

OMAN GOLF TROPHY'S ROUND IN ITALY CONCLUDES

The last round of Oman Golf Trophy concluded in Italy on Sunday with the participation of 800 players. As many as 14 players qualified for the final round of the trophy, scheduled to be held at Al Mouj Golf in Muscat in March 2023. **>B6**



AL FIQAIN CASTLE STANDS TALL WITH ITS HIGH TOWERS

Al Fiqain Castle in the Wilayat of Manah in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah, with its high towers standing in the middle of Al Fiqain village, is considered one of the most important historical monuments in the wilayat. Located in Al Fiqain village, the castle was built some 400 years ago and was later renovated and restored. **>A4**



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MEETING



Sayyid Fahd receives Speaker of Hungarian National Assembly

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received on Sunday Dr. Laszlo Kover, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary.

At the outset of the meeting, HH Sayyid Fahd reviewed the relations between Oman and Hungary, stressing the importance of supporting bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various areas to serve the joint interests. The two sides also discussed

during the meeting regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council. It was also attended by Sheikh Al Fadhl Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Mohammed Nassir Al Wahibi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Barnabas Fodor, Ambassador of Hungary to the Sultanate of Oman. **-ONA**

More than 570 trail runners to take part in Himam Trail Run Race

A4

15,000

CURRENTLY, THE NUMBER OF OMANIS WORKING IN THE TOURISM SECTOR IS OVER 15,000, SAID THE MINISTER OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM SALIM BIN MOHAMMED AL MAHROUQI

JOB OPPORTUNITIES GALORE FOR OMANIS IN TOURISM SECTOR

The ministry's five-decade record in providing employment has been enviable

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Around 100,000 people are employed in the tourism sector and Omanis should make the most of it, the Minister of Heritage and Tourism said on Sunday.

Speaking exclusively to Shabiba Radio, Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, the Minister of Heritage and Tourism, said around 100,000 jobs are available but the number of Omanis working in the tourism sector stands between 15,000 and 16,000.

"This means there is a large number of jobs available in this sector for Omanis," he said.



SALIM MOHAMMED AL MAHROUQI, Minister of Heritage and Tourism

He said the Ministry is working on several ambitious projects, including a new version of Natural History Museum and the Naval History Museum in the Wilayat of Sur.

He said the tourism ministry is working in tandem with the labour ministry and other partners and is conscious about bringing in real change in the sector to provide a large number of job opportunities.

The Sultanate ranks among the developed countries in terms of protection and sustainability of its rich cultural heritage, Al Mahrouqi said. He added that the Ministry of Heritage and Culture was one of the first institutions established

since the new Renaissance, and its record during the past five decades in providing employment, protecting the architectural heritage of the Sultanate and recording of ancient Omani history through archaeological surveys and excavations, has been nothing short of enviable, which has aroused the curiosity of explorers and scholars alike.

He continued: "This journey of preserving the Sultanate's cultural heritage began with the adoption of best practices and legislations for managing this sector. With the passage of time and accumulation of experience, inclusion of additional fields such as the museum sector

culminated in the opening of the National Museum."

"The tourism sector which began with the establishment phase and the construction phase, graduated into a period when we began looking for opportunities to conduct a comprehensive review and the achievements thus far. We also identified the challenges, possibilities, the required pillars and appropriate solutions taking into account the diversity of terrain in the Sultanate and the necessity of synergising this sector with providing job opportunities benefiting the local communities, and others," he added.

TOURISM

CMA issues health insurance policy for visitors during their stay in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In order to provide insurance cover for visitors through the various border-crossing points in the Sultanate of Oman, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) has issued a health insurance policy form for visitors, including basic treatment services in the event of the visitor being exposed to peril or injury on Omani territory.

The issuance of the policy comes within the framework of the ongoing efforts to regulate the health insurance market in the Sultanate of Oman, besides promoting and regulating insurance products that meet the needs of the local market and translating the efforts of the CMA to develop the performance of the insurance sector during the period 2021-2025 in line with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040, which is committed to ensuring highest quality welfare, social protection and healthcare for residents and visitors alike.



The policy will also play an important role in upgrading local tourism services and making the Sultanate of Oman a tourist destination that provides protection for tourists from the perils they may be exposed to during their visit to the governorates and wilayats. It contributes to regulating the insurance relationship between the policyholder visitor, insurance companies and private health institutions. Further, it ensures the provision of appropriate health-care for each visitor within the specified period of their stay.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, a senior official of the CMA said the price of the insurance will depend on the duration of the visit. "This will cover most of the inpatient services, emergency and transportation costs to the home country in case of emergencies," he said.

The policy is flexible in terms of ease of obtaining insurance coverage for basic treatment services that are available through the websites of insurance companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman, besides additional coverage and benefits the visitors can add according to their needs. The policy also includes general provisions that ensure that visitors obtain basic insurance coverage from insurance companies.

It also specifies the basic insurance coverage that must be available to visitors such as inpatient, emergency services and transport of the corpse of the deceased visitor to the home country. It also identifies the exclusions.

It may be noted that the health insurance policy form for visitors comes as a continuation of the final stages of efforts to prepare the regulatory infrastructure necessary to implement the health insurance system for the employees of the private sector, expatriates residing in the Sultanate and visitors.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN OMR43mn titanium project work starts

1 A ceremony was held at Sohar Freezone on Sunday to lay the foundation stone of the OMR43mn Sohar titanium project. **>A5**

SPORTS England win their 2nd T20 World Cup title

2 Sam Curran and Ben Stokes powered England to their second ICC T20 World Cup title. **>A8**

MARKET Oman's GDP up 30%, reaches OMR20bn

3 The Sultanate's GDP at current prices grew by 30.4 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2022 to hit OMR20.4 billion. **>B1**

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Maghrib.....	5:27pm
Isha.....	6:40pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:03am

Scuba diving industry has a huge potential in the Sultanate of Oman

The PADI IDC is an intense but very rewarding programme. The aim is to impart knowledge and skills to the candidates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is known for its natural and pristine scuba diving sites globally. Intrigued by the diversity of its marine life and snorkelling activities, people from across the world throng its natural, white beaches for diving, water sports, including swimming and surfing. There are professional guides and operators who teach and guide the initiated and the uninitiated alike. In the last few years, however, scuba diving industry in Oman had



SUCCESSFUL: All the participants in the course have succeeded, earning for themselves a PADI instructor certification.

taken a big hit despite there being a huge potential of offering the visitors the experiences of a lifetime. One of the reasons, among others, could be that there was acute shortage of professional instructors with the last PADI instructor examination conducted in 2019! In September 2022, the PADI Course Director, who is the only one competent to conduct the Instructor Development Course, and is affiliated with the Gulf Divers Oman, managed to revive

the programme. The Instructor Examination (IE), an evaluation programme following the IDC is conducted by a PADI examiner, was held this weekend which witnessed a 100% success rate in Muscat.

All the participants have succeeded, earning for themselves a PADI instructor certification.

Experiences
Sharing her experiences during the course, one of the candidates said, “There are moments when your capacity is tested despite the knowledge and skills that you already have. However, the effort was extremely rewarding and worth it. I have grown as a diver and I can’t wait to continue my professional education.” Another candidate said, “I never thought I shall be able to be a scuba instructor. The experience and learning we had during our IDC has helped me pass the IE comfortably, I can’t wait when I shall have my own students and teach them how to love our oceans.”

Lauding the course, PADI Course Director Bechir Chehab said, “The PADI IDC is an intense but very rewarding programme. The aim is to impart knowledge and skills to the candidates so that they, in turn, impart their skills to the learners. They work very hard. Passing the IE was no big deal. It came their way with utmost ease because the candidates were passionate and committed to the cause. “My students love our oceans,

along the Oman coast which has many beautiful, protected marine reserves. I am very pleased to see that we were able to have this programme again after such a long time. Now armed with an IE certificate, my students can continue either a full-time or a part-time job which will ensure them some extra income.”

Bechir further said, “Another role that we all must play, both divers as well as non-divers, is to protect our marine environment. With more instructors, we will be able to offer additional tips, support and initiatives and have more awareness about the oceans.”

Two parts
The Instructor Development Course (IDC) is made up of two parts, namely, the Assistant Instructor (AI) course and the Open Water Scuba Instructor (OWSI) programme. Most diving professionals complete the entire IDC and take the Instructor Examination (IE), which is the final step to earn a PADI Instructor certification. The programme can only be conducted at a five star IDC diving centre and currently the Gulf Divers Oman, located in Bandar Marina Rawda, is the only diving operator conducting it.



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Among old ruins of the ghosts



Saleh Al-Shaibany



I searched for the source of the fragrance. It was an old incense burner. The charcoal inside was not fresh but recently used and there was burnt frankincense.

In my idle travels to the small villages one week-end, I stopped at old ruins. The place was deserted. I parked my car just outside the gates of the ancient and abandoned area. There was no way I could drive through the narrow streets designed for donkey carts, horses and camels.

As I was walking among crumbling houses, my shoes treaded softly on stones buried in dry mud that paved the narrow alleyways. It was eerie but strangely calm to stroll through the history that affected the life of thousands people somewhere in the mist of time. I almost could hear the hooves of the animals and the screeching of the pushcarts marching on the narrow streets. I passed a house whose door was half closed. I stopped and peered through the crack. It was very tempting to walk in and take a glimpse on the way people lived a hundred years ago.

I justified my entry convincing myself that the house has been abandoned and 'unlived' in for many decades and no one would mind. The door squeaked when I pushed it. It was made of solid Indian teak and that was the reason why woodworms could not ravage it. I stood in the hallway trying to figure out the utility of the various rooms that faced me. Somewhere in time, someone removed all the doors but left shelves intricately decorated

by teak panels. I walked to the living room and touched the designs of the shelves imagining the books or ornaments that were lined up there.

Strange enough, a mat woven from date tree fronds, torn in places, was still on the floor. It stuck on the ground as if it was part of the flooring made of mud plaster. It was trodden on so many thousands of times that no one found use of it. I entered the next room, obviously a bedroom, that had a beautiful ceiling supported by wood columns tinted in black, perhaps teak again. For another strange reason, an old chest was on a corner, its top lay open. It was adorned by brass, whose shine has been lost forever. There was of course, nothing in it except thick dust and spiders. The second room was larger and a distinctive sweet smell was on the air. I hesitated entering it, half expecting to bump into a woman with a scorn in her face. Instead, I was greeted by a brightly lit room. I searched for the source of the fragrance. It was an old incense burner. The charcoal inside was not fresh but recently used and

there was burnt frankincense.

There was nothing else in there and that made my hair stood on its ends. According to local tradition, empty houses are incensed every Thursday to make the spirits of the dead owners happy. I walked out quickly not sure if the spirits of the house would approve my intrusion. Back in the street, I saw an old man shuffling along with his stick and walking right past me as if I was not there. I took a turn on another street and ended in a square which certainly looked like an ancient marketplace. It was empty and I sat on an old log looking at the centre, imagining the commotion of the traders and buyers. The ruins of the shops were still there, doors and windows long gone. Minutes later, the shuffling old man walked in the square and I watched him enter a shop. He emerged out without his stick but with a small wooden stool. He sat on it and looked longingly at the centre.

It was time to leave. Perhaps he was the last of the traders and the only survivor of the old area trying to relive the good old days in his mind.



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18 PERCENT RISE

Over 33,000 units of blood collected in 10 months of 2022



Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 33,000 units of blood were collected during the first ten months of 2022, an increase of 18 percent compared to the last year, said the Department of Blood Banks Services (DBBS).

The statistics of the Al-Shifa programme at the Central Blood Bank indicate that 33,226 units of blood were collected by the end of October, compared to 32,754 units in 2021.

This increase has enabled the Central Blood Bank to provide blood and its components for many cases at the health institu-

tions affiliated to the Ministry of Health, in addition to Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Police Hospital, Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre, and private hospitals.

The Department of Blood Banks Services would like to thank all the voluntary efforts that contribute to raising awareness about the importance of donating blood and its components.

It also thanked all blood donors and its components for their donations and requests them to continue with their efforts in the future.



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Diabetes mellitus



Dr Praveen Jeyapathy
Department of Diabetology



Dr Jayakumar S Ambigapathy
Department of Endocrinology

Diabetes mellitus is a modern scourge, that humanity is suffering from. It is widespread, affecting all ages and ethnicities, and has devastating consequences if not treated properly.

What is diabetes mellitus? – “Where there is abundance there is poverty” says a Palestinian proverb. This aptly summarizes the pathophysiology of diabetes. There is too much glucose in the blood but there is no insulin or minimal insulin to help the body use the glucose – abundance of glucose and poverty of insulin.

There are different types of diabetes mellitus – Type 1 diabetes, where there is almost no insulin in the body – Type 2 diabetes mellitus, where there is more of insulin resistance and relative absence of insulin, and other genetic types of diabetes mellitus. Some have secondary diabetes where some other disease process increases blood glucose levels – such as hormonal diseases like Cushing syndrome and Acromegaly.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus typically goes through various stages namely – insulin resistance – prediabetes and finally the typical full-blown type 2 diabetes. Uncontrolled diabetes mellitus can affect almost all the important organs of our body – namely the heart, the brain, the kidneys, eyes, blood vessels and nerves etc.

Despite the advances in the diagnostic methods and discovery of multiple drugs including latest insulins for diabetes mellitus we haven’t been able to curb the devastating progress of the disease or its complications. Why? Because we start late – by the time we diagnose diabetes mellitus, already the damage has started. Therein lies the importance of Prediabetes.

Prediabetes is the stage where the blood glucose levels are neither normal nor high enough to be called type 2 diabetes mellitus. i.e. FBS [fasting blood glucose of 100-126 mg PPBS [post prandial blood glucose] 140-199mg or HbA1C 5.7 - 6.5 %.

Early detection of the prediabetes stage by dedicated screening and early institution of rigorous lifestyle changes and adding a tablet called metformin as and when needed can lead to remission of prediabetes. Managing prediabetes effectively is like vaccination for diabetes.

Whom to screen? Different guidelines have different criteria as to whom to screen for prediabetes/diabetes mellitus - The USPSTF [US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement] recommends all adults between the age of 35-70 who have a BMI of > 25 kg/m2 to be screened for Type 2 DM/ Prediabetes. Practically speaking we should consider screening at an earlier age i.e. less than 35 years, in persons who have a family history of diabetes, a history of diabetes during pregnancy [Gestational diabetes mellitus], or a history of polycystic ovarian syndrome, and at a lower BMI in Asian American persons i.e. at a BMI of more than 23 kg/m2.

How to screen? - By measuring fasting plasma glucose levels, HbA1C and an oral glucose tolerance test.

Why prediabetes is so important to detect and treat? People with prediabetes have up to a 50% chance of developing diabetes over the next 5 to 10 years. Worldwide, approximately 1 in 13 adults (374 million) aged 20-79 years have prediabetes, and more than 8 in 10 adults with prediabetes don’t know they, have it? Latest research has shown that even in prediabetes stage complications like retinopathy, heart disease and neuropathy can occur commonly. Hence, we should not take the diagnosis of prediabetes lightly and need to manage it actively and aggressively.

Management of diabetes mellitus essentially has 5 components – early detection, lifestyle changes [diet + exercise], effective pharmacotherapy, frequent and proper reassessment, anticipating and preventing complications. It requires a highly qualified and dedicated team of doctors of different specialties working together with a common goal of holistic patient care.

We at IMC Sugar - Apollo have an experienced and trained team of specialists working on every aspect of diabetes management. A multidisciplinary team led by highly qualified Endocrinologist and Diabetologist, ably supported by Ophthalmologist, Diabetes educator and a nutrition specialist attend to every patient who walks in. Apart from this, a state-of-the-art diabetes foot lab caters to patients who need a diabetes foot risk assessment. For patients who prefer, we offer home care services which includes delivery of medications at their doorstep. Diabetes care is not just about treating the laboratory values or about prescribing medications. It is a highly individualized plan of care considering each patients’ unique characteristics, his/her circumstances, needs and complications. We in IMC do that precisely.

On this Diabetes Day together let us conquer diabetes – the menace.

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SIGN-UPS ALREADY TOP PREVIOUS YEAR'S RECORD

OVER 570 RUNNERS FROM 41 COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART IN ICONIC HIMAM TRAIL RUN RACE

MUSCAT: The popular Himam Trail Run Race has started the countdown to kick off yet a greater edition from 1 – 3 December, with sign-ups already exceeding last year's record high. Over 570 trail runners from 41 countries of all ages and experience levels have registered to take on the breathtaking challenge that has been curated around diverse landscapes, heritage sites and lush plantation in Jabal Akhdar, Al Hamra and Birkat Al Mouz.

Supported by Petroleum Development Oman as main sponsor, the race has been made bigger since its last edition and will feature a 25km and 55km races that will begin at Birkat Al Mouz, whereas the Al Hajar Range Challenge 100km will start in Al Hamra. Each course will then circle the foothills of Jabal Akhdar through traditional plantations and picturesque villages before heading to the gates of the old Fort in Birkat Al Mouz where the finishing line awaits.

Dr Zahir Al Riyami, Himam Adventure President, said, "The response so far has been incredible, and we are now gearing up for the biggest ever Himam Trail Run Race. This is a great opportunity to broaden the appeal of Oman's unique landscape and shine a light on the beautiful scenery and culture of Jabal Akhdar, Al Hamra and Birkat Al Mouz. Registrations have been pouring in from around the country and across the world and we look forward to welcoming runners of all ages to experience a brand-new course developed especially for this race and take part in one of Oman's fastest growing sporting events."

Each race carries points from the International Trail Running Association (ITRA) which will help more experienced runners enter trail running races around the world. The 25km 'Start-Up Challenge' will award all finishers one ITRA points, the 55km race,



known as 'The Adventure', carries three ITRA points, while the 100km 'Al Hajar Range Challenge' course will give four ITRA points to all finishers.

2021's Himam Trail Run proved to be an event for all, attracting 421 runners from 36 countries, including 50 female athletes and 29 runners aged over 50 years of age. It was managed by a dedicated team of 70 organisers and 350 volunteers. This year's event has already shown that the appetite to

explore Oman's spectacular landscape on two feet is growing, particularly among female athletes, runners of all ages from across Oman, and those around the world now able to test themselves in a new and unique setting. The third day of the event is dedicated to shorter distances and family runs looking to experience running and embark on a journey to fitness and self-challenge.

Aiming to promote sport, celebrate health, the environment



and tourism in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate of Oman. The 2022 Himam Trail Run is organised by Al Sahwa Team under the umbrella of Nizwa Club, and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth, Oman Athletics Association OMRAN, Visit Oman, the SMEs Development Authority, Oman LNG, Al Safa Foods, Mazoon Dairy and Golden Tulip Nizwa. The event is also supported by Aventuras as the trusted partner for trail and running gear.



AL FIQAIN CASTLE STANDS TALL WITH ITS HIGH TOWERS



AL FIQAIN CASTLE in the Wilayat of Manah in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah, with its high towers standing in the middle of Al Fiqain village, is considered one of the most important historical monuments in the wilayat. Located in Al Fiqain village, the castle was built some 400 years ago and was later renovated and restored.

It reflects the depth of the traditional Omani architecture in

the construction of the defensive fortifications. The castle is surrounded by old houses and an oasis of date-palm trees from all sides, casting its shadow on the place. The castle has maintained its construction formations and details for more than 400 years until it was completely restored by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture. It was officially opened on June 24th 1994.

The castle is divided into northern and southern parts. The northern part is dedicated to the military defence of the castle and the surrounding ancient houses while the southern part is dedicated to housing, in addition to storing dates, cereals and other foodstuffs. The fourth floor contains a library full of shelves used for religious and scientific books, manuscripts, documents and other archives.



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MEETINGS

OMR 43 MN

Royal Office Minister receives ambassadors of KSA, Bangladesh



MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Abdullah Saud Al Anzi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to the Sultanate of Oman, in his office on Sunday.

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and areas of joint cooperation between the two countries.

Discussion

They also discussed several matters of mutual interest.

The ambassador lauded the



firmness of relations between Oman and the KSA.

Moreover, Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani also received in his office on Sunday Mohammed Nazmul Islam, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Nu'amani underscored the advancement of relations between Oman and Bangladesh in various fields. In his turn, the ambassador expressed his appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman. He also touched on several matters of common interest. -ONA

Foundation for Sohar titanium project laid



SOHAR: A ceremony was held at Sohar Freezone on Sunday to lay the foundation stone of Sohar titanium project to produce titanium dioxide at a cost of OMR43 million.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng. Salim Nasir Al Awfi, Minister of Energy and Minerals.

Sohar Titanium project is a strategic partnership between the Minerals Development Oman with 35% of the share, and the remaining 65% is distributed to Dubal Holding and Stork International through the Gulf Titanium. -ONA

The project will be set up on an area of 120,000 square metres, and a production capacity of 150,000 tonnes per year. It is expected to start commercial operation by 2025.

OFFICIAL TALKS

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Oman, China review ties, hold talks on Arab-Chinese meet



MEETING: The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, while the Chinese side was headed by Zhai Jun, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East. -ONA

Shura chairman meets Speaker of Hungarian National Assembly

MUSCAT: Khalid Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council met here on Sunday with Dr. Laszlo Kover, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary.

The meeting discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in the legislative fields by boosting coordination between the Shura Council and the National Assembly of Hungary.

The meeting underscored the importance of unifying perspectives in international meetings and forums by activating the joint Omani-Hungarian Friendship Association.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary reiterated the importance of his visit in benefiting from the experience of the Shura Council in the legislative field. He also affirmed that the meetings which will be held during the visit will contribute to augmenting the cooperation between Oman and Hungary in various fields.

The meeting was attended by officials from both sides. -ONA



DISCUSSION: The meeting discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in the legislative fields. -ONA

MUSCAT: An official session of talks was held here on Sunday between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Republic of China.

During the session, the Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, while the Chinese side was headed by Zhai Jun, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East.

The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and ways of enhancing them. They also exchanged views on the Arab-Chinese summit, scheduled to be held next month in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), in addition to a set of regional and international issues of mutual interest. The session was attended by officials from the Foreign Ministry, Li Lingping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Sultanate of Oman and the delegation accompanying the guest. -ONA



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal Oman Police – Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information - announces that vehicles will be prohibited from parking on both sides of the lane on Sultan Qaboos Street from Al Baraka Palace to the Royal Airport in Muscat Governorate, and from the Royal Airport in the Wilayat of Salalah to Al Hosn Palace in Dhofar Governorate on Tuesday 15/11/2022.

Royal Oman Police calls upon drivers to abide by the above instructions and to cooperate with policemen for the public interest.



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Enquiries	- Any inquiry can be sent to MEDC Website/Vendor/E-Tendering, www.medcoman.com, one week before bid submission date - Any request for clarification received after the above-mentioned period will not be considered.
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Terms and Conditions	- Tenders received after the deadline stated in the Invitation to Tender, including any extension thereof, for any reason whatsoever will not be considered - The Tender shall be valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission including any extension thereof. - MEDC is not bound to accept the lowest (or highest) Tenderer. - Preference of awarding the tender will be given to those bidders who achieved a high percentage of purchasing from Local Products and have a High-level percentage of Omanization - Muscat Electricity Distribution Company gives priority to award the projects to SMEs companies. - The priority to award will be given to registered companies that hold a valid certificate of Riyadah. - Failure to comply with the instructions in tender document may lead to disqualification.
Bid Placement	Follow the Supplier guideline available MEDC Website/Vendor/E-Tendering, www.medcoman.com

SECOND EDITION

Belarab Bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design receives entries

MUSCAT: The Office of Belarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design continues receiving entries for the second edition of the award.

It targets the design of the Marine History Museum in the Wilayat of Sur spread over a total area of 14,154 sq. metres. Receipt of entries would continue to 1st December via the website (www. bha.om), for registration and attachment of entries' files.

The receipt of entries' stage is the first stage of the award, where-in the participants attach their illustrative files and the description



of the projects, following which the entries would be subjected to sorting out and the arbitration committee of the award would choose the best thirty projects and provides the selected teams with

the observations for improvement of the projects . Then, the best ten projects would be selected to compete for the first place of the award in the second edition of the award. The arbitration committee of

the award has set up criteria for selection which included that the design should meet the required technical features and that the idea of the project should be implementable and that it has to cope with the international projects in the field of museums besides its sustainable impacts on the environment, social and economic sides. Participation is available for Omanis aged not more than 35 years and who are specialised in architectural design, urban planning and architecture fields. Participation could be at the individual level or a team of not more than three persons. -**ONA**

US space plane lands after 908 days in orbit

WASHINGTON: An unmanned US space plane has set its new endurance record after spending 2.5 years in orbit before landing on Saturday, the developer of the spacecraft, Boeing, said.

"The Boeing-built X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV) set a new endurance record after spending 908 days in orbit before landing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 5:22 a.m. ET, November 12, 2022. This surpasses its previous record of 780 days in-orbit," the company said in a statement. The solar-powered spacecraft resembles the retired space shuttle, but is several times smaller, about 9 metres long. Its five previous missions

in orbit lasted from 224 to 780 days. "Autonomous orbital test vehicle spent 908 days on orbit before landing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center," the company said.

This time, the spacecraft hosted a service module, which conducted experiments for the US Naval Research Laboratory, the US Air Force Academy and others, the company said.

With the successful completion of its sixth mission the reusable spaceplane has now flown over 1.3 billion miles and spent a total of 3,774 days in space where it conducts experiments for government and industry partners with the ability to return them to Earth for evaluation. **ANI**

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

US Democrats hold onto Senate after Nevada win

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's Democratic Party will keep control of the Senate, after picking up a seat in Nevada late Saturday.

Democratic candidate Catherine Cortez Masto defeated Republican Adam Laxalt in the state's midterm election Senate race. Laxalt was endorsed by former Republican President Donald Trump.

The two parties had been neck-and-neck after Democratic incumbent Mark Kelly kept his Senate seat in Arizona.



in Georgia, Harris' tie-breaking vote will ensure that Democrats maintain effective control over the upper chamber.

With control of the Senate secured, Biden's administration will have a smoother process making Cabinet and judicial appointments, including potential openings on the Supreme Court.

Democrats will also maintain control of Senate committees and be able to reject legislation passed by the House if Republican's win the 218 votes to have a

majority in that chamber.

The ballot count for the House is still underway in several states. Republicans are currently in the lead with 211 seats to the Democrats' 204.

President Biden, currently on a tour of Asia, told reporters Sunday he was "incredibly pleased" by the midterm election results, adding Democrats are now focusing on winning the Georgia runoff. He said the Democrats performance was a "reflection of the quality of our candidates." **AP**

Democrats in control of Senate

The victory means Democrats hold 50 seats in the Senate, with Vice President Kamala Harris serving as a tie-breaking vote. Republicans currently control 49 seats, with one more seat up for grabs during the Georgia runoff election scheduled on December 6.

Even if Republicans manage to win an additional Senate seat

جامعة التقنية والعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES
LOCAL ONLINE TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tender shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
37/2022	Purchase and supply of computers to the University of Technology and Applied Sciences	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent, First, Second, Third and Forth Grades	RO 149.700 (One hundred forty nine Omani Riyals and seven hundred Baizas only)	24/11/2022 at 14:30 pm	03/12/2022 at 10:00 am

Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Monday 14/11/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link:
<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omaniisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

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info@salalahport.com, www.salalahport.com

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR NINE MONTH ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have the pleasure in presenting the unaudited consolidated financial results of your company for the period ended 30th Sept 2022 (YTD Sept'22).

Operational Overview

The CT has handled 3,365 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) during YTD Sept'22, as against 3,342 million TEUs against the same period last year a marginal increase of 1%. This has been possible due to strong support from one of our major customers despite very challenging business environment.

On productivity, the CT has registered consistent improvements in Port Stay performance during YTD Sept 2022. This showcases the organization's success in focusing on continuous improvements.

The GCT has handled 13,373 million tons of general cargo during YTD Sept 2022 as compared to 12,722 million tones same period last year an increase of 5%. The major commodities handled are limestone, gypsum, methanol, and cement, which are exported from Salalah to nearby markets, and continue to drive the general cargo business.

GCT Volumes in '000 MTs - Commodity Mix.

Financial Overview

Consolidated net profit for YTD Sept'22 was recorded at RO 2,153 million, as compared to the corresponding period last year at profit of RO 3,988 Million. Consolidated EBITDA was recorded at RO 9,914 million YTD Sept'22, as compared to RO 12,482 million during same period last year.

Total Revenue from Operations increased with 7% compared to same period last year mainly due to driven by higher GCT volumes, tariff increase in CT and scrap sales (in other income)..

Compared to the same period last year the operational expenses for the first 9 months of 2022 increased by 14%. This is mainly due to higher fuel cost and staff cost..

Employee Development

Port of Salalah is steadfast in developing and enhancing employees' productivity as people are the primary asset of the company. Various safety, technical, management and administration trainings are imparted to the staff.

Safety continues to be maintained as a top priority to ensure that employees continue to perform and deliver their tasks safely.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Port of Salalah strongly believes in a CSR program that is aligned with the pillars of sustainability and volunteerism and it is fundamental to our business. During YTD Sept 2022 the company is constantly committed to local initiatives with a significant focus on education, Community development, environment, safety, and health.

Future Outlook

EIU Global outlook forecasts an economic downturn in the coming months and slower growth in 2023 fueled by inflation and slow demand and higher oil prices. However, in the containerized segment in Oman, while the transshipment volume, which constitutes the major segment, is expected to remain negatively impacted by the schedule reliability for the rest of the year, the export and import volume is forecasted to show a growth driven by higher containerized imports resulting from the lower freight rates and the management's initiatives focused on Yemen volume through Salalah.

S&P Global Market Intelligence forecasts indicate Dry bulk shipping may continue to face significant headwinds in the fourth quarter of 2022 due to geopolitical uncertainties and a weak global economic outlook. Consequently, the dry bulk exporters in Oman, especially the Gypsum and Limestone miners face higher cost pressure on raw materials due to the Russia Ukraine war while the demand from key markets remain strong. While this may impact their ability to export volume as planned, we do not forecast any significant negative impact rest of the year.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Shareholders of the company, we record the sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, for his strategic vision, leadership, and his continued support, without which it would not have been possible to establish and maintain this world-class port.

We also thank our customers, investors, and partners at the Salalah Hub and Ministry of Transport and Communications, and members of the Government bodies we work together with.

We place on record our appreciation for the contributions of all our employees, who continue to perform with high distinction.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Braik Musallam Al Amri
Chairman, Board of Directors,
Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG
November 10,2022

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request.

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Parent Company		Consolidated	
Sep-2021 US \$ '000	Sep-2022 US \$ '000	Sep-2021 US \$ '000	Sep-2022 US \$ '000
136,801	149,238	137,024	149,436
25,826	21,986	25,906	22,054
265	230	265	230
546	546	-	-
163,438	172,000	163,195	171,720
7,118	7,937	7,118	7,937
4,605	5,120	4,605	5,120
6,012	9,233	6,012	9,233
4,329	6,373	4,329	6,888
32,500	36,201	32,500	36,201
97,338	58,252	97,338	58,252
151,902	123,116	151,902	123,431
315,340	295,116	315,097	295,151
46,758	46,758	46,758	46,758
7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666
15,584	15,584	15,584	15,665
117,371	120,039	117,888	120,443
187,379	190,047	187,896	190,532
24,525	21,103	24,612	21,179
9,537	10,204	9,537	10,204
12,013	10,059	12,002	10,047
46,075	41,366	46,151	41,430
4,716	4,950	4,716	4,950
67,685	48,619	66,850	48,103
7,492	8,960	7,492	8,960
1,993	1,174	1,992	1,178
81,886	63,703	81,050	63,189
127,961	105,069	127,201	104,619
315,340	295,116	315,097	295,151
1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR NINE MONTH ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Parent Company		Consolidated	
Sep-2021 US \$ '000	Sep-2022 US \$ '000	Sep-2021 US \$ '000	Sep-2022 US \$ '000
128,576	137,479	128,615	137,488
(85,158)	(95,507)	(85,158)	(95,507)
(13,070)	(16,653)	(13,995)	(16,674)
(19,091)	(21,412)	(19,044)	(21,432)
190	174	190	174
188	1,985	188	1,985
11,635	6,066	11,636	6,032
2,025	2,170	2,025	2,170
(1,410)	(1,255)	(1,414)	(1,258)
12,250	6,981	12,247	6,944
(1,877)	(1,348)	(1,877)	(1,348)
10,373	5,633	10,370	5,596
-	-	-	-
10,373	5,633	10,370	5,596
10,373	5,633	10,370	5,596
-	-	-	-
10,373	5,633	10,370	5,596
-	-	-	-
10,373	5,633	10,370	5,596
0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03

Parent Company		Consolidated	
Sep-2022 RO '000	Sep-2021 RO '000	Sep-2022 RO '000	Sep-2021 RO '000
52,877	49,454	52,880	49,468
(36,734)	(32,756)	(36,734)	(32,756)
(6,406)	(5,026)	(6,414)	(5,036)
(8,234)	(7,343)	(8,241)	(7,346)
67	73	67	73
763	72	763	72
2,333	4,474	2,321	4,475
834	779	834	779
(483)	(543)	(484)	(544)
2,684	4,710	2,671	4,710
(518)	(722)	(518)	(722)
2,166	3,988	2,153	3,988
-	-	-	-
2,166	3,988	2,153	3,988
2,166	3,988	2,153	3,988
-	-	-	-
2,166	3,988	2,153	3,988
0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02





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T20 CRICKET

WORLD CUP 2022

CURRAN, STOKES POWER ENGLAND TO THEIR 2ND T20 WORLD CUP TITLE



England delivered a fantastic performance with the ball, reducing Pakistan to 137/8

MELBOURNE: Top performances from Sam Curran and Ben Stokes powered England to their second ICC T20 World Cup title after 2010, as they defeated Pakistan by five wickets in a gripping low-scoring final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday.

England delivered a fantastic performance with the ball, reducing Pakistan to 137/8. Sam Curran (3/12) led the English batting attack. Chasing 138, England was reduced to 45/3 before powerplay, but Stokes (52*) delivered in a big match once again to take his side to a victory.

Chasing 138, England lost opener Alex Hales in the first over itself for just one run after Shaheen Afridi sent a delivery crashing

through his gates. England was 7/1 in one over.

Phil Salt joined skipper Jos Buttler. The duo attacked young pacer Naseem Shah, smashing him for three fours, with the captain hitting two.

Just when it seemed that the duo was building a partnership, Haris Rauf intervened to send back Salt for just 10 off nine balls. England was 32/2 in 3.3 overs.

All-rounder Ben Stokes came to bat next. Rauf got his second wicket of the match as he dismissed the skipper Buttler for 26 off 17 balls. England was 45/3 in 5.3 overs.

At the end of the powerplay in six overs, England was 49/3, with Harry Brook (4*) joining Stokes (1*). The duo helped England



reach halfway through their innings without any damage.

At the end of 10 overs, England was at 77/3, with Brook (14*) and Stokes (17*).

Stokes-Brook were bringing England back into the game, one run at a time. But their stand was cut short at 39 runs by spinner Shadab Khan, who dismissed Brook for 20 off 23 balls. Shaheen took a brilliant catch at long-off. England was 84/4 in 12.3 overs.

Moeen Ali joined Stokes to carry on with the chase. At the end of 15 overs, England was 97/4, with

Stokes (28*) and Ali (3*).

England touched the 100-run mark in 15.4 overs. England needed 38 in 26 balls. Stokes relieved some pressure by smashing a four over covers and a six over long-off to bring down the equation to 28 needed in 24 balls.

Moeen smashed pacer Mohammad Wasim for two boundaries in the first two balls of the next over, bringing down the deficit to 20 runs in 22 balls. He also hit a boundary on the final ball, leaving England to chase 12 runs in the final three overs.

England needed 6 in 10 balls and five of their batters were back in the hut for 132.

Stokes brought the winning runs, England finished the innings at 138/5 in 19 overs, with Stokes unbeaten at 52* off 49 balls and Liam Livingstone at 1*.

Rauf (2/23) was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan. Shaheen, Wasim and Shadab picked one each.

Earlier, Sam Curran, Chris Jordan and Adil Rashid delivered stunning spells to restrict Pakistan to 137/8 in the final of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup at the

iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday.

Sam Curran delivered stunning spell and bagged three while Chris Jordan and Adil Rashid took two wickets each respectively. Shan Masood scored the highest runs for Pakistan with 38 while skipper Babar Azam scored 32.

Put to bat first, openers Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan opened Pakistan's tally in the first inning by bagging 8 runs in the very first over of all-rounder Ben Stokes.

-ANI

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LOST WAY

What led to Pakistan's loss in the T20 World Cup final?

Pakistan lost the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup to England on Sunday and here is what went wrong for them in the contest, and where exactly they ended up losing the match.

Pakistan lost wickets in clusters

Pakistan looked set to post a competitive total when they had 84 runs on the board for the loss of just two wickets, at the end of the 11th over. But everything fell apart as the England bowlers made an excellent comeback to restrict them to a total of 137/8. Pakistan lost six wickets for just 53 runs in the last nine overs of their innings, scoring at an less than six runs per over during that period.

Expensive powerplay

Pakistan claimed three England wickets in the powerplay while defending their total of 137 but they conceded 49 valuable runs at the same time. In low-scoring matches, the defending team not only needs to pick up wickets but also needs to keep



the runs in check. While Babar Azam's men ticked the wickets' column, they couldn't control the flow of runs.

That took a lot of the pressure off the English middle-order, which helped them to bide their time at the crease to take the game deep. Even though Pakistan kept fighting hard, the England batters just kept nudging around and that was enough to see them through.

Shaheen sparks Pakistan but hopes fade with injury

Pakistan needed a fast start not only to defend their modest total but to limit the damage England can do in the Powerplay. England had averaged the most runs (52) in the Powerplay at the T20 World Cup for the loss of only one wicket, and while they scored 49 in the Final, that was at the price of in-form openers Jos Buttler and Alex Hales, as well as Phil Salt. Inspirational pacer Shaheen Afridi kickstarted the attack with a ripping yorker to dismiss Hales in the first over and immediately boost Pakistan's chances.

Afridi's role was going to be equally important in the death overs as well. But he was seen limping off the field with an injury. He did try to come back and bowl but had to pull out after bowling just the first ball of the 16th over. Part-time spinner If-tikhar Ahmed was brought into the attack to complete Afridi's over but he ended up conceding 13 runs off his five deliveries, which allowed England to get the momentum back. -ANI

PATH TO GLORY

How England won the T20 World Cup

A bowling masterclass from Sam Curran and Adil Rashid helped England restrict Pakistan to a modest total, while Ben Stokes steered them down the path to glory at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022.

A look at the biggest turning points that led England to victory.

Sam Curran fires in final

The England speedster has been a revelation at the T20 World Cup and entered the Final equal second for wickets in the Super 12 stage with 10.

Curran might have gone for 0/42 in the semi-final but made an immediate impact on the biggest stage with the dismissal of Mohammad Rizwan.

The 24-year-old later added

the wicket of Pakistan danger-man Shan Masood, as well as Mohammad Nawaz, to finish with a remarkable 3/12 off four overs and the second-best figures in a T20 World Cup Final.

Curran's match-defining spell earned him the Player of the Final award, while his outstanding form throughout secured the Player of the Tournament honours.

England rein in Pakistan

Pakistan were steady through the first three overs of the Powerplay to score 16 runs until Rizwan took a knee to scoop a Chris Woakes delivery for six over the legside.

But just as the star keeper-batter looked set to go through the gears he played an angled ball from Curran onto his stumps.

Babar Azam kept the scoreboard ticking over but Pakistan would have wanted more than 39/1 at the end of their opening six overs.

Well-timed wickets slow Pakistan momentum

With Babar Azam anchoring the innings, Shan Masood could confidently attack leg-spinner Liam Livingstone with a powerful straight drive for four then a six over much the same spot from the next ball. But England were able to strike each time Pakistan threatened, so when Adil Rashid got one to turn hard into Babar and catch a leading edge back to the bowler, Masood was forced to play a more cautious role rather than maintain his momentum. -ANI



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,471.87 points, up by 0.98 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.18 per cent at 461.50 points.

CALCINED PETROLEUM COKE

Sanvira carbon plant inaugurated at Sohar Free Zone

SOHAR: The Sanvira carbon plant was inaugurated on Sunday at Sohar Free Zone. The plant has a production capacity of 600,000 tonnes annually of calcined petroleum coke and 24 megawatts of electricity annually through produced steam.

The plant is an Omani-Indian partnership, represented by Oman National Investments Develop-

ment Company "Tanmia", United Business company and India's Sanvira Industries.

First of its kind plant

The plant is the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman that transforms petroleum coke into a product of high industrial value, which is used in aluminum industries and several other mining indus-

tries. The inauguration ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals.

Opportunities for Omani youth

The project will provide 200 employment opportunities for Omani youth.

Omanisation in the plant is planned to be increased to 50 per

cent during the next five years.

The plant is an addition to the petrochemicals and aluminum sectors in Oman by attracting advance technologies and creating employment opportunities.

The demand for calcined petroleum coke in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) stands at 1.5 million tonnes annually.

- ONA



NCSI SECOND QUARTER DATA

Oman's GDP at current prices rises by 30% to top OMR20bn

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices grew by 30.4 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2022 to hit OMR20.4 billion compared to OMR15.6 billion during the corresponding period in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Statistics indicated that this rise is attributed to the surge in value-added hydrocarbon activities by 75.3 per cent and non-oil activities by 13.4 per cent.

Breaking down the figure, value-added oil activities went up by OMR3.4 billion to stand at OMR7.8 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2022 compared to OMR4.5 billion by the end of the corresponding period in 2021. This is attributed to the growth of value-added crude oil by 82 per cent to reach OMR6.8 billion compared to OMR3.8 billion by the end of the same quarter in 2021. Moreover, value-added natural gas surged by 39.8 per cent.

Value-added non-oil activities



increased by 13.4 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2022 to stand at OMR13.3 billion. This is the result of growth in value-added industrial activities by 25 per cent, agriculture, forestry and fishing by 9.2 per cent and services by 8.8 per cent.

Meanwhile, the rise in value-added industrial activities is attributed to the surge of converting industries by 67 per cent, electricity and water coverage and sewage activities by 4.1 per cent and mining and utilising quarries by 28.4 per cent.

The surplus in the trade bal-

ance at the end of the second quarter of 2022 rose by OMR3.1 billion to reach OMR4.7 billion. This is attributed to the increase in the value of merchandise exports by 61 per cent to reach OMR12.3 billion compared to OMR7.7 billion during the corresponding period in 2021.

The value of merchandise imports went up by 26.8 per cent to reach OMR7.6 billion compared to OMR6 billion at the end of the corresponding period in 2021. Meanwhile, the value of re-exporting declined by 18.3 per cent to stand at OMR600 million.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AT DUQM

Fish oil refining facility opens

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's first fish oil refining unit was inaugurated on November 9 by Eng. Ahmed Akaak Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) at the zone designated for fish and food industries in Sezad.

Gold Fin International company which specialises in the production of fish meal and fish oil extract opened the first unit for fish oil refining that is suitable for human consumption. The unit has the processing capacity of 10 tonnes per day. The plant can extract the fatty acids (Omega-3) found in fish which is suitable for human consumption.

Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, CEO in charge of the Sezad, said, "We are pleased today to inaugurate the fish oil refining unit, which represents an added value to the fish and food industries in the region, and which uses the latest technologies in refining fish oil and which produces oils for human use."

Muhammad Basheer, Chairman and the owner of the plant, said, "We are proud today to open this unit in our plant within a short period, which is constantly growing in Sezad."

"The plant is considered, after the inauguration of its new unit, as the first plant in Oman to export such high-quality human

Consumption Fish Oil products from Duqm to the world. We export our products to meet the needs and requirements of the International Market. Our international markets need such high-quality products for human consumption," he further said.

Basheer added that the cost for establishing the fish plant, which was inaugurated in 2018, in the zone designated for fish and food industries.

The plant crushes fish and transfer it to a dry powder that is used as animals feed and aquaculture industry, pet food industry at 25 per cent, and 10-12 per cent as fish oil, and the remaining percentage is in the form of liquid.

CERTIFICATE COURSE

CMA concludes its programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) concluded the international advanced certificate programme on combating money laundering for compliance officers of the regulated companies in the capital market and insurance sectors.

The programme was organised via Zoom teleconferencing to enhance the anti-money laundering and combating financing terrorism efforts in collaboration with the International Compliance Association (ICA).

The programme comprised five workshops and the participants were tested at the end of the programme to obtain the professional certification and membership in the ICA for one year qualifying the members to benefit from the literature, training courses and services offered by the ICA.

It is worth to note that the programme is part of the anti-money laundering and combating financing terrorism programme and workshops executed by the CMA.

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MSX index ends higher

SMN Power Holding, up 7.90 per cent, was the top gainer while, United Finance, down 6.06 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,471.87 points, up by 0.98 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.18 per cent at 461.50 points.

SMN Power Holding, up 7.90 per cent, was the top gainer while, United Finance, down 6.06 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of United Finance were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 545 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR1.94 million, with more than 12.15 million shares changing hands. Out of 40 traded securities, 16 advanced, 12 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR361,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR321,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR41,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,150.18 points, up 0.77 per cent. Prices of Bank Muscat, Sohar International Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment, Global Financial Investments, and OMINVEST were up by 4.21 per cent, 4.04 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 1.96

per cent, and 1.16 per cent respectively. Prices of United Finance, National Finance, Al Anwar Investment, National Bank Oman, and Bank Nizwa were down by 6.00 per cent, 2.54 per cent, 1.28 per cent, 1.17 per cent, and 1.05 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,085.95 points, up 0.97 per cent. Prices of Oman Refreshment, Oman Cement, Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 6.00 per cent, 2.37 per cent, 2.30 per cent, 1.41 per cent, and 0.48 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Fisheries and Oman Cables Industry were down by 1.67 per cent, 0.99 per cent and 0.63 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.52 per cent before closing at 1,532.76 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Ooredoo, Oman National Engineering and Oman Telecom were up by 7.90 per cent, 1.01 per cent, 0.92 per cent and 0.47 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Maha Marketing, Al Suwadi Power, Muscat Desalination and Renaissance Services were down by 4.00 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 1.82 per cent and 1.24 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,475.73	4,435.34	4,471.87	4,428.43	43.45	0.98
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,163.99	7,105.35	7,150.18	7,095.59	54.59	0.77
Industry Index	6,088.47	6,024.78	6,085.95	6,027.26	58.69	0.97
Services Index	1,545.57	1,530.84	1,532.76	1,540.77	-8.01	-0.52
MSX Shariah Index	461.80	456.93	461.50	462.33	-0.83	-0.18
MSX TR INDEX	5,644.94	5,593.99	5,640.07	5,585.28	54.80	0.98
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,496.32	7,434.95	7,481.87	7,424.74	57.13	0.77
SERVICES TR IDX	1,615.78	1,600.38	1,602.39	1,610.76	-8.38	-0.52
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,318.80	6,252.71	6,316.19	6,255.28	60.91	0.97

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,155,438	1,940,239	545	23,041,755,671	16	12	13	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFR	PRN VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,531,778	450,599	147	0.280	0.288	0.280	0.287	0.285	0.012	4.211	0.297	0.296	0.297	0.1002,228,399,927
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	236,000	23,705	9	0.100	0.103	0.100	0.103	0.099	0.004	4.940	0.103	0.099	0.106	0.1004,727,776,415
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	88,227	26,520	17	0.298	0.302	0.298	0.302	0.295	0.007	2.373	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.1009,923,558
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	24,463	1,268	2	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.054	0.10010,400,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	420,100	146,991	10	0.346	0.352	0.346	0.350	0.346	0.004	1.156	0.350	0.350	0.352	0.100233,927,899
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	39,865	15,895	8	0.396	0.400	0.396	0.400	0.396	0.004	1.010	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100260,377,692
OM0000001159	OMAN NAT. ENG.	52,700	5,757	8	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.917	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.10015,400,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,179,944	150,142	26	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.136	0.140	0.100283,203,758
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	7,325	1,524	3	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.207	0.001	0.483	0.208	0.200	0.208	0.10025,978,776
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	123,854	105,281	20	0.848	0.856	0.844	0.848	0.844	0.004	0.474	0.848	0.844	0.856	0.100636,000,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	100,000	13,000	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.126	0.130	0.10030,810,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,400	792	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.304	0.330	0.10072,600,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	11,500	2,392	3	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.000	0.000	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.10012,730,489
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR.	22,000	34,197	10	1.590	1.590	1.500	1.590	1.600	-0.010	-0.625	1.590	1.590	1.590	0.100142,623,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	698,800	176,936	16	0.256	0.256	0.250	0.253	0.256	-0.003	-1.172	0.253	0.251	0.253	0.100411,384,428
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	150,815	72,895	11	0.486	0.486	0.480	0.480	0.486	-0.006	-1.235	0.480	0.438	0.480	0.100113,476,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM	50,000	43,200	1	0.864	0.864	0.864	0.864	0.900	-0.036	-4.000	0.864	0.860	0.900	0.10059,616,000
Total		4,739,771	1,279,896	294											

Parallel Market

OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	1,103,875	45,212	43	0.041	0.041	0.040	0.041	0.038	0.003	7.895	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.1008,185,060
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,307	2,078	1	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.500	0.090	6.000	1.590	1.615	1.590	0.10079,500,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	511	31	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.057	0.003	5.263	0.060	0.052	0.062	0.10028,271,183
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	300	23	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.073	0.002	2.740	0.075	0.073	0.079	0.1009,140,625
OM0000003531	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,273,209	225,423	23	0.177	0.179	0.176	0.178	0.174	0.004	2.299	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.10038,131,587
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	18,369	2,638	4	0.145	0.145	0.142	0.144	0.142	0.002	1.408	0.142	0.142	0.144	0.10028,800,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	52,720	4,473	11	0.081	0.086	0.081	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.1002,853,573
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INT	141,132	16,936	4	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.10049,109,558
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	23,000	1,265	5	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.10016,893,048
OM0000002028	GULF INT CHEMI	2,200	180	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.1001,722,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	200,000	29,200	4	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.140	0.146	0.100437,467,210
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	147	13	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.1007,407,650
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	123,921	10,434	10	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.093	0.10014,875,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	21,684	2,580	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.119	0.125	0.100198,659,790
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	100,100	31,033	3	0.330	0.330	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.310	0.330	0.10021,820,900
OM0000001598	OMAN FISHERIES	2,140	214	2	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.999	0.102	0.100	0.100	0.10018,397,840
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	15,555	1,468	2	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100210,273,585
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	116,052	8,936	5	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.076	0.078	0.10015,400,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	150,384	34,921	11	0.232	0.238	0.232	0.236	0.240	-0.004	-1.667	0.238	0.238	0.240	0.1009,818,844
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,851	308	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.108	0.121	0.10016,799,443
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	8,660	966	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.118	-0.003	-2.542	0.115	0.112	0.115	0.10062,241,502
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	495,000	17,702	22	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.039	0.039	-0.001	-2.778	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.10025,034,222
OM0000002274	UNITED FINANCE	3,592,550	224,279	92	0.065	0.065	0.062	0.062	0.066	-0.004	-6.061	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.10021,946,953
Total		7,415,667	660,343	251											

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Oman Banks Association focuses on role played by banks in economic development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Banks Association participated in introducing this occasion and arranging awareness of the financial and banking activities and the role played by banks in the field of economic development through many initiatives held by the association as part of the financial inclusion campaign.

Role of Omani women

As the Oman Banks Association sought this year by focusing on an important segment in society, based on the recommendation of the Central Bank of Oman, and the importance of the role of Omani women in building civilized societies and their contribution to sustainable development, the association is planning on arrang-



ing several meetings with Omani women's associations throughout the Sultanate.

The second meeting for this year was arranged with the heads of the Omani women's associations in Nizwa, in the presence of several other associations around Nizwa, including Bahla Association, Al Hamra Association, Manah Association, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Association, Adam Asso-

ciation, Samail Association, Izki Association, and Bidbid Association, which was held on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at the Omani Women's Association building in Nizwa.

* The meeting agenda included the following items:

* A welcome speech by Oman Banks Association

* A brief about the financial inclusion campaign.

* Presentation on Financial Management and Savings

* Discuss challenges/suggestions.

Oman Banks Association is a non-profit professional association created to represent the banking sector, promote Omani banking activities, coordinate with regulators on matters of policy and strategy, and support banking excellence in Oman.

ONE-STOP SOLUTION

Zubair Corporation launches SalisPay

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation has announced the launch of SalisPay – an innovative new age payment solution provider specialising in multi-channel payment processing and acquiring. Salis Payment Solutions LLC, a joint venture between CredoPay, an India-based fintech technology platform, and OCS Infotech, a group company of The Zubair Corporation.

The launch took place at a glittering ceremony at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, Muscat, on 8th November 2022

In attendance at the event were Al Zubair bin Mohammad Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation, Niels Bormans, Group CEO of The Zubair Corporation, Dore Swamy CEO of CredoPay and Anu Cherian Philip COO of SalisPay Solutions, together with several VIP clients from Banks and Financial Institutions and several members of the executive management of The Zubair Corporation group companies. SalisPay is a one-stop solution for unified acquiring, multi-channel payment processing and connected banking solutions. It offers clients a secure, robust, certified, and scalable solution in various business engagement models – SAAS/PAAS/Managed Services to suit their business and commercial needs

Commenting on the launch of SalisPay, Niels Bormans said, "Launching SalisPay is part of our endeavour to pave the way for Oman's digital payment fu-



ture From smart POS soft POS payment gateways and connected banking systems to a comprehensive range of end-to-end merchant services and PAAS solutions, this innovative fintech platform is set to revolutionise how we make and receive payments in Oman in the near future."

The SalisPay platform has been designed from the ground up for ease of use and thus incorporates a comprehensive Merchant Management System. It provides customers with a simplified onboard-ing process, flexible payment acceptance channels, improved business performance and access to a wide range of end-to-end merchant services, ensuring a superior experience.

Complementing these services is a wide-ranging portfolio of POS devices already certified on the platform. These include

state-of-the-art Android-based Smart POS systems that can come pre-loaded with multiple merchant Apps as required to offer the complete set of services available. Alternatively, the platform provides the option of collecting payments via a smartphone using the SalisPay Soft POS app. This powerful Soft POS system can manage the entire merchant and transaction life cycle and is also Multi-Channel, Multi-Vendor capable.

"With contactless and mobile payments on the rise, and in-person retail sales picking up momentum again, many businesses in Oman are looking to take advantage. It is our goal at SalisPay to be their trusted partner in this growth journey, supporting their needs for a seamless, digital payment processing and collection experience," said COO of Salis-

Pay Anu Cherian Philip. "SalisPay's roots are firmly embedded within CredoPay, a proven and established payment platform. Through our integration, we can efficiently and quickly manage client payments, streamline and expand their digital capabilities, and ensure customer and business security."

Security and fraud risk management mitigation has been paramount for the platform. This is reflected in the accreditation the platform has received from leading international certification agencies, including 'VISA Certified', 'Master Card Certified', 'ISO 9001:2015' and more. Rounding out the offering will be a 24/7 x 365-day support centre staffed by a highly trained customer service team with local language support said CTO of SalisPay Captain Raja Sekhar (Retd).



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The growing body of evidence suggesting highly processed and refined foods are the main cause of the rising obesity rates in the Western world is supported by a 12-month study of the eating habits of 9,341 Australians.

The Charles Perkins Centre (CPC) at the University of Sydney recently published a new study that supports the “Protein Leverage Hypothesis” and was based on a nationwide nutrition and physical activity survey done by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The Protein Leverage Hypothesis, first proposed in 2005 by professors Raubenheimer and Stephen Simpson, contends that humans overeat fats and carbs due to their bodies’ great demand for protein, which it actively prefers above all other nutrients. People are compelled to consume more energy-dense meals until they meet their protein needs because the majority of current diets consist of highly processed and refined foods, which are poor in protein.

4 Effect seen in other studies

Professor Raubenheimer and colleagues have seen this effect before in other studies for more than a decade, including randomised control trials.

“The problem with randomised controlled trials is that it treats diet as a disease when it’s not,” said Dr Grech. “Laboratory studies may not be indicative of what people are actually eating and doing at a population level. So this study is important as it builds on work, showing that people do seek out protein. And it confirms that, at a population level, as the proportion of energy from protein increases in the diet, people eat fewer fats and carbohydrates.”

While there are many factors that can cause excessive weight gain, such as eating habits, physical activity levels, and sleep schedules, scientists from the University of Sydney contend that the body’s strong need for protein and the absence of highly processed and refined foods are major contributors to energy overconsumption and obesity in the West.

1 Processed foods lack protein and drive craving

“As people consume more junk foods or highly processed and refined foods, they dilute their dietary protein and increase their risk of being overweight and obese, which we know increases the risk of chronic disease,” said lead author Dr Amanda Grech, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the CPC and the university’s School of Life and Environmental Sciences.

“It’s increasingly clear that our bodies eat to satisfy a protein target,” added Professor David Raubenheimer, the Leonard Ullmann Chair in Nutritional Ecology at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences. “But the problem is that the food in Western diets has increasingly less protein. So, you have to consume more of it to reach your protein target, which effectively elevates your daily energy intake.

“Humans, like many other species, have a stronger appetite for protein than for the main energy-providing nutrients of fats and carbohydrates. That means that if the protein in our diet is diluted with fats and carbohydrates, we will eat more energy to get the protein that our bodies crave.”

2 Protein essential to good health

Every cell in the body contains proteins, which are also utilised to create new cells or repair damaged ones. It is thought that over a million different types of proteins are required for the human body to operate. Meats, milk, seafood, eggs, soy, legumes, beans, and some grains like quinoa and wheat germ are all sources of protein.

Researchers from the University of Sydney examined data from the National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey, a cross-sectional study of eating habits and physical activity that included 9,341 people with an average age of 46.3 years and was conducted from May 2011 to June 2012. They discovered that the average daily energy consumption for the population was 8,671 kilojoules (kJ), with just 18.4% of that coming from protein, compared to 43.5 per cent from carbohydrates, 30.9 per cent from fat, and only 2.2 per cent from fibre and 4.3 per cent from alcohol. The pattern they observed matched that predicted by the Protein Leverage Hypothesis after they plotted energy intake versus time of consumption. While individuals who received the appropriate quantity of protein did not do so and, in fact, decreased their food intake throughout the day, those who received the necessary amount of protein did not raise their overall food intake in future meals.

3 Overeating has been linked to “protein hunger”

By the third meal of the day, they discovered a statistically significant difference between the groups: those who had consumed more protein at breakfast had consumed much less total energy throughout the day. Those who began the day by consuming low-protein foods then increased their intake, suggesting they were trying to make up for it by consuming more total energy. This is true even though both groups’ first meal was the smallest, including the least quantity of food and energy, and their last meal was the largest.

Throughout the day, participants consumed less of the recommended five food groups--grains, vegetables/legumes, fruit, dairy, and meats--and more discretionary items--energy-dense meals high in saturated fats, sweets, salt, or alcohol. Their percentage of protein energy decreased even as their intake of discretionary foods increased, resulting in an overall inferior diet at each mealtime. This phenomenon is known as “protein dilution.”

5 Explanation for Obesity

“The results support an integrated ecological and mechanistic explanation for obesity, in which low-protein, highly processed foods lead to higher energy intake in response to a nutrient imbalance driven by a dominant appetite for protein,” said Professor Raubenheimer. “It supports a central role for the protein in the obesity epidemic, with significant implications for global health.”

Seeking to understand how protein drives human nutrition has also sought taken Professor Raubenheimer to study the diets of people in some of the most remote places, from the Congo to the Himalayas. “The protein mechanism in appetite is a revolutionary insight,” he said. “Obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease - they’re all driven by diet, and we have to use what we’re learning to bring them under control.” -ANI



SPORTS



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Newcastle continue their winning streak against Chelsea

Having slipped to fourth following Tottenham's win over Leeds earlier in the day, Joe Willock's delightful goal moved the Magpies back to third



NEWCASTLE: Newcastle boss Eddie Howe said he would be "foolish not to be excited" by the second half of the season after a statement win over Chelsea which keeps his side third in the English Premier League (EPL). Having slipped to fourth follow-

ing Tottenham's win over Leeds earlier in the day, Joe Willock's delightful goal moved the Magpies back to third meaning they will be in a Champions League place at Christmas for the first time since 2001. A fifth successive EPL victory, against an admittedly out-of-form Chelsea, was achieved with England striker Callum Wilson starting on the bench after illness, and with a solidity and fluency that

their opponents could not match. Having worked Graham Potter's side hard in the first half, and after Sean Longstaff wasted two great chances shortly after the break, Willock finally found a breakthrough when he curled in from 18 yards following a surging run by Miguel Almiron. A youthful Chelsea, without Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Raheem Sterling, improved in the second half after the introduction

Christian Pulisic. The American's run led to a Conor Gallagher shot, which was well saved by Nick Pope, but they could not break down a well-drilled Newcastle. After Liverpool's win over Southampton, Chelsea's third consecutive EPL defeat means they have slipped to eighth in the table, eight points behind fourth-placed Tottenham, BBC sports reported. **ONA**

FINAL ROUND IN OMAN



Last round of Oman Golf Trophy in Italy concludes

MILAN: The last round of Oman Golf Trophy was concluded in Italy on Sunday with the participation of 800 players. As many as 14 players were qualified for the final round of the trophy, scheduled to be held at Al Mouj Golf in Muscat in March 2023. The Sultanate of Oman is leveraging golf as an elegant ambassador to highlight the natural beauty of the Sultanate for travel-

lers and to promote its numerous investment opportunities. The supervising committee of the Oman Golf Trophy will set up a comprehensive cultural and tourism programme for the winners and those invited to attend the final round in Oman. The programme will include a 4-day economic event, comprising sessions with businessmen and an introductory investment tour in the Sultanate. **ONA**

FOOTBALL

Overlooked Toney helps Brentford to victory at Manchester City

MANCHESTER: Ivan Toney responded to being overlooked for England's World Cup squad by delivering a match-winning two-goal performance in Brentford's thoroughly deserved English Premier League (EPL) win at Manchester City. Toney missed out on a place in Qatar but demonstrated his vital importance to Brentford with an outstanding all-round display that left the reigning EPL champions



stunned as the Bees took all three points with a 98th-minute winner, BBC sports reported. It was fully merited for Brentford's positive approach as they refused to take a backward step from the first whistle, even after Manchester City's Phil Foden restored equality with a crisp left-foot half-volley seconds before the interval. City, inevitably, turned up the tempo after the break, Ilkay Gundogan missing a glorious chance

to put them ahead, but Brentford were a constant threat on the break with Ederson twice having to save from the ever-dangerous Toney. And it was a fitting conclusion to that added period of 10 minutes, mainly for a head injury to Aymeric Laporte, when Brentford caught City on the break for Toney to sweep home Josh Dasilva's cross - the striker almost completing a hat-trick seconds later only

for Kevin de Bruyne to clear off the line. Brentford demonstrated that bravery can be rewarded at Manchester City, not even needing any real slices of good fortune to deliver another outstanding victory under manager Thomas Frank. Leicester City's risk-averse approach at home to the champions recently drew a negative response, their stand-offish manner made to look even more unwise when they lost 1-0. **ONA**



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Powertech thump Majees, Renaissance defeat IAS

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Zawawi Powertech inch past Majees CT claiming their 2nd victory by just 2 wickets and Renaissance dominated IAS to register the win by 7 wickets in the Premier Division of the Oman Cricket League Season 2022-23 powered by Muscat Pharmacy. In the match played on Friday, Powertech won the toss and put Majees to bat first. Starting confidently with the ball, Powertech claimed 3 wickets to rub off the top order of Majees in the powerplay. Majees' Afzal Khan and Sahil Shaik showed some resilience in return but was not enough to get Majees at a good score. Majees were bundled out for 161 in 44.2 overs. Nishad KS was the pick of the armers for Powertech claiming 3 wickets. Onto chase, Powertech started positive in the powerplay and showed great intent in chasing down the target but Majees' Jan Shafiq and Ubaidullah restricted them from a comfortable win by claiming 3 wickets each. Powertech, however, chased the target down in 35.1 overs losing 8 of their batters. Mohammed Raheem was the pick of the batters for Powertech scoring 41 off 41. Brief Scores: Majees CT



161/10 in 44.2 overs (Afzal Khan 46(86) 1x4,1x6 ; Nishad KS 29/3) lost to Zawawi Powertech 162/8 in 35.1 overs (Mohd Raheem 41(41) 7x4 ; Ubaidullah 25/3) by 2 wickets. In the match played on Saturday, Renaissance won the toss and elected to bowl. Rightly proving their decision, Renaissance got 3 wickets of IAS batsmen on single digits in the powerplay. Rao Waqar and Mehdi Hasan stitched a 42 run stand holding the wickets to fall back-to-back. Brilliant

Bowling from Asif Khan helped Renaissance tumble down IAS' wickets with IAS just scoring 127 all out in 33 overs. The Renaissance batsmen went all out against the IAS bowling attack with Asif Khan dominating the striking by scoring 50 of just 48 balls with 6 fours and 1 six. Brief Scores : IAS 127/10 in 33 overs (Mehdi Hasan 41(64) 2x4,1x6 ; Asif Khan 19/4) lost to Renaissance 129/3 in 30.5 overs (Asif Khan 50(48) 6x4,1x6 ; Mehdi Hasan 18/1) by 7 wickets.

VICTORY

Napoli claim 11th straight Italian League victory

ROME: The Italian Serie A leaders Napoli beat Udinese to stretch their winning league run to 11 matches in their final game before the World Cup break. Strikes from Victor Osimhen and Piotr Zielinski gave the hosts a two-goal half-time cushion. Eljif Elmas made it 3-0, before Ilija Nestorovski and Lazar Samardzic reduced the arrears late on. Luciano Spalletti's side are now 11 points clear of second-



placed Lazio, with AC Milan in third, BBC sports reported. Napoli are just the second team in Serie A history - after Juventus - to win at least 13 of their opening 15 league games of a campaign. They have won the Serie A title twice before, in 1986-87 and 1989-90, both during Diego Maradona's time at the club. Title rivals Lazio travel to fourth-placed Juventus later today, while AC Milan host Fiorentina on the same day. **ONA**



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ROUND-UP

FOR THE SECOND TIME

Omantel to host the Middle East GCCM Telecom Conference in Muscat

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication services in the Sultanate of Oman, is set to host the 8th annual Global Carrier Community Meeting (GCCM) in Muscat from November 14 to 15, 2022, to be attended by more than 500 delegates and decision makers from over 300 operators representing 50 countries.

Organised by the Carrier Community, Omantel is set to host the global event for the second time after its successful hosting of the 2019 edition in Muscat. The conference is considered one of the largest telecom gatherings, especially on the wholesale front.

Moreover, the event brings together telecom operators, hyper-

scalars, content and cloud providers and vendors to meet and network. During the event, attendees specialised in the domains of voice, data, messaging, subsea cables, satellite, data centers and other related sectors will enjoy full access to all meeting facilities, executive panels and knowledge sharing sessions, leisure activities as well as evening networking receptions.

Yasser Redha Al Lawati, General Manager of Marketing Wholesale at Omantel, said, "As an industry leader and a global wholesale provider, Omantel is delighted to host this gathering of the world's key operators for the second time in Muscat. By supporting this event, our aim is to in-



crease the awareness of Omantel's international business through wholesale among an international audience. We will also utilize this gathering to launch our revamped wholesale website along with a new corporate video."



"Omantel has strong partnerships with major international telecom players and hyperscalars, many of them are already having their regional servers hosted in Oman. The event is a great opportunity to highlight our achieve-

ment on that front, and we also seek to put the spotlight on the challenges and opportunities in the wholesale industry," Al Lawati concluded.

Wida Schmidt, the Co-Founder of the Carrier Community commented "On behalf of the Carrier Community team, valued members and partners globally, I am very much looking forward to this year's renewed potential for delegate members from around the world to return to the Sultanate of Oman with the support and warm welcome of Omantel, our Host Diamond Sponsor for the Middle East 2022 GCCM - Muscat, and the Carrier Community's premier partner in the region. The Sultanate's value as a marketplace, as a

growing digital hub, as well as a knowledge-sharing meeting point cannot be underestimated, and I am proud to present this 8th annual Middle East GCCM alongside our colleagues at Omantel, the region's forerunning telecommunications service provider".

The conference program includes panel discussions on Subsea Cables and Digital Cloud as well as Women in Tech. The executive panels is aimed at addressing the current industry challenges and offering comprehensive solutions for today's rapidly evolving environment.

The programme also includes a Knowledge Sharing Technical Master Class on Subsea Systems, the first of its kind in the region.

Viewpoints highlights the future demand for research institutions

The virtual edition, which was live-streamed via Sohar International's YouTube channel and Zoom platform, saw the active participation of university students, industry leaders, C-suite executives

MUSCAT: Spearheading conversations on industry-relevant topics that positively impact the community, Sohar International recently concluded its 11th virtual edition of Viewpoints.

Conceptualised, and hosted by the Chairman of Sohar International, Mr. Mohamed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi, the latest session welcomed as its guest speaker the celebrated



historian and author, Prof. David Nirenberg. Director and Leon Levy Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, Nirenberg focused on 'What kind of research and research institutions does the future demand?' where he highlighted key aspects of research, the vital role of research institutions, and how its needs and demands are continuously evolving.

The virtual edition, which was live-streamed via Sohar International's YouTube channel and Zoom platform, saw the active participation of university students, industry leaders, C-suite executives and professionals from different sectors of society.

The session was streamed live for the students, faculty, and management of the renowned College of Banking and Financial Studies in Oman.

CBFS audience

The CBFS audience participated with intrigue and curiosity by asking several relevant questions that could help them in their future careers.

Relevant, engaging, and inspiring, the forum, which is designed with a format that stimulates interaction, gave participants the opportunity to enter into meaningful dialogues with the speaker.

Those who missed the live stream can now watch the full

session on the bank's official page in YouTube.

Commenting on the session, Mohamed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi said, "Sohar International's Viewpoints is revered for its distinctive take on boosting interactions with the community through thought-provoking discussions. As an organisation, Sohar International has always been at the forefront of community initiatives that provide an impetus to enhancing knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals while giving them the needed exposure to and familiarising them with the dynamics of international markets."

Mohamed Al Ardhi added saying, "Viewpoints features speak-

ers who have led transformation in their areas at the highest level. The ideas discussed by Prof David Nirenberg were, therefore, enlightening. It went beyond giving a renewed perspective to the participants on the critical role of research - it targeted a more fundamental level and highlighted the need to continuously keep an open mind, stay curious, and be receptive to change. Through initiatives like these, Sohar International will continue to remain persistent in casting a resolute vision for the future of our nation, implementing concrete actions that yield results, and identifying opportunities for our youth to thrive."

Passion for research

A veteran in the field with an inherent passion for research and innovation, Prof. David Nirenberg, in his speech spoke about how the world is experiencing a massive datafication - wherein all aspects of human lives are becoming data, which is transferred to information and then realised as a new form of value.

He touched upon the interesting aspect of utilising Machine Vision and Signal Processing to solve complex industrial tasks efficiently and effectively.

While speaking about the evolving data revolution, Nirenberg

emphasised on machine learning, a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Science that utilises data and algorithms to emulate human learning, gradually improving its accuracy over time; and the increased relevance of data-driven decision-making and interpreting data in today's time.

Viewpoints - Sohar International Chairman's Forum is strongly aligned with the bank's broader goals of invoking curiosity in the minds of the youth, empowering the community through knowledge-sharing platforms, and advocating global best practices. As a bank that prioritises innovation, Sohar International has continuously acknowledged the importance of research and development to keep pace with the needs of the market.

The bank has also embraced various advancements in technology to better cater to the community. In line with the same, Viewpoints, which was initially hosted as a series of physical events, adapted to the evolving demands and took the virtual route, where it continues its success story.

The platform has hosted several international industry experts as guest speakers who have not only shared invaluable insights but have also given participants a fresh outlook on the world.

CAMPAIGN

Vodafone's football fever connects fans across Oman and beyond

MUSCAT: The football season is nearly upon us, and wherever fans are experiencing its thrills, Vodafone in Oman has them covered from now until the end of the year with its exciting 'We Fan Together' campaign.

Paying tribute to a football-loving nation, Vodafone is taking the fan experience digital, connecting sports supporters as football fever takes over the region in this season unlike any other.

Bringing the creative campaign together is a dedicated microsite <https://togetherwecan.digital/wefanttogether/> created to provide access to a wide range of specially curated content for the public to enjoy and download for free. From the campaign's adrenaline-pumped song, also titled 'We Fan Together', to fun football sound-bites, picture-editing features, GIFs and stickers, fans can showcase their love for the game in their own way. Details on packages, plans and upcoming events will also be available on the microsite.

Vodafone is also launching a



'Victor Predictor' game available through the App from 14th November 2022. Registered customers will be able to take part, answering daily questions on the games for a chance to win great-value prizes throughout the football season - the bigger the games, the bigger the prizes.

Staying connected during the tournament will be simple, too. Vodafone customers journeying from Oman can take their home tariff with them, enjoying the benefits in Qatar. Special Visitors Plans are available for those coming to Oman, along with two new International Calling Add-ons,

with international minutes that can be used in 32 countries.

"Vodafone in Oman is thrilled to be taking digital fandom to the next level with 'We Fan Together', bringing the excitement to fever pitch," said Usama Abdullah Al Saifi, Vodafone's Brand Manager. "We are making sure that visiting fans basing themselves in Oman and those from Oman travelling for the matches can enjoy and share their moments wherever they are. With our value-add RED Plans, Visitors Plans, and worry-free subscription services and International Add-ons - Vodafone is connecting everyone this season."

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

National University ranked among the top 3 universities

MUSCAT: The National University of Science and Technology has made three new achievements in higher education and research, whereas the first achievement is that the NU is ranked among the best 101-110 universities at the Arab universities level for 2023 according to the QS World University Rankings and among the top three local (public and private) universities in Oman.

This notwithstanding the highly competitive environment in which universities are ranked and new Arab universities are entered into the Arab Region University Rankings.

While the second achievement is that five faculty members have been listed in the global Stanford University list of the top 2% of the world's most academically cited researchers in the Scopus Worldwide Database 2022.

The academicians are Professor Jafar Sadiq Pasha, Dr. Okedu Kenneth Eloghene, Dr. Shah Alam Khan, Dr. Mohamed Jawaidd Akhtar, and Dr. Baker Shaheen.



notable academic recognition.

These achievements by NU are a result of the hard work exerted by the university's academics, students, and officials in various colleges and disciplines. They are in line with the main objectives set by the National University, which coincide with the pillars and strategies of the Oman Vision 2040. Over the past years, the National University has advanced distinguished academic levels of education and research in many disciplines, including engineering, medicine, health sciences, pharmacy, and marine sciences.

This contributed to the University's achievement of a level of excellence that qualifies it to be among the best universities at the local and Arab levels.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

ISM students excel in CBSE Oman Cluster Badminton 2022

MUSCAT: Indian School Muscat (ISM) students excelled in CBSE Oman Cluster Badminton Tournament 2022 held on 6th November 2022 at the school premises. It was a clean sweep by Indian School Muscat as they won in all categories viz Under 14 Boys & Girls, Under 17 Boys & Girls and Under 19 Boys & Girls.

Vinoba M P, Sr. Principal and

Edn. Advisor, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the Opening Ceremony and declared the tournament open. Principal, Dr Rajeev Kumar Chauhan, Senior Vice Principal-Administration, Vice Principals, Asst. Vice Principals and Heads of the Departments, Coaches from different schools, teachers, parents and stu-

dents witnessed the proceedings of the Opening Ceremony.

175 students from 11 Indian Schools participated in this cluster tournament.

The Chief Guest in his address stressed on the importance of sports in our lives and how it unifies and strengthens the sportsmanship among students and encouraged the students to par-

ticipate in more sporting activities and give their best.

Young shuttlers from various schools delivered scintillating performances through the day. The tournament was held for Under 14, Under 17 & Under 19 years both boys and girls categories.

All players showcased intensified performances aiming to bag the Winner's Trophy.





ROUND-UP



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Bank Muscat receives Best Retail Bank in Oman Award

Bank Muscat was recognised for its customer-centric vision, innovative offerings backed by state-of-the-art technology and commitment to constantly enhance customer experience



ager – Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “We would like to take this opportunity to thank MEED as well as its partners Retail Banker International and the Private Banker for recognising the bank as the Best Retail Bank in Oman. Over the last four decades, Bank Muscat has carved a name for itself for the largest branch and ATM-CDM-FFM network, its cutting-edge omnichannel Mobile and Internet banking, its constant stream of innovative products and services and total commitment to customer-centricity, all of which are unmatched in Oman. Going ahead, the bank will aim to continue its market-leading position in the Sultanate’s financial services sector by further enhancing Customer Experience, Digital Transformation and Public-Private Partnership in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040.”

Bank Muscat, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year has made a name for itself with a large number of firsts in the banking sector over the past 4 decades.

Today, the bank leads the financial services sector in the Sultanate with 174 branches and more than 800 touchpoints including

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs) and Fully Functional Machines (FFM) installed across the country.

It is the first choice for over 2 million customers in Oman and has been playing an important role in enhancing financial inclusion in Oman with different innovative products for its customers.

Bank Muscat’s continuously upgraded omnichannel Internet and mobile banking offer customers a fast and secure banking experience, and today, over 1.3 million retail banking customers use various features like real-time bill payments for utilities in Oman, fund transfers within the bank and in Oman, fund transfers across the world via the SWIFT network amongst a number of other services and benefits.

There has also been a rapid uptake in contactless payment through its various debit, credit and prepaid cards as well as contactless wearables.

The bank is working towards upgrading its phygital network (physical / digital) by replacing more than 150 CDMs and FFMs during the 1st quarter of 2023.

During the year as well, the bank is planning to add more than 50 new ATMs/CDMs/FFMs in various locations across Oman.

The bank has also started rolling out Multi-Function Kiosk, which enables customers to instantly issue and activate new or replaced debit cards around the clock.

Meanwhile, Premier Banking clientele have the advantage of being able to benefit from some of the most exclusive and differentiated services available in the Sultanate through Bank Muscat Private banking, Asalah Priority banking and Al Jawhar Privilege banking. On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, the bank has also recently launched a number of attractive offers for its customers including highly discounted offers on Baituna, Sayyarati and Personal Finance loans.

Bank Muscat consistently wins a number of international and local awards and accolades in recognition of its prominent leadership position in Oman.

In 2022, Bank Muscat was ranked by Forbes Middle East as one of the Top 30 Banks as well as one of the Top 100 Listed Companies in the region.

Crowe Oman’s data protection law workshop to address challenges

MUSCAT: “Instead of serving as a resource that can be freely harvested, countries in every region of the world have begun to treat personal data as an asset owned by individuals and held in trust by firms,” said Jose Chacko, Partner, Technology Services in Crowe.

The Oman data protection law will change the way companies used to handle personal data. Data handling will be one of the greatest challenges in the coming days along with data security. The Oman DP law shall apply to all organisations operating in Oman and to those organisations not based in Oman, but processing and collecting data on Omani residents and citizens, Jose added.

Oman Data Privacy law is in the books. As per the present guidelines, Oman Personal Data Protection Laws will be applicable from February 2023 vide Royal Decree No. 6/22.

The Omani Law is on the similar lines of global privacy laws which specifies strict requirements about how companies manage and protect personal data of individuals while respecting their choice, irrespective of where data is sent, processed or stored. When the law is in action, firms that generate any value from personal data will need to change the way they acquire it, share it, protect it, and profit from it.

As part of their client education series, to highlight the industry’s best practices, Crowe Oman is holding a workshop for the clients on 15th of November at the Oman Sheraton



hotel, Muscat.

The workshop will be guided by Ms. Subhi Rastogi who is considered as the leading expert on data privacy. This workshop will speak on general data protection and security issues based on the upcoming Oman DP law.

52ND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



Ooredoo offers customers 52 GB Social Data plan

MUSCAT: Celebrating Oman’s 52nd National Day with its customers, Ooredoo will be offering 52 GB Social Data to Hala (prepaid), Shahry Endless and Omanuna users from 10 until 18 November 2022.

The limited-time offer is available to existing Ooredoo customers and includes free data use on WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook.

On this special occasion, customers will be able to share greetings and great-looking posts with

their family, friends and their social media circles. Ooredoo wants its digital users to be able to stay connected, which will further foster a sense of community during the national celebrations.

Customers can subscribe to the 52 GB of Social Data offer through the Ooredoo App or by dialing *555*521#, For more information about this and other products and services launched by Ooredoo, download the award-winning app, dial *555#, or head to www.ooredoo.om/ND52.

OPEN DAY EVENT

Novartis and Royal Hospital Oman raise awareness on breast cancer detection

MUSCAT: Novartis, one of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies, joined hands with the National Oncology center, Royal Hospital, Oman to empower women and raise awareness about Breast Cancer in Oman.

National Oncology Centre, Royal Hospital, Oman and Novartis collaborated to educate women about the importance of self-testing and regular cancer screenings in the early identification of breast cancer during an open day event at the hospital. Attendees to this event had the opportunity to meet with doctors to learn if they are at risk of breast cancer.

As part of its mission to improve the health of communities around the world, Novartis strives to be at the forefront of missions that improve public health education, and the partnership with the National Oncology Center is a key factor in this strategy. Working together with healthcare systems, doctors, and patients, the company delivers on this commitment



while ensuring the correct support is provided to communities.

“Breast cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in the world, yet we still see an alarming lack of awareness about the disease and how women should seek treatment. We aim to change this reality through such collaborations to raise awareness and empower women with the knowledge that they need to begin their journey towards health and wellness,” said Mohamed Ezz Eldin, Head, Gulf Countries: Innovative Medicines. “It is important for

us to partner with world-class healthcare providers like the Royal Hospital, Oman to send out a strong message about early detection and subsequent treatment. This is very much in line with our mission to extend and improve people’s lives.”

According to the Ministry of Health, Cancer is the third leading cause of death in hospitals in Oman, while breast cancer is the most common kind of cancer and thyroid cancer ranked second among all cancers. Additionally, the reports find that In

Oman, breast cancer still ranked first among all cancers in general and among women, as the number reached 350 cases; 31 % were diagnosed in the third and fourth stages.

Experts have stressed that early detection remains key in improving the rate of survival and women enjoying a good quality of life. The recommended screening methods for early detection of the disease are mammography, clinical breast examination, and breast self-examination.

Dr. Suad AlKharusi Head of National Oncology Centre at the Royal Hospital in Oman encouraged women over the age of puberty to conduct breast self-examinations at home, as well as regular clinical screenings at their trusted healthcare provider. “This is a message that we can’t stress enough; early detection greatly improves your chances and results in simpler treatment. For this reason alone, we urge all women to get tested regularly.”

COVETED COLLECTION

Apparel Group’s Dune London unveils Party Edit at Middle East Fashion Week

MUSCAT: Dune London unveiled a beautiful party collection at the Middle East Fashion Week in Dubai.

Their show stopping jewelled silhouettes speak modernity. The collection was featured as part of Maison Dvie and Aaronic Atelier’s runway collection.

Dune London’s stand-out spar-

kle heels are drenched in metallic crystals are perfect for dance-floor evenings.

Women’s heels

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Starting with the shoes, we believe an outfit should be built from the ground up.







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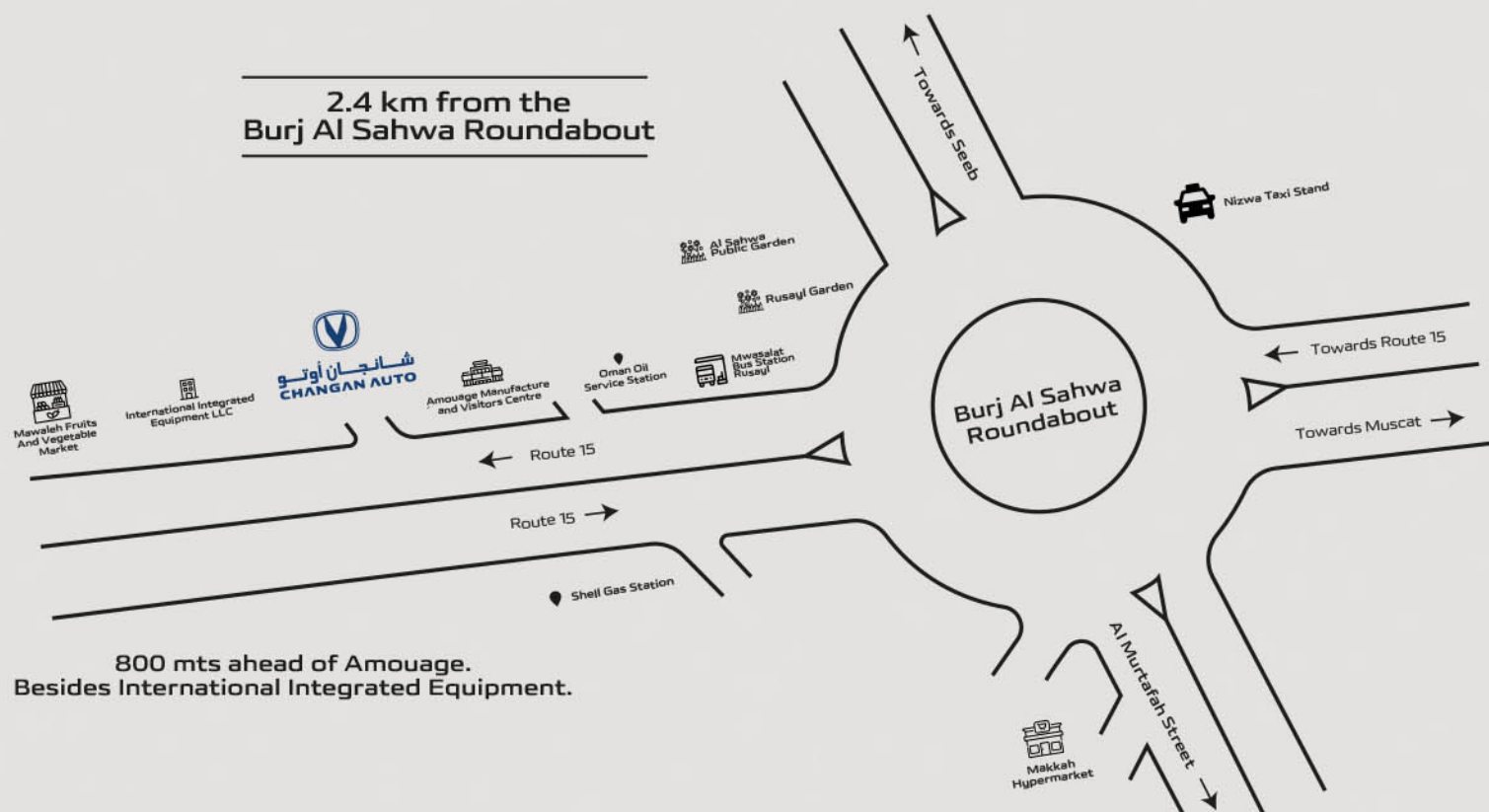


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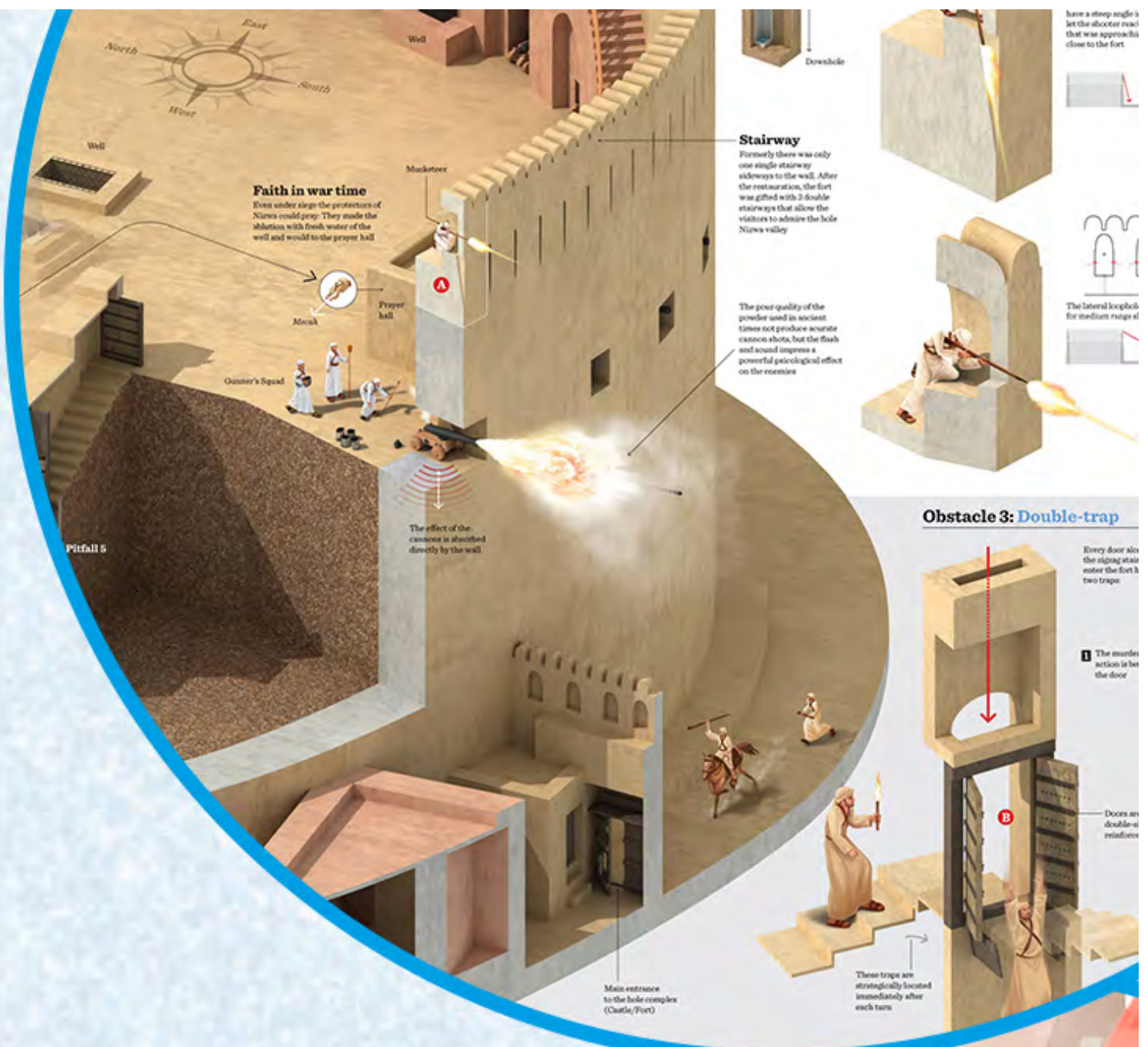
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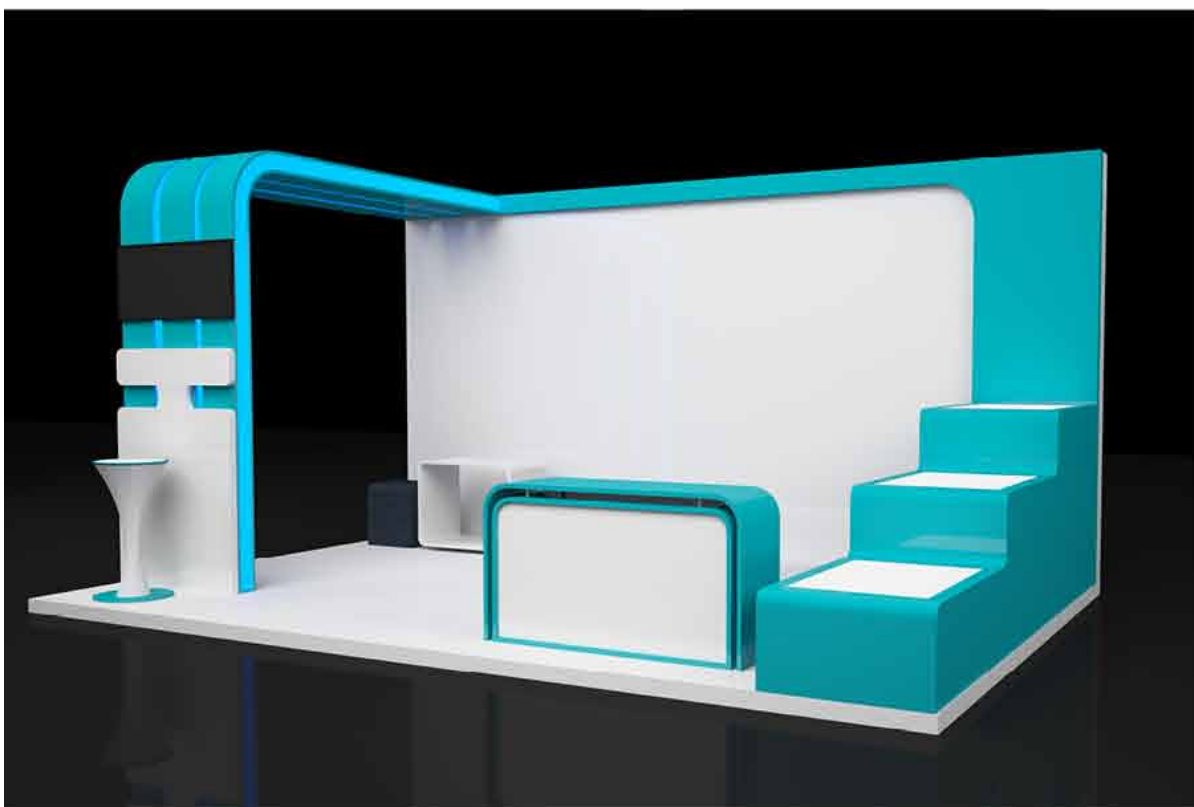
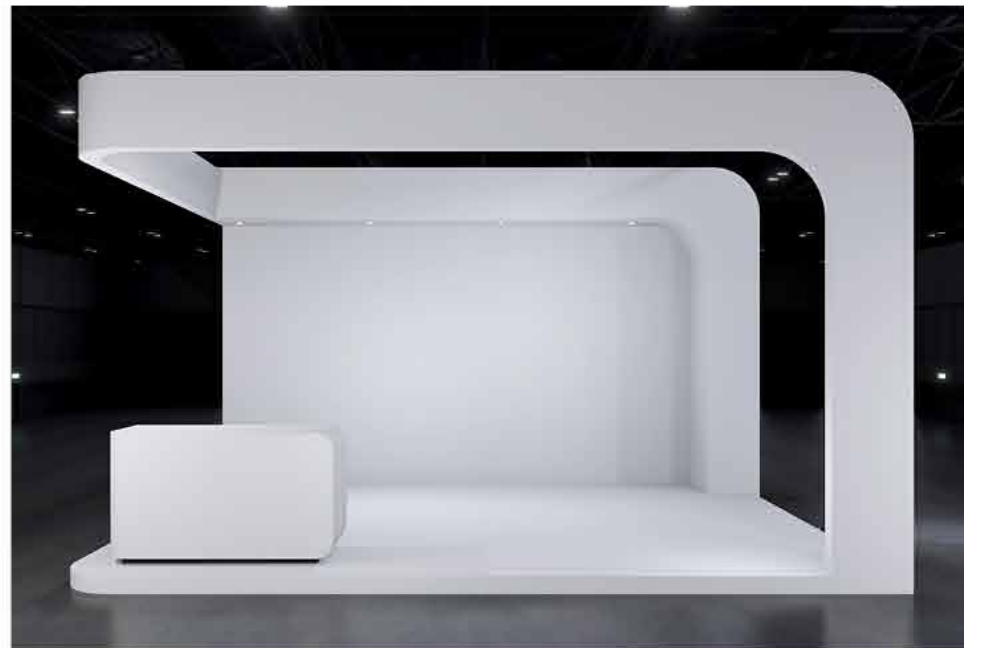
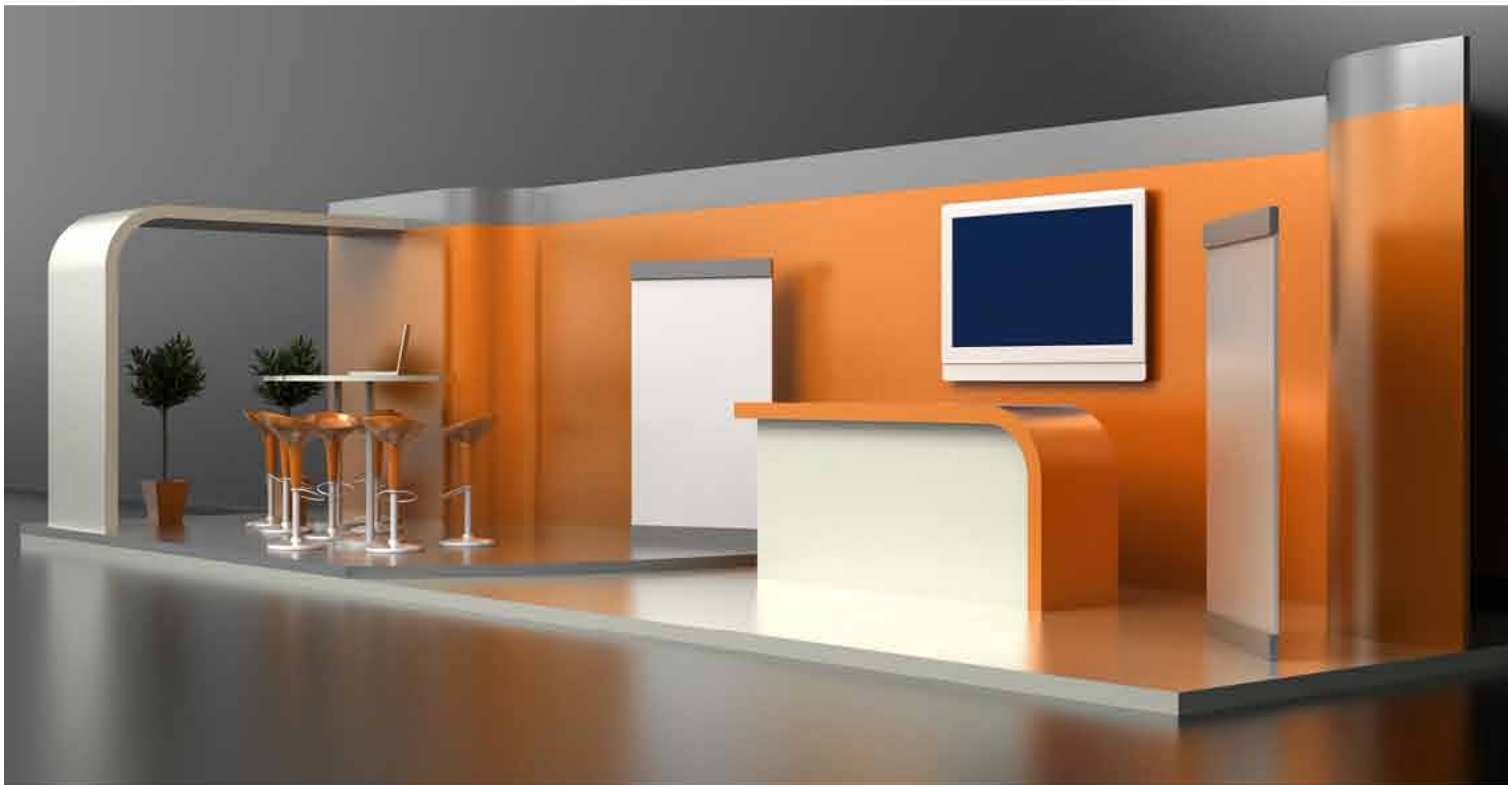


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