

**OMAN, ZANZIBAR REVIEW
BILATERAL COOPERATION**

Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs received yesterday Haroun Ali Sueliman, Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Government of Zanzibar. **>A6**



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**HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES THANKS FROM
ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks and gratitude from the participants in Oman Environment Sustainability Conference, which was held in Muscat during 16-18 January. In their cable, the participants expressed their utmost thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to them. **>A6**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN TAKES PART IN MEETING OF GCC, JORDAN AND EGYPT LEADERS IN ABU DHABI

UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan led the welcoming party to receive His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik at the Presidential Airport

ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik took part on Wednesday in the fraternal meeting that brought together leaders from some GCC states, Jordan and Egypt.

His Majesty the Sultan's participation stems from a conviction in the significance of such fraternal meetings and their fruitful outcome that contributes to realising the aspirations of their countries' peoples.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying His

Majesty the Sultan.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday morning.

Welcoming party

UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was at the head of the welcoming party that received His Majesty the Sultan at the foot of the ramp when the Royal aircraft touched ground at the Presidential Airport here.

His Majesty was also received



by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Special Affairs Advisor at the Presidential Court.

On Wednesday afternoon, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home after taking part in the fraternal meeting that brought together leaders of some GCC states, Jordan and Egypt in Abu Dhabi.

Official delegation

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by an official delegation comprising Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sul-

tanate of Oman to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at the Presidential Airport in Abu Dhabi by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, and a number of senior UAE officials.

Cable of thanks

Upon his departure at Abu Dhabi, His Majesty the Sultan sent a cable of thanks to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him during the visit.

His Majesty hailed the fraternal meeting as an opportunity to discuss relations and means of consolidating cooperation among the states in all fields.

He prayed to Allah the Almighty to grant the UAE President continued good health and happiness. His Majesty wished the UAE leadership success in realising the aspirations of his country's people.

-ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Muscat Nights begins today

1 The much-awaited inaugural edition of Muscat Nights begins on Thursday. The 17-day event is spread over four locations. **>A3**

WORLD Ukraine's Minister killed in crash

2 Ukraine's Interior Minister Denis Monastyrsky was killed in the helicopter crash. **>A7**

SPORTS Defending champion Nadal suffers upset

3 Mackenzie McDonald upset Rafael Nadal on Wednesday in the second round of the ongoing Australian Open. **>A8**

BASRA

Oman take on Iraq in blockbuster 25th Arabian Gulf Cup final today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Two teams that have displayed greater determination and desire to win over the past two weeks – Oman and Iraq – are all set to face each other in a blockbuster final of the 25th Arabian Gulf Cup at the Basra International Stadium in Basra, Iraq on Thursday. The summit clash will kick off at 8pm, Oman time.

Both the teams have stayed unbeaten in their run-up to the final with Branko Ivankovic's Red Warriors showcasing a brand of football that has oscillated from an aggressive to a compact and defensive mode as per the demands of each match and the challenge posed by the opponents.

Two-time champions Oman will be eyeing their third title to match their counterparts, Iraq, who have so far won the crown thrice since the inception of the regional football championships in 1970.

Oman have been a dominant side over the past two decades and have made it to the fifth fi-



nal in nine editions since making their maiden debut in the final in 2004.

The comparatively young brigade of Reds go into the title showdown high on confidence after knocking down the reigning champions Bahrain in a thrilling semi-final on Monday.

The 25th edition comes full circle as Iraq look to lift their first title since 1988 with Oman standing in between in the final on home soil, the same fixture that started the tournament two weeks ago.

The Lions of Mesopotamia reached the final after defeating reigning AFC Asian Cup champions Qatar 2-1 in Monday's other semi-final at the Basra Interna-

tional Stadium. For Oman, it will be their second final in six years, having won the title the last time they featured in the summit clash. Oman had defeated the UAE in a penalty shootout for the trophy in the 23rd Arabian Gulf Cup held in 2017-2018.

Oman's maiden trophy was lifted at home in 2009 after they missed out in the final in 2004 and 2007. A peek into the Arabian Gulf Cup history shows that on eight occasions in the past 24 events, the host nation has gone on to win the title. With a large partisan crowd ready to cheer their home heroes, Oman face a challenge to bring home the trophy for the third time.

Former Iran and Persepolis head coach Ivankovic is well aware of facing teams with such a huge crowd during his tenure in Iran. Having been at the helm of Oman for the past two years and entering his third year in charge, the Croatian said: "My team is happy to play in the final against the hosts Iraq and we will give our best to bring the trophy to Oman." **>A6**

Sayyid Theyazin orders 4 flights to airlift Omani fans to Basra



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth issued instructions yesterday to operate four flights to transport fans to cheer Oman Football Team in its match against Iraq at the final match of the GCC Football Cup (Gulf Cup 25).

The initiative has been made in conjunction with Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel), Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Vodafone

Oman and OQ.

HH Sayyid Theyazin also gave directives to give out a bonus to players of the National Team and members of its technical and administrative bodies in recognition for the teams qualifying to the final match of the Gulf Cup.

The step expresses appreciation for the efforts and unlimited capabilities exhibited by the team in official matches and celebrates the team's accomplishments that placed it in a lofty status admired by all. **-ONA**



Dhuhr.....	12:22pm
Asr.....	3:28pm
Maghrib.....	5:49pm
Isha.....	7:03pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:32am

EXPO JAPAN 2025

Entries for Oman's pavilion design competition to end on 22 January

MUSCAT: Sunday, 22 January 2023, has been set as the deadline for receiving entries in a competition to design Oman's pavilion at Expo 2025 Japan.

The contest will be adjudicated by the Bilarab bin Haitham Award (BHA) for Architecture in cooper-

ation with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

OMR10,000 cash award

The Omani pavilion will occupy an area of 1,763 sqm. The winning project will merit a cash award worth OMR10,000. — **ONA**



Visit by Pakistan Navy ships to boost ties with Oman



FUNCTION: A reception was hosted on-board Pakistan Navy Ship Rahnaward which was attended by local dignitaries, diplomats including Ambassadors and Military Attaches of various countries and officers from Royal Navy of Oman.

The Pakistani delegation had mutual discussions on bilateral cooperation between the defence forces of both the countries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A group of Pakistan Navy ships including PNS Rahnaward (Sail Training Ship), PNS Rasadgar and Pakistan Navy Submarine Hashmat visited Muscat from 12 January to

15 January 2023 to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's accession to power.

The other objectives of visit were to generate goodwill and enhance mutual ties between the two countries.

The group of Pakistan Navy Ships and Submarine was led by Commodore Muhammad Nasir Iqbal SI (M) as Mission Commander.

During the visit, Mission Commander along with commanding officers of Pakistani ships and submarine called on various officials of the Royal Navy of Oman.

The Pakistani delegation had mutual discussions on bilateral cooperation between the defence forces of both the countries and explored avenues of collaboration between Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman.

A reception was hosted on-board Pakistan Navy Ship Rahnaward which was attended by local

dignitaries, diplomats including Ambassadors and Military Attaches of various countries and officers from Royal Navy of Oman.

Commodore Muhammad bin Hamood Al- Zadjali, Commandant Sultan Qaboos Naval Academy Oman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Other activities included visit of Pakistan Naval cadets to Sultan Qaboos Naval Academy and cadets from Sultan Qaboos Naval Academy to Pakistan Navy Ship Rahnaward in order to promote mutual training.

The visit of Pakistan ships and submarine was aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship between Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan in general and Royal Navy of Oman and Pakistan Navy in particular. The visit will surely contribute towards improving interoperability and learning from each other in maritime operations domain.

TWO-DAY FORUM

Forum on marketing of dates kicks off



MUSCAT: The international forum on developing practices for marketing dates kicked off on Wednesday under the patronage of Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

The two-day forum highlights the importance of dates and its contribution to food security and improving general health. It also sheds light on aspects of dates production and leading experiences in the field of investing in dates-related converting industries.

Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Agriculture, said that organising this forum stems from the belief in the importance of the palm tree as part of historic heritage and as a strategic and economic crop in the Arab region and the GCC countries.

Al Bakri pointed out that date palm is the top crop in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of numbers and spread. There are approxi-

mately 9 million palm trees of 325 varieties. The area cultivated in holdings is estimated at 62,000 feddans, which constitutes 22 percent of the total cultivated area.

He added that in terms of the total production of dates, Oman ranks second on the GCC level and 8th on the global scale.

Al Bakri explained that the national strategy for the promotion of date palms helped increase date production, reaching 374,000 tonnes in 2021, constituting a growth rate of 49% for the period from 2005 to 2021.

In his turn, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Habib, Executive Director of the International Dates Council, said that the forum touched on issues related to dates production, marketing and promotion. It also covers benefits of dates for all segments of the value chain, including farmers, manufacturers, marketing agencies, traders, consumers, the national economy, the environment and sustainable development. — **ONA**

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Muscat Nights starts from today

The 17-day event is spread over four locations - Al Qurum Natural Park, Naseem Park, Oman Automobile Association and Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre

Times News Service

MUSCAT: – The cooler and beautiful evenings of Muscat these days are all set to get more sparkle and become more colourful as the much-awaited inaugural edition of Muscat Nights begins on Thursday. The 17-day event, spread over four locations - Al Qurum Natural Park, Naseem Park, Oman Automobile Association and Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) – will be formally launched with an opening ceremony. The opening ceremony will be held on the lake stage at Al Qurum



KEEPING AN EYE: Organised by Muscat Municipality, Muscat Nights brings in a fresh whiff of air of festivities with the annual Muscat Festival last being held in 2019.

Natural Park under the patronage of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat. The opening ceremony is an only-invitee event and will begin at 6.30pm. The rest of the venues will be open to the public from tomorrow. Organised by Muscat Municipality, Muscat Nights brings in a fresh whiff of air of festivities with the annual Muscat Festival last being held in 2019.

Muscat Nights aims to target the youths with a plethora of activities scheduled for that segment with the organisers promising fun-filled events for families and children. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Hamidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, said, “The goal of Muscat Nights 2023 is not limited to entertainment alone, it wants to promote domestic tourism as well and support local industries by provid-

ing a space for social and cultural communication.” In a boost to in-country value (ICV), 90 percent of the contracts were awarded to local companies for preparing the venues. Muscat Nights is likely to kick-start a series of events planned for 2023 with Al Hamidi hoping that “those events will live up to the aspirations of our society and the youth”. Muscat Nights will also launch a

new electronic application for the first time, which will allow people to know about the events held at various venues and also book tickets online with ease. The use of technology through an electronic application via smart phones is dedicated to booking tickets and displaying the events schedule. While there would be game zones and food stalls in all the ven-

ues, various other attractions are on offer to encourage people to enjoy Muscat Nights. Badr Al Matrooshi, a citizen living in Muscat, was excited to attend Muscat Nights. He said: “It is a great move by Muscat Municipality to get people to come out of their homes and engage themselves in physical activities in the parks and enjoy the festivities at the four venues. We were missing such an event since the Muscat Festival was stopped after 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The good thing is that through the Muscat Nights App we can decide where to go and what to enjoy.” K Rupa, a Muscat-based expatriate said, “We want to enjoy the local flavours of the Sultanate of Oman and such events act as a cultural bridge to connect people through various activities.” According to officials of Muscat Nights the venues have been carefully picked for specific purposes. “The focus is on the quality of the event, and not on the number of activities. We have just over two weeks duration and we hope it is liked by people.” Meanwhile, a press statement from the Royal Oman Police to Oman News Agency (ONA) said that necessary steps have been taken to ensure safety, security and ease of traffic movements during Muscat Nights.

GEARS UP

ROP confirms its readiness for Muscat Nights 2023

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police has announced its readiness for the activities of the Muscat Nights 2023 which is set to begin on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Brigadier General Mohammed bin Nasser Al Kindi, Director General of Operations, representative of the Royal Oman Police in the main committee of the Muscat Nights 2023 activities, said in a statement to Oman News Agency: “Based on the directives of the General Command of the Royal Oman Police, planning and preparation began early for this event with the aim of maintaining security and public order, securing visitors and the conduct of events. Facilitating procedures for obtaining visas, customs clearance and media awareness.” The Royal Oman Police held preparatory meetings with Muscat Municipality to discuss the general idea of the activities and



Brigadier General Mohammed bin Nasser Al Kindi, Director General of Operations.

events of Muscat Nights, in addition to conducting field visits to the sites where these events will be held. The Brigadier General, Di-

rector General of Operations stressed the need for intensification of the police presence at the sites of the Muscat Nights 2023 events, maintain public order and achieve the highest levels of security and safety. The role of the police will be represented in monitoring and securing the gates of event sites, conducting foot patrols and dealing with reports and complaints. Traffic patrols will also be conducted outside the event sites to facilitate the flow of traffic and ensure a smooth flow of visitors. Brigadier General Mohammed bin Nasser Al Kindi also stressed the need for visitors to adhere to the regulations, laws, public morals and safety requirements set by those in charge of event management, and the importance of following the website of the Royal Oman Police and identifiers on social media to view security instructions and developments and obtain information.

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MEDICAL FIELD

Royal Hospital organises scholarly research event



MUSCAT: The Royal Hospital organised on Wednesday its annual scholarly research event aimed to highlight, support and promote research in the medical field. The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health. Dr. Sami Suleiman Al Farsi, Director General of the Royal Hos-

pital told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the hospital is making tangible efforts to activate scholarly research and innovation among individuals in the institution. He added that the annual event's research papers deal with the latest developments in health fields. -ONA



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HM THE SULTAN PARTICIPATES IN FRATERNAL MEETING OF GCC, JORDAN, EGYPT LEADERS





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ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

HM receives thanks cable



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks and gratitude from the participants in Oman Environment Sustainability Conference, which was held in Muscat during 16-18 January.

In their cable, the participants expressed their utmost thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to them.

They lauded the development witnessed by Oman in the environmental sector and natural resources in light of the national

priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

They also commended the Omani government's efforts to come up with advanced solutions to protect people, address climate pollution and global warming, as well as promoting measures that aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

At the end of the cable, they prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect His Majesty the Sultan and grant him good health and wellbeing. They also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity. -ONA

New programme to attract investments

Nazdahir figures high among national programmes aimed at accelerating economic development within the context of Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: The National Programme for Investment and Exports Development (Nazdahir) figures high among national programmes aimed at accelerating economic development within the context of Oman Vision 2040.

The programme seeks to enhance national efforts for attracting investments and establish a motivating environment for investment and exports development during the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025).

Khalid Said Al Shuaibi, Head of the National Programme for Investment and Export Development, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the programme aims at empowering Oman to become a competitive destination for investment and an active business environment in



the global business arena.

The objective is envisaged to be achieved by developing investment partnerships between Oman and local and international business communities, said Al Shuaibi, adding that the programme leads the development of an interconnected system to attract investment based on the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The working team of the pro-

gramme launched 10 initiatives to ensure the readiness of the investment system and check its compatibility with all relevant legislations, said Al Shuaibi.

He pointed out that the programme focuses on many investment sectors, including logistics, aviation, energy, food security, mining, communications, information technology, tourism and converting industries. In addition

to investment opportunities that were developed in the fields of health, education, culture, youth and sports.

As many as 167 initiatives were listed in the programme's indicators panel, said Al Shuaibi, noting that the programme is currently focusing on 15 priority projects in the tourism, mining, converting industries, food security and the aviation sector. -ONA

ARABIAN GULF CUP

'We will give our best to bring the trophy to Oman'

<FROM A1 Oman began the tournament by sharing the spoils with Iraq in a goalless draw, exhibiting a solid defensive play to thwart the Iraq attacks. A couple of hard-fought victories got the team growing in confidence as they rallied to down Yemen 3-2 and followed it up with 2-1 triumph against Saudi Arabia to reach the semi-finals.

The victory against Bahrain puts Oman just one game away from equalling Iraq, Qatar and Saudi Arabia on three titles. Kuwait is the record title holder with ten titles.

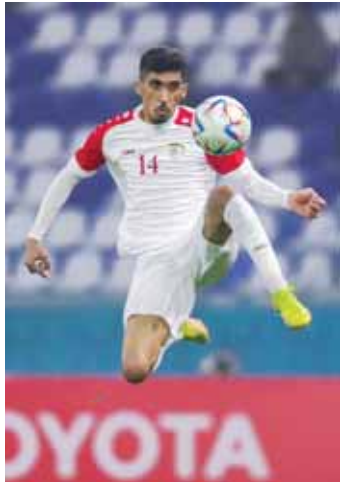
"We deserved to win against the team who won the last edition, this gives confidence to the players, who gained the mentality of winning," said Ivankovic.

The previous six editions of the Gulf Cup saw five different winners, with Oman the only team to win it twice, having never lifted the trophy prior to that.

Ivankovic said advancing to the final was a morale booster for his side. "I am satisfied by the performance and I am happy to face Iraq in the final. Although we have some injury concerns, we are very proud to have made the final and will give it our best," said Ivankovic.

Having enjoyed their best spell in the competition with three titles in 1979, 1984 and 1988, Iraq's best Gulf Cup result of the 21st century came back in 2013 when they lost to the UAE 2-1 in the final, but with massive home support throughout this campaign, they cruised to the final in style.

In his first managerial job, Spanish head coach Jesus Casas, previously assistant to Luis Enrique at Spain, led Iraq to top



Group A. A goalless draw against Oman was followed by a 2-0 win against Saudi Arabia before the top spot was sealed with a 5-0 defeat of Yemen to set up a semi-

final clash against Qatar.

Iraq's defensive resilience has been the key, with Qatar the only team to have scored against them and Casas paid tribute to his players after the semi-final. "I am happy with the team, especially our defensive work, which is a result of all players' efforts, not just the defenders.

"Now we can think about winning the title. As I said before, we focus match by match, and now we can say that we want to win the title, especially the players," said Casas.

With three goals to his name, Iraq's Hussein is the tournament's leading scorer and should he finish top, he would become the first Iraqi to win the top scorer award since the late Ahmed Radhi in 1988, when Iraq last won the tournament.

MEETING

Oman, Zanzibar review bilateral ties

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs received on Wednesday Haroun Ali Sueliman, Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Government of Zanzibar.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them in all fields.

The meeting was attended by Saleh Mohammed Al Saqri, Head of the East Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry.



- ONA

THREE-DAY CONFERENCE

First edition of Oman environmental sustainability conference concludes

MUSCAT: The first edition of "Oman Conference for Environmental Sustainability" concluded on Wednesday at a ceremony held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice-Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University.

The three-day conference saw the participation of experts, scientists and specialists from Oman and abroad. It focused on climate change and air quality.

Manafa Initiative

The conference, held in conjunction with Manafa Initiative, was attended by more than 400 participants from 25 countries.

At the conclusion of the conference, HH Sayyid Fahd honoured the five best scientific presentations at the conference and felicitated the winners of Manafa Initiative's "Youth Ecothon" members, as well as members of the conference's scholarly committee. - ONA



WORLD



World in 'sorry state' — UN chief Guterres

The UN chief said that increasing geopolitical division is undermining efforts to tackle global challenges such as soaring inflation and supply-chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic



DAVOS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world is in a “sorry state” while speaking in Davos at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting on Wednesday.

Guterres said a number of issues, including climate change and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, are “piling up like cars in a chain reaction crash.”

The UN chief said that increasing geopolitical division is undermining efforts to tackle global challenges such as soaring inflation and supply-chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that high debt levels are “pounding” developing countries.

Guterres said the world is “looking into the eye of a Category 5 hurricane.”

“Our world is being plagued by a perfect storm on a number of fronts,” he added.

Guterres called climate change an “existential challenge” for humanity. He added that the commitment to limit the Earth’s temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius “is nearly going up in smoke,” referring to the target set by the Paris Agreement in 2015.

He said that the “battle is being lost” and that every week brings “a new climate horror.”

Guterres also criticised oil firms for promoting scepticism on climate change, referring to a re-

cent study that found scientists at US oil and gas giant ExxonMobil made predictions with “shocking accuracy” several decades ago at a time when the company publicly doubted global warming.

“We learned last week that certain fossil fuel producers were fully aware in the 1970s that their core product was baking our planet,” he said in his speech. “Some in Big Oil peddled the big lie.”

“Just like the tobacco industry, they rode rough-shod over their own science,” Guterres said. “And like the tobacco industry, those responsible must be held to account.” ExxonMobil is the target of a number of lawsuits in the United States. — **dw**

*Davos
talking
points*

DAVOS: A record number of national leaders are in the Swiss ski resort of Davos this week, but the high-profile names who won't be gracing the snowy streets are also attracting attention.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is the only Group of Seven (G7) leader scheduled to attend the 53rd annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. US President Joe Biden is staying put, along with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Other power players outside of the G7 advanced economies are not bothering either, most notably Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The gathering officially got started on Monday. —*DW*

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IN KYIV



Helicopter crash kills at least 18, including interior minister of Ukraine

KYIV: At least 18 people have been killed in a helicopter crash near a kindergarten in the Kyiv region of Ukraine, CNN reported citing officials. Ukraine's Interior Minister Denis Monastyrsky, First Deputy Minister Yevheniy Yenin and Secretary of State Yuriy Lubkovychis have been killed in the crash, Anton Gerashenko, an adviser to the ministry said.

At least 29 people were injured in the helicopter crash on Wednesday in Brovary on the outskirts of Kyiv, CNN reported citing head of the Kyiv Regional Military Administration Oleksiy Kuleba. Oleksiy Kuleba said that the helicopter landed near a kindergarten and a residential building. On Telegram, Kuleba wrote, "At the time of the tragedy, there were children and the staff in the kindergarten. At the moment, everyone was evacuated." He further stated that police and firefighters have responded at the site, according to CNN.

Anton Gerashenko in a post on

social media said that investigators are finding the "cause of the tragedy." Gerashenko called everyone present in the helicopter as "patriots of Ukraine," as per the news report. Kyrlo Tymoshenko, head of the Ukrainian Presidential Administration, said that nine people onboard the helicopter died, while the other victims were locals who were "bringing their children to the kindergarten."

Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba has offered condolences to the families of the victims of a helicopter crash. He wished speedy recovery to those injured in the incident. Taking to his Twitter handle, Dmytro Kuleba stated, "Tragedy far from the frontline, in Brovary. My condolences to relatives of the victims, especially children. I wish a speedy recovery to those injured. Denys Monastyrskiy and Yevhenii Yenin were close colleagues & friends of mine, true Ukrainian patriots. Huge loss for all of us." — DW

HYAKURI AIR BASE

Japan-India hold first joint fighter jet exercise

TOKYO: Japan and India kicked off their first joint military exercise involving combat aircraft on Monday, Japan's Defence Ministry said.

The drills come as the so-called Quad Group — comprised of the United States, Japan, India and Australia — have grown increasingly concerned about China's military and economic influence in the region.

The joint exercise will last for 11 days and is taking place at the Hyakuri Air Base in Japan's Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.

Eight Japanese fighter jets are involved while India has sent four war planes of its own, as well as two transport aircraft and a refueling tanker, according to Japan's Defence Ministry.

Some 150 Indian Air Force personnel are taking part in the exercise. India's Defence Ministry said the drills will include training for "air combat missions in a complex environment" and that the exercise will strengthen the "long-standing bond of friendship" between India and Japan, the *Japan Times* reported.

The exercises were first agreed by the two countries in 2019, but were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The two countries previously held joint exercises with their land and sea forces, but the current exercise is the first to involve fighter jets. According to Japan's Defence Ministry, India is now the fifth country with which Japan has held a bilateral military exercise. — **nw**




Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development**
hereby announces the following tender :

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
16/2023	Training supervisors working in child-rearing institutions	Companies specialized in the field of education, training and human resources development services and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with the degree of excellent, first, second, third or fourth.	Wednesday 8-2-2023 02:00 PM	Tuesday 28-2-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), on Thursday 19/1/2023

❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.

❖ For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

“ The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry ”

www.mosd.gov.om

SPORTS

Nadal thrashed by Mackenzie in second round of Australian Open

The 27-year-old McDonald dominated Nadal 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a match that lasted for two hours and 32 minutes

MELBOURNE : Mackenzie McDonald upset a hobbled Rafael Nadal on Wednesday in the second round of the ongoing Australian Open, eliminating the top seed here at Rod Laver Arena on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old McDonald dominated Nadal 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a match that lasted for two hours and 32 minutes. Nadal pulled up in pain with what appeared to be an upper left leg injury at 4-3 in the second set as he moved to his left to pursue a forehand on the opening point of the game. At 5-3, the defending champion and a physio exited the court for a medical break.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion persevered, but it was obvious that the Spaniard's physical condition had declined as the match



went on. Since losing to fellow countryman Fernando Verdasco in the first round of the 2016 Australian Open in five sets, this is Nadal's quickest elimination from a major.

In the course of the match, McDonald would go on to break Nadal's serve five times, winning the last break at 5-5 in the third set. The American passed Nadal, whose movement had been restricted, with a shovelled back-

hand passing shot up the line.

However, prior to getting hurt, McDonald exhibited no apprehension about the situation inside Rod Laver Arena. In baseline rallies against the Spaniard, the Californian, who is mentored by former World No. 15 Robby Ginepri, was at ease.

Nadal's forehand wasn't avoided by McDonald, as the lefty struggled to regularly put the World No. 65 on the back foot. The American



recorded his highest career victory by hitting 42 winners compared to just 22 unforced errors.

"I'm really happy with how I started that match. I thought I was playing really well, serving great, returning well too. I was really taking it to him," ATP.com quoted McDonald as saying.

"It was actually pretty tough to stay mentally engaged a little bit there, but I found a way to just pull it out, so I'm happy. He's an incredible

champion. He's never going to give up, regardless of the situation. Closing it out against a top guy like that is always tough," McDonald said.

Swiatek surges into third round

World No.1 Iga Swiatek overpowered 84th-ranked Camila Osorio to advance into the third round of the ongoing Australian Open 2023 here at Rod Laver Arena on Wednesday.

Swiatek prevailed under the closed roof defeating 84th-ranked Camila Osorio 6-2, 6-3 in a match that lasted one hour and 24 minutes. Osorio was able to compete with the World No. 1 in several tight games because of her quick reflexes and capacity to hyperextend rallies and modify the ball's course down the line.

But ultimately, the Swiatek power play that sent her to the top of the rankings was what made the difference. With 13 rally victories with her forehand, Swiatek showed how well it can be employed.

"I know [Osorio is] gonna fight till the end and she's not going to give anything for free. She made some good decisions as well. I'm pretty happy that I was solid, and that's the most important thing for me," WTA.com quoted Swiatek as saying.

Elsewhere, American Jessica Pegula beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich at a Grand Slam for the second time in five months on Wednesday to move safely through to the third round of the Australian Open.

Pegula recorded a 6-2, 7-6(5) win in the same round in Melbourne to reach the last 32 for the ninth time in the last 10 majors.

Despite failing to serve out the match earlier at 6-2, 5-4, Pegula nevertheless managed to win in straight sets beneath the roof of Rod Laver Arena in 91 minutes. **-ANI**

ODI

India survive Bracewell scare, hand New Zealand 12-run defeat

HYDERABAD: A top-class bowling effort from Mohammed Siraj outweighed Michael Bracewell's heroic ton and partnership with Mitchell Santner as India overcame a late onslaught from these two all-rounders to clinch a 12-run win over New Zealand in the first match of the three-match series at Hyderabad on Wednesday.

With this, India has a 1-0 lead over New Zealand. Chasing 350, New Zealand lost their opener Devon Conway for just 10 off 16 balls. It was Mohammed Siraj once again who had struck gold for Men in Blue in early overs. Kiwis were 28/1 in 5.4 overs.

Following this, opener Finn Allen and Henry Nicholls stitched a partnership that took NZ beyond the 10 overs of mandatory powerplay. At the end of 10 overs, NZ was 42/1, with Allen (17*) and Nicholls (10*).

The 42-run stand between the duo with Shardul Thakur stepping in, dismissing Allen for 40 off 39 balls, with Shahbaz Ahmed, a substitute fielder, taking a great catch at deep midwicket.

Chinaman Kuldeep Yadav's spell landed the visitors into bigger trouble as he sent back Nicholls (18*) and Daryl Mitchell (9*) quickly. Kiwis sunk to 89/4 in 17.4 overs.

NZ crossed the 100-run mark in 21.4 overs and skipper Tom Latham and Glenn Phillips needed to stitch a partnership. But Mohammed Shami rattled Phillips' stumps when he was at 11 off 20 balls. Half of Kiwis line up was inside the hut for 110 runs.

Siraj picked up his second wicket of the match, sending back skipper Latham for 24 off 46 balls. NZ was 131/6 at this point.

However, all-rounders Michael Bracewell and Mitchell Santner turned the tides in favour of the Kiwis. Both batters took Indian bowlers to the attack. Bracewell



DOUBLE TON: Shubhman Gill entered the record books with his maiden double century against New Zealand.

brought up his half-century in just 31 balls. Santner served as an anchor from the other point.

Indian bowlers found it hard to deal with the sheer power-hitting of Bracewell and the duo brought up their 50-run stand and then 100-run stand easily. Kiwis reached the 200-run mark in 36.3 overs while they reached 250-run mark in 40.3 overs.

Bracewell brought up his half-century in just 57 balls. Bracewell-Santner brought up their 150 stand in just 90 balls. But Bracewell continued hitting from the other end to keep Kiwis alive. They needed 24 in the final two overs.

Pandya got Indians cheering once again, as he dismissed Lockie Ferguson for just seven. NZ were 328/9 and needed 22 in nine balls.

Kiwis needed 20 runs in final over to be bowled by Shardul Thakur. Thakur was not off to a good start as he was hit for a six on the very first ball. However, he dismissed Bracewell to clinch a 12-run win for his side.

Bracewell scored a brilliant 140 off just 78 balls with 12 fours

and 10 sixes, but failed to win the match for his side.

Siraj was again a standout bowler, taking 4/46 in 10 overs. Kuldeep Yadav and Shardul took two wickets while Pandya and Shami got one. Earlier, Shubhman Gill entered the record books with his maiden double century against New Zealand to power India to 349/8 in the first ODI of the three-match series at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad on Wednesday.

At the age of 23 years and 132 days, Gill became the youngest player to smash a double hundred bettering Ishan Kishan's record. The batter put on a one-man show as he scored 208 runs in his inning with the next best being Rohit Sharma's 34. Daryl Mitchell picked up two wickets for the visitors.

Opting to bat first, Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shubhman Gill started steadily, playing a few dot balls to get their eyes set in while finding the occasional boundary to keep the scoreboard ticking. **-ANI**

FOOTBALL

Injuries an issue for Real; Barca face long trip in Copa del Rey

MADRID: Real Madrid have to overcome a long injury list and tired legs while FC Barcelona face a long journey to north Africa in their Copa del Rey ties on Thursday night.

Newly crowned Spanish Super Cup winners Barcelona face third-tier strugglers Ceuta, with a trip that involves a helicopter journey from the south coast of Spain to the Spanish enclave on the coast of Morocco.

Barca struggled in the last round and needed extra time to get past fellow third-tier side CF Intercity in the last round, but coach Xavi Hernandez can be expected to make sweeping changes to the team that beat Real Madrid 3-1 in Riyadh on Sunday night.

Inaki Pena will play in goal, while players such as Eric Garcia, Hector Bellerin, Ansu Fati, Raphinha and Pablo Torre can all expect to start.

Real Madrid hardly have time to lick their wounds and recover tired legs before they travel to Villarreal for what looks like the toughest tie of the round.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti saw right-back Dani Carvajal added to his injury list on Tuesday, joining the already-sidelined Lucas



Vazquez, David Alaba and Aurelien Tchouameni.

Luka Modric looked shattered during the Super Cup final and he was not the only player well below his best, with Antonio Rudiger and Toni Kroos also disappointing.

Nacho Fernandez will probably start at right-back, while Dani Ceballos could also find himself in the team if Ancelotti wants to rest Kroos for the weekend visit

to Athletic Bilbao.

Villarreal beat Real Madrid 2-1 in La Liga less than two weeks ago, and their players are much better rested, with Gerard Moreno returning to form.

The Yellow Submarine have turned things around under Quique Setien and are unbeaten in seven games in all competitions, and it would be no surprise to see them repeat the result on Thursday. **-Xinhua**

BATTING LEGEND

Amla announces retirement

SURREY: South Africa batting legend Hasim Amla confirmed he won't be returning to play for English County cricket club Surrey as he announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on Wednesday.

Amla, 39, signed for Surrey in 2019 and was an integral part of the side that won the County

Championship in 2022. Amla, 39, amassed 34,104 runs throughout the course of a two-decade career in all professional formats, 9,282 of which came in his 124 Test matches from 2004 to 2019, second only to Jacques Kallis for his nation.

This featured 28 hundreds as well as a record of 311 not out

against England at the Kia Oval in 2012--South Africa's first triple-century in Test matches.

He added 8,113 more runs, including 27 hundreds, in 181 ODIs and 1,277 more in 44 T20Is. He has now started a teaching career, serving as the batting coach for MI Cape Town.

OMAN D20

Khuwair Warriors pull off a tie, Qurum Thunders beat Darsait Titans

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Khuwair Warriors managed to pull off a tie against Ghubrah Giants and Qurum Thunders beat Darsait Titans convincingly by 8 wickets in the ongoing Oman D20.

Khuwair Warriors elected to bat first. Khuwair Warriors got off to a nice start courtesy of Zeeshan Siddiqui (48 of 28 ; 4x4,4x6) and Arsalan Bashir (34 of 30; 3x4,1x6). Sean Nowak and Muzaffar Shirkalkar contributed to the batting taking the Warriors to 150/9.

Prabhakaran Kannan (3/14),

Tanuj Sivakumar (3/11) and Yashas GL (2/38) were among the key wicket takers. In response, Ghubrah Giants' Gowtham Sagar (90 of 62 ; 4x4,7x6) single handedly turned tables for the Giants inching them close to the target before Khuwair Warriors' Hashim Sayed picked 2 wickets in the last over tying the match.

Sean Nowak (3/36) and Mohsin Qureshi (2/8) were among the key wickets takers for the Warriors. Both teams picked a point each for the game.

In another game, Qurum Thunders put Darsait Titans to bat first.

Darsait Titans got off to a flying start courtesy Karan Kannan (61 of 43 ; 5x4,2x6) and able contribution from Lakpriya Ravindra and Sahil Shaik to take them to a total of 160 runs. SamayShrivastav (4/29) and Shoaib Khan (2/19) were the key wicket takers for the Thunders.

In response, the Qurum Thunders' aggressive approach set the tone to the chase with Aiyappa CR (59 of 51 ; 7x4,2x6) and Shoaib Khan (81 of 49 ; 10x4,3x6) taking them over the line. Qurum Thunders registered their 4th win of the league out of 5 games.



OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2023 reaching \$84.14, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.40 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$82.74. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,836.93 points, up by 0.37 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.13 per cent at 487.93 points. Phoenix Power, up 9.30 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Flour Mills, down 9.71 per cent, was the top loser.



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Marafiq increases power production capacity in Sezad

The new gas-powered power plant was developed in cooperation with the Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer)

MUSCAT: The Centralised Utilities Company (Marafiq), a company owned by OQ, announced the increase of power production in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) after operating a new gas-powered power plant. The plant was developed in cooperation with the Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer). Eng. Abdullah Saif Al Farsi, Director-General of Operations and Maintenance at Marafiq, said that



the new gas-powered plant started operation in 2021 as a replacement for the previous diesel-powered plant. "The production volume of the new plant reached around 212 gigawatts per hour in the first 10 months of 2022," he said.

New gas-powered plant
Al Farsi pointed out, "Establishing the new gas-powered plant in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm reflects the joint efforts of Marafiq and Tanweer to meet the increasing demand for electricity in the Zone, which sees rapid population

and development growth." The gas-powered plant consists of four mobile gas turbines with a production capacity of 80 megawatts, which is sufficient to meet Tanweer's power requirement to cover the needs of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm over the next



five years, Al Farsi added.

Economic benefit
Commenting on the economic benefit of the new plant, Al Farsi further added that establishing this plant serves to reduce the cost of power production, which in turn

decreases the cost of government subsidies for power in the Sezad. Al Farsi said that using natural gas instead of diesel in power production contributes to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and limiting environmental pollution.

Reduce emissions
He also explained that the gas-powered plant aims to reduce the annual emissions of carbon dioxide to 90,000 tonnes, which is equivalent to the emissions of about 20,000 cars. "Marafiq Company is tirelessly working to support the economic and urban development in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. In this regard, the company carried out last year the soft commissioning of the Integrated Power and Water Plant that supplies power and water to Duqm Refinery (OQ8) and Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCCO). In addition, the Company, through its potable water production plant, provided 9,000 cubic metres of potable water per day for residential and commercial purposes," Eng. Abdullah Al Farsi affirmed. - **ONA**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

Shell begins gas production at Block 10

MUSCAT: Shell Integrated Gas Oman BV, a subsidiary of Shell plc announced the start of gas production from the Mabrouk North East field at Block 10 in Oman. Production from Block 10 concession area is expected to reach 0.5 billion standard cubic feet of gas per day (bscf/d) by mid-2024, with the produced gas supplied to the OQ Gas Network that feeds local industries and export facilities alike. Shell holds a 53.45 per cent working interest in Block 10, with OQ and Marsa Liquefied Natural Gas (a joint venture between Total Energies and OQ) holding 13.36 per cent and 33.19 per cent respectively. Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals said, "This accomplishment strengthens Oman's rich natural gas reserves, whilst bringing value to



support Oman's energy transition and achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2050. Attracting foreign investment to Oman is a key enabler for achieving economic growth and realising Oman Vision 2040." Walid Hadi, Oman Shell's Senior Vice President and Country Chair said, "Shell and the Government of

Oman are developing options for a separate downstream gas project in which Shell could produce and sell low-carbon products and support the development of blue hydrogen in Oman. The proposed blue hydrogen project is subject to further agreements and future investment decisions." - **ONA**

BINDING TERM-SHEET

Two pacts inked to supply LNG

MUSCAT: Oman LNG signed two binding term-sheet agreements with PTT Global LNG Company Limited from Thailand and TotalEnergies from France to supply 1.6 million metric tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG starting from 2025. These agreements solidify the partnership between Oman LNG and global energy firms. The signed term-sheet agreements will see Oman LNG supplying PTT Global LNG Company Limited with a total volume of 0.8 million metric tonnes per annum of LNG based on a 9-year contract, starting from 2026, and 0.8 million metric tonnes per annum to TotalEnergies for a total duration of 10 years, starting from 2025. The agreements were signed by Hamad Muhammed Al Nu'amani, CEO of Oman LNG, Ratchada



Lertwanichwatana, Managing Director of PTT Global LNG Company Limited and Thomas Maurisse, Senior Vice President of LNG of TotalEnergies. Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals was present during the signing ceremony. The move reflects Oman's efforts in providing energy to global mar-

kets. It also complements the company's strive to renew its contracts beyond 2024 with a strong interest to leverage partnerships with many global partners. This ensures Oman LNG sustains its position in the global LNG market and contributes to global energy security, where it currently continues delivering clean and reliable energy. - **ONA**

RECOVERY

Oil prices extend gains on optimism

SINGAPORE: Oil prices rose on Wednesday, extending the previous session's gains, driven by optimism that the lifting of China's strict COVID-19 curbs will lead to a recovery in fuel demand in the world's top oil importer. Brent crude futures firmed 63 cents, or 0.73 per cent, to \$86.55 a barrel by 0401 GMT, following a 1.7 per cent rally in the previous session, Reuters reports. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose 68 cents, or 0.85 per cent, to \$80.56, having risen 0.4 per cent on Tuesday. China's economic growth slowed sharply to 3 per cent in 2022, missing the official target of "around 5.5 per cent" and marking its second-worst performance since 1976. But the data still beat analysts' forecasts after China started rolling back its zero-COVID policy in early December. Analysts polled by Reuters see 2023 growth rebounding to 4.9 per cent. - **BNA**



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MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Phoenix Power, up 9.30 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Flour Mills, down 9.71 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,836.93 points, up by 0.37 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.13 per cent at 487.93 points. Phoenix Power, up 9.30 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Flour Mills, down 9.71 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 514 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.98 million, with more than 8.84 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 16 advanced, 11 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR122,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR117,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR5,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,838.05 points, down 0.15 per cent. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment and Muscat Finance, were up by 2.78 per cent and 1.59 per cent respectively.

Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman Qatar Insurance and Sohar International Bank were down by 4.88 per cent, 3.59 per cent and 1.91 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,041.57 points, down 1.39 per cent. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, and Oman Fisheries were up by 4.88 per cent, 4.00 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 1.64 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively.

Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Oman Refreshment, Gulf Mushroom Products, Raysut Cement, and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 9.71 per cent, 9.40 per cent, 4.35 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 0.87 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.25 per cent before closing at 1,637.55 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Sharqiyah Desalination, SMN Power Holding, Oman Telecom, and Ooredoo were up by 9.30 per cent, 7.94 per cent, 6.12 per cent, 3.04 per cent and 1.37 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, National Gas and Oman National Engineering were down by 8.70 per cent, 2.86 per cent and 0.84 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDECIES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,837.41	4,811.20	4,836.93	4,819.27	17.66	0.37
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,850.16	7,824.38	7,838.05	7,850.05	-12.01	-0.15
Industry Index	6,152.78	6,009.63	6,041.57	6,126.97	-85.40	-1.39
Services Index	1,637.55	1,617.41	1,637.55	1,617.41	20.14	1.25
MSX Shariah Index	489.82	486.08	487.93	487.28	0.65	0.13
MSX TR INDEX	6,105.69	6,072.61	6,105.09	6,082.80	22.29	0.37
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,214.32	8,187.34	8,201.65	8,214.21	-12.57	-0.15
SERVICES TR IDX	1,730.75	1,709.47	1,730.75	1,709.47	21.28	1.25
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,405.80	6,256.77	6,290.02	6,378.94	-88.91	-1.39

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,844,515	1,977,478	514	23,713,739,755	16	11	18	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST HD	LAST OFF	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,072	882	2	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.410	0.020	4.878	0.430	0.420	0.430	0.100	23,650,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	555,648	518,855	63	0.940	0.948	0.920	0.948	0.920	0.028	3,043	0.948	1.010	0.948	0.100	711,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	451,300	200,594	50	0.438	0.450	0.438	0.444	0.438	0.006	1,370	0.444	0.480	0.444	0.100	289,019,238
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	226,944	101,480	46	0.450	0.450	0.440	0.450	0.448	0.002	0,446	0.450	0.492	0.450	0.100	106,384,500
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	121,411	34,363	42	0.285	0.285	0.280	0.285	0.285	0.000	0,000	0.285	0.312	0.285	0.100	463,394,711
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	10,115	1,285	3	0.128	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.130	0.000	0,000	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	27,000	11,432	5	0.424	0.426	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0,000	0.420	0.420	0.428	0.100	280,715,479
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,000	3,040	2	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.000	0,000	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.100	100,585,304
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	8,000	1,184	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0,000	0.148	0.140	0.150	0.100	44,875,618
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,694,444	473,726	72	0.279	0.280	0.279	0.280	0.280	0.000	0,000	0.280	0.308	0.280	0.100	210,191,177
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV.H.	11,000	680	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0,000	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT.ENG.	187,057	22,084	15	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.118	0.119	-0.001	-0.840	0.118	0.117	0.119	0.100	16,520,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	7,000	1,584	3	0.226	0.227	0.226	0.227	0.229	-0.002	-0.873	0.227	0.222	0.227	0.100	28,351,837
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	45,800	4,735	6	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.105	-0.002	-1.905	0.103	0.103	0.104	0.100	472,776,416
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	500	316	1	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.632	0.700	-0.068	-9.714	0.632	0.632	0.680	0.100	99,540,000
Total		3,358,291	1,376,029	312												

Parallel Market

OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,158,011	53,639	37	0.044	0.047	0.044	0.047	0.043	0.004	9,302	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.100	68,742,269
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN	19,500	2,656	4	0.138	0.138	0.135	0.136	0.126	0.010	7,937	0.136	0.120	0.135	0.100	13,301,094
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	1,087,400	56,934	50	0.053	0.053	0.051	0.052	0.049	0.003	6,122	0.052	0.050	0.052	0.100	10,381,051
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	100	23	1	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.225	0.009	4,000	0.234	0.204	0.230	0.100	28,080,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	43,400	3,212	6	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.002	2,778	0.074	0.074	0.076	0.100	9,018,750
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	3,000	270	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.002	2,273	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	7,324,248
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,015,000	183,791	10	0.187	0.187	0.181	0.186	0.183	0.003	1,639	0.186	0.181	0.185	0.100	37,755,479
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	5,000	320	1	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.001	1,587	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	19,657,365
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	209,043	15,424	17	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.001	1,370	0.074	0.073	0.075	0.100	70,638,324
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	5,223	491	3	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.001	1,064	0.095	0.092	0.095	0.100	17,297,448
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	80,079	8,011	8	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.001	1,000	0.101	0.099	0.101	0.100	15,710,590
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INT	1,672	251	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0,000	0.150	0.150	0.160	0.100	61,386,947
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	74,784	11,965	2	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0,000	0.160	0.158	0.162	0.100	320,050,046
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,000	258	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0,000	0.086	0.083	0.086	0.100	17,200,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	94,000	6,016	10	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0,000	0.064	0.062	0.065	0.100	22,345,242
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,000,000	100,000	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0,000	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	399,356	35,942	7	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0,000	0.090	0.090	0.092	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	44,000	1,320	4	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0,000	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.100	20,246,623
OM0000004932	AL SUWADI POWER	52,000	1,560	6	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0,000	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.100	21,432,190
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	4,800	662	1	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.000	0,000	0.138	0.136	0.137	0.100	10,422,038
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	6,000	696	2	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0,000	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.100	49,273,345
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	200	30	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.150	-0.002	-1.333	0.148	0.138	0.145	0.100	29,600,000
OM0000001160	NAYSUT GAS	10,000	1,620	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.165	-0.003	-2.857	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	8,670,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	13,709	2,561	6	0.178	0.182	0.178	0.188	0.185	-0.007	-3.901	0.188	0.178	0.177	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	100	22	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.230	-0.010	-4.548	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	9,153,160
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	7,663	345	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.048	-0.003	-6.250	0.045	0.040	0.045	0.100	11,250,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,000	105	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.115	-0.010	-8.696	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.100	3,150,000
OM0000001436	OMAN REFRESHMENT	100	135	1	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.480	-0.140	-9.996	1.350	0.000	1.400	0.100	67,500,000
Total		5,338,131	487,680	188												

STATISTICS

China's economy retains resilience and vitality

SHANGHAI: Those who claim that “China's economic slide is dragging down the global economy” should retract their rumours.

Faced with the impacts of multiple unexpected factors, China's economy withstood the pressure and maintained overall stability. China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3 per cent year on year to a record high of 121.0207 trillion yuan (about \$17.95 trillion) in 2022, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

This economic performance was hard won, given the scale of the world's second-largest economy, which surpassed 100 trillion yuan and 110 trillion yuan in 2020 and 2021, respectively, as well as headwinds from COVID-19 and downward pressure in the global economy.

The Chinese economy is integrating with the world more closely and strongly. In US dollar terms, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Chinese mainland, in actual use, increased 8 per cent year on year to \$189.13 billion in 2022.



The country's goods trade totalled 42.07 trillion yuan, up 7.7 per cent year on year, ranking first globally for a sixth consecutive year, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC). The figure exceeded 40 trillion yuan for the first time, the GAC said.

In 2022, China strived to balance its epidemic response with economic and social development, steadily improved the quality of development, made substantial achievements in scientific and

technological innovation, deepened reform and opening up comprehensively, and stabilised employment and prices.

The 3 per cent growth rate, a relatively high rate among the world's major economies in 2022, highlights the strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality of the Chinese economy, and the effective coordination of epidemic response with economic and social development.

With China now in a new phase

of its epidemic response, analysts predict the accelerated growth of the Chinese economy in 2023 despite various challenges. The international community generally believes that although China's economic growth slowed in 2022 due to the epidemic and other factors, China's economic and social vitality will be released further as COVID-19 prevention and control work enters a new stage, and it will continue to be the “stabiliser” of world economic recovery and the “engine” of growth.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that China will achieve stable economic growth in 2023, and become the largest positive factor in the global economy.

In 2023, China will focus on boosting domestic demand by prioritising the expansion of consumption, increasing personal income through multiple channels, and encouraging more private capital to participate in the construction of key national projects, according to the annual central economic work conference last month. —Xinhua

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FOR DISABLED PERSONS

CMA, ministry sign agreement

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) and the Ministry of Social Development have signed a permanent cooperation programme for community partners to enhance and provide training and qualification programmes for people with impairments within the initiative ‘Be with us for them’ in the capital market and insurance sectors.

The move comes to enhance social responsibility to empower the disabled and enhance their role in the community by qualifying them and developing their capabilities and competencies to support human and social development.

The initiative for support of the holders of Disabled Persons’ Card was introduced during the event. The card is supervised by the CMA in coordination with the insurance companies to provide advantages and special offers for the disabled in Oman.

The memorandum was signed by Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Al Shamsi, Undersecretary for the Ministry of Social Development and Sheikh Abdullah Salim Al Salmi, Executive President of CMA.

Al Salmi stated that the programme is considered a big opportunity for disabled persons to develop their skills and knowledge in the fields of accounting, finance, administration and IT.

OFFICIAL FIGURES

Germany's average inflation rate hits record high in 2022

BERLIN: German consumers faced the fastest-rising prices, particularly for food and fuel, in the history of the post-war German republic in 2022, official figures released on Tuesday showed.

“The historically high annual inflation rate was driven above all by the extreme price increases for energy products and groceries since the start of the war in Ukraine,” Ruth Brand, the president Germany's Federal Statistical Office, more commonly known as Destatis, said.



Slight end-of-year reduction

However, the rate of inflation dipped markedly in December, to 8.6 per cent, after three consecutive months at 1



6

MINUTES OF

HIGH-INTENSITY EXERCISE

COULD DELAY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ONSET

THIS **INSIGHT ON EXERCISE** IS PART OF THE DRIVE TO DEVELOP ACCESSIBLE, EQUITABLE AND AFFORDABLE NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACHES THAT ANYONE CAN ADOPT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY AGEING.

THE **OBSERVED INCREASE IN BDNF DURING EXERCISE** COULD BE DUE TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF PLATELETS (THE SMALLEST BLOOD CELL) WHICH STORE LARGE AMOUNTS OF BDNF.

The findings of recent research suggest that six minutes of high-intensity exercise could extend the lifespan of a healthy brain and delay the onset of neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

New research published in The Journal of Physiology shows that a short but intense bout of cycling increases the production of a specialised protein that is essential for brain formation, learning and memory, and could protect the brain from age-related cognitive decline.

This insight on exercise is part of the drive to develop accessible, equitable and affordable non-pharmacological approaches that anyone can adopt to promote healthy ageing.

The specialised protein named brain-derived neurotrophic factor

(BDNF) promotes neuroplasticity (the ability of the brain to form new connections and pathways) and the survival of neurons. Animal studies have shown that increasing the availability of BDNF encourages the formation and storage of memories, enhances learning and overall boosts cognitive performance. These key roles and its apparent neuroprotective qualities have led to the interest in BDNF for ageing research.

Lead author Travis Gibbons from University of Otago, New Zealand said: "BDNF has shown great promise in animal models, but pharmaceutical interventions have thus far failed to safely harness the protective power of BDNF in humans. We saw the need to explore non-pharmacological approaches that can preserve the brain's capacity which humans can use to naturally increase

BDNF to help with healthy ageing."

They found that brief but vigorous exercise was the most efficient way to increase BDNF compared to one day of fasting with or without a lengthy session of light exercise. BDNF increased by four to five-fold (396 pg L-1 to 1170 pg L-1) more compared to fasting (no change in BDNF concentration) or prolonged activity (slight increase in BDNF concentration, 336 pg L-1 to 390 pg L-1).

The cause for these differences is not yet known and more research is needed to understand the mechanisms involved. One

hypothesis is related to the cerebral substrate switch and glucose metabolism, the brain's primary fuel source. The cerebral substrate switch is when the brain switches its favoured fuel source for another to ensure the body's energy demands are met, for example metabolising lactate rather than glucose during exercise.

The brain's transition from consuming glucose to lactate initiates pathways that result in elevated levels of BDNF in the blood.

The observed increase in BDNF during exercise could be due to the increased number of platelets (the smallest blood cell) which store large amounts of BDNF. The concentration of platelets circulating in the blood is more heavily influenced by exercise than fasting and increases by 20 per cent.

12 physically active partici-

pants (six males, six females aged between 18 and 56 years) took part in the study. The balanced ratio of male and female participants was to provide a better representation of the population rather than indicate sex differences.

Further research is underway to delve deeper into the effects of calorie restriction and exercise to distinguish the influence on BDNF and the cognitive benefits.

Travis Gibbons said: "We are now studying how fasting for longer durations, for example up to three days, influences BDNF. We are curious whether exercising hard at the start of a fast accelerates the beneficial effects of fasting. Fasting and exercise are rarely studied together. We think fasting and exercise can be used in conjunction to optimise BDNF production in the human brain." -ANI

SPORTS



Players at the World Veteran Table Tennis Championships enjoy an opportunity to explore Oman

The ITTF Foundation promotes the physical and mental health benefits of table tennis to people of all ages irrespective of gender, culture, social background, or physical ability

MUSCAT: A break in play on the third day of the World Veteran Table Tennis Championships - Muscat 2023 allowed competitors a unique opportunity to explore Oman and become better acquainted with the host city and its surroundings. While some remained at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) to fine tune their technique, many others took the chance to discover Oman with a trip to Wadi Shab and Nizwa.

The World Veteran Table Tennis Championships also will welcome Princess Zeina Rashid of Jordan, ITTF Foundation Board Member and a table tennis player herself, to watch next round of action and take in the atmosphere.

The ITTF Foundation promotes the physical and mental health benefits of table tennis to people of all ages irrespective of gender, culture, social background, or physical ability.

The day concluded with a Gala Dinner in the evening, prepared by the organising committee to share Omani culture and officially welcome the players to the country. Alongside a traditional meal of local dishes, the visitors were treated to a musical performance and a chance to immerse themselves in Oman's rich heritage.

The previous day saw some fierce competition in the Men's and Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles as teams completed their two group matches to determine who would be advancing to the next round. The top two teams in the group will progress to the knockout rounds while the third placed team will drop into the Consolation Rounds. Both sides of the draw will resume tomorrow when play continues.

Soman Ukkath Variath & Husam Shalaby advanced to the Round of 32 where they will face Robert Shahnazari and Thor Truelson from the USA. Elsewhere, Diccon Gray and Shirley Gelder of England played out a dramatic five-game match with Stephen Hochman and Wendy Fang of the USA after being pegged back twice and finally triumphed in the deciding game.

India's Jayant Bhalchandra Kulkarni and Neeta Jayant Kulkarni went through a similar



battle in their match with Jean-Marc Leroy of France and Hyelan Kim of Korea, overcoming a tie-break loss in the fourth game to edge the fifth and deciding game and take the match 3-2.

There was an equally dramatic match on table 37 as the German team of Jürgen Bayer and

Simone Döbler won three successive games to come back from two down and win over Kailash Nichani and Deepa Vinod Jain of India.

Mohammed bin Salim Al Oufi, Treasurer of the Omani Table Tennis Association and a member of the Organising Committee for the World Veteran Table

Tennis Championship - Muscat 2023, explained that hosting this world championship in Muscat has greatly enhanced the presence of the Sultanate of Oman on the map of international sports, adding that the Omani Table Tennis Association has worked to host many international tour-

naments during the past several years, which has contributed to the accumulation of experience among the organizing members, which greatly qualified them to host international tournaments.

He added, "I would like to commend the great role of the volunteers in this tournament, as they

Alongside a traditional meal of local dishes, the visitors were treated to a musical performance and a chance to immerse themselves in Oman's rich heritage

fields, including the organisational aspect within the competition halls, as well as their positive role in organising transfers for the participants, as well as approving and issuing special cards for players, escorts and referees, and other services they provide throughout the tournament period, highly appreciating their great role in the success of the tournament."

Al Oufi also praised the great cooperation of various governmental and private agencies and institutions supporting the success of the tournament, led by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the rest of the government agencies as well as private sector institutions.

The World Veteran Table Tennis Championships 2023 is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Omani Table Tennis Association and the International Table Tennis Federation, with support from Oman Fiber Optic, STAG Sports, Omantel and Belltel.

INDIA’S ANCIENT BUDDHIST GATE HAS NEW REPLICA IN BERLIN



Berlin has a new sight: A replica of the famous East Gate of Sanchi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in India. It is a stunning addition to the outdoor space of Berlin’s Humboldt Forum museum complex.

Step back in time as you witness the grandeur of ancient India at Berlin’s Humboldt Forum museum complex. A replica of the famous East Gate of Sanchi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been meticulously crafted and placed in front of the reconstructed baroque façade of the Berlin Palace, which houses the Ethnological Museum of Berlin and the Museum of Asian Art.

The gate, known as one of the famous Sanchi “stupas,” Sanskrit for Buddhist shrines, was built by German and Indian sculptors and cost around 1.6 million euros (approximately \$1.7 million). It features intricate reliefs, crafted from red sandstone quarried near the Bavarian city of Würzburg.

Weighing about 150 tonnes, the gate is nearly 10 metres tall and 6 metres wide, with detailed scenes depicting episodes from the life of the Buddha on the three crossbeams and two pillars. Buddhist symbols, erotic-looking lucky genii, and depictions of elephants, lions, and peacocks decorate the gate.

However, visitors won’t find a depiction of Buddha himself as at the time of the construction of the original gate, he was represented by symbols like a throne under a tree or footprints.



The third replica

It’s not the first time Berlin is exhibiting a replica of this famous gate. Another plaster cast of the original gate was previously on display in what was then known as the Royal Museum of Ethnology in Berlin in 1886.

The museum had purchased the replica, made of plaster, from the British South Kensington Museum in London (now the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its components are now in the external depot of Berlin’s Museum of Asian Art. Another copy

made of cast stone has been on display in a Berlin suburb since 1970.

The Sanchi stupa was discovered by the British general, Henry Taylor, in 1818. In the late 1860s, British Lieutenant Henry Hardy Cole made a cast of the East Gate of Sanchi, the main portal of the ancient stupa, for the Victoria and Albert Museum, which later made several copies and offered them for sale to different European institutions.

UNESCO World Heritage since 1989

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1989, Sanchi attracts tourists from all over the world. The Buddhist complex is one of the oldest, most significant and most well-preserved Buddhist sanctuaries in India.

India’s Ambassador to Berlin, Harish Parvathaneni welcomed the initiative of the Humboldt Forum “to place the replica of the Sanchi Gate in the heart of Berlin,” saying it deserves recognition because it “embodies Buddha’s message of peace, compassion and love for all living beings.”

The Sanchi Gate represents “the close relationship between India and Germany and the long-standing, strong ties between the people of our countries,” he added.

Diversity in Berlin

The replica is a stunning addition to the outdoor space of Berlin’s Humboldt Forum. “I am very excited about the replica of the East Gate of the Sanctuary of Sanchi in front of the Humboldt Forum”, Hartmut Dorgerloh, general director of the institution, said in a press statement.

“As an exciting counterpoint to the baroque facades, what visitors can look forward to inside the building will now also be visible in front of the portals of the Humboldt Forum: The diversity of the world in the centre of Berlin.”

Alongside the reconstructed gate, a bronze model of the Stupa of Sanchi will be displayed. This model will help to understand the reconstruction, make the entire complex more accessible, and also serve as a tactile model for those with visual impairments. -DW



ROUND-UP



Benefits on Telluride

THE POPULAR KIA

The popular Kia Telluride is a stunner with its attractive design, advanced features, space and comfort

MUSCAT: Now own the Kia Telluride with ‘Season of Winning’ promotion and get a chance to be a winner with Kia.

On offer is a chance to win a brand new Kia Niro Hybrid Electric Vehicle and comprehensive service up to 50,000 km, 1 year insurance and cash gift. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details.) The campaign will end on 26 January 2023 (Conditions apply).

The popular Telluride is a stunner with its attractive design, advanced features, space and comfort. It is the perfect companion especially when planning journeys with family and friends.

The Telluride is equipped with a power-packed 3.8L GDI engine that produces 291 hp and 36.2 kg.m. torque. Complementing this powerful SUV is the 8-speed auto-

matic transmission.

The Telluride’s exterior of underlined by its Bi-Function Projection Headlamps, LED Daytime Running Lights, 20” Alloy Wheels, LED Rear Combination Lamps and more. The Remote Start Engine feature encourages better experiences especially during summers. The Remote window control feature, can be a much needed advantage. Faster cooling, happier journeys.

Inside the Telluride the cabin that has enough room to welcome occupants right up to the third row along with their well-packed belongings. Passengers can revel in the comfort of being surrounded with well-thought appointments that include USB charging port in every row, Leather Seats, Ventilated Front Seats, Power Driver Seat, Power Passenger Seat, Walk-in Button, Rear Side Manual Curtain, Smart Tailgate, Roof Mounted Rear AC Control, Diffusing Roof AC Vents, Dual Independent Full Auto AC, Audio Remote Control, Sunroof, 10.25-inch colour LCD with Smart Navigation, Rear Seat Driver Talk Mode, Rear Seat Quiet Mode and much more.

The Kia Telluride is loaded in impressive safety features. Including Side and Curtain Airbags, Brake Assist System, Electric Parking Brake with Auto Hold, Front and Rear Parking Assist System, Self-Levelling Rear Suspension and much more.

OFFER ON 2 MODELS

Mercedes-Benz Oman offers exclusive limited-time service package

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman is offering exclusive service packages on two of its high-performance luxury models until February 28.

The offer includes the Mercedes-Benz GLE 450 4MATIC SUV and the Mercedes-AMG GLE 53 4MATIC+ Coupé – both available with a four years/60,000km service package.

Commenting on the service package offers, Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman, said: “We always prioritise the overall customer experience. Owning one of our iconic vehicles means having access, luxury features, legacy, superior hi-tech convenience and a solid performance, as well as to an excellent after-sales care. Through this offer, customers can experience timeless elegance and



unmatched luxury and comfort that comes with owning and driving a powerful and exquisitely crafted Mercedes-Benz.”

The Mercedes-Benz GLE 450 4MATIC has a wealth of innovations. The active suspension system E-ACTIVE BODY CON-

TROL on a 48 volt basis is a world first. The interior is spacious and comfortable, with a third seat row available on request.

The infotainment system has larger screens, a full-colour head-up display with a resolution of 720 x 240 pixels and the MBUX Interi-

or Assistant, which can recognise hand and arm movements and supports operating intentions.

While the exterior design not only exudes presence and power but also sets a new standard for aerodynamics in the SUV segment. And the new 4MATIC ensures great agility on the road and superior performance off the beaten track.

The Mercedes-AMG GLE 53 4MATIC+ is powered by a 3.0-litre engine featuring twin-turbocharging and an electric auxiliary compressor. The 6-cylinder in-line engine generates 320 kW (435 hp) and delivers maximum torque of 520 Nm (384 lb/ft). Its EQ Boost starter generator provides an additional 16 kW of output plus 250 Nm of torque and fuels the 48 V on-board electrical system.

DANUBE GROUP

Milano holds annual Dealers’ Meet

MUSCAT: Milano, a brand born in Italy, wholly owned by the Danube Group known for the finest bath and home solutions across the Middle East, held its annual Dealers’ Meet for Oman recently at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The event witnessed a turnout of more than 250 dealers.

Among other things, Milano undoubtedly views its expanding dealer network as a crucial component of its business. This is demonstrated by the innovative programme the company launched, which involved flying their top-performing Middle Eastern dealers to luxurious vacation spots to celebrate their success while enjoying a break from work.

The brand’s initiative, which was introduced in 2017, has already given committed dealers a vacation to Switzerland in its first year and an Italian cruise in its second. The highly anticipated and planned vacation to London had to be postponed in 2019 because of the pandemic, which had



played spoilsport. After a three-year break, the brand with its headquarters in Dubai resumed the program in 2022, taking the traders to London and Georgia. The brand announced that it will be taking the dealers to Singapore on a captivating cruise in 2023.

The dealers did not want to miss the exclusive one-day discounts that were only available to event guests during the glitzy evening that was jam-packed with world-class entertainment and some of the best artists from around the

world. The brand also provided strategic insights into its business, discussed its expectations for the future of the market with the dealers, and underlined its commitment to being at the forefront.

Another key highlight of the event was the formal announcement of Milano’s partnership with leading global bath solutions brand Ideal Standard.

Commenting on the brand’s presence in Oman, Anis Sajjan, Vice chairman of Danube group said, “Oman is a key market for

our brand and the current development projects by the government are leading to a growth in the construction and FM sector, giving us an opportunity to reach out to a wider target market.”

Sajjan gave an insight into strategies adopted that led to the growth of Milano, “Our main aim is to cater to the customers’ needs and to fulfil that we ensure that we expand our product lines with the relevant products, to make Milano a one stop shop for all home improvement solutions.”

With its basket of high quality and affordable products, Milano has become a household name in the urban and suburban areas of Oman not only for sanitaryware but also doors, electrical and hardware products. Not restricting its customer base to these areas, the brand is also reaching out to traders from the interiors like Ibri, Ibra, Duqm, Nizwa, Sinaw, Al Ashkhara, Izki, Jalan Bu Ali, Al Kamil, Sur, Quriyat, Shinas, Wadijizi, Liwa.

Z BRAND

SBA looks back at iconic Nissan Z’s exciting lineage spanning across 7 generations

	1st Generation Nissan Fairlady Z	1969
	2nd Generation Nissan 280 Z	1978
	3rd Generation Nissan 300 ZX	1983
	4th Generation Nissan 300 ZX 2by2 Twin Turbo	1989
	5th Generation Nissan 350 Z	2002
	6th Generation Nissan 370 Z	2009
	7th Generation Nissan Z	2023

MUSCAT: The seventh generation Nissan Z 2023 is nothing short of spectacular. However, to truly appreciate the Z brand, one must understand how it started and how decades of fine-tuning led to ultimate perfection, says a senior official of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA).

Since its launch in 1969, Nissan Z has proven itself as a strong competitor on and off the race-track, selling over 1.8 million units to date and earning the admiration of enthusiasts across the globe.

A senior official of SBA explains, “The legacy of Nissan sports cars has been built over more than 50 years with more than 40 models. Some of Nissan’s sports cars include: the original Nissan Skyline, the modern GT-R, the historical Fairlady Z, the Nissan 350Z, and the newly unveiled Nissan Z. Nissan has earned its reputation of being strong contenders on and off the track.

The original Z was sold in October of 1969 in Japan as the Nissan Fairlady Z at Nissan Exhibition dealerships that previously sold the Nissan Bluebird. It was initially marketed as the Datsun 240Z for international customers. Since then, Nissan has manufactured seven generations of Z-cars.”

About the Nissan Z 2023 he says, “The all-new Nissan Z serves up classic sports car proportions of a long hood and a short rear

deck. Staying true to its performance roots, and iconic Z styling elements, it creates a complete modern design That’s not all, the all-new 2023 Z has a powerful six-cylinder under the hood; a front midship, and a rear-wheel-drive design that places the engine farther back in the chassis for enhanced balance.”

The Nissan Z’s exhilarating heritage, which spans over five decades and seven generations, serves as a clear reminder of the icon’s thrilling driving experiences:

First generation

The Nissan Fairlady Z (240Z) launched in 1969 as it was known at that time, marked the first-generation of Nissan Z cars that would go on to rewrite the history of sports cars. A culmination of three years of research and design, the Nissan 240Z successfully went on to become a modern-styled, two-seater, six-cylinder coupe that delivered on its promise of thrill, selling over 520,000 units globally, and setting the record for sports car sales. As a testament to its performance, the first-generation Z also participated in and emerged the overall winner of the 19th East-African Safari Rally in 1971.

Second generation

The second-generation Nissan Z (280ZX), which was launched in 1978, boasted a refreshed interior

and exterior with a higher level of luxury to meet the growing demands of sports car customers. The 280ZX offered four-wheel disc brakes, a 2+2 model, a Turbo model, and the first offering of T-tops on a Nissan Z.

Third generation

A few years later, in 1983, the Fairlady Z evolved into the third generation (300ZX), bringing standard air conditioning and leather upholstery, while retaining the accessible entry point of its predecessors that enthusiasts loved. An outright sales success for Nissan, the 300ZX came equipped with a newly designed V6 turbo engine and secured its position on Nissan’s wall of fame by winning the All-Japan Rally Championship in 1985.

Fourth generation

Released in 1989, the fourth-generation model differentiated itself from its predecessors with a bold and unique design that lent the model a wider stance. A distinctive front end with headlights slanted at over 60 degrees, a lively silhouette, and short overhangs accentuated the model’s manoeuvrability and performance, while also being the first Nissan Z to be offered with a twin-turbocharged engine.

Fifth generation

Bringing joy to enthusiasts across

the globe by ending a six-year production hiatus in 2002, the Nissan 350Z paid homage to its predecessors with numerous styling elements borrowed from the iconic 240Z and helped Nissan rejuvenate its market presence. Tuned to perfection, the all-aluminium V6 in the 350Z, with twin-cam heads, variable valve timing, and a stout compression ratio, produced nearly double the power of the original Z sports car.

Sixth generation

Introduced in 2009, as a Coupe and Roadster, the Nissan 370Z delivered an exhilarating 332 horsepower from its 3.7-liter aluminium alloy V6 engine and was complemented by a sleek and aerodynamic design. For the true enthusiasts, a NISMO version was later introduced, that intensified the model’s head turning design and ramped the power up to a whopping 350 horsepower.

Seventh generation

Featuring iconic design details from past models, the all-new Nissan Z celebrates the sports car’s rich 50-year heritage. The all-new model is the most powerful Nissan Z to date, and the first to enrich driving experiences with the induction of launch control to the model’s line-up. Since 1969, the Nissan Z has stood for everything Nissan believes about sports cars.





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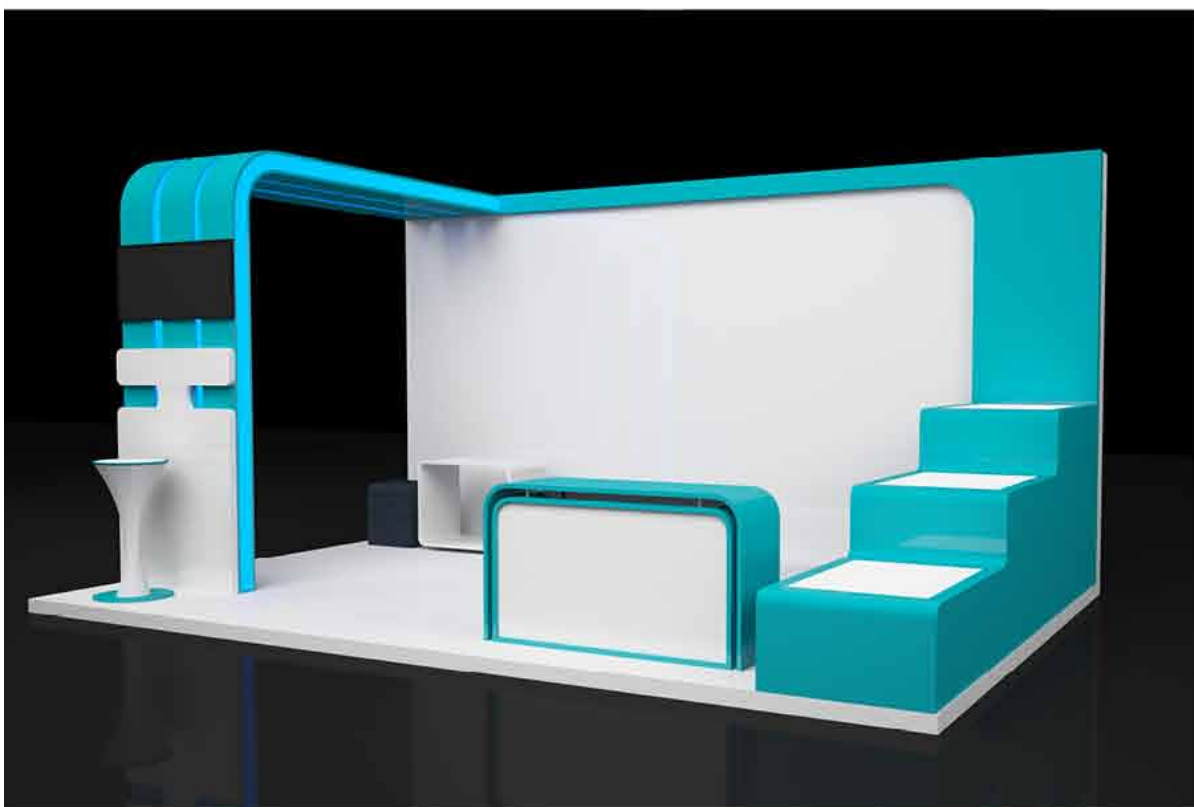
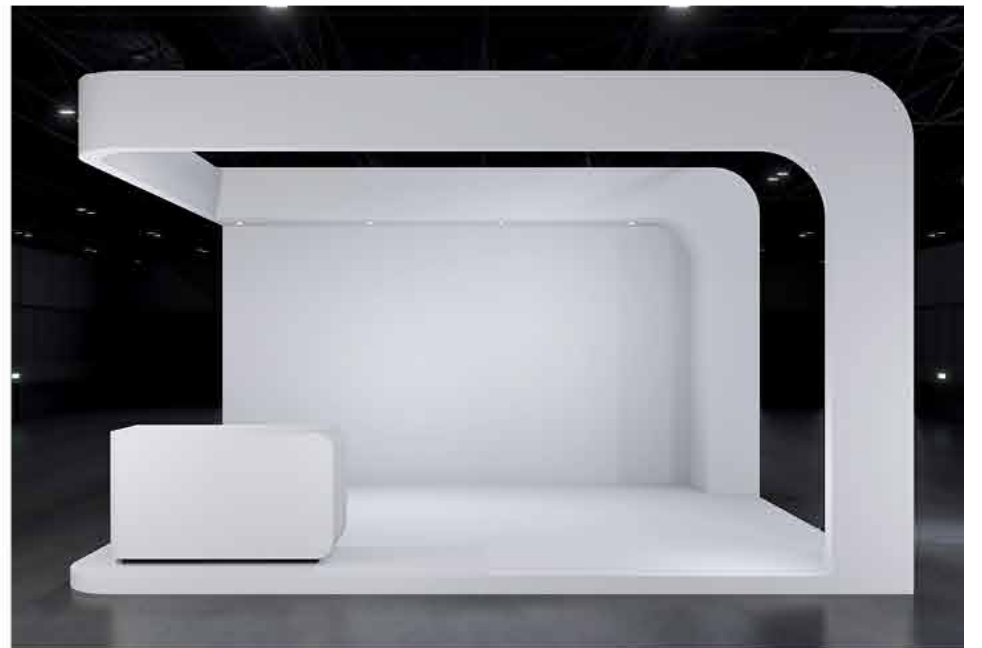
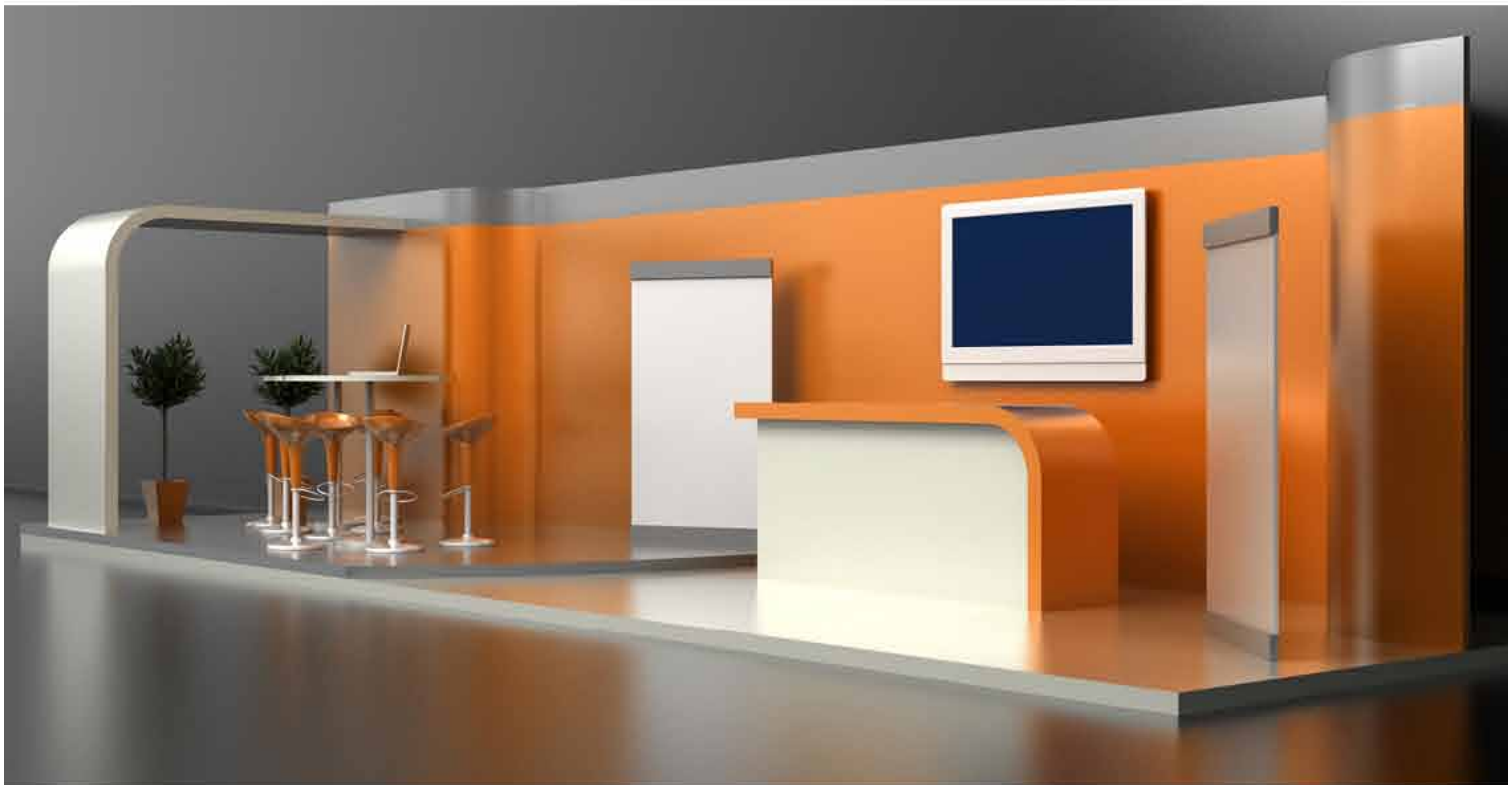
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