." Unlike many of the other forts in the region, which are traditionally the colour of the mud bricks that they are made from, a colour that is similar to that of the desert sands, the walls and crenellations of Sohar Fort are completely white.

Built during the 13th century, Sohar Fort now houses a small museum in its largest tower but an original 10 km long tunnel that served as an escape route in the event of a siege is still intact. Sohar Fort is an eminent historical landmark. The building's current features were built during the rule of the Portuguese.

"Currently, the fort includes a museum, opened in 1993, that showcases many archaeological and historical aspects of Sohar city as well as other places in the Sultanate of Oman," the ministry explained. **>C9**



Sohar...So good!

Times
OF OMAN

SPECIAL
MONTHLY COVERAGE



< FROM C8 “The museum also highlights the important role played by the copper trade in this city and its relationship with the city of Canton in China, in addition to various artefacts found during archaeological excavations inside the fort and other locations in Oman.

Wadi Hibi and Khabourah Castle are places that perfectly capture the varied nature and historic culture of the Sultanate of Oman.

“Wadi Hibi is located about 80km from Sohar and meanders between rugged mountains and date palms. Its main attractions are the fort, which has two large courtyards, as well as its many natural water pools,” said the Ministry of Tourism. “Facing the sea, Al Khabourah Castle is located 2km north east from Al Khabourah roundabout.

Visitors can explore the former living and storage quarters left and right of the large courtyard, or enjoy the stunning views of the sea and surroundings from the castle walls.” Sohar University, Sohar College of Applied Sciences, Oman Medical College and International Maritime College Oman are some of the renowned educational institutions.

Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

The stunning architecture of Sohar’s Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque will not miss your atten-

tion as you drive from Muscat to Sohar. Inaugurated in October 2016, the mosque’s blue dome and off-white marble structure make it a sight that is truly lovely to behold.

The mosque covers a total area of 181,000 square metres and features a built up area of 28,778 square metres, with the area allocated to the mosque also accommodating the landscaping, car parks and other facilities.

The main prayer hall of the mosque accommodates 4,600 worshippers. It also has a prayer area for 740 women. The mosque is located opposite Bait Bahjat Al Andhar in the Wilayat of Sohar, and represents a new landmark added to the deep-rooted historic landmarks in the Governorate of Al Batinah.

Sohar Port

Sohar Port is a deep-sea port centrally located and within easy reach of the booming economies of the Gulf and the Indian sub-continent.

With a reach to over 2.2 billion consumers, it is one of the few global ports equipped with deep-water jetties capable of handling the world’s largest ships.

Sohar Port is ideal for the import and export of a wide variety of dry, break, and liquid bulk, as well as container shipping. Sohar Freezone is a 4,500 hectares development that, together with Sohar Port, has attracted over US\$27 billion in investments.





Cardiac catheter unit starts in Sohar hospital

Running the Cardiac Catheter Unit is part of the expansion project and services development in Sohar Hospital

THE SOHAR HOSPITAL recently started the operation of the Cardiac Catheter Unit services. A specialised team from the Royal Hospital and Sohar Hospital performed two catheter procedures recently.

H.E. Dr. Hilal bin Ali bin Hilal Al-Sabti, Minister of Health, attended the first phases of operating the Cardiac Catheter Unit along with H.E. Dr. Said Harib Al-Lamki, Undersecretary of Ministry of Health for Health Affairs. The Minister of Health was briefed on the work progress and final stages of total expansion in Sohar Hospital in preparation for new services targeting the people of North Al-Batinah Governorate and nearby governorates.

Dr. Najib Al-Rawahi, Director of the National Heart Centre at



the Royal Hospital, pointed out that operating the Cardiac Catheter Unit in Sohar Hospital is an important milestone at all levels, where it will serve the people of North Al-Batinah and nearby governorates.

Al-Rawahi added that the Ministry of Health seeks to improve the therapeutic services in all governorates, indicating that the service will include the other hospitals, similar to what has been achieved in Muscat,

Dhofar, and North Al-Batinah Governorates.

In this regard, Dr. Talib Al-Maqbali, Director of Sohar Hospital, stressed that these services shortened the long waiting lists and referral procedures to Muscat Governorates.

Dr. Talib Al-Maqbali stated that Sohar Hospital referred about 300 patients annually to the Royal Hospital for the cardiac catheter. Referred cases from North Al-Batinah Governorate represent

a rate equal to (20%) of patients due to the population density and significant growth.

Running the Cardiac Catheter Unit is part of the expansion project and services development in Sohar Hospital. The Unit consists of two rooms equipped with the latest medical techniques for cardiovascular procedures. An admission ward (22 beds) was developed for post-cardiac catheter, as well as a cardiac care unit equipped with 12 beds.



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Sohar Aluminium, a key player in ESGs implementation locally

Sohar Aluminium implements high working standards, and maintains excellent relations with its stakeholders

SOHAR ALUMINIUM, that was formed in 2004, and is owned by OQ, TAQA, and Rio Tinto has played a key role in the development and enhancement of the Omani industry sector and the national efforts of economic diversification and advancement of the manufacturing sector in line with Oman's Vision 2040. Being one of the foremost major local projects, the company implements decades of industry insight, practices, excellence, and transparency not only in its operations, but also in conducting its businesses, projects, and initiatives internally and externally.

A recent example of these world-class practices comes in the form of adopting the Environment, Social and Governance Standards (ESGs). These standards indicate organisations' behaviour and determine and anticipate their sustainability, future financial performance, and commitment to local social development. The company seeks to adopt these standards by providing sustainable metal products while assessing and implementing mitigation measures to manage emissions at all operational levels. Major elements and pro-



jects have been implemented into the design and construction of the company's facilities by which operations footprint on the environment is maintained and controlled. This is also achieved through accurate and integrated systems to preserve the Environment, Health, and Safety, which is a top priority.

Sohar Aluminium seeks to integrate related aspects into the daily work and tasks of its employees and contractors to create and promote a culture of 'Zero' harm. The company's internal and external audit policies contribute to the assessment of its performance in these aspects.

Sohar Aluminium implements high working standards, and maintains excellent relations with its stakeholders, all the

while committing to transparent policies and moral responsibilities. The Human Rights Policy is one example of its efforts in governing the way it treats its people internally and extends the same to external suppliers and contractors. In addition to this, the company always seeks to enhance equal opportunities for the workforce, as well as continuously reviews its contracts to incorporate rigorous requirements for providing welfare for its contracted resources.

With a clear ambition to be a committed partner of the community and a responsible corporate citizen, Sohar Aluminium adopts a vibrant Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme through which it executes sustainable social projects and ini-

Sohar Aluminium seeks to integrate related aspects into the daily work and tasks of its employees and contractors to create and promote a culture of 'Zero' harm

atives aimed at serving members of the society in North Al Batinah Governorate and across the Sultanate of Oman. Its social responsibility framework focuses on supporting vital sectors such as education and health, in addition to supporting non-profit civil and community associations and institutions. Jusoor Foundation, which the company has contributed to establishing and finances its community projects and initiatives, is considered one of the most prominent social responsibility institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

As a testament to its successful journey, Sohar Aluminium has been recognised with several local, regional and international awards across various sectors from employee welfare to operational excellence to Health & Safety and Community support. One of the most recent and proud recognitions is winning His Majesty's Industrial Excellence Award 2021.

With determination, clear insight, and leadership, Sohar Aluminium continues to build on its history and consolidates its position placing the Sultanate of Oman on the global aluminium industry map with confidence and assuredness.

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Review of Code of Conduct
Reiterate commitment to
business ethics
Enhance Compliance



Ever since its inception, Sohar Aluminium has played a key role in the development and enhancement of the Omani industrial sector. The company has been implementing decades of insight, practices as well as excellence and transparency not only in its operations, but also in conducting its businesses internally and externally.

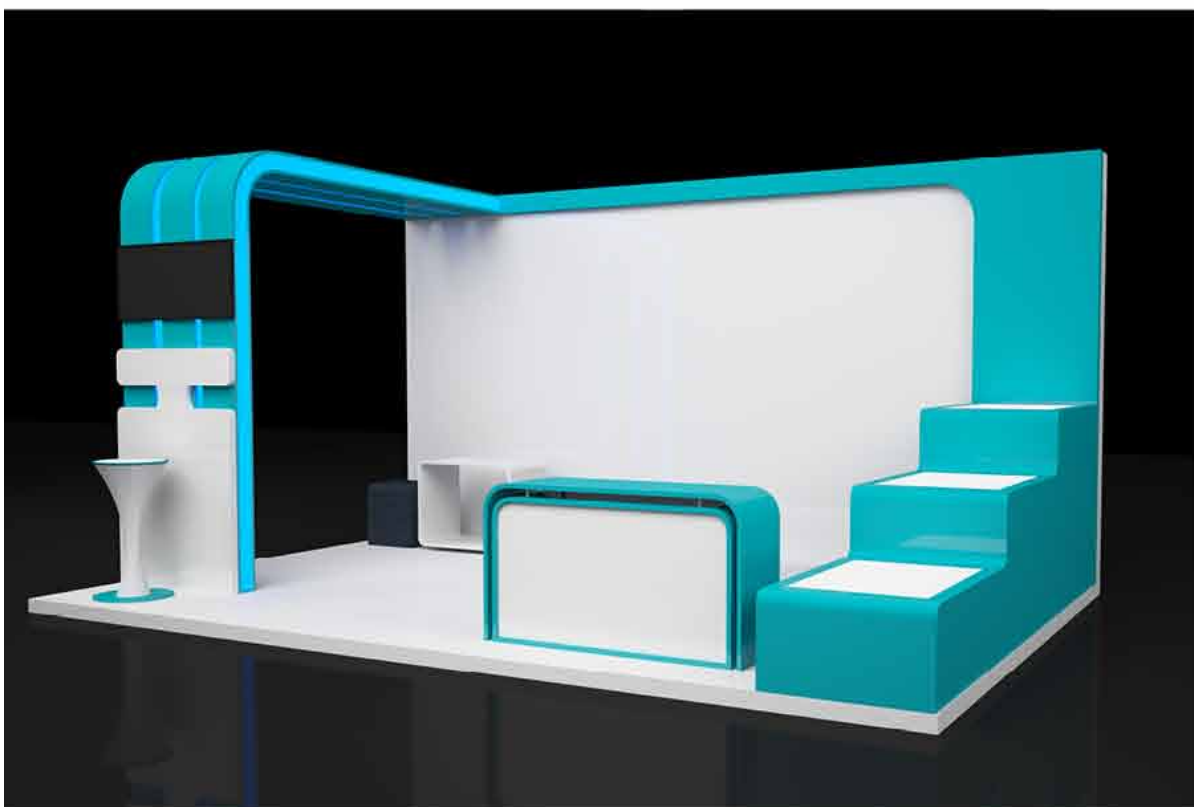
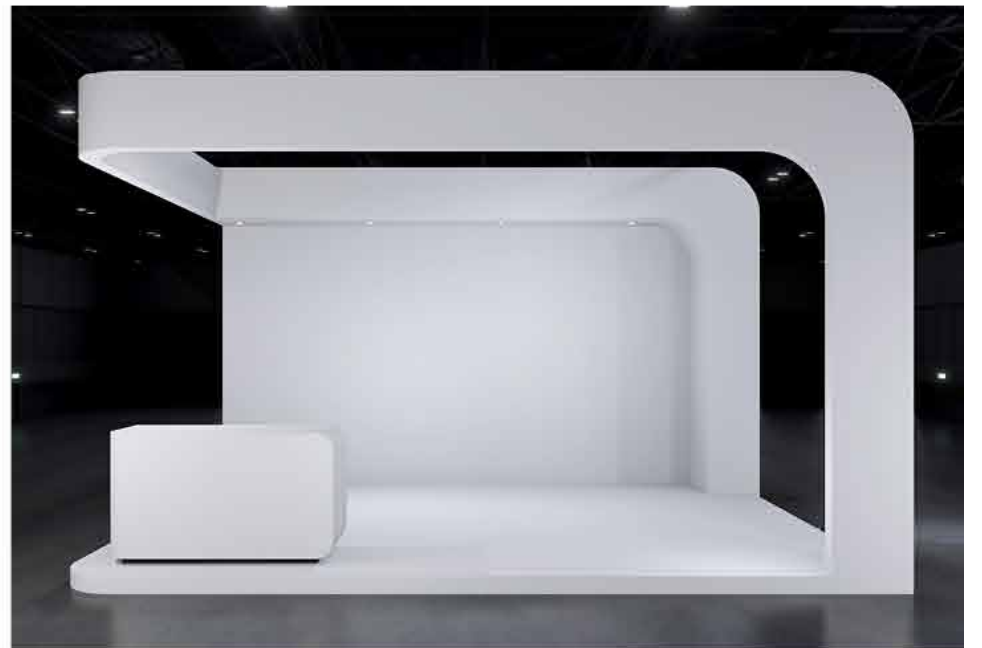
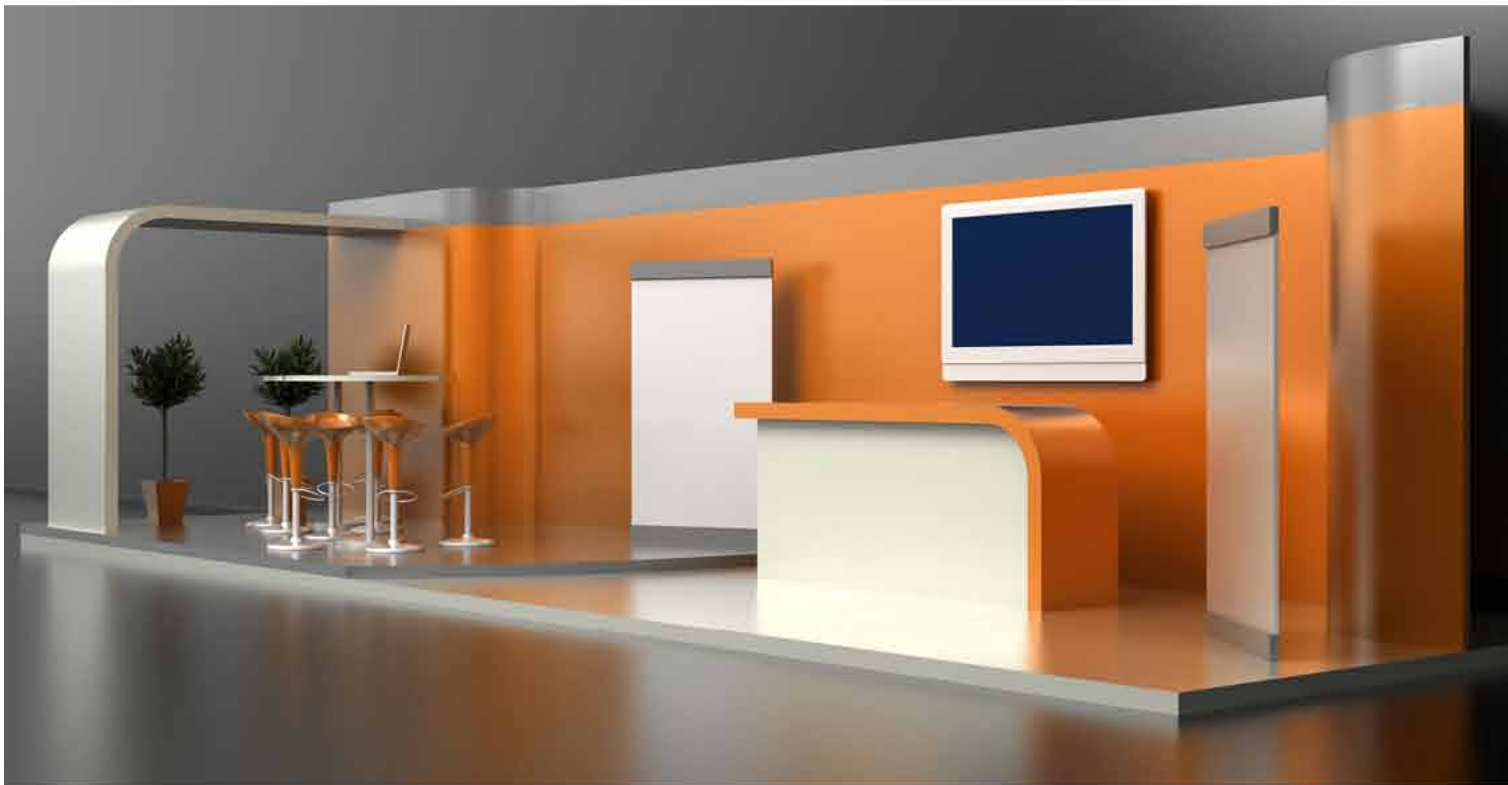
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