

G20 SUMMIT TO ENHANCE INDIA-OMAN BILATERAL TIES

The recent G20 New Delhi Summit will boost the existing strong bilateral relations between Oman and India with both the nations working closely and united in developing sustainable infrastructure, according to Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to Oman. **>A2**



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HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES THANKS CABLE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Dr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, President Dr. Shavkat expressed his appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sentiments. He underscored the importance of boosting relations and cooperation between the two countries to achieve the interests of the two countries' peoples. He also wished His Majesty good health and happiness and the Omani people continuous progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



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SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ARRIVES IN OMAN ON A PRIVATE VISIT

HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) arrived here yesterday on a private visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, he will meet with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. — **ONA**

OMAN

Pact to train Omani women signed

1 The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation signed an agreement for developing the practical skills of 20 Omani women trainees to qualify them to work in the manufacturing, science, technology, engineering and mathematics sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**

OMAN

MoU for processing industrial waste inked

2 Be'ah signed a MoU with Oman SATS company to treat industrial and hazardous waste. The pact is part of plans to support the government's strive to maintain a safe, secure and sustainable environment in accordance with approved international regulations and standards. **>A3**

MARKET

Treasury bills worth OMR20.5mn issued

3 The CBO raised OMR20.5mn by allotting treasury bills. The value of the treasury bills was OMR1mn, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. **>B1**

OMAN'S PUBLIC REVENUES STAND AT OMR7.1 BILLION



State's Budget by the end of July 2023 registered a surplus of OMR702 million

MUSCAT: Oman's public revenue at the end of July 2023 amounted to OMR7.183 billion, down by 10 percent when compared to OMR8.003 billion registered over the same period in 2022, according to the Fiscal Performance Bulletin published by the Ministry of Finance on Monday. At the end of July 2023, net oil revenue amounted to OMR3.714 billion, down by three percent when compared to OMR3.827 billion registered over the same period in 2022. Average oil price amounted to \$83 per barrel and average oil production reached 1,058,000 barrels per day.

Further, net gas revenue amounted to OMR1.329 billion at the end of July 2023, down by 35 percent when compared to OMR2.056 billion registered over the same period in 2022. This is due to the deduction of gas purchase and transport expenses from total revenue collected from the Integrated Gas Company. By the end of July 2023, current revenue reached OMR2.132 billion, up by one percent when compared to an amount of OMR2.107 billion collected over the same period in 2022.

Public spending at the end of July 2023 amounted to OMR6.481 billion, down by OMR503 million, or 7 percent compared to actual spending over the same period in 2022. Meanwhile, current expenditure at the end of July 2023 amounted to OMR4.836 billion, down by OMR594 million, or 11 percent when compared to an amount of OMR5.430 billion registered over the same period in 2022.

By the end of July 2023, development expenditure of ministries and Government units reached OMR491 million, representing 55 percent of total development spending, or OMR900 million, allocated for 2023.

As far as total contribution and other expenses are concerned, it reached OMR854 million by the end of July 2023. The oil product subsidy and other sectors subsidy amounted to OMR180 million

and OMR11 million, respectively. Furthermore, an amount of OMR233 million was transferred to the future debt obligations budget-item.

The State's Budget by the end of July 2023 registered a surplus of OMR702 million compared to a surplus of OMR1.019 billion achieved over the same period in 2022.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Single Account (TSA) is a unified structure of government bank accounts, where all government account balances are accumulated to show the movement of net revenues and expenses. This would lead to the optimal use of government cash resources.

The Ministry of Finance indicated that the outcome of implementing the first pilot phase of the TSA project contributed to collecting 37 percent of the state's public revenues and evaluating 90 percent of government departments' bank accounts, and achieving 95 percent of the first phase targets.

Through implementing TSA, the Ministry aims at establishing a centralised methodology to manage government bank accounts, increasing the efficiency of public finance management, enhancing the ability to identify financing needs and optimising government funds. — **ONA**

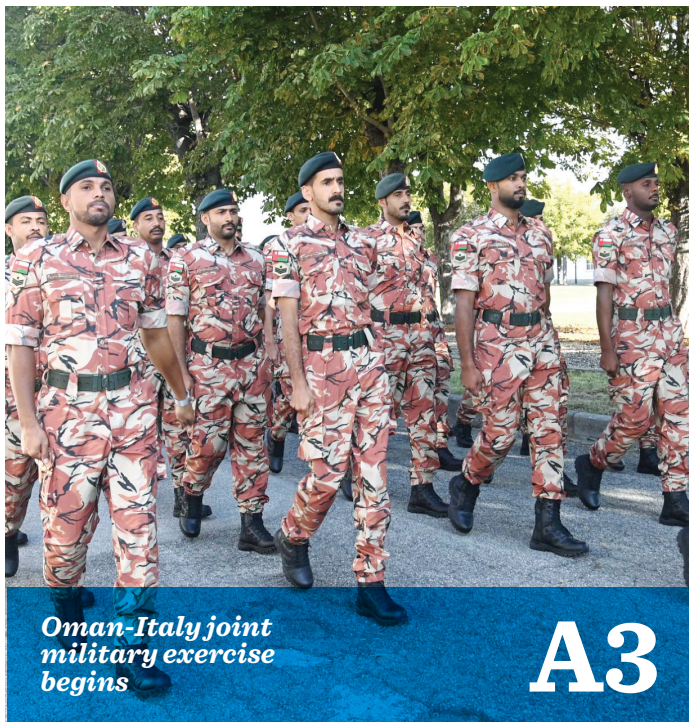
FIRST HALF OF 2023

Businesses worth OMR38mn awarded to local suppliers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, Oman's global integrated logistics provider, has given business opportunities for local suppliers to the tune of more than OMR38 million during the first half of 2023.

The opportunities were generated through Asyad's awarding more than 5,000 contracts. They included more than 2,000 contracts (worth over OMR10 million) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that are holders of Riyada Card. — **With inputs from ONA**



A3

DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

Moroccan expatriates in mourning, thank Oman for support

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The united spirit of Arabs stood out as thousands of Omanis joined Moroccans living in the Sultanate of Oman in mourning the deaths of over 2,000 people after a devastating earthquake hit Morocco on Friday.

The solidarity shown by Omanis and other expats came in the form of personal messages and prayers being shared or putting up Moroccan flags as their profile photos on their social media handles.

Moroccan expats in Oman have been praying for their loved ones back home, after a massive earthquake killed nearly 2,500 people and razed scores of buildings to the ground.

The news of the 6.8-quake that struck 72km, southwest of Marrakesh in the night on Friday saw the Moroccans expats calling up their near and dear ones to find out their well-being in their native places.

Muna, a Moroccan who works in an upscale restaurant in Qurum, sighed a big relief after getting to know that her family is safe in Marrakesh but was left heartbroken by the magnitude of the tragedy that left a trail of destruction.

"I am devastated at the large number of deaths. They were mothers, children, fathers, brothers and sisters of our own people. The fact that it struck in the night also led to more fatalities," said Muna, while holding



back her tears.

Sherif, who is a baker in Oman, was inconsolable as he lost his friend. "I don't have much news except that I lost a close friend. The destruction is massive in the

ancient city of Marrakesh and in Atlas Mountain towns like Moulay Brahim and in Amizmiz."

Most of the dead - 1,351 - were in the Al Haouz district in the High Atlas Mountains, the Moroccan

Interior Ministry said.

Flags were lowered across Morocco, as King Mohammed VI ordered three days of national mourning starting on Sunday. The army mobilised search and rescue

teams, and the king ordered water, food rations and shelters to be sent to those who lost homes.

Huda Al Saqri, a university student, said: "The loss and the destruction that we have seen on TV is chilling. We extend our full support to our fellow Moroccan brothers and sisters. The decision by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to send immediate relief aid and rescue teams is a great show of solidarity with our fellow Arab country."

Ahmed Al Mahrouqi, who has visited Morocco quite a few times, said he was relieved that his friends and business partners in Casablanca had not been affected, but like all Moroccan expats in Oman, he is grieving the deaths. **>A5**



Dhuhr.....	12:08pm
Asr.....	3:36pm
Maghrib.....	6:20pm
Isha.....	7:31pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:37am

G20 Summit strengthens Oman-India relations, says Indian Ambassador

Nine ministers from Oman travelled to attend G20 meetings, which was unprecedented as it underlined the significance of the Summit and the importance attached to it

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The recent G20 New Delhi Summit will give a boost to the existing strong bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and India with both the nations working closely and united in developing sustainable infrastructure, according to Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to Oman.

Speaking at a media briefing on Monday at the Indian Embassy, Narang termed the “G20 Summit under India’s presidency a resounding success.”

Oman was one of the nine invited nations besides the 20 members at the summit and during the past few months, high-level ministerial delegations led by several ministers attended various G20 meetings.

Narang said: “Nine ministers from Oman travelled to attend G20 meetings, which was unprecedented as it underlined the significance of the G20 meetings and the importance attached to it.”

“Oman and India are close partners in several sectors. From



renewable energy to information technology, and other areas, we are united in the drive for sustainable infrastructure. We stand ready to work for these collective objectives,” he added.

India-Middle East-Europe Corridor

The Indian Ambassador said that the success of the G20 Summit was a result of painstaking diplomatic work among participating countries, symbolising a shared commitment to addressing pressing global challenges.

“The Sultanate of Oman participated in the G20 for the first time under India’s Presidency, on our invitation as our ‘special guest,’” he said.

Among the major initiatives that were launched were the announcement of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Speaking about IMEC, Narang said: “It is a path-breaking initiative to stimulate economic development through enhanced connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Gulf and Europe.”

“It is an ambitious project that has a lot of promise and it could serve as a blueprint for the collective rejuvenation of the economy

of the entire region,” he added.

“Railways is an important link and we are waiting for more details as of now only the initial agreement signed on this matter.”

The Indian Ambassador said that growing bilateral trade relations have grown more than double in the past two years and the “trade volume has touched \$12.4 billion”.

“Trade relations are on the upswing and Oman’s economy has a strong potential. We are working closely with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP). There is a significant upscale of trade agreement,” he added.

‘Oman on global stage’

Narang said: “Oman gained an enriching experience by participation in global meetings. The platform also enabled Oman officials to hold bilateral meetings with their counterparts that created new space for better engagements. The G20 summit allowed the Oman government to share the global stage and understand the global trend. It provided a stage for Oman to put in place its perspective in global discussions. We are happy as Oman’s friends to have given

the opportunity for cross fertilisation of ideas to happen. We believe that Oman had an enriching experience and the officials and ministers have returned with an evolved perspective of global discussions. Overall, the G20 summit will give a boost to Oman’s global collaboration and with India.”

India’s G20 Presidency

India took the helm of the G20 in December 2022 at a time when the global landscape was fraught with challenges.

Over the course of the past year, the G20 under India’s Presidency has sought to find solutions to some of the most pressing global problems, and in that process, has endeavoured to put in place future-ready roadmaps for collective global progress.

Narang said: “The message of our Presidency was that we are one earth, one family, and we share one future. This draws on an age-old belief of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.”

The entire proceedings of the New Delhi Summit were organised accordingly, with three sessions devoted to each aspect of this theme.

The summit brought together the leaders of the 20 member countries, 9 invitee countries, and 14 international organisations.

The summit successfully adopted an outcome document – the G20 New Delhi Declaration. Spread over 34 pages and 83 paragraphs, this is a comprehensive and solutions-rich document that purposefully addresses a wide range of challenges confronting humankind today.

Narang said: “In its scope, scale and ambition, the New Delhi Declaration embodies the spirit of collaboration, cooperation, and shared responsibility.

This path-breaking document was adopted with complete consensus on all developmental and geo-political issues and focuses

on key issues such as promoting strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth; accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); a green development pact for sustainable future; a blueprint for digital public infrastructure and reinvigorating multilateralism for the 21st century. In other words, the New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration is a powerful call for Planet, People, Peace and Prosperity.”

New Delhi Declaration

He added: “The Leaders’ Declaration was not, however, the only outcome document coming out of India’s Presidency. In fact there were no less than 112 such outcomes and presidency documents in different tracks, which is more than double the number for any past presidency.”

India also took several new initiatives as the G20 President, many of which were announced during the Summit.

The Indian Ambassador said: “Notable among these is a Global Biofuel Alliance, which brings together 19 countries and 12 international organisations for fostering global collaboration for adoption of biofuels thereby reducing carbon emissions and promoting cleaner and greener energy solutions on a global scale.”

Events over the past year were organised across 60 different cities in India in every corner of our vast country. It is fair to say that the popular participation and societal involvement with G20 during India’s Presidency was unprecedented.

Narang said: “In January this year, India had hosted 125 developing countries in the ‘Voice of Global South Summit’, so that the priorities and concerns of the global South could be channelised into the G20 process. I am happy to mention that Oman’s Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi in his remarks at the ‘Voice of Global

South Summit’ had laid out ‘social justice’ and ensuring a ‘just transition’ as key priorities for Oman.”

He added: “As far as inclusiveness is concerned, the Indian Presidency will of course be remembered for the long overdue inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of the Group.”

The Indian Ambassador said: “In a world that is increasingly fragmented, India has proved that it can work to bridge divides and bring humanity together as one. This is reflected, as I have mentioned, in the unprecedented scope and ambition of the New Delhi Declaration, which is a rare example of global consensus on a very wide range of issues. At a time of a global trust deficit, as Prime Minister Modi put it, India has succeeded in forging consensus on a new human-centric model of development under its theme of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’.

‘Time-tested bonds of friendship’

Narang said: “I am happy to note that the Sultanate of Oman honoured us with their esteemed presence as Special Guest during our G20 Presidency. The invitation by India to Oman underscores the deep-rooted and time-tested bonds of friendship and brotherhood that we share with Oman. For this, we convey our appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

“HH Sayyid Asa’ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan participated in the G20 Summit as His Majesty’s Personal Representative and his gracious remarks at the Leaders’ Sessions in which he congratulated India for the successful G20 Summit and lauded the invitation extended to Oman to participate as a Special Guest, are highly appreciated.”



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SHE STEMMS PROGRAMME



Agreement signed for training, development of Omani women

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, yesterday signed a co-operation agreement with Oman Cables Industry to launch the second edition of the SHE STEMMS programme for community development. The agreement provides for developing the practical skills of 20 Omani female trainees to qualify them to undertake positions in the manufacturing, science, technology, engineering and mathematics sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. The agreement was signed by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and Cinzia Farise, CEO of Oman Cable Industry.

“SHE STEMMS” programme constitutes part of efforts made by Oman Cables Industry to develop local female talents to help achieve a sustainable future for Oman. It is a programme dedicated to female jobseekers. — ONA

COMMANDER OF PENINSULA SHIELD JOINT FORCE RECEIVED

Maj. Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Monday Maj. Gen Abdulaziz Ahmed Al Balawi, Commander of the Peninsula Shield Joint Force and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed several topics of common concern. — ONA



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Effective use of social media in education sector recommended

Importance of the research study was to make society aware of students' readiness to acquire science and knowledge through various social media platforms

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Block Funding Programme of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation has funded an array of innovative and insightful research projects of different fields and topics in the hopes of promoting the culture of research and innovation in the Sultanate of Oman.

The effectiveness of social media networks for distance education among students of the



University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Rustaq' was one such project.

The research project aimed to explore the effectiveness of social media networks for distance education among students at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences Rustaq (UTAS Rustaq), and to uncover the differences that may be attributed to the variables such as gender, specialisation, and stage of study in a sample consisting of 40 male and female students chosen randomly from UTAS Rustaq.

The study was conducted by a student research team consisting of Ali Al Rasbi, Omar Al Zadjal and Ahmed Al Muqbali, under the supervision of Dr. Mimi El-Sayed Ahmed Ismail, Professor of Educational Psychology at the College of Education at the University of

Technology and Applied Sciences Rustaq.

The importance of this research study is to make the society aware of students' readiness to acquire science and knowledge through social media platforms, and to change society's negative perception of these platforms. The research study also contributes to developing future plans for distance education, and confronting the challenges that some institutions suffer from due to limited experience in the field.

Through the study, the results showed that measuring the level of effectiveness of social media networks for distance learning among students at UTAS Rustaq was moderate. The study also showed that most students prefer distance learning through social media platforms compared to direct learning.

Based on the results, the study recommended training teachers to use social media platforms for educational purposes, in addition to conducting community awareness programmes on the importance of social media networks and their benefits in teaching and learning methods.

The study also recommended improving social media network infrastructure in educational institutions in the Sultanate.

MoU signed for processing industrial, hazardous waste

MUSCAT: Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah) on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Oman SATS company to treat industrial and hazardous waste.

The agreement constitutes part of plans to support the government's strive to maintain a safe, secure and sustainable environment in accordance with approved international regulations and standards.

The MoU was signed by Eng. Abdulkarim Qasim Al Balushi, CEO of Hazardous Waste Management Operations at be'ah, and Siang Tang Tan CEO of Oman SATS. — **ONA**



ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN

Oman and Italy joint military drill 'Jebal Shams 3' kicks off

MUSCAT: A joint Omani-Italian military drill codenamed "Jebal Shams 3" kicked off on Monday in the Republic of Italy.

The exercise, which runs till 21 September 2023, is participated by the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). A briefing was presented on the preparatory stages of the exercise and its training programmes and practical applications in a bid to achieve the envisaged training objectives.

The exercise comes within the context of annual training programmes conducted by the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). — **ONA**



Exclusive Dine and Meet with Michelin-starred Chef Rohit Ghai



Save the date this 19th to 23rd of September for an exclusive and intimate dinner at Aangan hosted by Chef Rohit Ghai. The culinary gem at the heart of the iconic Shangri-La Al Husn presents its much-anticipated launch of its new menu revealed by the maestro himself.

Diners are invited to embark on a remarkable gastronomic journey with a specially curated six-course dinner, meticulously crafted by Chef Rohit Ghai himself. Priced at just 19 Omani Rials per person, this exclusive event promises a culinary adventure like no other. For cherished vegan patrons, a delectable six-course plant-based feast awaits at 17 Omani Rials net. As an emblem of Shangri-La's warm hospitality, a signature beverage will be complimentary upon arrival for each guest.

This isn't merely a dinner—it's a rendezvous with culinary brilliance as privileged guests will have the extraordinary opportunity to meet and converse with Chef Rohit Ghai in person. This intimate interaction offers a glimpse into the culinary genius's secrets behind his innovative approach to Indian cuisine.

Following the exclusive five-day dinner event, the new menu will continue to grace the tables of Aangan from until 30th September, allowing more connoisseurs to savour the artistry and innovation that Chef Rohit Ghai has meticulously woven into each dish he will present.

Aangan, located within the iconic Shangri-La Al Husn in Muscat, Oman, is a culinary abode that celebrates the art of Indian cuisine. With its opulent ambiance, impeccable service, and now a revamped menu by Chef Rohit Ghai, Aangan offers an exceptional dining experience that transcends traditional Indian flavors into a realm of modernity and creativity.

This exquisite culinary transformation, orchestrated by the celebrated Michelin star chef, Chef Rohit Ghai, is set to redefine the gourmet dining experience in Muscat.

With credentials spanning renowned London restaurants and numerous accolades for his culinary prowess, Chef Rohit Ghai promises a culinary odyssey that Muscat will remember.

This event has limited seating from 19th to 23rd of September, and to secure your table please call +968 24776565 or whatsapp +968 79269247.



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Professional development programme for teachers

CBSE Master Trainer from New Delhi was the resource person



MUSCAT: The Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman organised Professional Development Programme for its teachers on the 1st and 2nd September 2023 at Indian School Muscat. Dr. Sudha Acharya, CBSE Master Trainer from New Delhi was the resource person.

Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address, Dr. Manickam accentuated on the need for continuous professional development of teachers particularly in the context of the New Education Policy and the introduction of the revised curriculum framework. "Professional Development Programmes enable teachers to keep pace with the best practices and latest trends in curriculum transaction; and it helps them in crafting personalised and practical lessons

for their students," he observed.

The programme dealt with the implementation of National Education Policy at different levels of schooling. Insights on the National Curriculum Framework and the salient features of NIPUN Bharat and Holistic Progress Card were also explicated for the teachers by the Resource Person.

NEP 2020 was presented as a forward-thinking and transformative document, aiming to align education with global agendas while ensuring quality, affordability, and accessibility in a sustainable manner.

Dr. Acharya highlighted the paramount importance of foundational literacy in a child's development, which is a primary focus of NEP. Furthermore, she elaborated on the flexibility of the framework,

where there's no rigid separation between academics and co-curricular activities.

NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on the career progression and capacity building of teachers, emphasising the need for continuous updates in innovative classroom interaction strategies. Dr. Acharya also stressed on the significance of addressing not only academic excellence but also the social and emotional well-being of children. Ms. Sudha Acharya gave insights on incorporating accountability, accessibility, equity, equality and gender-sensitive pedagogy in the education system, the 17 SDGs Sustainable Development goals, Curriculum Mapping and its orientation and how to involve the community in our activities.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Open House a big success

MUSCAT: Toastmasters first Open House in District 105, initiated by Area 18 Director TM Dr V Champakavalli, was held recently at Hatat House. The Area 18 comes under Division F, District 105 (Oman) Toastmaster International.

The Open House emphasises the benefits of Toastmasters to prospective members who are interested in expanding their knowledge in the field of public speaking, communication and leadership skills.

The very purpose of this Open House was to attract a large number of guests and to boost membership. The clubs under Area 18 in-



clude Bahwan International Group Toastmasters (Corporate Club), Mana TKS Toastmasters, Mana Telugu Toastmasters and Muscat Debaters (Arabic speaking). People from different parts of the community were invited as guests and dignitaries from District 105

PQD - Saiju Victor DTM and CGD - Cyprian Misquith DTM, including Division 'F' Director Rajulal Rafeek shared their experiences. Guests were encouraged with the presentations by members, and many showed interest in joining the Toastmasters.

COMMENTARY

Guardians of the coast: Turtle conservation on Oman's beaches



Bhavna Batra



ONCE UPON a time, on the beautiful beaches of Oman, a group of special people called the "Guardians of the Coast" were working hard to protect some incredible creatures – Sea Turtles! These sea turtles were endangered, which meant they needed help to survive.

The Guardians of the Coast were like superheroes for these turtles. Their job was to make sure the turtles could safely lay their eggs in the sand and that the baby turtles could hatch and reach the sea without any problems.

Ahmed, a young scientist who loved the ocean, was one of the Guardians. He knew a lot about sea turtles and how important they were for the ocean's balance. Every year, when it was time for the turtles to lay their eggs, Ahmed and his team would go to the beaches at night to watch over them.

Under the twinkling stars, the Guardians of the Coast would quietly walk along the sand, making sure no one disturbed the turtles. They watched as the mommy turtles dug deep holes in the sand to lay their eggs. It was like a magical dance between the turtles and the ocean.

But the turtles faced many challenges. The world was

changing, and pollution and other problems were hurting their homes. Plastic waste in the ocean confused the turtles, and sometimes they would eat it by mistake, which was dangerous.

The Guardians knew they had to do something. They organized beach clean-ups, where they picked up all the trash that could hurt the turtles. They also talked to schools and taught kids about how important it was to take care of the ocean and its creatures.

One night, the Guardians found a nest of turtle eggs that had been dug up by predators. It was sad, but they didn't give up. Carefully, they collected the eggs that were left and moved them to a safe place called a hatchery. There, the eggs would be safe from harm.

The Guardians watched over the eggs in the hatchery day and night. When the baby turtles were ready to hatch, they made sure they could safely make their way to the sea. It was a special moment to see the tiny turtles take their first steps toward the water.

As the baby turtles swam away, the Guardians felt a sense of happiness and pride. They were making a real difference for these special creatures. They knew that their

work was helping the turtles survive for the future.

The story of the "Guardians of the Coast" spread far and wide. People from all around came to Oman's beaches to learn about the turtles and how they could help too. The Guardians showed everyone that even small actions, like picking up trash, could have a big impact.

With each passing year, more baby turtles made their way to the sea, thanks to the Guardians' hard work. And the beaches of Oman became a safe haven for these incredible creatures.

So, the next time you visit the beach, remember the story of the "Guardians of the Coast." Just like them, you can be a hero for the ocean and its animals. Whether it's picking up trash or spreading the word about protecting the environment, you too can make a difference and be a guardian of the coast!

The writer of this column is an HR and Management Expert, Writer, Intuitive Energy Healer, Reiki Master, Miracle Coach, Motivational Speaker, and a life fighter. She is also the Founder & CEO of SYNERGGIE in Oman, a leading Company that specializes in Event Management and Consulting.





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GCC MEMBER STATES

Meeting explores ways to promote statistical sector

MUSCAT: The GCC Permanent Committee for Statistical Affairs held here on Monday its 10th meeting, during which it reviewed the progress made in developing GCC statistical practices.

Statistical report

It also looked into a statistical report on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) social protection system. The meeting was chaired by Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). It discussed ways of upgrading

the level of performance and augmenting statistical data availability and exchange of data, besides enhancing cooperation among member states to help promote the statistical sector. — ONA

MOROCCAN EXPATS

Deeply pained by natural disaster

<FROM A1 “We are extremely sad about what happened. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims.” Sarah, another Moroccan expat in Muscat, who works in a beauty parlour said that her relative’s house was damaged in the earthquake. “When I got the news of the quake, it was a terrifying thought to call back home and check on my family and relatives. Luckily, my family is safe but one of my close relatives’ houses has collapsed. Fortunately, they escaped the brunt as they were awake and ran out of their home.” Sarah and her Omani friends are praying for all those who have been affected by the disaster.

“We are far away from home. But, all Moroccans are one family. So, we are deeply pained about the natural disaster in our country. When they are mourning there, we are mourning here,” added Sarah. Sarah felt that survivors might take a lot of time to get out of the shock after witnessing deadly scenes of death and destruction. “The announcement of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to send support to Morocco is a testimony of Arab brotherhood. We thank the Sultan and other world leaders for standing by Morocco at this time and sending generous support,” she added. According to media reports, residents of the remote village

of Moulay Brahim in the Atlas Mountains were suddenly surrounded by devastation, with hundreds reportedly dead, scores of homes crumpled and walls reduced to rubble. The village stands about 45km north-east of the quake’s epicentre and slightly more than an hour’s drive from Marrakesh. Rescue crews are looking for more casualties or people in need of rescue following the biggest earthquake to hit the country in 120 years. The majority of the deaths were in Marrakesh and five provinces near the epicenter. More than 25 aftershocks have already hit the country since the 6.8 magnitude earthquake.

56TH MEETING OF APSR

GCC electricity connectivity discussed

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR), in the 56th meeting of the Advisory and Regulatory Committee of the GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), held in Qatar. Oman’s delegation was headed by Dr. Mansour Talib Al Hinal, Chairman of APSR. The meeting discussed a range of topics that contribute to enhancing electricity interconnection between GCC states. It also highlighted figures and indicators of exchanged energy, among other topics. — ONA



GCC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS’ FORUM

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, chaired the 25th meeting of GCC environment ministers. During the meeting, held at Al Jabal Al Akhdar in the Wilayat of Al Dakhiliyah, Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals said that GCC countries accomplished many achievements in various spheres during the council’s march, especially in the environment field. — ONA



رؤية عمان 2040
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Moving Forward with Confidence

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)	
					small and Medium companies	local companies
311/2023	Public cleaning services for the building of the General Directorate of Social Development in Dhofar Governorate and the buildings of its social development departments	Companies specialized in the field of cleaning, washing, and pest control services/planting, gardening, and garden care services, registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third, or fourth degree.	Sunday 1-10-2023 02:00 PM	Sunday 22-10-2023 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Tuesday 12/9/2023

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

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

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Morocco quake death toll mounts to 2,500

Teams from Spain, Great Britain and Qatar have begun helping rescue workers in Morocco

PARIS: Rescuers raced against time to find survivors in the rubble more than 48 hours after Morocco's deadliest earthquake in over six decades, with nearly 2,500 killed in a disaster that devastated villages in the High Atlas Mountains.

More than 25 aftershocks have already hit the country since the 6.8 magnitude earthquake. Some villagers say they are struggling to find enough space to bury their dead as funerals can take place besides rescue work. Others are preparing extra graves ready for more bodies, even as rescue operations continue.

Rescue teams from Spain, Britain and Qatar have begun supporting Moroccan rescuers in areas affected by Friday's powerful earthquake, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported.

Britain sent 60 search and rescue experts, along with equipment and four search dogs to support the Moroccan-led operations, British Ambassador Simon Martin said in a post published early Monday on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

A special Spanish military unit



with 56 soldiers and four search dogs also arrived in Morocco.

Several countries, including Germany, have pledged to help Morocco in the wake of the earthquake, which struck south of Marrakech.

Rabat said Sunday it had so far responded to support offers made by Spain, Qatar, Britain and the UAE, adding that it may accept offers from other countries at a later stage.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake has killed at least 2,122 people. Since Friday, rescuers have been racing against time to find potential survivors in a challenging mission.

The quake triggered rock slides, blocking roads and making it hard for teams to reach hard-hit villages in mountainous areas.

Witnesses said that, until Sunday, some affected areas were still cut off. The French government has pledged €5 million (\$5.4 mil-

lion) to aid organisations operating in Morocco's earthquake disaster zone, Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna told the BFM broadcaster.

Meanwhile, Chinese state media reported that the Red Cross Society of China will give the Moroccan Red Crescent \$200,000 (€186,000) for emergency humanitarian assistance.

Hlima Razkaoui, the Morocco director of humanitarian organisation CARE International, has told DW that many people in areas devastated by the earthquake are living on the street and need water, food and shelter.

"People are still dealing with fear, they are still dealing with shock and with the loss of people, their families members," she said.

"Most of those in villages have lost their houses. Some still have fear of (a) second earthquake and do not want to get back to their homes, (so they) stay outside during the night," she explained.

-ONA/DW



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WILAYAT OF MANAH



GCC officials visit Oman Across Ages Museum

MANAH: Several GCC officials in the environment and oil fields on Monday visited Oman Across Ages Museum at the Wilayat of Manah, the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah.

The visit aimed to view the state-of-the-art interactive technologies at display in the museum and to view the museum's facilities and the services it provides to all segments of visitors.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) officials included Sheikh

FalehNasser Al Thani, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Qatar and SheikhNimerFahd Al Malek Al Sabah, Kuwait's Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil.

They were accompanied during the visit by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment and Climate Authority.

Moreover, the officials toured the museums halls and viewed its various prominent historical collectibles and manuscripts. -ONA

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Vietnam-US ties enter new phase after Biden's visit

WASHINGTON, DC: The United States and Vietnam signed a "comprehensive strategic partnership" during US President Joe Biden's 24-hour visit to the Southeast Asian country.

Washington and Hanoi — former adversaries — only resumed diplomatic relations in 1995, two decades after the end of the Vietnam War.

Since then, bilateral trade has grown to the tune of \$138 billion (€129 billion) a year.

For Vietnam, the upgraded relationship is significant. The US will be added to a small but illustrious list of strategic partners — that also includes China, India, Russia and South Korea.

Washington is Hanoi's most important trading partner after Beijing — and the United States is Vietnam's largest export market.

Biden's visit prompted fresh partnerships and business deals between the two countries, something that was welcomed in Vietnam, said Hanh Nguyen, a research fellow at Yokosuka Council on Asia Pacific Studies (YCAPS).

"The Communist party in Vietnam wants to turbocharge the economy with technology investments, such as in semiconductor industry, to capitalise on concerns over Taiwan tensions," Hanh told DW.

"Therefore, strategic cooperation might help Vietnam to maintain its access to US consumer markets."

He said Vietnam and the US were "critical partners at what I would argue is a very critical time."



AGREEMENT: Biden said on Sunday that the US and Vietnam had signed a deal on semiconductor supply chains.

Biden said that the two countries had come far from what he referred to as the "bitter past" of the Vietnam War.

"We can trace a 50-year arc of progress between our nations from conflict to normalisation to this new elevated status," Biden said.

He called Vietnam "a friend, a reliable partner and a responsible member of the international community."

Export hubs

Both Vietnam and the US are important export hubs and share a growing trade relationship.

The Southeast Asian country's exports to the US rose 13.6% last year, compared to the year before, led by a growth in shipment of garments, shoes, electronics and furniture.

Executives from companies including Google, Intel, Amkor, Marvell and Boeing are expected to meet Vietnamese tech executives and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Hanoi, in an attempt to highlight the business side of the relationship.

Semiconductor

Biden said on Sunday that the US and Vietnam had signed a deal on semiconductor supply chains.

He said that the agreement aimed to "extend capacity in reliable partners."

"A newly-signed memorandum of cooperation on semiconductor supply chains... will formalize this bilateral partnership to expand the capacity of the semiconductor ecosystem in Vietnam, in support of US industry," he said. -ANI

EXTINCTION REBELLION

Netherlands police detain climate protesters

AMSTERDAM: Police in the Netherlands detained thousands of climate activists over the weekend after they shut down a major highway two days in a row.

An estimated 10,000 activists blocked A12 highway leading to The Hague for several hours on Saturday, according to the mayor's office. Police arrested some 2,400 people at the time.

Hundreds of protesters did so again on Sunday, when police arrested another 500 people.

The Extinction Rebellion activists were protesting the Dutch government's subsidies for fossil fuel companies, as they have done in recent months.

According to a report published earlier in the week by the Center for Research on Multinational Corporations, these subsidies total around €37.5 billion (\$40.2 billion) each year.

"The seas are rising and so are we," the crowd chanted.

Police fired water cannons at the protesters on Saturday and Sunday as they resisted requests to clear the road.

They also dragged individuals away to clear the highway. -DW

PATRIOT DAY

US marks 22nd anniversary of 9/11 attacks

WASHINGTON: United States on Monday marked the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terror attack where hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Centre in New York City, the Pentagon building in Virginia and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania and killed around 3,000 people.

According to the Voice of America, US President Joe Biden will address the members of the military, first responders and their families at a military base in Anchorage, Alaska.

This will be a rare occasion as the September 11 anniversary will be observed without the US President appearing at observances at crash sites in New York, Pennsylvania or the Pentagon

Biden's Alaska stop comes as he travels home from an overseas trip that included the G20 summit in India and meeting with leaders in Vietnam.

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the US faced the deadliest terrorist attack in its history.

Around 3,000 people were killed in the terror attacks. In



a span of just 102 minutes, the twin towers of New York's World Trade Centre collapsed after planes hijacked by Al Qaeda operatives crashed into them.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001, US Congress had designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day," and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognised "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

A few days back, New York City officials identified two more victims of the September 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Centre. -ANI

REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

Alternate plane on its way to pick stranded Canadian PM

NEW DELHI: Following a technical issue with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's flight, a replacement aircraft is set to arrive in India on Monday night to fly the PM and his delegation back to their country.

On Sunday night, the Canadian Prime Minister's special aircraft suffered a technical glitch, shortly before his departure from New Delhi after the G20 Summit.

An official said that a team of engineers in coordination with Canadian aircraft staff is trying to resolve the technical glitch. Meanwhile, PM staff has called a second aircraft that is scheduled to land at Delhi airport by 11 pm.

However, it is still unclear if the entire delegation will leave on the

alternate plane or if separate arrangements will be made.

"Upon our departure for the airport, we were made aware by the Canadian Armed Forces that CFC001 was experiencing technical issues," the Prime Minister's office confirmed in a statement.

"These issues are not fixable overnight, our delegation will be staying in India until alternate arrangements are made," the statement added.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday arrived in India to attend the G20 Summit.

Trudeau at the conclusion of the two-day G20 Leaders' Summit emphasized that India is an important partner for Canada and we will continue to work towards it.

"We recognise India as an extraordinarily important economy in the world and an important partner for Canada on everything, from fighting climate change to creating growth and prosperity for citizens. There is always a lot of work to do and we will continue to do it," Trudeau said.

Prior to their discussion, the world leaders, including Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau paid a visit to Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on Sunday morning.

PM Modi welcomed Trudeau along with his counterparts from Bangladesh, Australia, Canada and Mauritius among others at the Bharat Mandapam venue at Pragati Maidan. -ANI

Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date To Submit The Tender	Tender Documnet Price
SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT SCHOOL LICENCES FOR MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE	23/2023	09/10/2023	06/11/2023	65 OMR

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

2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Sultanate of Oman.



Public Notice: Request for Quote to Purchase a Bus for Oman National Teams

The Oman Football Association (OFA) is pleased to extend an invitation to reputable bus suppliers and manufacturers to submit quotations for the purchase of a bus to meet the needs of our national football teams with regard to transportation. This Request for Quote (RFQ) is an essential step in our commitment to giving our national teams the greatest equipment, resources, and facilities possible, ensuring their success on the international stage. Interested bidders are kindly encouraged to reach out to the Oman Football Association during regular working hours, for the procurement of the Request for Quotation (RFQ), as outlined below:

Tender Reference	RFQ-010823
Collection Date	17th Sep 2023 up to 21st Sep 2023 from 8 am to 3 pm
From	Oman Football Association - Seeb Sports Stadium Al Hail South - Sultanate of Oman
Tender period	2 Weeks
Submission Date	28th September 2023 at 2:00 P.M. Local Time. Late submissions will not be considered.
Fee	50 OMR

The Oman Football Association reserves the right to accept or reject any quote and to annul the procurement process at any time without incurring any liability.

For any inquiries regarding this RFQ or to request additional information, interested parties may contact:

Basma Mohammed
Head of Purchasing and Point of Contact

+96893353162

basma@ofa.om

OFA.om

omanfa oman football Association

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2023 reaching \$91.58, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 54 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$91.04. - ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,698.20 points, up by 0.04 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 466.91 points. SMN Power Holding, up 4.41 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 1.96 per cent, was the top loser.

Pact inked to establish industrial activities in economic sectors

Oman Investment Authority and Industrial Innovation Academy signed MoC to utilise innovation and research in driving national industrial sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to enhance local content, promote local products, and support Omani SMEs, the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Industrial Innovation Academy (IIA).

The MoC aims to establish industrial activities in diverse eco-



nomics sectors. It also seeks to examine and analyse value chains, explore investment opportunities targeting SMEs, and train national talents in order to qualify them for market needs through specialized business accelerators.

The programme is one of many OIA initiatives and similar programs launched in cooperation with its companies and stakeholders, all aiming to enhance local content and create business opportunities for SMEs. The

new MoC will focus on IIA's programmes, projects, and databases, which serve the entrepreneurial sector in Oman.

The agreement was signed by Al Mutasim Al Sariri, Director of In-country Value at OIA, and Dr.

Ayman Al Fudaili, CEO of IIA.

In light of the signing, Al Sariri reiterated that OIA will work on multiple streams, starting with sharing the Business Technology Mapping Outcomes with IIA, which mainly includes opportuni-

ties and challenges that face OIA Companies. IIA will then work on resolutions that will be presented to SMEs. This MoC reflects the synergies between OIA and its companies in terms of ICV."

On the other hand, Dr Al Fudaili noted, "IIA has worked on strategic and service projects aiming at creating business opportunities for SMEs, including the "Tawreed" programme that focused on examining the value-added chains for a number of economic sectors in Oman. In addition, IIA built a database for all products manufactured in Madayn's industrial cities. Hopefully, such programmes will contribute to enhancing SMEs' growth."

It's noteworthy that the collaboration programme is in line with the strategic partnerships between OIA and its companies on the one hand and other partners and stakeholders on the other hand. This new agreement will further help SMEs win rewarding tenders and contracts, provide them with further competition opportunities, broaden their business horizons, and create job opportunities for the national workforce, whether direct or indirect.

INTEGRATED DATABASE



Opal signs agreement to develop, manage expertise platform

MUSCAT: Oman Energy Association (Opal) signed an agreement to develop and manage a platform that serves as an integrated database of inputs from various fields and specialisations.

The platform covers data about retirees, job seekers and people with various experiences.

The platform offers experts an opportunity to showcase their services and expertise to the public and private sectors. This will contribute to enhancing cooperation

between the two sectors and promoting sustainable development in the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement was signed by Abdulrahman Humeid Al Yahya'ee, CEO of Oman Energy Association, and Laila Said Al Harthi, co-founder and CEO of the Dawam platform.

The signing was attended by Her Highness Sayyida Mayan Shihab Al Said and many officials from the Opal and Dawam platform. -ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR20.5 million



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR20.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR1 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.43214 per cent and 4.44726 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR19.5 million, for a maturity

period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.699 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.695 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.21789 per cent and 5.28666 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage

of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

EQUITIES

Asia stock markets mixed amid Chinese property sector sell-off

SYDNEY: Asia stock markets started to turn positive later on Monday even though investors in China sold off shares in property developers, remaining unconvinced by authorities' efforts to revive activity in the mainland real estate market.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan reversed earlier losses and was up 0.3 per cent, after US stocks ended the previous session with mild gains.

Australian shares gained 0.36 per cent and Japan's Nikkei stock index slid 0.49 per cent, Reuters reported.

The yen appreciated sharply against the dollar after Bank of Japan governor Kazuo Ueda stoked hopes the central bank could soon see a shift away from negative rates.

The dollar on Monday dropped 1.12 per cent to 146.16 yen and it remains some way off its high this year of 147.87 reached earlier this month.

US stock futures, the S&P 500 e-minis, were up 0.24 per cent at 4,472.3. -BNA

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MSX launches ePlatform for environmental, social, corporate governance practices



MUSCAT: The Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) celebrated the launch of a guideline for disclosing environmental, social and corporate governance practices.

The report provides guidelines for companies to deal with information and data related to basic elements of sustainability.

It was issued in line with the recommendations of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative and World Federation of Exchanges, as well as the GCC

environmental, social and governance practices.

MSX also launched a platform on its website to publish disclosures related to companies' performance in environmental, social and corporate governance practices. The step is aimed at enhancing transparency and constitutes a commitment to achieve sustainable growth for MSX-listed companies.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat. -ONA



INDIAN STOCK MARKETS

Indices reach new highs following G20 summit

MUMBAI: Stock indices soared to new heights on Monday, buoyed by the positive sentiments stemming from the successful G20 Summit held in New Delhi.

As the market came to a close, the Sensex surged by 550.99 points, reaching 67,127.08, while the Nifty witnessed a substantial uptick of 176.40 points, closing at 19,996.35, marking an all-time high.

Within the Nifty companies, 46 reported advances, while only 4 registered declines.

Notable gainers

Notable gainers included Adani Ports, Adani Enterprises, Axis Bank, Apollo Hospitals, and Power Grid. Conversely, Coal India, Bajaj Finance, ONGC, and LT found themselves among the top losers as trading concluded.

Varun Aggarwal, founder and managing director of Profit Idea, expressed his insights on the remarkable market performance, stating, "The market closed on a high note today, hitting an

all-time high and touching the 20,000 mark. For the last month, we've been focusing on a bullish strategy. We've already witnessed strong momentum on the index and heavyweight counters like Reliance and HDFC."

Aggarwal continued, "We are still witnessing heavy put writing on the Index at 19,500, and it has now moved to the 19,700-19,800 levels. The bias remains positive, and the market looks poised to reach the 20,160 target, as we mentioned earlier as per the charts".

"Bullish momentum in mid and small-cap stocks is very robust. We expect this momentum to continue, and any corrections will likely provide buying opportunities in quality stocks", Aggarwal added. Additionally, the announcement of an ambitious rail-port economic corridor deal connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe, along with the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance on the summit sidelines, contributed to the market's positive sentiment. -ANI

MARKET



MSX index ends higher

SMN Power Holding, up 4.41 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 1.96 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,698.20 points, up by 0.04 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 466.91 points. SMN Power Holding, up 4.41 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 1.96 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 322 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.1 million, with more than 6.22 million shares changing hands. Out of 36 traded securities, 7 advanced, 8 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR197,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR106,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR91,000

worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,682.33 points, up 0.06 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Ominvest, Bank Muscat were up by 3.36 per cent, 0.51 per cent, 0.35 per cent respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 1.96 per cent, 1.54 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,802.85 points, down 0.11 per cent. Prices of Voltamp Energy were up by 0.87 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cables Industry were up by 0.70 per cent, 0.46 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.03 per cent before closing at 1,625.95 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Al Suwadi Power were up by 4.41 per cent, 4.35 per cent respectively. Prices of Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were up by 0.34 per cent, 0.10 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,704.08	4,691.05	4,698.20	4,696.17	2.03	0.04
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,695.49	7,673.54	7,682.33	7,677.56	4.77	0.06
Industry Index	5,808.96	5,748.80	5,802.85	5,808.96	-6.11	-0.11
Services Index	1,628.15	1,624.79	1,625.95	1,626.38	-0.43	-0.03
MSX Shariah Index	468.41	465.39	466.91	467.92	-1.01	-0.22
MSX TR INDEX	6,193.49	6,176.33	6,185.74	6,183.07	2.67	0.04
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,397.19	8,373.24	8,382.83	8,377.63	5.21	0.06
SERVICES TR IDX	1,798.21	1,794.49	1,795.78	1,796.25	-0.47	-0.03
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,205.41	6,141.15	6,198.89	6,205.41	-6.53	-0.11

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
6,229,166	2,104,594	322	23,704,405,545	7	8	21	36

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	21,186	1,465	3	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.068	0.003	4.412	0.071	0.068	0.071	0.100	14,174,128
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	5,000	1,385	1	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.268	0.009	3.358	0.277	0.269	0.280	0.100	27,700,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,143	453	1	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.394	0.002	0.508	0.396	0.388	0.396	0.100	264,672,709
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,668,678	757,898	46	0.284	0.284	0.283	0.284	0.283	0.001	0.353	0.284	0.283	0.284	0.100	2,131,816,766
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	161,139	32,067	1	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.000	0.000	0.199	0.180	0.200	0.100	43,780,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	192,968	49,207	2	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.100	31,848,980
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	8,805	1,935	3	0.219	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.220	0.219	0.100	13,464,940
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	9,900	693	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.068	0.071	0.100	6,300,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	7,753	7,835	5	1.010	1.012	1.010	1.012	1.012	0.000	0.000	1.012	1.012	1.113	0.100	96,828,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	110,000	45,100	12	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.403	0.410	0.100	96,928,100
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	68,000	26,180	8	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.000	0.000	0.385	0.385	0.389	0.100	250,613,529
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	40,000	3,400	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.086	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	315,615	317,938	84	1.010	1.010	1.005	1.007	1.008	-0.001	-0.099	1.007	1.007	1.008	0.100	755,250,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	134,107	8,712	19	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.063	0.065	0.100	7,800,000
Total	14	3,744,294	1,254,268	187												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	2,915	70	3	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.001	4.348	0.024	0.023	0.025	0.100	17,145,752
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	5,219	600	8	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.116	0.126	0.100	9,442,719
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	10,000	900	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.100	7,650,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	34,000	1,836	3	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.052	0.054	0.100	16,585,902
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	855,803	67,609	14	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.077	0.079	0.100	16,274,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,000	400	1	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.040	0.041	0.100	3,400,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	500,030	446,027	4	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.892	0.900	0.100	84,740,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	200	100	1	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.542	0.542	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	38,757,792
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	510,600	50,529	19	0.089	0.089	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.096	0.100	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	95,955	6,200	7	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.090	0.094	0.100	89,729,783
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	53,000	1,219	3	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.023	0.025	0.100	15,522,411
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	169	17	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.100	0.100	20,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	53,848	15,784	27	0.293	0.294	0.293	0.294	0.295	-0.001	-0.339	0.294	0.293	0.324	0.100	226,438,800
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,814	9,194	5	1.900	1.970	1.850	1.970	1.979	-0.009	-0.455	1.970	1.900	1.950	0.100	176,709,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	13,738	7,190	4	0.520	0.566	0.520	0.566	0.570	-0.004	-0.702	0.566	0.560	0.566	0.100	89,145,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	23,360	1,389	4	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.058	0.060	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,000	500	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.051	-0.001	-1.961	0.050	0.050	0.053	0.100	12,500,000
Total	17	2,153,651	609,564	106												

ECONOMY

Germany: European Commission cuts 2023 growth forecast

BRUSSELS: The German economy is expected to contract in 2023, the European Commission said on Monday. Germany's gross domestic product is now forecast to shrink by 0.4 per cent in 2023, compared to a previous cent prediction of 0.2 per cent growth.

The Ukraine war and its toll on energy prices hit the manufacturing sector "particularly hard," the commission said.

Weak demand keeps eurozone economy under pressure

The eurozone is expected to see 0.8 per cent growth in 2023, down from the 1.1 per cent that had been previously predicted. It is expected to post growth of 1.3 per cent in 2024, down from 1.6 per cent. The 20-member bloc entered a recession in the first quarter of the year. The economic slowdown is a result of weakened demand due to high inflation rates, the commission said.



"Weakness in domestic demand, in particular consumption, shows that high and still increasing consumer prices for most goods and services are taking a heavier toll than expected," the commission said. "Further weakening" was expected in the coming months as the economy faces "multiple headwinds," EU Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said at a news conference.

"The EU economy has suffered two massive shocks with the pandemic and Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine," Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis added.

Germany is the only major economy expected to shrink this year

Even though economic activity has been slowing in all major eurozone economies, Germany has been a particular source of weakness.

Germany's manufacturing and export-oriented economy has been hit by higher energy prices and slowing demand in China, a key trade partner.

Germany is the only major economy expected to shrink the year, the International Monetary Fund said in July.

Still, the state of the larger eurozone economy doesn't resemble a typical recession, because unemployment is at record lows and workers are earning more. -bnw

LOGISTICS AND SERVICES

Adnoc L&S takes delivery of 8 jack-up barges, boosting its barge fleet by 25%

ABU DHABI: Adnoc Logistics and Services (Adnoc L&S) has taken delivery of eight self-propelled jack-up barges (JUBs) through its subsidiary Zakher Marine International (ZMI) Holdings.

With this expansion, the number of JUBs owned and operated by Adnoc L&S has increased from 31 to 39, reinforcing the company's status as the owner and operator of one of the largest fleets of JUBs in the GCC region. This expansion comes when JUB charter rates are robust due to the high demand for offshore services.

The additional JUBs include the purchase of two newbuild and four second-hand ones, in addition to chartering two new-build JUBs. One of the barges will serve the Iraqi market, marking Adnoc L&S' entry into a new market and supporting the company's regional expansion.

These multi-functional JUBs are designed to provide a range of well services, such as operations, maintenance and accommodation at offshore fields.

Captain Abdulkareem Al Masabi, CEO of Adnoc L&S, said, "The addition of these self-propelled jack-up barges to our growing integrated logistics and shipping fleet aligns with our ambitious, smart growth strategy, enabling us to provide a broader range of services to our customers and unlock new and sustainable value for Adnoc L&S as we venture into new markets. Adnoc L&S is committed to exploring new opportunities for expansion to continue driving value for our shareholders and strengthen our position as the region's largest integrated logistics provider."

Adnoc L&S acquired ZMI Holdings in 2022 as part of its strategic value creation and growth programme. The acquisition added critical marine support assets to Adnoc L&S' offshore fleet, extending its regional footprint and creating new opportunities for expansion with an industry-recognised partner.

Ali El Ali, CEO of ZMI Holdings, said, "A UAE-born business, ZMI Holdings is one of the largest players in the GCC region's maritime logistics. Our extensive fleet of jack-up barges and offshore support vessels enables us to offer best-in-class maritime logistics services to the offshore production and wind sectors. With our established presence in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Iraq, we are strategically positioned to further expand our operations across Asia and explore new markets." -wam

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SIGN OF SUSTAINED ECONOMIC MOMENTUM

China's yuan loans expand amid stable economic recovery

BEIJING: China's outstanding yuan-denominated loans expanded sharply in August, in a new sign of sustained economic momentum after the government rolled out a slew of pro-growth measures.

The outstanding yuan loans rose by 1.36 trillion yuan (about \$188.63 billion) in August, a sharp rise from 345.9 billion yuan reported in July and 86.8 billion yuan more than that seen in August last year, according to the data from the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

The expansion signalled improvement in market expectations and sentiment, and showed the effects of the country's increased financial support for the real economy amid efforts to boost economic growth and market confidence, said Zhang Jun, chief economist of China Galaxy Securities Co., Ltd.

The outstanding yuan loans expanded by 17.44 trillion yuan in the first eight months of the year, compared with 15.68 trillion yuan recorded a year earlier, according to the PBOC data.

The M2, a broad measure of money supply that covers cash in circulation and all deposits, climbed 10.6 percent year on year to 286.93 trillion yuan at the end of August, the data showed.

The pace of growth eased from a rise of 10.7 percent seen at the end of July, and also moderated from an increase of 12.2 percent registered at the end of August 2022.



The M1, which covers cash in circulation plus demand deposits, stood at 67.96 trillion yuan at the end of August, up 2.2 percent year on year. The M0, the amount of cash in circulation, went up 9.5 percent from a year ago to 10.65 trillion yuan at the end of last month.

Newly added social financing, a measurement of funds that individuals and non-financial firms receive from the financial system, came in at 3.12 trillion yuan in August, up from 528.2 billion yuan in July and 631.6 billion yuan more than the same period last year.

The reading came following an array of indicators pointing to a sustained momentum of China's economic recovery.

To support economic recovery, the PBOC vowed in the second-quarter monetary policy report that it will use a combination of

monetary policy tools to keep liquidity reasonable and ample, and ensure that the expansion of credit supply and social financing should basically match the country's nominal economic growth rate.

Monday's data offers further proof that China's economic operation remains in a reasonable range, and with the effects of supportive policies gradually filtering through, financing demand of the real economy was enhanced, leading to the strong growth of August's financial data, said Wen Bin, chief economist of China Minsheng Bank.

Wen said the central bank might further cut the reserve requirement ratio in the last quarter of the year, and enhance the use of structural and policy-based financial instruments to spur investment and boost consumption. -xinhua



LIFESTYLE

AIR POLLUTION

According to a new study, air pollution prevents bees from finding flowers because it degrades the scent.

MAKES IT DIFFICULT

FOR BEES

TO FIND FLOWERS

A RESEARCH team comprising the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) and the Universities of Birmingham, Reading, Surrey and Southern Queensland, found that ozone substantially changes the size and scent of floral odour plumes given off by flowers, and that it reduced honeybees' ability to recognise odours by up to 90% from just a few metres away.

Ground-level ozone typically forms when nitrogen oxide emissions from vehicles and industrial processes react with volatile organic compounds emitted from vegetation in the presence of sunlight.

Professor Christian Pfrang from the University of Birmingham who collaborated on the research said: "Our study provides robust evidence that the changes due to ground-level ozone on floral scent cause pollinators to struggle to

carry out their crucial role in the natural environment also with implications for food security."

The findings suggest that ozone is likely to be having a negative impact on wildflower abundance and crop yields. International research has already established that ozone has a negative impact on food production because it damages plant growth.

Dr Ben Langford, an atmospheric scientist at UKCEH who led the study said: "Some 75% of our food crops and nearly 90% of wild flowering plants depend, to some extent, upon animal pollination, particularly by insects. Therefore, understanding what adversely affects pollination, and how, is essential to helping us preserve the critical services that we rely upon for production of food, textiles, bio-fuels and medicines, for example."

The researchers used a 30-m

wind tunnel at Surrey University to monitor how the size and shape of odour plumes changed in the presence of ozone. As well as decreasing the size of the odour plume the scientists found that the scent of the plume changed substantially as certain compounds reacted away much faster than others.

Honeybees were trained to recognise the same odour blend and then exposed to the new, ozone-modified odours. Pollinating insects use floral odours to find flowers and learn to associate their unique blend of chemical compounds with the amount of nectar it provides, allowing them to locate the same species in the future.

The research showed that towards the centre of plumes, 52% of honeybees recognised an odour at 6 metres, decreasing to 38% at 12 m. At the edge of plumes, which degraded more quickly, 32% of

honeybees recognised a flower from 6 m away and just a tenth of the insects from 12 m away.

The study indicates that ozone could also affect insects' other odour-controlled behaviours such as attracting a mate.

The research was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation, and was published in the journal Environmental Pollution.

Professor Christian Pfrang concluded: "We know that air pollution has a detrimental effect on human health, biodiversity and the climate, but now we can see how it prevents bees and other pollinating insects from carrying out their key job. This should act as a wake up call to take action on air pollution and help safeguard food production and biodiversity for the future." -ANI

SPORTS

FOOTBALL MATCH IN MINNESOTA

Oman gear up for their first friendly against USA



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman national team, coached by Croatian Branko Ivankovic, continued its preparations at the National Sports Center in Minnesota, USA, ahead of their first-ever football match against United States Men's Na-

tional Soccer Team (USMNT) at the Allianz Field in Minnesota on Tuesday, September 12, at 7.30pm (US time). The match kicks off at 4.30am on Wednesday, September 13, Oman time.

Oman left for the United States on Friday after registering a hard-fought 2-1 win over Palestine in



a friendly at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. After their arrival, Ivankovic's Red Warriors had a couple of training sessions at the National Sports Center. Oman's Salah Al Yahyaiei and Omar Al Maliki, who have fitness concerns and are with the team, continued individual training under the supervi-

sion of the team's medical staff.

Oman will conclude the official training session on Monday.

US head coach Gregg Berhalter said: "Oman are first-time opponents for us and are preparing for the AFC Asian Cup, so we expect them to be good tests. We look forward to performing in front of



our fantastic supporters." In the earlier friendly, the US beat Uzbekistan 3-0 in St Louis on Saturday. For the Red Warriors, it will be a litmus test as they face world No.11 side.

Oman are currently ranked 73rd in FIFA rankings. Despite the large gap in the rankings, the Red War-

riors can pose a few challenges to the hosts with their quick counters and organised defence. On the contrary, USMNT would try to experiment with new formations, give minutes to less-experienced players, and enhance team cohesion but must be ready to face a determined opponent.

BASKETBALL

Germany clinch FIBA World Cup for first time

MANILA: Germany defeated Serbia 83-77 to clinch its first FIBA Basketball World Cup title here on Sunday evening. Dennis Schroder was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament.

Schroder, boasting an average of 17.6 points, 6.1 assists, and 2 rebounds throughout the World Cup, delivered a game-high 28 points in the final. Franz Wagner contributed 19 points and seven rebounds, while Johannes Voigtman added 12 points and eight rebounds.

For Serbia, Aleksa Avramovic led the scoring with 21 points, and Bogdan Bogdanovic chipped in with 17 points and five assists. Nikola Milutinov, however, struggled, missing all four of his attempts and ending the game with just two points and four assists.

The Mall of Asia Arena felt like a home game for Serbia, thanks to their passionate fans. However, concerns arose early on when Ognjen Dobric sustained an injury and had to leave the court just three minutes into the game.

Historically, in each of the previous five finals in the 21st century, the team leading at half-time emerged victorious. But Sunday's final saw both teams tied at 47 points at halftime.



A pivotal moment occurred in the third quarter when a contentious foul was called on Aleksa Avramovic as he attempted to block Schroder's shot from behind the arc. Capitalising on it, Germany went on a 9-0 run after Schroder converted two of his three free throws. Serbia faced offensive challenges, scoring only 10 points in the quarter and lagging by 12 points into the final quarter. Avramovic, however, ignited in the fourth quarter. The 28-year-old guard netted 16 points, helping

Serbia reduce the deficit to just three points with 1:21 remaining.

Schroder, demonstrating resilience under pressure, executed a layup and sank two free throws to secure the victory for Germany.

Germany remained undefeated by winning all eight games, and became the fourth European country and seventh overall to win the world crown. It also marked the first time a nation clinched the FIBA World Cup title in its debut in the final since Spain faced Greece in 2006. - Xinhua

POOR RESULTS

Flick is first Germany coach to be fired

BERLIN: After slightly over two years in charge of Germany's national football team, Hansi Flick had to go through surreal scenes.

While the 58-year-old supervised a training session on Sunday morning, association leaders and decision-makers of German football agreed on his dismissal, following his team's disappointing defeats and a lack of progress.

In the afternoon, the breaking news of Flick's departure was overshadowed by news that Germany's basketball team had beaten Serbia to win the FIBA World Cup for the first time in history.

Things seemed to require some speeding up as the struggling 2014 FIFA World Cup winners face France in a friendly this Tuesday.

A caretaker trio of sporting director Rudi Voller, development supervisor Hannes Wolf, and the under-20 junior assistant coach Sandro Wagner will take temporary charge.



After the France game, a successor for Flick must be found, while the former Bayern Munich coach became the first Germany coach in the association's 123-year-long history to be fired.

Speculation about possible successors go from Julian Nagelsmann and Oliver Glasner, to Matthias Sammer, Louis van Gaal and Felix Magath.

Reports speak of Nagelsmann as the favourite despite his young

age of 36. The fan's most wanted national coach, Jurgen Klopp, is not thought to be available as he remains under contract with Liverpool.

"Hansi Flick invested all to regain success for the team," Voller said. "But we had to conclude we didn't make it."

After 25 games, Flick had not only lost the dressing room but also the fans' trust. Germany's hosting of Euro 2024 in nine months' time might have increased the pressure.

Along with Flick, his assistant coaches Danny Rohl and Marcus Sorg have also left.

Nine months before Euro 2024, German football finds itself in a crisis, with the new coach having to create a miracle.

"We need a spirit of optimism and conviction among fans to run a successful Euro 2024. Sporting success is above everything else," said association president Bernd Neuendorf. - Xinhua

Refuelling woes dash Al Harthy's hopes for a strong finish in Japan



Oman Racing could only manage a 13th-place finish in the penultimate WEC round in Fuji



fifth in the team battle.

Speaking later, Al Harthy said: "We had an incredible first lap where I think I moved up six positions and we kept climbing and I got another two cars. Then we had a small incident with an LMP car which cost us, and I had slipped to seventh. We kept pushing and knew we were going to run the overcut at the pit-stop, while the rest were doing undercut, and it would work in our favour."

"Unfortunately though, as soon as we pitted, we had a fuel failure. That ruined all of the progress we had made and ended any hopes of finishing the race on the lead lap."

"From then on it was about learning as much as we could ahead of the final round in Bahrain. It's been a really unfortunate weekend for us. Fuji is such an amazing circuit and it was a pleasure to race here. Also it was a great to have so much support from our incredible partners and also the Ambassador of Oman to Japan who attended the race. It really means so much. If we have the chance to return to Japan in the future, I'm sure we would have a strong result in Fuji."

Al Harthy concludes his maiden season in FIA World Endurance with round seven to take place at the Bahrain International Circuit on November 4.

MUSCAT: A solid start from Oman's Ahmad Al Harthy on his debut at 6 Hours of Fuji went in vain at the Japanese track on Sunday after a refuelling issue in the first round of pit-stops cost the Oman Racing an insurmountable amount of time to end their hopes of a strong finish as they ended the race on 13th spot.

Lining-up an uncharacteristic 12th on the GTE Am grid in the penultimate race of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season, after losing tyre performance later in the qualifying session, Al Harthy made a quick start.

The Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS partnered Al Harthy, driving his No.25 Aston Martin Vantage GTE, sliced his way through the order, passing no fewer than six cars and moved into the top five at the end of the first hour.

After challenging well for fourth, there was an unfortunate incident with one of the LMP2 cars and Al Harthy dropped to seventh place.

At Oman Racing's first scheduled pit-stop, there was a problem with the refuelling rig and the pit crew was unable to put any fuel in the car. The time lost badly impacted the team's strategy and there was no other choice than for Al Harthy to rejoin the race and pit again.

The issue was sorted at the second pit stop but the massive delay ended all hopes of a strong result. Al Harthy fell back to 12th place and there was hardly anything much he could do.

The same was true during the subsequent stints for team-mates, Michael Dinan and Charlie Eastwood, both failing to make any inroads. In the end, Eastwood took the chequered flag in 13th position some four laps down on the race winning and podium entries.

In terms of the championship placings, Al Harthy, Dinan and Eastwood are now fifth in the driver standings while Oman Racing with TF Sport is also

AFCON 2023



Gambia qualify in earthquake-hit Marrakesh

MARRAKESH: The Gambia secured their place at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) with a dramatic 2-2 draw against Congo Brazzaville in Marrakesh, Morocco, on Sunday night.

The match went ahead despite the devastating earthquake which hit the Moroccan city on Friday, killing over 2,000 people.

Gambia's Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet said several of his squad members did not want to play the game.

Fearing that "a plane had crashed into the hotel" and calling the experience "very scary", Saintfiet and his squad slept outdoors next to the swimming pool of their hotel as they were concerned about remaining indoors.

Despite the team's disturbed preparations, the Scorpions showed their mettle and fought back from two goals down with just over ten minutes remaining to book their place at January's finals in Ivory Coast.

An early goal from Gaius Makouta was quickly followed by a Silvere Ganvoula penalty to give Congo a 2-0 lead, before Newcastle United teenager Yankuba Minteh score in the 79th minute to spark the comeback.

On the stroke of full-time, Muhammed Badamosi hit a last-gasp equaliser to ensure The Gambia finished behind group winners Mali in second.

In other Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers on Sunday, Nigeria end-

ed their Group A campaign on a high with a resounding 6-0 home win over Sao Tome and Principe.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Cape Verde - who had already qualified from Group B with Burkina Faso - lost 3-2 away to Togo in Lome.

Sunday's results mean there are only two more spots up for grabs. Cameroon meet Burundi in Group C on Tuesday and the outcome of the match in Garoua will determine which two of Burundi, Cameroon and Namibia go to the finals.

India, Saudi Arabia ink 8 agreements during visit of Crown Prince Salman

The ceremonial welcome was followed by a bilateral talks between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Prime Minister Narendra Modi



NEW DELHI: India and Saudi Arabia have signed as many as eight agreements during the State visit of Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, said Ministry of External Affairs on Monday.

Addressing a press briefing on the State visit of the Saudi Crown Prince, Secretary (CPV and OIA) Ausaf Sayeed said, “I am happy to share with you that during this visit as many as eight agreements have been signed.” The agreements signed are in the field of energy, in the field of digitalisation and electronic manufacturing, and cooperation

between India’s Central Vigilance Commission and Saudi Anti-corruption. There was an agreement between the two investment entities, India and Saudi counterparts Exim banks, Small and Medium Enterprises Banks and an agreement on desalination. An agreement was also signed on renewable energy. “One is the field of energy which

was signed by the Saudi Minister of Energy and our Minister of New and Renewable Energy,” said Sayeed. “Then there was an agreement between the agreement in the field of digitalisation and electronic manufacturing between the IT ministries of both sides,” he said. Another agreement was between Central Vigilance Commission of India and its counterpart the Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority. “And the fourth agreement was between the National Archives. Then there was an agreement between the two investment entities, that is Invest India on the Indian side and the Ministry of Investment on Saudi side,” said Sayeed. “There was another agreement between the two EXIM banks and there was also another agreement between the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank banks of two sides, that is SIDBI and the SME Bank of Saudi Arabia,” the Secretary said, adding, “And the last one

was in the field of Desalination.” Over two dozen Memoranda of Understanding were signed between India and Saudi Arabia companies, ranging from Information Technology, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, and human resources, among other sectors. “The Crown Prince congratulated India for a very successful G20 meeting with a lot of major outcomes in the meeting...The two sides expressed their happiness at the launching of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor...PM also congratulated the Kingdom on becoming a full member of the BRICS...,” said the MEA Secretary. These MoUs were signed between private companies of both countries, including Serum Institute of India, HP, VFS Global, and ICICI Bank. The signing of the MoUs was facilitated by Invest India and Saudi Arabia’s investment ministry. The signing of the agreements happened as Saudi Arabian Prime

Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud began his State visit after having participated in the G20 Summit in New Delhi. The Saudi Crown Prince arrived in Delhi on a three-day visit on Saturday and stayed back after the G20 Summit for his state visit. In a brief statement, Prince Mohammed bin Salman congratulated India for a successful G20 presidency. “Well done India, a lot of announcements made that will benefit both our countries, the G20 countries and the whole world. So I want to say to India well done, and we will work to create a future for both countries” he said. Earlier on Monday, the Saudi Crown Prince was accorded a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The ceremonial welcome was followed by a bilateral talks between the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House. -ANI

FRIENDSHIP TO ALL

France President Macron commits to stand with Bangladesh

PARIS: France President Emmanuel Macron has committed to stand by Bangladesh. Macron recalled France’s support for Bangladesh in the past, including the Liberation War of Bangladesh. He further said, “France will be again on your side.” Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called Macron a “breath of fresh air in international politics.” Sheikh Hasina said, “Your push for strategic autonomy largely aligns with our own foreign policy dictum Friendship to all, malice towards none given to us by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.” The two leaders made the address at a banquet hosted by



Sheikh Hasina in honour of Emmanuel Macron in Dhaka on Sunday. Emmanuel Macron and Sheikh Hasina enjoyed a cultural

show by performers featured by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts and dances by Chakma, Mar-

ma and Tripura communities. Both leaders recalled the contribution of French intellectual Andre Malraux during the Liberation War in 1971. French President Macron said, “This history binds us together despite adversaries.” He hailed Bangladesh’s “tremendous success” over the years on the basis of democratic principles and the rule of law at the core of the country’s identity. Macron stated that Bangladesh is progressively gaining its place on the world stage with science, trade and culture. “You can count our full support in order to convince the countries mainly responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases. But also

to help you, France will be again on your side,” French President Emmanuel Macron said. Sheikh Hasina said it was her great pleasure and honour to host Macron. She recalled the warm hospitality she received during her visit to France in November 2021. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina said, “Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib’s call for freedom echoed with global intellectuals like Andre Malraux who mobilised a number of young people to fight for our cause.” “France holds a special place in our hearts and imagination,” she added. She expressed confidence that the ties between the two nations

can move to strategic engagements as Bangladesh and France are opening up new areas of cooperation in strategic assets and advanced technologies. “Our partnership can be a meaningful force to address the multiple crises of wars, climate change and cost-of-living that our world is facing,” Sheikh Hasina said. She further said, “Both of our nations are extremely proud of our cuisines, culture and linguistic heritage. It is time to promote further interface and fusion between our two cultures to bring our two peoples closer to each other.” Macron visited Dhanmondi Lake and interacted with the popular folk band Joler Gaan. -ANI

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ROUND-UP

Director-General of DPHE, MoH visits Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah

Dr Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi, Director-General, Directorate of Private Health Establishments, Ministry of Health laid emphasis on the importance of quality of care and patient safety and he was satisfied that the systems in places are meeting the national and international standards

MUSCAT: Dr Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi, Director-General, Directorate of Private Health Establishments, Ministry of Health visited Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah.

He was received by Abdul Latheef Uppala, Managing Director, Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals. Along with him Dr Mohammed Abdullah Al Yafai, Direct General, Private Health Establishments, Dhofar Region. Both dignitaries congratulated the team of Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah on the occasion of 15th year anniversary.

During the visit of Dr. Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi to Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah Abdul Latheef briefed him about the initiatives taken by Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah for Khareef like addition of more doctors, nurses, increasing the capacity and intro-

duction of new clinics to address seasonal illnesses.

Abdul Latheef Uppala informed him that Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals is the official medical partner of Khareef Dhofar Festival organized by Dhofar Municipality and is running a fully-fledged clinic in the largest venue of Khareef Festival, Itten Square.

Dr. Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi expressed satisfaction over the initiatives taken to meet the growing demand for healthcare services during Khareef season. He appreciated the facility and services rendered by Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah across a large number of specialities.

Abdul Azeez Allakkatt, Branch Head of Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah briefed him regarding their recent healthcare accreditation, The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards



(ACHS) International. Dr. Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi laid emphasis on the importance of quality of care and patient safety and he was satisfied that the systems in places are meeting the national and international standards.

The addition of latest diagnostic and therapeutic modalities like MRI, CT, Lithotripsy, Cardiac Critical Care, etc. was well appreciated by Dr. Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi.

Dr. Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi laid emphasis on public pri-

ivate partnership in healthcare.

He said like earlier, we need to take more initiatives together which are aimed in the best interest of nationals and residents of Oman. He has appreciated initiatives taken by Badr Al Samaa in this direction.

Abdul Latheef Uppala thanked Dr. Muhana bin Nasser Al Maslahi and Dr Mohammed Abdullah Al Yafai for his visit to the facility and said that the visit by them was very encouraging and motivating for the whole team of Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah.

2040 VISION



Ministry of Education celebrates International Literacy Day 2023

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Special Education and Continuous Learning (Department of Lifelong Learning), organised on Monday morning a celebration on the occasion of International Literacy Day 2023, which falls on September 8th of each year, and this year comes under the slogan (Promoting literacy in a world in transition: building the foundations of peaceful and sustainable societies). The celebration was held under the patronage of HE Prof. Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, in the presence of a number of directors-general in the Ministry's General Diwan, directors of special education and lifelong learning departments, and heads of lifelong learning departments in governorate, and a number of employees of the Directorate-General of Special Education and Continuous Learning. The celebration ceremony took place in Khasab Hall in the Ministry's General Diwan.

Dr. Thuraiya Al Rashidi, Director-General of Special Education and Continuous Learning delivered the Ministry's speech in which she said: "Oman Vision

2040 is based in its stated goals on comprehensive and sustainable education, ensuring that all students have access to education, and their transition through the stages of school education to higher education, leading to their involvement in the work sectors according to their levels and academic qualifications. This is the approach adopted by the Ministry of Education to be the basic translation of these goals for emerging generations or for those who did not have the opportunity for formal school education. From this standpoint, the Ministry of Education has placed the goal of education at the forefront of its strategic plans and has not hesitated to provide academic support to students for the sake of an Omani society free of illiteracy. The Ministry has achieved progress in reducing illiteracy levels in the Sultanate of Oman, as the illiteracy rate has decreased in the age group (15-44) to (0.4) according to data issued by the National Center for Statistics and Information."

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education stated: "This celebration comes in honor of learners in the field of illiteracy for their efforts

to be freed from illiteracy, and for the initiatives undertaken by provincial educational institutions, to advance learners, and as a reminder of the ongoing efforts being made in the field of eradicating illiteracy. The Ministry of Education is working with all its capabilities in providing support and assistance to the people of the country to liberate themselves from illiteracy and has made great strides in this field. This year's slogan speaks about sustainability and peaceful societies, and everyone, whether in formal education or education in the field of literacy, contributes to strengthening the status of this aspect and sustainability."

The celebration included a singing segment entitled "Let's Light the Stars" by the poet Amal bint Ahmed Al Shaqsa, in which she expressed her profound co-existence in the field of literacy, followed by a visual presentation from memory that reviewed the process of literacy in the Sultanate of Oman from the point of view of former workers in the field of literacy and adult education, as they recounted the challenges and the difficulties they faced during the course of their work and the achievements that have made.

MEDICAL CONFERENCE

International medical conference on liver transplant held in Muscat

MUSCAT: Liver Transplant is a growing need both in adults and children. Biliary atresia (cholestatic liver disorder) being the most common cause. Other causes include acute and chronic hepatitis, metabolic disorders, alcoholic liver damage, liver and bile duct cancers - Hepatoblastoma. Congenital, genetic, autoimmune disorders especially in children.

Lama Polyclinic in Association with Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad, India & Global treatment Services organised a Medical Conference on Liver Transplant. It was held on Friday, September 8 at Crown Plaza Hotel Qurum.

Dr. Yahya Al Azri, Sr. Consultant & HOD Hepato-Biliary Unit at Royal Hospital was the Guest of Honor. He in his opening speech gave an "Overview of Liver Transplant in Oman & future vision of Oman Government." It was very informative as many doctors practicing in Oman were unaware of the work done on "Liver Transplant" in Oman!

This was followed by a presentation by the Guest Speaker Dr. Dharmesh Kapoor -Sr. Consultant, Hepatologist & Lead Transplant Physician at Yashoda Hospital. The Topic was 'Liver Transplantation for high acuity recipients. He deliberated on defining sick liver recipients, their optimisation, their care pathways, namely transplantation or futility. He also touched upon the very important issues of resource utilisation, cost of care and psychosocial aspects associated with care of ICU bound patients who undergo this niche treatment.

These Presentations were followed by a vibrant discussion on various aspects of liver transplantation, including paediatric liver surgery, ABO incompatible liver transplantation, organ dona-



tion and the future roadmap for "liver transplant" in Oman. Both the speakers gave satisfactory answers to the queries raised by the participating doctors.

Eminent doctors

The meeting was attended by around 60 eminent doctors which included Hepato-Biliary Surgeons, Gen. Laparoscopic surgeons, Pediatric Surgeons, Pediatricians, Internists, ER Specialists & Family Physicians from both Government & Private Health Establishments.

Take Home Message according to Dr Sanjay Dalal, Founder, Muscat Family Physicians Group & the Organiser - "Latest technology &

donors (Live & Cadaver) are available for the patients needing Liver Transplant. With Special Units & highly trained team of doctors, numbers of successful Liver Transplants are increasing. Children benefit more than the elderly person. Still, one has to be cautious as a few grey areas still remain."

Dr. Yahya Al Azri concluded by saying Meeting was very interesting, informative & educative. He emphasized the need & importance of "Continuous Medical Education". He also promised Dr. Dalal, the organiser, to bring doctors working in both Government & Private Health establishments together on a platform.



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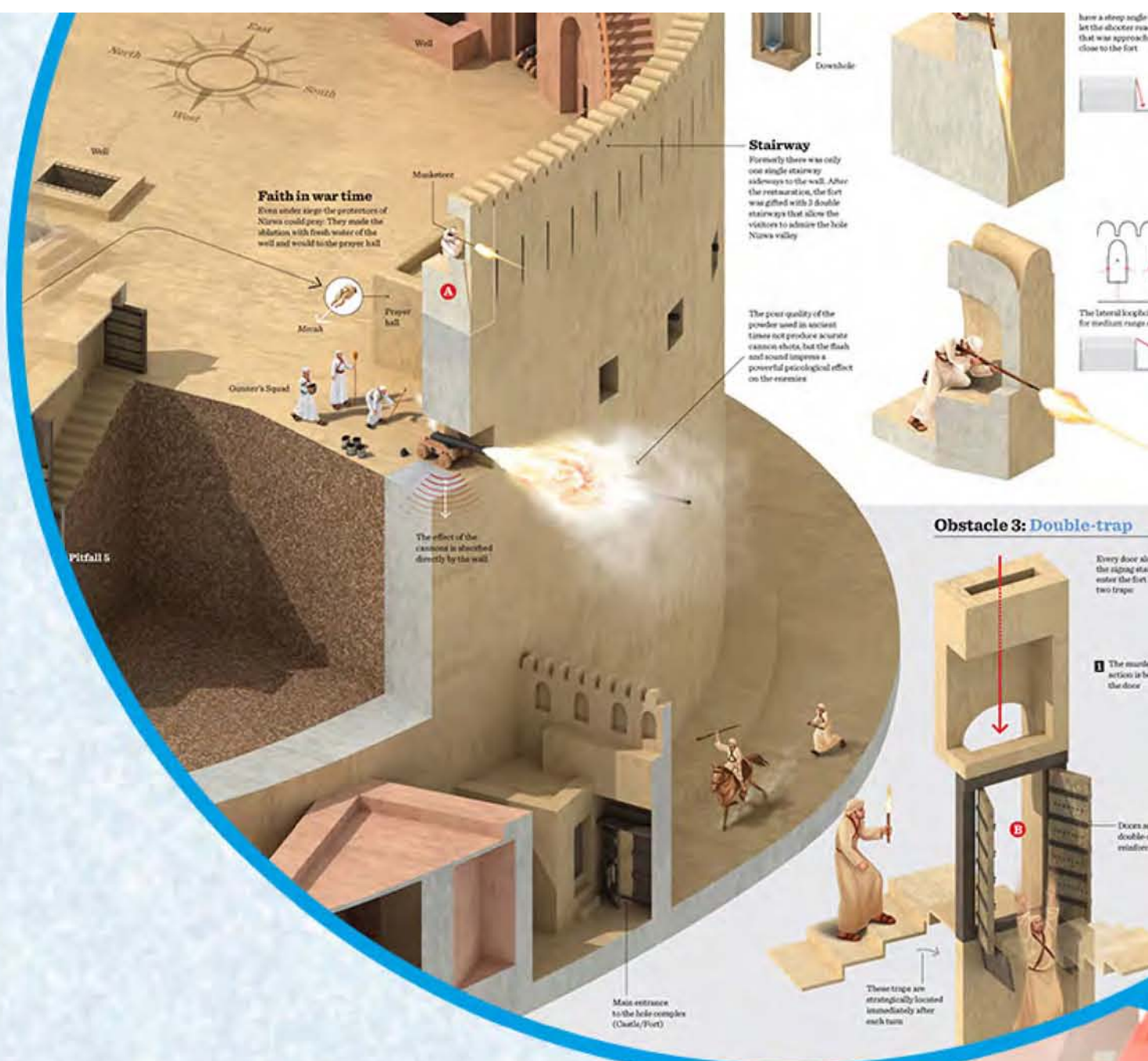
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