

HM GREETES KING OF THAILAND

Muscat: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to King Vajiralongkorn. His Majesty wished the people of Thailand further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



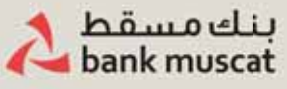
HIS MAJESTY ISSUES ROYAL DECREE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal Decree No. 87/2022 promulgating the Military Justice Law. Article (1) states that provisions of the Military Justice Law attached to this decree shall be enforced. Article (2) annuls Royal Decree No. 110/2011 and all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions. Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on the day following its date of publishing. **-ONA**



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Sayyid Theyazin to preside over Oman Equestrian Race and Festival

A2

Second edition of Belarab Architecture Award receives 149 project ideas

MUSCAT: The organisers of the second edition of Belarab Bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design have received 149 project ideas from contestants in competition to replicate Oman's Maritime History Museum located in the Wilayat of Sur in the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah. From among entries that met the conditions set previously for the contest, 84 are submitted by individuals and 65 by groups. The award jury is currently studying and sorting the entries

with a view to picking up the top 30 project designs, which will later be shortlisted into 10 qualifiers to contest the final stage. **Knockout stage** Once the best 30 projects are selected, a workshop will be held for the finalists to help them fine-tune their designs before resubmitting them for the knockout stage. The jury of the award affirmed that assessment criteria include the technical features of the submitted projects, their applicability

in solid form and their compatibility with standard international projects in the museum sector. It added that other aspects to be taken into account include the submitted projects' long-time environmental, social and economic impacts, as well as the extent to which the designs celebrate and enrich Oman's historical journey. Earlier, the award's organisers prepared a general guide and a technical guide on assessment criteria, the competition's stages and other particulars pertaining to the design of galleries of the museum. The period for entries' submission via the award's website (bha.om) lasts 53 days from 10 October to 1 December 2022. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Leading entities win top tech awards

1 The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology awarded leading firms and institutions for technological advancement for the year 2022. Dr Ali Al-Shidhani, the Undersecretary of the Ministry presided over the ceremony this week where a number of officials attended. Two awards, one for Artificial Intelligence in Data Technology and the second, Best Use of Data in Internet of Things, were awarded to the National University. **>A3**

SPORTS Morocco beat Spain on penalties



2 Morocco upset former World Cup champions Spain to reach the quarterfinals of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 for the first time in their history after the match finished 0-0 at Education City Stadium on Tuesday. The African side then won the shootout 3-0 after Spain failed to convert all their three penalty kicks. Moroccan goalkeeper Yassine Bounou was the hero of the victory after he saved two penalty shots in the shootout. **>A7**

MARKET M-E carriers expect \$268mn profit in 2023

3 Middle East carriers are predicted to report a profit of \$268 million in 2023 from an expected loss of \$1.1 billion in 2022, according to a new report. "In 2023, passenger demand growth of 23.4 per cent is expected to outpace capacity growth of 21.2 per cent. Over the year, the region is expected to serve 97.8 per cent of pre-crisis demand levels with 94.5 per cent of pre-crisis capacity," the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its new report. **>B1**



MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS INVITE PROMPT ACTION: CPA

Specialised department deals with misleading advertisements to protect consumers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Companies spend a lot of money on advertising in the hope of making their products appealing in the eyes of consumers. At times, some of the advertisers indulge in exaggerating claims and use misleading advertisements, according to Al Fadhel bin Naseer Al

Yahmadi, Director of Commercial Fraud Department at the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA). Speaking to *Al Shabiba*, Al Yahmadi said: "Consumers in Oman have recently witnessed overhyping of products with advertising commercials straying too far, making claims that cannot be supported by facts or that are simply false, which is against the law. Misleading advertising is a serious detriment to consumers. In the case of advertising for health products, where audiences are more vulnerable, this fact is more reprehensible."

Tall claims A lot of consumers in Oman spend on supplements, foods and devices in the hope of improving their health and fitness. But not all of these products live up to the advertising claims that they can help people lose weight, combat disease and improve their cognitive abilities. A number of times, the health claims made for these products are false or unproven. Also, in recent years there has been a trend in food advertising towards making unproven claims that eating certain foods can improve health and even reduce the risk of serious illnesses. Al Yahmadi said: "Some of the advertisements are on products claimed to be healthy and others claimed to be licenced. However, there are many laws and legislations that protect consumers against such misleading commercials which are harmful to health. Advertising or marketing any product is restricted and subject to the company procuring the required licence. "To combat such deceptive advertising, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP) is working

in close cooperation with the other concerned departments." Al Yahmadi said: "We have a specialised department that deals with any misleading advertisements at the Commercial Fraud Department of the Consumer Protection Authority. We act once we find any advertisement that is swaying the decision of the public on the basis of misleading ads. The department then follows up with fresh ads through different departments to warn the public about the product by releasing them in the newspapers, publications or through celebrities on the social media platforms." **Legal actions** He added: "Once the violators are found, necessary legal actions are initiated against them." Al Yahmadi also said there have been few instances "when celebrities have used social media

platforms in promoting misleading ads." He added: "The number of claims and complaints related to such misleading ads received during the year 2022 amounted to nearly 600 and the violations amounted to 273 compared to 610 complaints in 2021. "The Consumer Protection Authority follows up such ads through inspection campaigns to spot any breaches or violations without waiting to receive any complaints or calls reporting such incidents." On the nature of complaints received by the Consumer Protection Authority, he said there are usually complaints about misleading advertisements. "Once the advertisement is found to be misleading then necessary action is taken by the concerned department in close cooperation with the Consumer Protection Authority," he said.

HIGHER EDUCATION

349 research proposals worth nearly OMR2 million funded by ministry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Three hundred and forty-nine research proposals were funded under the Block Funding Programme 2022 with grants amounting to OMR1,953,272, according to the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI). The programme funded research spanning several categories, including Research Grants (RG), concerned with supporting research work of PhD holders or its equivalent, Graduate Research Grants (GRG) for research of master's or bachelor's degree holders, Undergraduate Research Grants (URG) for research of students of higher education institutions and Graduate Research Grants Abroad (GRG-Abroad) for research of students studying abroad at their own expense. Under the RG category, the number of research projects funded by MoHERI was 120 with an amount of OMR20,000 per project for a maximum period of two years, while 103 research projects were funded under the GRG category with an amount of OMR3,000 per project. 126 student research projects were funded with an amount of OMR1,500 per project under the URG category. As for the GRG-Abroad category, 16 research proposals were funded with an amount of OMR3,000 per project. The number of government and private academic and non-



academic institutions benefiting from this year's support reached 31 institutions. The support comes with an aim to build local research capacity, provide a stimulating research environment for research and researchers and building their capacities at various academic levels. The Block Funding Programme also seeks to activate the role of academic and research institutions and support research that contributes to the implementation of the national priorities and achieve practical, applicable results that raises the standards of the Sultanate of Oman in the fields of research and innovation.



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Dhuhr.....12:03pm

Asr.....3:05pm

Maghrib.....5:25pm

Isha.....6:40pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:16am

AT AL RAHBA RACECOURSE

Sayyid Theyazin to preside over Oman Equestrian Race and Festival

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth will preside over Oman Equestrian Race and Festival on Wednesday.

The function is being organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in cooperation with the Royal Cavalry and Oman Equestrian Federation at Al Rahba Horse racecourse in the Wilayat of Barka. The organisation of the race and festival comes within the attention and care of His Highness for the equestrian sport, its development and improving its level in the Sultanate of Oman.

The race comprises five rounds mainly that of His Highness



Sayyid Theyazin allocated local horses as an encouragement from His Highness for breeding Arabian thorough-bred horses and the support for horse owners. The intervals of the race would see equestrian sports shows and performances by horse riders of the Royal Cavalry along with playing musical pieces. A number of horse riders from the various governorates of the Sultanate will participate in the horse show while horse riders from the various government units would take part in the tent pegging show.

The first round of the race titled “Jebel Al Kour Race” is allocated for Arabian thorough-

bred horses aged 3 years for 1,600 metres. The second round titled “Jebel Musht Race” is allocated for Arabian thorough-bred horses (classification of 98 and below) for 1,600 metres. The third round titled “Jebel Samhan Race” is allocated for thorough-bred horses for 2,000 metres. The fourth round “Jebel Al Akhdar Race” is for Arabian thorough-bred horses for 2,000 metres, while the fifth round for “His Highness Sayyid Theyazin Round” is allocated for the grand prize where the winner will secure the cup of Oman equestrian race and festival.

This fifth round is allocated for local Arabian thorough-bred horses for 2,000. — **ONA**

HM the Sultan congratulates Malaysia PM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Anwar Ibrahim on the occasion of him taking oath of office as Prime Minister of Malaysia.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success in carrying out his assignments to achieve further aspirations for the friendly Malaysian people. -**ONA**

WILAYAT OF IBRA

Omani Volunteer Day celebrated

MUSCAT: The Directorate General of Social Development in the Governorates of South Al Sharqiyah and North Al Sharqiyah , in cooperation with the Omani Women Association in Ibra, organised a ceremony for Omani Women’s Associations on the occasion of the Omani Volunteer Day, which falls on the 5th of December of each year.

The programme of the ceremony included the presentation of various activities with the participation of Omani women associations in the two governorates with patriotic poems.

21ST SESSION

Foreign ministries of Oman, Brunei Darussalam hold talks

MUSCAT: The 21st session of political consultations was held here on Tuesday between the foreign ministries of the Sultanate of Oman and Brunei Darussalam.

The Omani side was headed in the meeting by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Diplomatic Affairs Undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, while the Brunei Darussalam side was chaired by Pengiran Norhashimah binti Pengiran Mohammed, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry



of Foreign Affairs.

Bilateral relations

The meeting discussed the bilateral relations between the two sides and means of enhancing them.

Exchange views

The two sides also exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by officials from both sides. -**ONA**

Status of women discussed at Arab women meeting



The meeting touched on developments in the status of Arab women in terms of laws, policies, mechanisms and initiatives serving women



women in terms of laws, policies, mechanisms and initiatives serving women.

The meeting explored programmes targeting women’s welfare during the past period, said Sayyeda Maani, adding that such programmes included economic, political and legal empowerment and academic cooperation.

The activities also cover the AWO’s cooperation with institutions of common interest, the organization’s publications and its participation in Arab and international events, Sayyeda Maani explained.

She pointed out that the meeting will address the recommendations of the Executive Council’s

committees and the endorsement of the new configuration of the AWO’s advisory committees, including the panel for policies and technical affairs, the advisory committee for administrative, financial and legal affairs and the advisory committee for Arab youth.

The 21st meeting of AWO’s Executive Council will be transferred to the State of Palestine and it will be held in March 2023, said Sayyeda Maani.

The meeting included a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the AWO, in addition to discussions on preparations for the 9th conference of the AWO. — **ONA**

Tender Announcement

22/2022/OPAZ

الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة

Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones

Sultanate of Oman

سلطنة عمان



The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) invites the reputable and experienced Contractor/Bidders registered in Oman tender board for participating in the following tender.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION OF SERVICE ROAD TO PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES & FREE ZONES (OPAZ) BUILDING AT MUSCAT

Purchasing, participating and downloading of the Tender Documents:	Bidders interested in the tender participation shall email Tenders@opaz.gov.om for registration and on tender fee payment, Tender documents shall be provided through email.
Start of Tender Documents' Sale (Date):	Wednesday /23rd November 2022 (9.00 AM, Muscat Time) onwards
End of Tender Documents' Sale (Date):	Thursday/15th December 2022 (3.00 PM, Muscat Time)
Site Show round/Visit (for all bidders):	Monday/12th December 2022 (10.00 AM, Muscat Time) at OPAZ office at Muscat.
Tender Queries submission End date:	Thursday/22ed December 2022 (3.00pm, Muscat Time)
Tender Closing (Submission) & Opening of Technical Bids Date:	Wednesday/4th January 2023 (3.00pm, Muscat Time)
Cost of Tender Documents (payable and non-refundable; unless cancelled):	OMR 300 (Omani Rial Three Hundred only).
Tender fee payment Account Details	Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones Account Number: 0423-0205-4603-0013 Bank Name: Bank Muscat Branch Name: Corporate Branch Swift Code: BMUSOMRXXXXX Branch Code/Number: 0423

- The interested Bidders in participation shall email OPAZ tender email ID Tenders@opaz.gov.om for Bidder registration. Subsequently, Registration Form shall be provided for Bidder registration.
- Bidders shall email the filled Bidder Registration Form and copy of Tender Fee payment document to above OPAZ Tender email ID. Later, Tender document shall be provided to Bidder through email.
- Bidders MUST submit their bids/proposal to **OPAZ Procurement Committee (OPC), OPAZ Office, Muscat** as per instructions given in the Tender Document including Bidder sealed and signed, on or before the end of date submission.
- Bidders MUST enclose Bid Bond in their Financial Proposal, value not less than (1%) of Tender Value and valid up to (180) days; addressed to **The Chairman, OPAZ Procurement Committee (OPC).**
- Any queries related to Tender including submissions shall be Emailed to Tenders@opaz.gov.om only. Also, OPAZ Circular including queries clarifications and tender addendums issued through Email only
- Tender will be subject to reject if the Bidder does not submit the valid Bid bond and/or incomplete Bids/proposal on time.
- OPAZ is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reasons.

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES, YOU MAY CONTACT THE BELOW E-MAIL:

Email: tenders@opaz.gov.om

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TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

Leading entities in Oman win top tech awards

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology awarded leading companies and institutions in Oman awards in technological advancement in different fields for the year 2022.

Dr Ali Al-Shidhani, the Under-secretary of the Ministry presided over the Awards Ceremony at the Crown Plaza Hotel this week where a number of officials attended.

Two awards, one for Artificial Intelligence in Data Technology and the second, Best Use of Data in Internet of Things, were awarded to the National University.

PDO bagged three awards, Big Data and Analytics, Best Use of Data and Overall Best Technological Award.

Ooredoo won Best Data Centre Infrastructure and Vodafone received the Best Cyber Security.

Huawei was awarded the Best Innovation Award.

Best practices

"It is very important for Oman to keep up with the technological innovation and companies engaging



Dr Ali Shidhani presents an award to Dr Ahmed Al Bulushi, Dean of College of Engineering at the National University.

in businesses in the country follow the best practices so we can be part of the international excellency in providing the best expertise in different fields," Ali Al-Shidhani, the Undersecretary of Communications and Information Technology, told *Times of Oman*.

The organisers of the Awards are Oman International Trade and Exhibitions.



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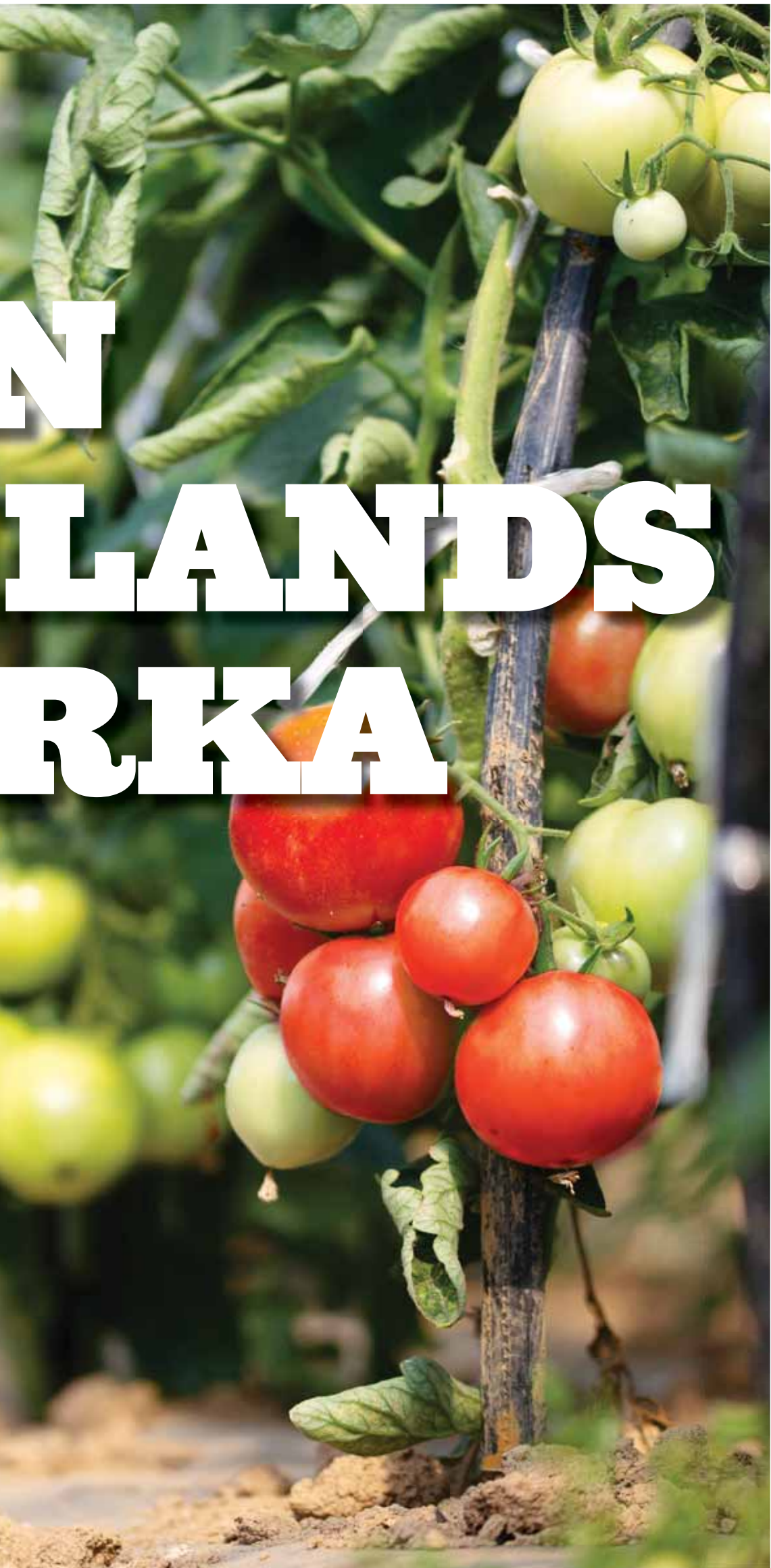


GREEN FARMILANDS OF BARKA

BORDERED by the Sea of Oman and the Al Hajar mountains in southern Batinah, the neighbourhood of Barka is about a half-hour drive from Seeb and roughly an hour drive from Al Khuwair and Ruwi. The area is known for its agricultural beauty, fishing, and traditional pastimes like horse and camel racing, halwa making, and Omani-style bullfighting. Barka is perhaps most prized for having an abundance agricultural lands for locals and investors to purchase.

Barka is home to a host of hypermarkets, shopping malls and resorts which are a big draw for tourists interested in the historic forts, beautiful beaches, and traditional heritage of the city. In Barka, part of the tranquil, calm ambiance comes from the fact that you won't encounter loud car noises racing through the street or heavy traffic. Far from polluting factories, car exhaust, and crowds of people, the green farmland and clean coastline of Barka offers clean air, a slower pace, and a more natural life. With beaches, horse and camel racing, bullfights, and fabulous leisure farms on agricultural land, living in Barka is like living in a relaxing tourist destination, with plenty to see and do.





Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/Tender/2022/205
Subject	Demolishing and Re-Construction of Existing compound wall and rehabilitation of the surrounding areas of DISC's Corporate Office.
Tender Fee	RO. 52,500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for Tender application form.
Experience	The Tenderer must show minimum 3 years previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past with civil Construction activities.
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with Ministry of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 21 st December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 22 nd December 2022
Site Visit	25 th December 2022
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 28 th December 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 1 st January 2023
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 8 th January 2023
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation. Tender Bond /Bid Bond exempted for SME Company.



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TODAY

Royal Air Force of Oman to mark graduation of new batch



PARADE: During the ceremony, the graduates will perform a military parade at the Ghala Base and Sultan Qaboos Air Academy. - ONA

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) will celebrate the graduation of a new batch of officers on Wednesday.

The graduates will include officers who have completed a number of military courses, including: Pilot Officers Course, Basic Candidate Officers Course, Limited Service Officers Course, and University Officers.

The function will be presided over by His Highness Sayyid Taimour Asaad Al Said, Chairman of Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

During the ceremony, the graduates will perform a military parade at the Ghala Base and Sultan Qaboos Air Academy, reflecting the basics of military training and the extent of skill enjoyed by the members of the Royal Air Force of Oman.

It is an occasion of embodiment and expression of pride.

In addition to presenting musical compositions by the Weapon Music Band, the continued modernisation and development processes of the Royal Air Force of Oman will also be displayed.

- ONA

The graduates will include officers who have completed a number of military courses



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More efforts needed to protect marine turtles

The two-day workshop is organised by the Environment Authority in cooperation with government and international organisations concerned



CONSERVATION EFFORTS: The workshop included a display on the tasks undertaken by the Environment Authority to protect marine turtles. — ONA

MUSCAT: A workshop on implementing the national action plan for the protection and conservation of marine turtles kicked off on Tuesday.

The two-day workshop is organised by the Environment Authority (EA) in cooperation with government and international organisations concerned.

The workshop assesses the current situation and the opportunities and challenges posed to the plan, as well as its priorities and mechanisms of its implementation.

Nesting habitats

The project studies a variety of ways to protect the beaches that constitute nesting habitats for marine turtles, increasing their numbers and harbouring their fledgling young.

Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that directives were issued to specialists at the Directorate General of Environment Conservation, Environment Authority, to devise a 5-year national plan for turtle conservation, to be applicable with effect from 2023.

He pointed out that Oman is considered one of two most important nesting sites for turtles worldwide.

Meanwhile, Eng. Suleiman Nasser Al Akhazmi, Director General of Nature Conservation at the Environment Authority, said in a speech at the opening of the workshop that the Authority exerted tangible efforts for the protection of marine turtles. It enacted laws and legislations that minimise the impact of human activity on the species, he added.

Speaking in a visual presentation, Earl Possardt, an international advisor on marine turtles, stressed the need for more international efforts to protect marine turtles against all hazards facing them.

The workshop included a display on the tasks undertaken by the Environment Authority to protect marine turtles. It also presented a real-life experience and outlined the “Turtle Commandos Initiative” launched by the Environment Authority.

Specialised firms also presented working papers on urban and tourism planning and the impact of artificial lighting and fishing activities on marine turtles.

The concluding session of the first day of the workshop, included a review on a draft copy of the national plan for protection and conservation of marine turtles, as well as discussions on different aspects of the topic.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Yaqoub Khalfan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Fisheries. — ONA



Dr. Sunil Udhire, consultant hematology, paediatric oncology and bone marrow transplant physician presented 20 cases for discussion at the conference. The cases included benign hematological disorders like thalassemia, sickle cell anaemia and haemophilia. Udhire also discussed cases on blood cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and hemoglobinopathies.

Dr. Mahesh Rajshekhariah, consultant hematology and bone marrow transplant physician, talked about the conditions when a patient has to be referred for bone marrow transplant.

He discussed in details about the patient, preparation, procedure, post-transplant care and complications.

Rajshekhariah also spoke about patients who will need autologous, allogenic or Haplo transplant of stem cells.

“It’s a teamwork. Many doctors are involved in deciding the treatment after discussing it. This reduces errors / complications to the minimum and gives best results,” said both the speakers.

The conference was attended by doctors, oncologists, hematologists, paediatricians, internists and family physicians. Dr Sanjay Dalal, founder of Muscat Family Physicians’ Group thanked the international speakers for sharing their experience/expertise.



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Conference focuses on blood cancer, bone marrow transplant

Times News Service



MUSCAT: An international medical conference highlighting treatment of blood cancer and bone marrow transplant was recently held in Muscat.

Organised by the Muscat Family Physicians Group in association with Global Treatment Services, two experts from Sparsh Hospitals, Bengaluru, India, addressed the large gathering.

Dr. Sunil Udhire, consultant hematology, paediatric oncology and bone marrow transplant physician presented 20 cases for discussion at the conference. The cases included benign hematological disorders like thalassemia, sickle cell anaemia and haemophilia. Udhire also discussed cases on blood cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and hemoglobinopathies.

Dr. Mahesh Rajshekhariah, consultant hematology and bone marrow transplant physician, talked about the conditions when a patient has to be referred for bone marrow transplant.

He discussed in details about the patient, preparation, procedure, post-transplant care and complications.

Rajshekhariah also spoke about patients who will need autologous, allogenic or Haplo transplant of stem cells.

“It’s a teamwork. Many doctors are involved in deciding the treatment after discussing it. This reduces errors / complications to the minimum and gives best results,” said both the speakers.

The conference was attended by doctors, oncologists, hematologists, paediatricians, internists and family physicians. Dr Sanjay Dalal, founder of Muscat Family Physicians’ Group thanked the international speakers for sharing their experience/expertise.

CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE

Forum explores Oman’s green hydrogen economy strategy

MUSCAT: Oman Green Hydrogen Summit which kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on Monday, reviewed the strategy of the green hydrogen economy in Oman, infrastructure and the in-country value (ICV) in the sector.

It also explored partnerships, investment and green hydrogen projects.

Eng. Salem Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, stressed that Oman Sustainability Centre specialises in following up the progress made in Oman’s efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The centre also provides support so that Oman could attain its objectives through various legislations, provide the necessary technology and facilitate business access for investors, he added.

The minister explained that, with the prime aim of reaching zero neutrality by 2050, key sectors—like industry, electricity, transportation, oil and gas and urban planning—have been included in the carbon emissions reduction policy.

In his turn, Eng. Abdulaziz Said Al Shidhani, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said that the summit is being convened at the right time, now that the ministry has unveiled the first batch of investment opportunities in the green



hydrogen sector, while Oman has announced its commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Al Shidhani pointed out that the large turnout of participants from within Oman and abroad is evidence of the great interest in the country’s potentials.

Al Shidhani said that the first opportunity to invest in the field of green hydrogen in Oman came around on 6 November 2022, when two land plots were offered in the Wilayat of Duqm, Al Wusta Governorate. He added, according to the plan, the first project will be announced in the first quarter of 2023.

As many as 40 companies showed interest to invest in green hydrogen and obtained qualification bonds to participate in the first batch of such investments, a clear indicator of strong demand, said Al Shidhani.

Meanwhile, Hayashi Nobumto, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation, observed that the world is experiencing a major shift in climate change practices, since continuous energy consumption generates greenhouse gases and thereby necessitates action to bring down the volume of greenhouse gas emissions.

Nobumto pointed out that hydrogen can be produced from various sources of energy and can be used in every field, including power generation, transportation, industry and buildings. This affirms that green hydrogen offers the only realistic solution for obtaining clean energy.

The two-day conference included many discussion sessions and workshops, most notably the green hydrogen economy and strategy in Oman, the global and local perspective of green hydrogen, investment and funding of green hydrogen projects and green hydrogen technologies, as well as transporting and storing green hydrogen.

— ONA

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/206	Supply of ¾ (20mm) water flowmeter mechanical type to Dhofar Integrated Services Store.
Tender Fee	RO. 52,500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer must have the experience in the field of supplying water flowmeters.
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration certificate and Oman chamber of commerce and Industry certificate in Sultanate of Oman.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 21 st December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 22 nd December 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 28 th December 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 1 st January 2023
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 8 th January 2023
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation. Tender Bond /Bid Bond exempted for SME Company.



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Dhofar Integrated Services Company

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Germany can participate in EU COVID recovery fund, rules Karlsruhe court

Judges rejected complaints that the fund was unconstitutional, ceding too much power from Germany to the EU



BERLIN: Germany's Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe rejected two complaints on Tuesday against a law passed last year to approve legislation ratifying the European Union's coronavirus recovery fund.

Judges rejected complaints that the fund was unconstitutional, ceding too much power from Germany to the EU, and said it did not violate the plaintiffs' right to democratic self-determination.

What did the court consider?

Two parties filed the complaints; Bernd Lucke, co-founder of the euroskeptic Alternative for Germany (AfD), who quit the party after it drifted to the far-right, and businessman Heinrich Weiss, a former head of Germany's leading industry lobby group, the BDI.

They said the fund exceeded the European Union's powers and hindered budgetary oversight by Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag. They objected to the fund enabling the EU to raise money on capital markets with EU member states then jointly bearing responsibility for the loans.

The plaintiffs argued that Germany might have to foot the bill if other states did not meet their repayment obligations, creating large amounts of extra debt for decades.

They also said that the scheme had no basis in European treaties.

However, the court ruled that the arrangement, agreed in December 2020, did "not constitute an obvious overstepping of the current integration program of the European Union and also does not impair the overall budgetary responsibility of

the German Bundestag."

Six of seven judges backed the ruling, with one dissenting opinion. The court had approved Germany's participation in a fast-track judgment in April 2021. However, judges conceded at the time that there was still a possibility of a constitutional violation — leading to a fuller examination of the case that ended with Tuesday's ruling.

What is the recovery fund?

In response to the economic damage caused by COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, the EU set up the reconstruction program to help member states recover. However, it requires the European Commission taking on debt on a grand scale.

The recovery fund, dubbed Next Generation EU, allows the European Commission to raise up to

€750 billion (\$786 billion) on capital markets. Brussels would then channel the money to member states through payments linked to jointly agreed reform and investment plans.

Amounts would be awarded partly as grants and partly as long-term loans. Many of the projects lack an obvious connection to COVID — green hydrogen research, electric mobility projects, the digitalization of education systems. Germany expects to receive almost €26 billion in such areas.

EU countries are jointly liable for the repayment of the loans. However, according to the Federal Court of Auditors, Europe's largest economy would shoulder by far the biggest burden when it comes to paying for the fund — an expected total of around €65 billion (\$68 billion). **aw**

US opens probe into Elon Musk's Neuralink over animal testing

WASHINGTON: The Inspector General for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) opened a probe into Elon Musk's Neuralink over employee complaints about animal testing, Reuters reported citing documents the news agency reviewed and sources familiar with the investigation and company operations.

The Reuters report said the company has killed about 1,500 animals following experiments since 2018. However, the total number of animal deaths does not necessarily indicate Musk's company is violating regulations, the report said. Current and former Neuralink employees, the report added, have alleged the number of animal deaths is too high because of Musk's demands to speed research.

Neuralink has passed all USDA inspections of its facilities, the report said, citing regulatory filings. A spokesperson for the USDA inspector general declined to comment, the report added.

The controversies surrounding Twitter do not seem to end right from the time the world's richest man acquired the micro-blogging site.

Tesla CEO last week tweeted, saying that, "Apple has also threatened to withhold Twitter from its App Store, but won't tell us why." But later on December 1, he clarified that all was sorted after meeting with Apple CEO Tim Cook.

Twitter's advertisers' list, in-



cluding Pfizer, GM, among others, stopped giving advertisements ever since the world's richest man took over as CEO. On Saturday, Musk said that Apple had 'fully resumed' advertising on the micro-blogging site during a Twitter Spaces conversation.

Notably, Twitter CEO last week released the internal 'Twitter Files' that showed the company responded to a request "from the Biden team" during the 2020 election -- shortly after the company cracked down on Hunter Biden, son of US President Joe Biden's laptop story.

Musk tweeted a link to the account of independent journalist and author Matt Taibbi, who began posting a series of tweets revealing the inner story about the decision behind the censorship of Hunter Biden's laptop story. "The Twitter Files, Part One: How and Why Twitter Blocked the Hunter Biden Laptop Story," Taibbi tweeted. **ANI**

MASSACRE

Congo govt says more than 270 killed in local province attack

KINSHASA: Democratic Republic of Congo's government increased the death toll from a massacre last week in the eastern village of Kishishe to at least 272, officials announced on Monday.

Previously, the deaths were estimated at 50 in the attack that took place in the province of North Kivu and has been blamed on the M23 rebel group.

What did the government say?

In a media briefing, Industry Minister Julien Paluku said those killed were "people known to be regular inhabitants of Kishishe." The victims had no connection with militia groups, he added.

Government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said a probe into the attack was underway.

"I cannot give details of the attack. An investigation has been opened by the attorney general



and we are awaiting the results of the investigators," he said.

"What we do know is that children were killed in an Adventist church and a hospital," Muyaya added. The conflict between the army and M23 forces has esca-

lated since October.

The violence on November 29 came just five days after a fragile cease-fire agreement was agreed upon between the rebels and Congolese forces. The M23 — a militia comprised of mostly ethnic Tutsi

fighters from Congo — has denied responsibility for the attack.

How did M23 leaders respond?

Following Monday's announcement, the rebel group's chair-

man challenged the government's figure. M23 accused officials of creating a smoke-screen to divert attention from other atrocities in the region that he has blamed on government soldiers and their allies.

The group's chairman, Bertrand Bisimwa, said Congo's government made "false allegations" against M23 "with the dual objective, firstly concealing the setbacks suffered by its coalition in the Kishishe area and secondly, to divert one's attention on ongoing genocide committed by its coalition."

He said the government made those accusations against the rebel group "without any due diligence or investigation."

The M23 chairman claimed that the number of deaths had been inflated by a tribal militia leader and that only eight people had died from stray bullets during the clashes last Tuesday.

UN calls for investigation

A group of United Nations experts said earlier this year that it had "solid evidence" of Rwandan troops fighting alongside the M23 and providing it with weapons and support, which Rwanda denied.

The leaders of Congo and Rwanda have met several times in a bid to find solutions to the crisis.

Their most recent meeting was in Luanda, where the cease-fire was agreed on.

However, the fighting has reportedly continued since.

The UN's peacekeeping mission in Congo has led calls for a probe into the massacre.

Representatives for the United States and the European Union have said that the killings were potential war crimes.

Meanwhile, rights group Human Rights Watch has called for UN troops to be deployed to protect survivors. **aw**

JAIL TERM

Lady Gaga's dog walker shooter gets 21 years in jail



NEW YORK: US officials said Monday that the man who shot and wounded Lady Gaga's dog walker last year was sentenced to 21 years in prison after taking a plea deal.

In February 2021, the pop star's dog walker was attacked on a Hollywood street and two out of three French bulldogs were stolen. They were later returned to the singer. The defendant pleaded no contest to attempted murder on Monday and admitted to inflicting bodily injury on the man he shot in the chest, Ryan Fischer.

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said the plea agreement held him accountable "for perpetrating a cold-hearted,

violent act" and provided justice for Fischer.

According to local media, Fischer attended the court hearing and made a statement against the defendant, saying the attack had forever altered his life.

Who was involved in the attack?

The man who received a 21-year prison sentence is one of three men and two accomplices involved in the violent robbery and its aftermath.

He was released from custody earlier this year in what authorities said was a "clerical error."

The two other attackers have already been jailed for their role

in the attack.

Officials previously said that they had no evidence that the defendants were deliberately targeting Lady Gaga, and that they were likely seeking to steal the dogs due to their breed's monetary value. Prosecutors had said that the three men were driving around in February 2021 "looking for French bulldogs."

After the attack, Lady Gaga offered a \$500,000 (around €476,000) reward for the return of the two dogs, as the third one had escaped the attack.

The woman who eventually handed the dogs in was charged with being an accessory and receiving stolen goods. **aw**

JOINT EXERCISE

Special forces of Indian and US Navy taking part in Goa exercise

NEW DELHI: The 7th edition of Exercise Sangam, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs commenced in Goa on December 1, the Ministry of Defence said.

Exercise Sangam was first conducted in 1994 and is an important military and diplomatic initiative between the two nations, reflective of the trust and friendship between them.

According to the Defence Ministry statement, the present edition which will see personnel from SEAL Team Five based at San Diego, US and Indian Navy MARCOs from INS Abhimanyu together aims at exchange of ideas and experiences on various aspects of Maritime Special Operations.

Whilst a joint exercise among US SEALs, MARCOs and other participating nations' Naval Special Forces is held annually as part of Exercise Malabar, the Sangam series is a bi-lateral exercise purely between the US and Indian Special Forces.

The exercise is planned for a duration of three weeks wherein personnel will exercise and hone their skills in Maritime Interdiction Operations, Direct Action Missions, Combat Free Fall Jumps,



Special Heliborne Operations, and various other evolutions.

Notably, the 18th edition of the Indo-US joint training exercise "YUDH ABHYAS 22" started in Uttarakhand last month.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted annually between India and USA with the aim of exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.

The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.

US Army soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division

and Indian Army soldiers from the ASSAM Regiment participated in the exercise. The training schedule focuses on employment of an integrated battle group under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate.

The exercise includes all operations related to peacekeeping and peace enforcement. The troops from both nations will work together to achieve common objectives.

The joint exercise also focuses on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Troops from both nations practiced in launching swift and coordinated relief efforts in the wake of any natural calamity. **ANI**





FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022



MOROCCAN MARVEL

Spain pay the penalty as they missed all of their spot kicks in the shootout as the North Africans made it to the quarter-finals for the first time

DOHA: Morocco made it to the quarter-finals of the FIFA World Cup for the first time after holding their nerve in the penalty shoot-out while Spain lost theirs in a round of 16 encounter at the Education City in Al Rayyan on Tuesday.

Goalkeeper Yassine Bounou played a pivotal role after a goalless 120 minutes, saving penalties from Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets after Pablo Sarabia had struck the post.

Abdelhamid Sabiri and Hakim Ziyech scored theirs but Badr Benoun was thwarted by Unai Simon, meaning Morocco had to wait a moment longer to confirm their victory, finally celebrating when Achraf Hakimi sent the Spain 'keeper the wrong way.

It was a familiar story for Spain, who dominated possession but struggled to carve out many chances. In fact, they had only one effort in the first half, their lowest shot count in a World



Cup match since 1966.

It fell to Marco Asensio, who got in behind the defence but dragged his shot wide of the near post.

Morocco pressed Spain smartly and had three decent chances, the clearest being a free header for Nayef Aguerd which narrowly missed the target.

The match remained tense and tight until the final few minutes of normal time, in which Yassine Bounou tipped away a skidding free-kick from Dani Olmo and Abdessamad Ezzalzouli almost caught Spain 'keeper Unai Simon in possession.

A similar script followed in extra-time and Morocco had two more glorious chances, both falling to Walid Cheddira. First the

substitute failed to get his shot away and was dispossessed by Aymeric Laporte, then he did manage to fire at goal but was thwarted by Simon's right leg.

Key moment

Substitute Pablo Sarabia had a glorious chance to win the match with practically the last kick of the game and avoid the shootout. The ball fell to him inches from goal at the far post but, with a difficult angle, could only hit the far post. That gave Morocco a sense that this was their night, and so it proved.

Spain have exited their last three major competitions on penalties, losing to Russia in the 2018 World Cup and to Italy in Euro 2020. - **FIFA**

FRIDAY'S
MATCHES

QUARTER-FINALS
December 9

7pm (Oman time)
CROATIA VS BRAZIL
Education City
Stadium

11 pm
**NETHERLANDS
VS ARGENTINA**
Lusail
Stadium

BY THE NUMBERS

\$209 MN

The amount that football clubs around the world receive from a fund set aside by FIFA to reward them for developing players who play in the tournament for their national teams. The amount is approximately \$10,000 per day per player. The fund has tripled since the 2004 World Cup in Brazil

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SAMBA TIME!

Five-time world champions Brazil turned in a five-star performance as they dismantled South Korea 4-1 in the round of 16 clash on Monday night

DOHA: Brazil conjured a dazzling performance to sweep aside South Korea 4-1 in a round of 16 clash at Stadium 974 on Monday night and secure a FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 quarter-final tie with Croatia on Friday.

The good news did not stop there for the rampant South Americans. Neymar defied expectations to return from injury and the inimitable Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) forward was celebrating after only 13 minutes.

Brazil were awarded a penalty after defender Jung Wooyoung was surprised by Richarlison's sudden emergence on his shoulder and clipped the attacker's ankle when attempting a clearance.

Neymar stuttered and shimmed in his run-up, completely deceiving Kim Seunggyu, who was static as the ball rolled past him on the left. Brazil were already one goal to the good at this point. Vinicius Jr controlled Raphinha's right-wing cutback across the box, then with a barely perceptible backlift punched a



strike beyond goalkeeper Kim. Richarlison scored Brazil's third following a glorious passage of play. The Tottenham Hotspur player initially employed a succession of headers to gain control of the ball, before transferring a pass to Marquinhos. He fired a ball across the perimeter of the box for Thiago Silva, who spied Richarlison continuing his forward run and zipped a wonderful first-time pass for his teammate to comfortably finish for a third goal of the tournament.

It was four goals inside 29 minutes when Lucas Paqueta arrived in the penalty area to meet Vinicius Jr's cross from the byline

on the full. The ball was past Kim before he could blink.

Kim made good saves from Richarlison and Raphinha, twice, to limit the bleeding, while opposite number Alisson was not entirely unemployed.

Far from it. Alisson flew to his left to tip round Hwang Heechan's rising drive after 17 minutes and used his shoulder to deny Son Heungmin following the restart. Hwang was thwarted, once more, when Alisson flung out his right hand to repel a close-range blast.

Substitute Paik Seungho eventually got the better of Alisson with a howitzer of a strike – but

Brazil's minds were already turning to Friday evening and Croatia at Education City Stadium.

Key moment

The more pessimistic reports were ruling Neymar out of this exhilarating World Cup, The ankle injury sustained in Brazil's opening victory over Serbia would deprive coach Tite of his leading light, went the doom-mongers' narrative.

The noises from the Brazil camp around Neymar's fitness remained defiantly positive. But was it hope or expectation underpinning the upbeat medical bulletins? When Neymar exuberantly celebrated his cheeky penalty conversion with his return only 13 minutes old, we had our answer.



Brazil, on all available evidence from a largely one-sided game, would have won this without Neymar. There is no question over the 30-year-old's uplifting influence on his teammates, however, with a number of the younger squad members, Richarlison included, citing the player as their footballing idol.

The presence of Neymar allows Brazil to believe. Remember how all optimism drained away, with catastrophic consequences, when the poster-boy was injured in the quarter-final at Brazil 2014. The message seems to be that if you have to get hurt at a tournament, do it early. Neymar is back and, with 81 minutes in his legs, coming to the boil nicely ahead of tougher tests ahead.

Neymar also became the

third Brazilian to score in three or more World Cups after Pele (1958, 1962, 1966, 1970) and Ronaldo (1998, 2002, 2006).

After the match, Neymar said: "I was really afraid. The injury I suffered was pretty bad. I spent the whole night and another day crying a lot."

"But it was worth the effort. I stayed until 11 in the morning doing physiotherapy that day and then in other days the sessions went until five and six in the morning."

"All this suffering is valid so that in the end we can crown something so beautiful. Now it's time for us to go way further. The trophy is a dream, obviously, but we have to go step by step. There are three more games to go, and we're focused on the trophy". - FIFA+

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

Oman oil price (February Delivery 2023) on Tuesday reached \$78, comprising a drop by \$2.87 from the price of Monday which stood at \$80.87. The average price of Oman oil (December Delivery 2022) has stabilised at \$90.79 per barrel. - ONA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,658.29 points, down by 0.11 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48 per cent at 465.94 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 7.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 6.38 per cent, was the top loser.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND FREE ZONES

Contract signed for preparing governance guide of Opaz activities



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) signed a contract for preparing a governance guide with the Oman Centre for Governance and Sustainability, seeking to benefit from the services provided by the centre, including technical and administrative con-

sulting, research and studies in areas related to corporate governance and the preparation of charters and systems of their governance.

The contract was signed by Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Theeb, Opaz Deputy Chairman, and Hamid bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Executive Director of the Centre, signed on behalf of the Oman Centre for Govern-

ance and Sustainability.

The implementation of this project aims to prepare a guide for the governance of the authority's activities and works, to frame and clarify the relationship between Opaz and its affiliated zones, and to define a specific mechanism in which the relevant parties apply their powers in their zones following the objectives

and vision of Oman 2040.

The contract involved defining the terms of reference, powers and decision-making mechanisms between the authority's management and the management of its affiliated zones. The project works also include the powers of the executive management, members and committees emanating from the board of directors.

Middle East carriers expect \$268 million profit in 2023

The region has benefitted from a certain degree of re-routing resulting from the war in Ukraine, and more significantly from the pent-up travel demand using the region's extensive global networks as international travel markets re-opened



The region has benefitted from a certain degree of re-routing resulting from the war in Ukraine, and more significantly so from the pent-up travel demand using the region's extensive global networks as international travel markets re-opened, the report further added.

The IATA expects a return to profitability for the global airline industry in 2023 as airlines continue to cut losses stemming from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business in 2022.

In 2023, airlines are expected to post a small net profit of \$4.7 billion—a 0.6 per cent net profit margin. It is the first profit since 2019 when industry net profits were \$26.4 billion (3.1 per cent net profit margin).

In 2022, airline net losses are expected to be \$6.9 billion (an improvement on the \$9.7 billion loss for 2022 in IATA's June outlook). This is significantly better than losses of \$42.0 billion and \$137.7 billion that were realised in 2021 and 2020 respectively.

"Resilience has been the hallmark for airlines in the COVID-19 crisis. As we look to 2023, the financial recovery will take shape with the first industry profit since 2019. That is a great achievement considering the scale of the financial and economic damage caused by government-imposed pandemic restrictions," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

"But a \$4.7 billion profit on industry revenues of \$779 billion also illustrates that there is much more ground to cover to put the global industry on a solid financial footing. Many airlines are sufficiently profitable to attract the capital needed to drive the industry forward as it decarbonises," he added.

"But many others are struggling for a variety of reasons. These include onerous regulation, high costs, inconsistent government policies, inefficient infrastructure and a value chain where the rewards of connecting the world are not equitably distributed," Walsh said.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle East carriers are predicted to report a profit of \$268 million in 2023 from an expected loss of \$1.1 billion in 2022, according to a new report.

"In 2023, passenger demand growth of 23.4 per cent is expected to outpace capacity growth of 21.2 per cent. Over the year, the region is expected to serve 97.8 per cent of pre-crisis demand levels with 94.5 per cent of pre-crisis capacity," the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its new report.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR15.4 million issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR15.4 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from December 7 until March 8, 2023.

The average accepted price reached 98.928 and the minimum accepted price arrived at 98.900 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.30009 per cent and 4.34671 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.50 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.00 per cent. -ONA

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MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Insurance, up 7.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 6.38 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,658.29 points, down by 0.11 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48 per cent at 465.94 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 7.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 6.38 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of National Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 645 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.83 million, with more than 13.62 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 9 advanced, 22 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR662,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR545,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR118,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,560.55 points, down 0.28 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, United Finance, Taageer Finance, Bank Dhofar, and Al Anwar Investment were up by

7.00 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 3.19 per cent, 1.94 per cent and 1.35 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Oman Qatar Insurance, Ahli Bank, Sohar International Bank, and Bank Nizwa were down by 5.33 per cent, 5.26 per cent, 1.92 per cent, 1.89 per cent, and 1.05 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,045.35 points, down 0.19 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry were up by 5.33 per cent. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products, Raysut Cement, and Oman Fisheries were down by 4.76 per cent, 3.83 per cent, 3.81 per cent, 2.75 per cent and 2.00 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.77 per cent before closing at 1,540.59 points. Prices of Oman Telecom and Oman National Engineering were up by 3.21 per cent and 1.85 per cent respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Phoenix Power, Muscat Desalination, Ooredoo, and Shell Oman Marketing were down by 6.25 per cent, 4.65 per cent, 3.48 per cent, 0.97 per cent and 0.46 per cent respectively. – **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,663.47	4,635.04	4,658.29	4,663.47	-5.18	-0.11
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,581.95	7,538.11	7,560.55	7,581.95	-21.41	-0.28
Industry Index	6,104.37	6,042.53	6,045.35	6,056.58	-11.23	-0.19
Services Index	1,553.75	1,538.13	1,540.59	1,552.62	-12.02	-0.77
MSX Shariah Index	467.45	463.26	465.94	463.73	2.21	0.48
MSX TR INDEX	5,886.15	5,850.26	5,879.61	5,886.15	-6.53	-0.11
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,933.66	7,887.79	7,911.27	7,933.66	-22.40	-0.28
SERVICES TR IDX	1,637.32	1,620.86	1,623.45	1,636.12	-12.67	-0.77
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,355.41	6,291.03	6,293.96	6,305.65	-11.69	-0.19
Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal
13,624,184	3,825,281	645	23,539,400,997	9	22	15
Sec. Traded						
46						

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST HD	LAST OFF.	PR. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	30,500	48,190	7	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.500	0.080	5.333	1.580	1.520	1.580	0.100	141,728,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	172,178	153,704	67	0.872	0.900	0.872	0.900	0.872	0.028	3.211	0.900	0.872	0.900	0.100	875,000,000
OM0000003281	TAAJER FINANCE	183,104	17,850	6	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.094	0.003	3.191	0.097	0.092	0.103	0.100	25,000,195
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	22,000	2,380	6	0.107	0.110	0.107	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.852	0.110	0.107	0.109	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	19,252	5,125	6	0.266	0.267	0.266	0.267	0.266	0.001	0.376	0.267	0.260	0.267	0.100	28,700,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	100,000	13,000	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV	967	70	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	4,034,239	1,183,632	139	0.294	0.294	0.290	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.292	0.292	0.295	0.100	2,068,880,736
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	4,384,905	1,262,925	78	0.288	0.289	0.282	0.288	0.289	-0.001	-0.346	0.288	0.280	0.288	0.100	468,272,551
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	1,000	896	2	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.900	-0.004	-0.444	0.896	0.900	0.896	0.100	61,824,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	204,500	91,601	53	0.450	0.450	0.442	0.448	0.450	-0.002	-0.444	0.448	0.440	0.448	0.100	105,911,680
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	100	67	1	0.668	0.668	0.668	0.668	0.672	-0.004	-0.595	0.668	0.612	0.668	0.100	105,210,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	197,437	81,001	50	0.412	0.412	0.406	0.410	0.414	-0.004	-0.966	0.410	0.396	0.410	0.100	286,887,134
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,301,160	136,332	11	0.106	0.106	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	477,366,478
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,000	153	1	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.156	-0.003	-1.923	0.153	0.153	0.160	0.100	298,297,592
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	213,991	43,391	11	0.206	0.206	0.202	0.202	0.210	-0.008	-3.810	0.202	0.200	0.202	0.100	25,229,388
Total	16	10,866,333	3,040,118	440												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	500	107	1	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.200	0.014	7.000	0.214	0.185	0.214	0.100	22,419,078
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	154,624	9,597	5	0.062	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.062	0.002	3.226	0.064	0.061	0.064	0.100	22,345,242
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	100,188	15,532	7	0.156	0.158	0.155	0.158	0.155	0.003	1.935	0.158	0.155	0.158	0.100	473,423,527
OM0000001772	AL MAHA INVESTMENT	63,270	4,892	6	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.351	0.075	0.072	0.075	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	276,283	44,205	7	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.160	0.165	0.100	320,050,046
OM0000002028	GULF INT.CHEMI	28,020	2,132	3	0.078	0.078	0.076	0.078	0.076	0.002	2.603	0.078	0.073	0.078	0.100	1,596,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	3,500	765	4	0.230	0.230	0.218	0.230	0.220	0.010	4.348	0.230	0.220	0.230	0.100	9,153,160
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	205,576	7,604	9	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.035	0.040	0.100	5,784,517
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	172,250	14,129	10	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	51,101	1,533	5	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.100	20,246,623
OM0000004938	AL SUWADI POWER	62,735	1,882	5	0.030	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.100	21,432,190
OM0000007710	BANK DESALINATION	12,000	1,608	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.128	0.134	0.100	10,119,948
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	455	395	2	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.872	-0.004	-0.459	0.868	0.800	0.868	0.100	82,460,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	71,000	8,236	9	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.117	-0.001	-0.855	0.116	0.116	0.117	0.100	49,273,345
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	321,433	30,417	8	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.093	0.095	0.100	210,273,585
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	4,000	392	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.000	0.098	0.098	0.100	0.100	17,843,883
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	8,000	736	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.002	2.128	0.092	0.092	0.094	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	256,000	27,009	22	0.109	0.109	0.105	0.106	0.109	-0.003	-2.752	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	21,200,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	11,648	1,300	5	0.115	0.118	0.111	0.111	0.115	-0.004	-3.478	0.111	0.111	0.117	0.100	17,266,094
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	42,838	7,590	14	0.179	0.179	0.176	0.179	0.183	-0.007	-3.825	0.176	0.176	0.186	0.100	38,725,614
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	64,000	2,624	7	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.041	0.043	-0.002	-4.651	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.100	59,966,660
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	100	10	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.105	-0.005	-4.762	0.100	0.100	0.096	0.100	8,140,275
OM0000008979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	50,000	9,000	2	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.190	-0.010	-5.263	0.180	0.180	0.209	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000004785	AL BALALAH	30,000	1,800	3	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.064	-0.004	-6.250	0.060	0.060	0.062	0.100	5,274,217
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV	750	33	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.047	-0.003	-6.383	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.100	1,320,000
Total	25	1,990,291	193,330	139												

MADAYN

Building and Construction Business Meet organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) organised on Tuesday 'Building and Construction Business Meet' at Crowne Plaza Muscat OCEC.

The meet aimed at highlighting the latest developments and technologies at the local and global scale in the building and construction industry, the key role played by the building and construction industry in the manufacturing sector, as well as the dynamic role of related businesses in supplying high-quality products for infrastructure projects.

Speaking at the event, Mundhir bin Ali Al Nasser, Acting Director General of Marketing and Commercial Affairs at Madayn, stated that statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicate that the total contribution of the manufacturing industries in the Sultanate has touched OMR2.3 billion by end of the first half of this year compared



to OMR1.4 billion during the same period last year. Al Nasser added that Oman Vision 2040 has placed the manufacturing industries as one of the key drivers that lead the industrial sector supported by the availability of natural resources and the strategic location of the Sultanate that facilitates the export of these industries.

Papers
Delivering his presentation at the event, Jalal Al Hadhrami, Director of Local Content and Business

Opportunities at the Industrial Innovation Academy, said that the academy is developing innovative programmes aimed at empowering the industrial sector and the SMEs by focusing on the local content and capacity building, and adoption of automation and Industry 4.0 technologies through the associated supply chain.

Al Hadhrami then elaborated on 'Rabt Programme', which is being implemented by the academy to link the existing industries in the industrial cities with the govern-

ment tenders. He also informed that a platform is being developed for 'Rabt Programme' to serve the industrial sector in the Sultanate through encouraging investments, facilitating purchases at the sector level, and enhancing the local value.

Eng. Bader Al Haddabi, Founder of Keystone Architectural Consultancy, delivered a presentation on 'Adobe Construction', which utilises affordable, fireproof, recyclable and environmentally friendly materials as adobe bricks can be easily cut for fitting and can be provided with holes for reinforcing and services. Al Haddabi added that intensive R&D has to be conducted on Adobe to improve its properties and recommended that a national awareness campaign be implemented in this regard.

On his part, Dr Hilal Al Dhamri, General Manager of Manufacturing at Oman Cement Company, elaborated on the stages of cement manufacturing, cement types and specifications, and the challenges and future of the cement industry in the Sultanate.



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400 PRIZES ON RAFFLE DRAWS

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

MM/06/1028/2022
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REAL-TIME TRANSACTION SECURITY

Bank Muscat launches first Visa Virtual Corporate Credit Card in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision and a strong commitment to e-payments, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman has announced the launch of its new Visa Virtual Corporate Credit Card Solution facilitated through a state-of-the-art platform, Visa Commercial Pay.

This is the first Visa Virtual Credit Card to be launched in Oman and is meant to empower its corporate customers with real-time transaction security and control. Through this solution, corporates can issue single or multiple uses virtual card numbers and specify spend parameters for better security, control and easy reconciliation. The addition of the Virtual Corporate Credit Card adds further options to business-to-business (B2B) electronic payments and helps reduce the reliance on more traditional and labour-intensive payment modes.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, General Manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said: "As the leading bank in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat is committed to building ever stronger partnerships with its customers as it continuously improves customer experience by offering corporate banking solutions built on top of state-of-the-art technol-

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5 THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND TO ACHIEVE PERFECT GLOWING SKIN

Holidays are a period of constant festivities for days on a stretch. And if you are the host of a gathering the onus of taking care of the preparations while also ensuring you look radiant can be pretty exhausting.

Fret not. For we are here to ease the burden off your shoulders with these 5 things you can keep in mind to keep your skin healthy and get a radiant glow on your special day without too much effort.



NO COMPROMISE ON SLEEP

Take your 'beauty sleep' seriously. A good 8-hour sleep is not just essential for your body to function well but also gives your skin ample time to rejuvenate and build itself up from the day's wear and tear.



SAY HI TO FIBRES IN DIET

While there's no need to change your diet radically, intaking fibres regularly can be greatly beneficial for your skin. Fruit and vegetable smoothies are a great way to include a good dose of fibres in your system.

BE CAREFUL WITH OVER-THE-TOP SKIN ROUTINES

You often feel the urge to undergo expensive facial treatments. As exciting as they may seem, such treatments can be harmful and may not suit every skin type. It's best to avoid them and stick to the usual Cleansing-Toning-Moisturising routine. If you do want to get a facial treatment, get in touch with a dermatologist first.



KEEP STRESS AT BAY

Planning a party requires months of preparation, which can be quite stressful. Your skin reacts to stress. It can make you look dull which you definitely don't want. So try to keep your stress levels as low as possible. If you feel the levels rising, book a spa, get a massage or simply take a walk in a park. When you're relaxed, your skin glows automatically. -ANI



MOISTURISE WITHOUT FAIL

While it may seem like an 'unnecessary step' to most, moisturising your skin regularly is quintessential to keeping it supple, healthy and naturally radiant, while keeping patchiness at bay.





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SPORTS

All-Omani Team Asyad Shipping to compete in 44Cup Grand Final

This is the first time that the RC44 Tour has visited Oman since 2014 when Oman also hosted the final round

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's professional sailors will compete in the upcoming 44Cup Grand Final, which takes place at Al Mouj Muscat from Wednesday.

Supported by the shipping arm of Asyad Group, the all-Omani Team Asyad Shipping will join the ten teams representing Great Britain, Monaco, France, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland as the five-stop international RC44 tour



comes to a close on December 11. Experienced Nasser Al Mashari has been named the skipper of the Team Asyad Shipping. He will be

joined by fellow Omani sailors - Musab Al Hadi, Hussain Al Jabri, Ali Al Balushi, Waleed Al Kindi, Yasser Al Rahbi, Abdulrahman Al

Mashari, Ahmed Al Hasani, Raad Al Hadi, Haitham Al Wahaibi, Akram Al Wahaibi.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Nadhairi, CEO

of Asyad Shipping and Asyad Drydock, said, "It is our pleasure to be the official supporter of Oman Sail's professional sailors participating in the RC44 Cup Grand Final on board of Asyad Shipping's boat. We wish them success and hope they raise the flag of the Sultanate of Oman high".

Al Nadhairi added: "Asyad Group and Oman Sail share a common goal: to connect the world with the Sultanate of Oman through the sea, whether through shipping services or competing in major international sailing championships. It is a great honour for Muscat to host the grand final of this year's RC44 Tour, and to bring so many excellent teams to our shores to race."

Hashim Al Rashdi, Oman Sail's Head of Performance, said, "This is an exciting opportunity for our sailors to gain more experience at the very highest levels of sailing. The RC44 Cup has historically featured some of the world's best sailors, competing on identical boats which means skill and tactical awareness is the deciding

factor. We are grateful to Asyad Shipping, the shipping arm of Asyad Group for supporting the team and the entire team is looking forward to being part of such a prestigious international event on home waters."

This is the first time that the RC44 Tour has visited Oman since 2014 when Oman also hosted the final round.

The championship has already been decided, with Monaco-based Charisma, skippered by Dutchman Nico Poons, bringing an unassailable lead into the final round of races.

The fleet is congested behind the leaders and all of the teams will be looking to finish the season strongly, while the addition of Team Asyad Shipping offers incentive for the local team to perform to the best of their ability.

The 44Cup Oman is organised by Oman Sail and supported by official event partners Oman Air, Al Mouj Muscat, Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Tanuf Water, and the new EQ range from Mercedes-Benz Oman.

JUNIOR DOMESTIC CRICKET

ISWK Lions defeat BSC D; BSC E beat ISM in U13 Junior League

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ISWK Lions U13 beat Boshers Sports Centre (BSC) D U13 one-sided by 256 runs and Boshers Sports Centre E U13 beat Indian School Muscat U13 by 10 wickets in the Oman Cricket U13 Junior League Season 2022-23 powered by Mazoon Dairy.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first, ISWK Lions U13's got off to a flying start. Openers Ayush Shetty and Aryan Joshi blasted 86 runs in the powerplay to give the Lions a lead in the contest. Both Openers went on to dominate the BSC D bowling attack with Aryan Joshi hitting 18 boundaries and Ayush Shetty hitting 11 boundaries. They created a record partnership for the 1st wicket in an U13 match scoring 255 runs in just 15 overs, both of them retiring out together. ISWK Lions ended the innings scoring 346 runs. In return, BSC D U13's started well with a quick 32 run partnership but falling off as dominoes to Jaideep Sai and Akeel Mohammed who bagged 3 wickets and 2 wickets respectively. BSC D were all out for just 90 runs in 18.5 overs. Brief Scores : ISWK Lions U13



346/3 in 20 overs (Aryan Joshi 112 (49) 18x4, Ayush Shetty 102 (55) 11x4) beat BSC D U13 90/10 in 18.5 overs (Aryan Nair 18 (15) 1x4; Jaideep Sai 7/3, Akeel Mohammed 5/2) by 256 runs.

In the other match, ISM U13 won the toss and elected to bat first. ISM lost their first wicket in the form of a run out halfway through the powerplay although a 68 run partnership between Suvarn AK and Swagath NK brought them back into the game.

Swagath went on to score a half century remaining not out scoring 61 of 47 balls hitting 6 fours. ISM U13 set a target of 147 for the BSC E U13 boys to fall for. BSC E U13 openers Vignesh Karthikeyan



and Aditya Chaudhari determined to chase down the target scored 36 preserving their wickets in the powerplay. BSC's Skipper Vignesh taking the responsibility, drained down the ISM U13 bowlers scoring 94 off 56 balls with 15 fours well supported by Aditya scoring 46 off 37 balls ensuring BSC E U13 get over the line with a dominating 10 wicket win.

Boshers Sports Centre U13 record their 3rd consecutive win of the league this week.

Brief Scores: ISM U13 146/4 in 20 overs (Swagath NK 61 (47) 6x4; Rayyan Junaid 24/1) lost to BSC E U13 147/0 in 15.3 overs (Vignesh K 94 (56) 15x4, Aditya C 46 (37) 4x4) by 10 wickets.

SHOTOKAN KARATE CENTER

435 players take part in international karate meet

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 8th Shotokan Karate Center International Competition concluded recently at Al-Amal Sports Club Hall in Ghala, Muscat.

Organised by the Shotokan Karate Center, it was held under the auspices of Sheikh Salem bin Hamad Al Mahrouqi, Chairman of the Omani Karate Committee, member of the Shura Council and representative of the Wilayat of Adam, and in the presence of Jihad bin Abdullah Al Sheikh, vice-president of the Oman Club.

A total 435 boys and girls, representing 27 clubs, centers and private academies from six countries, participated in the tournament. Besides players from the Sultanate of Oman, there were teams from the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Sudan and Syria. The championship was officiated by a team of international, continental and national referees.

The competition programme was divided over the course of two days, including the two competitions: kata (mock fighting) and kumite (free fighting) into several age groups and weights.



On the first day, competitions began for the age groups (6-10) years for boys and girls in individual categories and in the age groups (11-13) years for boys in the group section.

On the second day, the age groups (11-15) for girls in the kata and kumite competitions were held followed by the age groups (14-15-16-17-18 years and above) for boys in individual and group categories.

The championship witnessed strong competitions between

the national contestants and the players of the participating sports clubs from other countries, which gave the championship.

At the end of the ceremony, the international referee, Nasma Wans, and the national referee, Azhar Fathy, presented a performance in kata.

Later Sheikh Salem bin Hamad Al Mahrouqi and Jihad Al Sheikh, honoured the arbitration staff and the members of the organising committees.

EUROPCAR OPEN GOLF

Over 150 golfers participate in 8th edition of Europcar Open



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Over 150 players participated in the 2022 edition of the Europcar Open that was played at the Al Mouj Golf recently.

The individual stableford format tournament was also an Inter-Club Championship played between five clubs: Al Mouj, Ras Al Hamra, Ghala, Sifah and Dubai Hills.

The Inter-Club championship winner was Al Mouj Golf Club, represented by Girish Chawla (men's Captain - Al Mouj Golf), Jameela Daud, Emma Merritt and Glenn Canterford. Each winner received a gift hamper from WH Smith and dinner vouchers from Muntaz Mahal.

The Division A Men's Stableford winner was Mohamad Nasaruddin who won two business class tickets to any desti-

nation in Europe, sponsored by Turkish Airlines and a luxury sports watch from Mistal. The Division A men's gross winner was Navaid Ahmed who won a luxury sports watch from Mistal and one round of golf in Dubai Hills and luxury SUV rental from Europcar.

The women's winner was Jameela Daud who won a luxury fashion jewellery set from Mistal and a weekend at Kempinski Hotel.

The event was attended by

Rishi Khimji - Managing Director of Asha Enterprises LLC, Mundhir Al Barwani - Chairman of the Oman Golf Association and a number of guests.

"It is almost overwhelming to see how far we have come. This is our eighth year hosting the Europcar Open and we are excited to announce the ninth edition on 8th December 2023. In addition, Europcar Oman will also host the Europcar Open Golf Event in

Bahrain in 2023). The Europcar Open effortlessly blends the elements of business with pleasure, bringing to the golfers an experience to remember. The event serves as a great networking platform between fellow golf enthusiasts," said Nitin Sapre, GM of Europcar Oman & Bahrain.

The event saw Al Mouj Golf partner with Peugeot and Aston Martin, Mistal Watches and was jointly powered by Al Ahlia

Insurance and Turkish Airlines.

It was supported by Travelex the Foreign Exchange partner, Travelpoint the travel partner, Kempinski the hotel partner, Nikai the electronics partner, WHSmith the retail partner, African & Eastern the beverage partner and Muscat Media Group, the media partner. The tournament was also supported by Muntaz Mahal and Woodlands.



ROUND-UP



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Win Niro HEV at Kia’s exciting ‘Season of Winning’ campaign

Now buy any of your favourite Kia vehicles and get a chance to win a brand new Kia Niro Hybrid Electric Vehicle through raffle

MUSCAT: The season of winning continues at Kia! Kia is offering the perfect opportunity to end the year 2022 and begin the new year on a winning note with ‘Season of Winning’ campaign.

Now buy any of your favourite Kia vehicles and get a chance to win a brand new Kia Niro Hybrid Electric Vehicle through raffle. Apart from that customers will also get comprehensive service up to 50,000km, 1 year insurance and cash gift.

Catch the excitement with Kia’s latest range of vehicles and make



the most of the ‘Season of Winning’ with Kia.

The Sportage is equipped with comprehensive range of powerful, responsive and efficient power-trains. A 2.0 RVC 4WD with Nu 2.0 MPI churning 157 hp at 19.5 kg.m torque. This is paired to a 6-speed

AT. The Sportage is also available as 1.6T 2WD SRF, 1.6T 2WD SPL and 1.6T 4WD SPL with Gamma 1.6T GDI with 176 HP and 27 kg.m. torque. These are paired to a 7-speed DCT. The Sportage interior is as fascinating as the exterior. It offers a unique hi-tech environ-

ment that is visually impressive, as well as spacious and intuitive. Throughout the cabin, the highest quality materials that are opulent to touch have been used, while dynamic and vibrant colour options add vibrancy and energy. Fully immersive, in-car sound is

delivered to the occupants of the Sportage via an 8” audio display system and steering audio control. The Sportage is also equipped with rear AC vent, Bluetooth with voice recognition, Android auto and car play, drive mode select, remote engine start, paddle shifter and more.

The Kia Sonet is equipped with a powerful 1.5L engine that is paired to a CVT transmission. Offering comfortable space to passengers with its 5-seater capacity, this SUV goes the distance giving an impressive average of 17.5 kmpl. Offering absorbing moments on every drive is well laid-out, intuitive infotainment and cluster interface, the Sonet was built taking into consideration the end user’s experience. The Sonet is available with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay feature, Audio Remote Control, Bluetooth, USB charger. Harbours functional qualities in every inch of its ergonomic space.

Powering the exciting to drive K5 is a powerful 2.5L GDI engine that offers 191 HP and 25.1 KG.M. Torque. The engine is paired to an 8-speed Automatic Transmission. In the K5 a range of features enhance every experience.

They include Drive Mode Select, Auto Cruise Control, Power Driver Seat, Auto AC, Power Passenger Seat, Navigation with 10.25” Display, Premium Music System, Red Leather Seats, Ventilated Front Seats, Paddle Shifter, Aluminium Pedals, Mood Lamp, Android Auto & Car Play and more.

Harmonizing the open layout of the cockpit is a newly designed infotainment display that seamlessly stretches into the instrument panel, creating a futuristic, three-dimensional layout and driver-centric space.

Creating an inviting and comfortable interior are a range of features that include Tinted Glass, Tilt & Telescopic Steering, Radio with USB, Audio Remote Control, Driver’s Seat Height Adjuster, Rear AC Vents, Leather AT Knob and more.

Customers looking to own a Kia can visit any showroom and experience a Kia. The campaign will end on 26 January 2023 (Conditions apply).

Reliable International Automotive, the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.

THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

Renaissance Services wins OMR57mn MoH contract for soft FM services



MUSCAT: Renaissance Services has been awarded a three-year OMR57.3 million contract by the Ministry of Health (MoH) for soft FM services at 44 hospitals across Oman.

Adil Bahwan, Chief Operations Officer, Renaissance said, “We have been serving Oman’s health institutions for over two decades and thank MoH for its continued trust in Renaissance’s commitment to quality, safety, efficient service delivery and care.”

While serving a combined capacity of over 7,500 beds, the contract will continue to contribute towards Renaissance’s ICV goals through local procurement from SMEs.

Under the contract mobilising on January 1, 2023, Renaissance will provide catering, cleaning, laundry and pest control services at 23 hospitals and eight renal dialysis units, cleaning and pest control services at 11 extended health centres and cleaning, laundry and pest control at two health centres.

RECOGNITION

Bank Nizwa receives two awards at Alam Al Iktisaad’s Islamic Banking and Finance Summit



MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa, the leading and fastest-growing Islamic Bank has recently been awarded the ‘Islamic Bank of the Year’ title and ‘Best Sustainable Banking Products Innovation’ accolade at the Alam Al Iktisaad’s Islamic Banking and Finance Summit (IBFS) 2022.

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Fehr Bin Fatik Al Said, Tahir Al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman, was the Guest of Honour and keynote speaker. Bank Nizwa was the event’s Presenting Sponsor, which was organised on November 29 at the Crowne Plaza, Qurum. The bank’s continued commitment to achieving growth, progress, and innovation in Oman’s Islamic banking and finance sector is reflected in sponsorships like these.

Khaled Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer of Bank Nizwa, delivered the inaugural speech, highlighting the global trends in Islamic Finance, its local progress and the next phase of Islamic Finance in Oman.

The event comprised interactive presentations on the future of Islamic Banking and Finance and panel discussions involving a cross-section of industry experts from Oman, GCC and other

international markets.

With a strong understanding of the local market and proven capabilities to lead transformative change in the sector, Bank Nizwa played an active role in these discussions. Salim Al Maharbi, Chief Financial Officer, Bank Nizwa, participated in the ‘Future of Islamic Banking and Finance and Islamic Fintech’ panel discussion. Mustafa Al Naabi, Sharia Training Assistant Manager at Bank Nizwa, delivered a presentation titled ‘Sharia Guidelines for Digital Banking.’

Commenting on winning the awards, Al Kayed said, “We are honoured that Alam Al Iktisaad’s Islamic Banking and Finance Summit has recognised us as the ‘Islamic Bank of the Year’ and also bestowed us with the ‘Best Sustainable Banking Products Innovation’ award. Achieving such milestones fuels Bank Nizwa’s pursuit of excellence and our commitment to our customers.”

Since its inception, Bank Nizwa has strived to be the preferred financial partner of Oman’s people and enterprises. With a commitment to Shari’ah-compliant innovative financial solutions, the Bank aims to provide its customers with a unique banking experience in line with their evolving needs.

AL MAR’A MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE AWARDS



BankDhofar’s Majida Al Balushi receives Financial Services Award

MUSCAT: As one of the outstanding Omani leaders at BankDhofar, Majida Issa Al Balushi, AGM - Large Corporate & Corporate Branch at BankDhofar, received the Financial Services Award at Al Mar’a Magazine Excellence Awards 2022.

The award recognises her efforts and successful leadership of the corporate banking services at BankDhofar.

On receiving the award, Majida Issa Al Balushi, AGM - Large Corporate & Corporate Branch at BankDhofar noted: “I am pleased to be one of the winners of this prominent award that recognises Omani women in various roles and sectors. The banking sector has recently seen a number of Omani women who have exploited the opportunities, proven their capabilities and ascended the ladder to leadership positions. I am proud of the achievements of Omani women, and I am confident that such awards will motivate other women to persevere for success and achievements.”

Since joining the banking sector, Majida Al Balushi worked her way up the organizational levels to become the AGM for Large Corporates & Corporate Branch-

es. Majida Al Balushi holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Bedfordshire in the UK. She has attended a number of professional development programmes in leadership and management, including the Leadership Program at Harvard Business School, as well as programmes in Omega Credit, Master-Class for Senior Relationship Managers, Syndication Techniques, Corporate Strategies and Executive Development, Credit Analysis, Financial Maths, Decision Making & Problem Solving, Shareholder’s Equity, Capital Market Instruments, Supervisory Skills Development and Human Resources Management.

The awards ceremony was held at Sheraton Oman Hotel, under the patronage of Lujaina Mohsin Darwish. Al Mar’a Excellence Awards is a platform to recognize the achievements and entrepreneurial zeal of women in the Sultanate. The awards recognise and encourage Omani women who have conquered the odds and have reached challenging positions in diverse areas like business, government, industry, education and other relevant fields.





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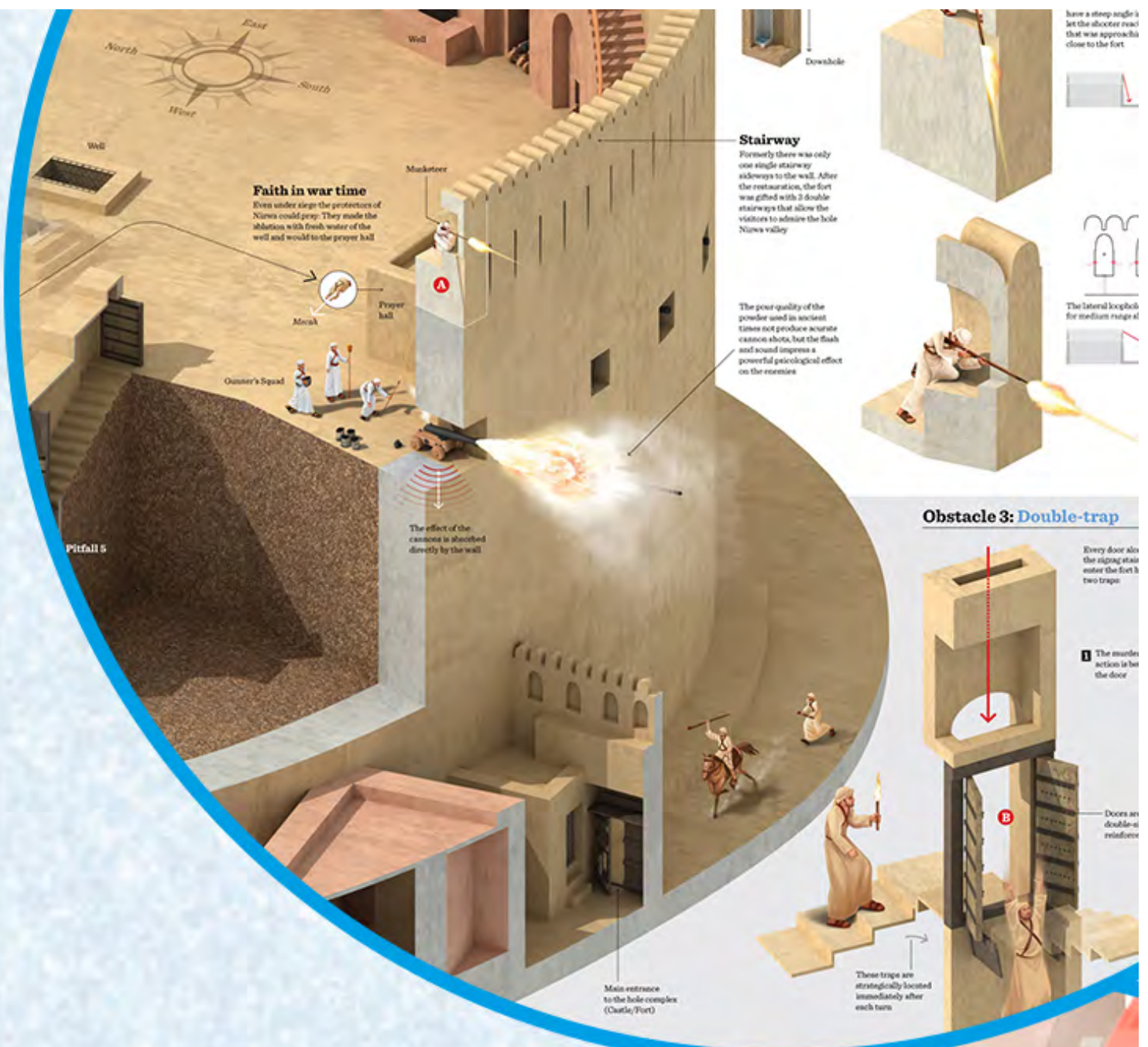
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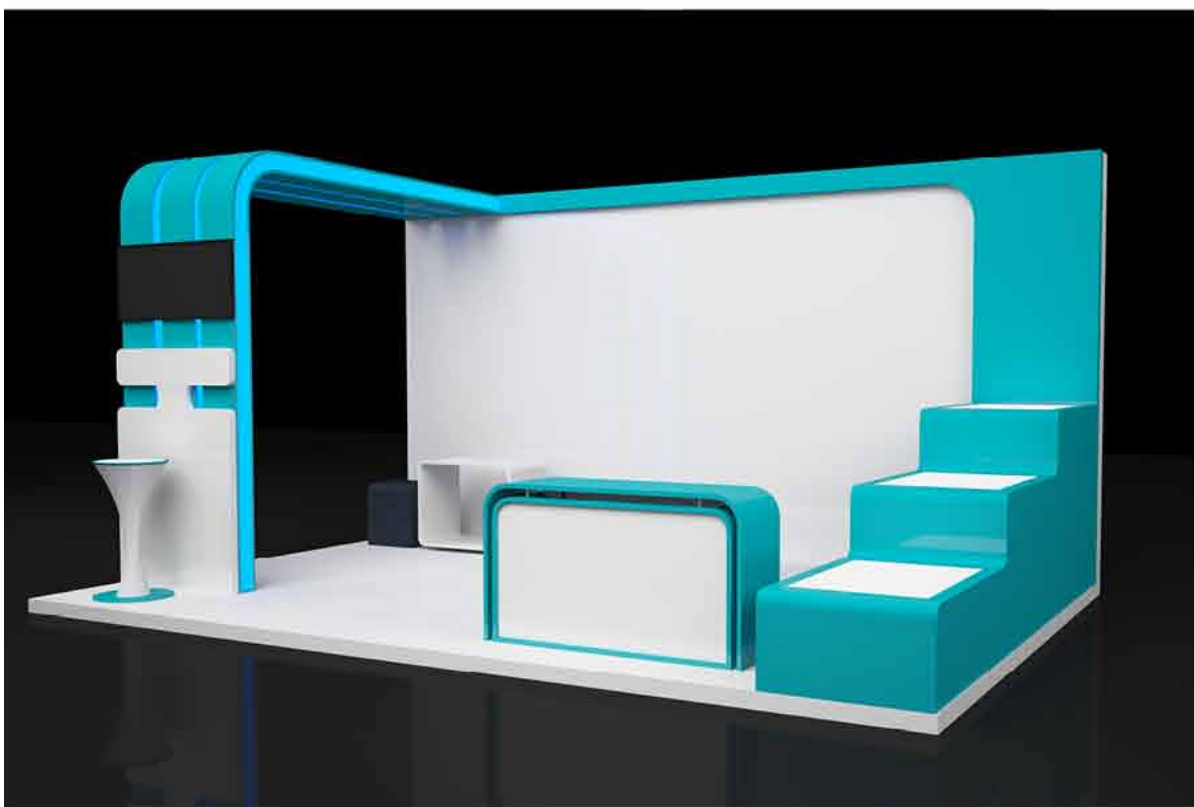
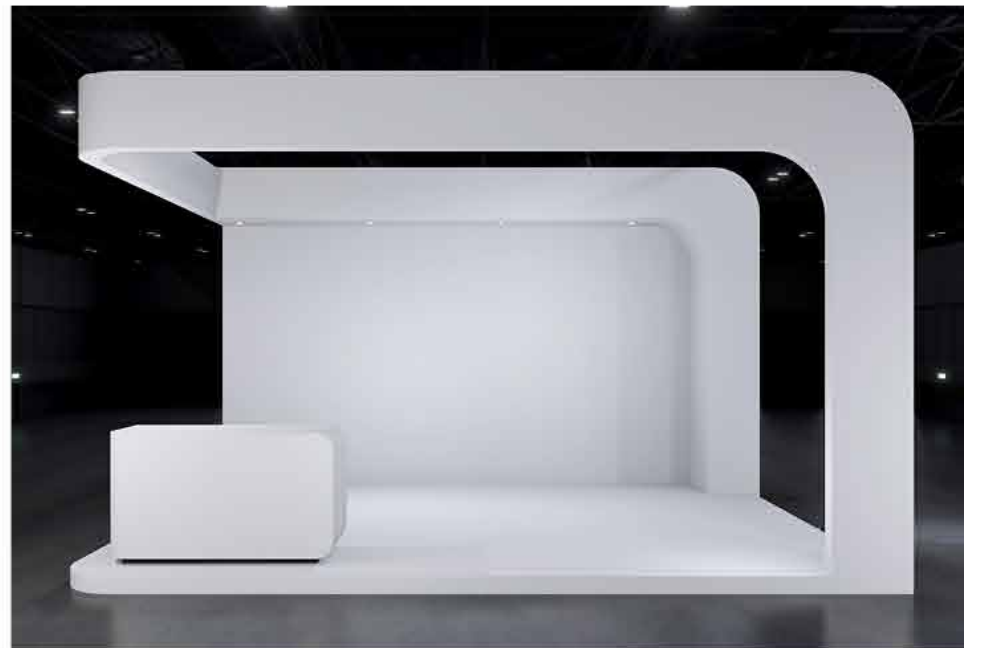
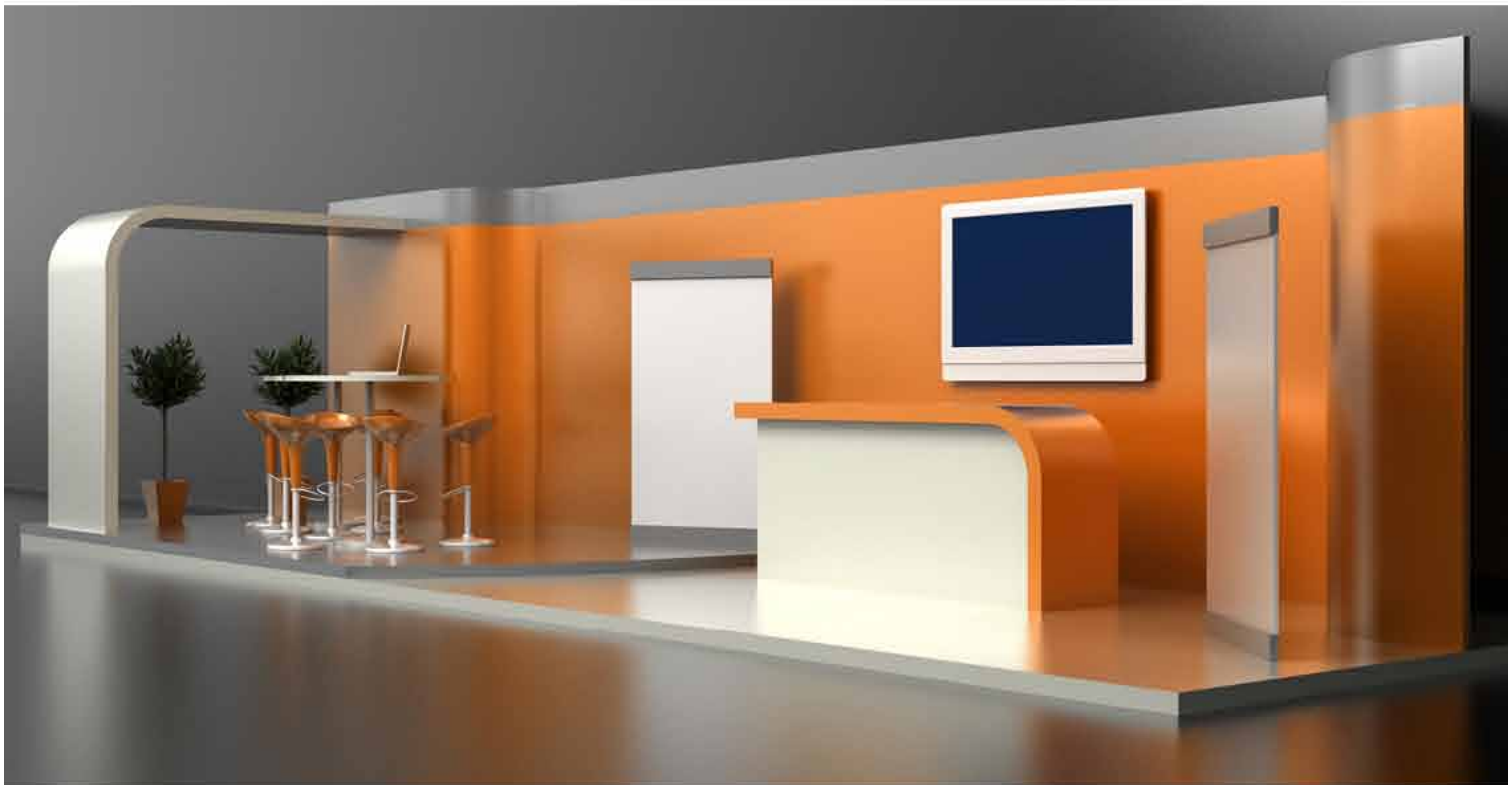


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