

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES COPY OF CREDENTIALS

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received here today a copy of credentials of Noralzan binti Abdula Momin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A3**



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RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:13pm
ASR	3:40pm
MAGHRIB	6:32pm
ISHA	7:44pm
FAJR (APRIL 14)	4:30am



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MEETING



Sayyid Shihab receives Italian ambassador

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received Pierluigi D'Elia, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman, at Al Murtafaa Garrison yesterday.

During the meeting, the two

sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on various matters of mutual interest.

HH Sayyid Shihab wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties as his country's ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**

12 integrated tourism complexes developed with an investment value of OMR1.07bn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The efforts of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) to promote tourism investments in the Sultanate of Oman has reaped fruits with more than 300 projects underway.

The ministry said a total of 363 projects across various governorates in the Sultanate are at various stages of implementation with a total investments of OMR2.29 billion as a result of public and private partnerships over a four-year period from 2021-2025.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism targets to reach OMR3 billion worth investments in the tourism sector during the aforementioned period by attracting additional investments worth of OMR700 million by 2025.

The move comes within the framework of the ministry's efforts to promote tourism investments in all sectors, and keep pace



with the growing tourism movement in the country.

Salim Mohammad Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, said that the ministry's efforts in attracting investment come from the standpoint of the developmental role that relies on the tourism sector in accordance with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and the comprehensive plan for developing the tourism sector in Oman.

He said that these investments combine the economic aspect represented by the fact that the sector is one of the potential sectors

to achieve economic diversification and channel investments to maximise the utilisation of the potentials enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman while highlighting and preserving the country's heritage as well.

The minister stressed that attracting investment in the tourism sector always takes into account maximising the benefit of the tourism and heritage elements in the short and long terms while prioritising projects required by the market.

The step aims to diversify the tourism product and attract mul-

multiple categories of visitors.

He also clarified that the investment in the tourism sector also seeks to empower its role in developing the economy of the governorates, through projects that keep pace with the comparative advantages of each governorate, in addition to the benefit of these projects to local communities and small and medium enterprises in the governorates.

The minister said that, the integrated tourism complexes represent the largest bulk in the volume of investment in the tourism sector. **>A5**

OMAN

Oman's ambassador presents credentials

1 Moosa Hamdan Al Ta'ei, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United States of America (USA) presented his credentials to Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. **>A5**

WORLD

100 killed in airstrike

2 100 people were killed in an air raid by Myanmar's military. **>A6**

MARKET

New vessel added

3 Asyad Line added a brand-new vessel to its commercial fleet. **>B1**

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EXPANSION

Oman Air announces two daily flights to Istanbul

MUSCAT:

With summer approaching, Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the expansion of its flight offerings to Turkey.

In response to the growing demand for travel to this popular destination, the airline has re-launched its popular Trabzon route and is increasing the frequency of its flights to Istanbul,

providing guests with more options and flexibility during the peak season.

As of June, holiday-goers can choose from twice daily flights to Istanbul, as well as daily flights to Trabzon, at convenient timings. Whether travellers are seeking to explore the cultural and historic sites of Istanbul or soak up the breathtaking landscapes of

Trabzon, the airline is committed to delivering a seamless and enjoyable travel experience. With the new flight options, guests can plan an unforgettable trip to Turkey with ease.

Guests travelling to Turkey should ensure they are aware of official requirements to enter or transit through the country.

-ONA

GROWTH THROUGH TOURISM

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tenders:

Tender No.	11/2023
Tender Title	Provision of Asset Operation Services for Uwaifiyyah Guest House
Tender Submission Closing Date	4.5.2023
Tender Process Details	Please visit: www.omran.om/tenders/

omran.om/tenders/

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group)

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Foreign Minister receives copy of credentials of envoy

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received yesterday a copy of credentials of Noralizan binti Abdula Momin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr wished the ambassador success in carrying out her duties. He also wished the relations between the two countries further development and growth.



MOU SIGNED

OCO exempted from ground handling costs at airport

MUSCAT: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Oman SATS Company and Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO) to exempt ground handling costs for OCO.

Humanitarian efforts

The memorandum of understanding comes within the framework of supporting humanitarian efforts provided by Oman Charitable Organisation in various countries of the world through Muscat International Airport.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Sheikh Aymen Ahmed Al Hosni, Chairman of Oman SATS and Mohammed Hamoud Al Dihli, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oman Charitable Organisation.



THIRD SESSION

Oman and Sri Lanka review ties

MUSCAT: The foreign ministries of the Sultanate of Oman and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka yesterday held the third session of talks.

During the session, held via video-conferencing, the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in various fields and means of enhancing them to serve joint interests. They also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Hamad Saif Al Rawahi, Head of International Cooperation Department at the Foreign Ministry, while the Sri Lankan side was headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Additional Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs and Consular Affairs.

Sri Lanka envoy

The session was also attended by Ahmed Lebbe Sabarullah Khan, Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman and Mohammad Salim Jadad Al Kathiri, Acting Head of the West Asia Department at the Foreign Ministry. It was also attended by officials from both sides.

MADAYN

Student graduation projects

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", represented by the Industrial Innovation Academy, signed a co-operation programme to incubate top student graduation projects and transform those projects to startups.

The agreement was inked by Dr. Saif Abdullah Al Hadabi, Undersecretary for Research and Innovation and Dr. Aymen Abdullah Al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy.

The agreement covers managing and conducting research and projects in accordance with the agreed upon action plan, in addition to supervising and evaluating winning projects. The incubation period extends from one year to three years. -ONA

Al Jabal Al Akhdhar Hotel

فندق الجبل الأخضر

Invitation to attend the annual general assembly meeting

Al Jabal Al Akhdhar Hotels & Tourism Company S.A.O.C.

An invitation from the Board of Directors of Al Jabal Al Akhdhar Hotels and Tourism Company S.A.O.C to the distinguished shareholders to attend the meeting of the regular Annual General Assembly to be held at 11:00am on Thursday, 27/04/2023 at Jabal Akhdhar Hotels. If the quorum of the assembly is not completed, the second meeting will be held on Sunday morning, April 30, 2023 at 11:00 am to study and discuss the following agenda:

1. Study and approve the report of the Board of Directors for the year ended 31/12/2022

2. Study and approve the report of the auditors and financial statements for the year ended 31/12/2022

3. Propose the distribution of cash dividends of 25% of the value of the share equivalent (250Bz) per share and approved.

4. Appoint auditors for the current fiscal year, which will end on 31/12/2023, and determine their fees and approve it.

5. Election of the Board of Directors for the next term

Each shareholder has the right to authorize whoever deems fit, to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf if he or she is unable to attend.

Chairman

Sheikh Saud Bin Sulaiman Bin Hamir Al Nabhani

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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:32 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:13 pm
Asr	3:40 pm
Maghrib	6:32 pm
Isha	7:44 pm
Fajr (April 14)	4:30 am

» IFTAR RECIPE

MEXICAN TORTILLA SHRIMP BOWLS



- INGREDIENTS**
 - 500g shrimp
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 cup uncooked long-grain white rice
 - 1 teaspoon lime zest
 - 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
 - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
 - 1 can black beans (15.5 ounces), drained and rinsed
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1/4 cup chicken broth
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 2 avocados, sliced
 - 1 cup crumbled queso fresco
 - Tortilla chips
- spoon salt to a boil in a medium saucepan.

 - Add rice and return to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until water is absorbed.
 - Fluff with a fork. Stir in lime zest, lime juice and cilantro.
 - While rice cooks, bake the shrimps.
 - Meanwhile, combine black beans, garlic, chicken broth, cumin and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper in a small saucepan. Simmer for 10 minutes.
 - Divide rice evenly between 4 bowls. Top with shrimp, black beans, avocado and queso fresco. Serve with tortilla chips.
- PREPARATION**
 - Bring 2 cups water and 1/2 tea-

» WORDS OF WISDOM

Do not lose heart or despair- if you are true believers you have the upper hand-” [Quran 3:139].
Based on this inspirational Islamic quote, Allah the Merciful Promises us that we will indeed be among the superior if we are patient with the trials and tribulations that befall upon us. A part of being patient is accepting His Divine Decree, no matter how harsh the reality may seem. So, if you feel at a loss right now, do not grieve. Do not lose heart, for you have won a great victory of life.

» FASTING TIPS

AVOID CARBONATED AND SUGARY DRINKS

High sugar intake, in the form of sodas or other sugar-sweetened beverages should be avoided. Be cautious of adding sugar to home-made/ traditional fruit drinks. Serving carbonated drinks at fast breaks not only deprives of a healthy appetite, but can also lead to dehydration and sugar cravings during the fast.



» CUISINE

COOK IN BATCHES

Cook large amount of food and store some for later. It's a great way to make sure you have healthy meals ready when you do not have time to cook everyday. Meatballs, patties, soups, stews, and cooked vegetables can be batch-cooked and frozen.

» GOOD DEED



REKINDLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILY

RAMADAN is the perfect time to rekindle relationships with family through Iftar gatherings and after-Iftar time spent with relatives with whom you have perhaps lost touch with during the hustle and bustle of the year. Plan a family gathering once per week, or make plans with a cousin to have coffee after Iftar. Any act of communion with family during the Holy Month is a blessing, both in the eyes of God, and for you as family is one of the greatest gifts we have in this world. The Holy Month is also the time to show the world you care. Spend time with an elderly

person in your house or the neighbourhood. You need to make it a point to visit your grandparents as often as you can not only during Ramadan but otherwise too. But if you haven't been doing it, then this is your chance to start. You can even visit your friends or neighbours' grandparents, spend some time with them, read to them, and help them with their daily chores. Make sure that you pray together at least once in a day. Also have your Suhoor and Iftar meals together. Eating together reconnects you with your family.

GREETINGS CONVEYED

Oman’s envoy presents credentials to Governor General of Canada



OTTAWA: Moosa Hamdan Al Ta’ei, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United States of America (USA) presented his credentials to Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada as plenipotentiary, non-resident ambassador of Oman to Canada.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik along with best wishes of good health and happiness to the Governor General and permanent prosperity to the Canadian people.

The Governor General of Canada asked the ambassador to convey her greetings to His Majesty the Sultan and best wishes of further progress to the Omani people under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

-ONA

INTEGRATED TOURISM COMPLEXES

363 tourism projects across Oman being implemented

<FROM A1 He explained that 12 integrated tourism complexes with an investment value of OMR3.9 billion, are currently being implemented, including OMR1.07 billion as investment value during the period of 2021 to 2025.

These complexes include Al Mouj project, Barr Al Jissah Resort (the port district development), Mandarin Oriental project and Residence, Diyar Ras Al Hadd Resort, Hawana Salalah (Salalah Beach Resort), Yiti Sustainable City, phase two of Mirbat Tourism Project, phase one A, b of Jebel Sifah, Blue City Project, Al Sharq project and Palm Resort project.

The preparation is also taking place for another package of integrated tourism complexes to be located in the Governorate of Muscat, the Governorate of Musandam and the Governorate of South Al-Sharqiyah with an estimated total investment value of OMR2.5 billion.

The minister affirmed that the ministry always pays attention to diversifying tourism and recreational components in these complexes, in addition to enhancing aspects of their benefit to local communities and their in-country-value (ICV) by finding attractive opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and generating employment opportunities in the labour market.

He also revealed that some qualitative and multi-use projects with a total investment value of OMR262 million, including Oman Botanic Garden, the Village Project and the Salalah Gardens (The Coconut Farm)

project.

Further, a number of projects are currently being set to be developed at Halanaiyat and Dimaniyat Islands with an estimated investment cost of OMR137 million during the period of 2021 to 2025, while efforts are being exerted to attract prestigious hotel marks such as the Four Seasons Hotel.

As for the investment in the hotel’s establishments projects, the minister added that a number of 124 hotel establishments have been developed during the period of 2021 to 2022, with a total investment value of OMR139 million, including 4 hotel projects, including Avani Hotel project In the Wilayat of A’Seeb, the Doset D2 Hotel in the Wilayat of Jabal Al Akhdar, the Intercity Hotel Muscat, and Jumeirah Muscat Hotel in the Governorate of Muscat.

In addition to that, the minister said that there are a number of 120 hotel projects (with an investment cost of less than OMR5 million per project), which includes hotel apartments, guesthouses, heritage inns, green inns, with a total investment value of OMR48.075 million.

He elaborated that a number of 127 new hotel establishment projects with a total investment value of OMR340 million are under implementation, including 14 hotel projects (of an investment cost higher than OMR5 million per project) with ratings ranging from 3 to 5 stars and hotel apartments, with a total investment value of OMR238 million.

Additionally, he minister said pointed out that as many as 113 hotel establishments (with an investment cost of less than OMR5

million per facility) are being implemented at an investment cost of RO 102 million, of which 15 projects are under implementation on government lands and 98 projects are under implementation on private lands.

Hotel establishments vary to include resorts and hotels with a rating of one to three stars, luxury camps, tourist camps, green lodges, hotel apartments, guesthouses and rest houses.

The Minister of Heritage and Tourism further said that a number of domestic tourism development projects, which are being implemented through the executive programme of the recovery plan and by the governorates have reached 24 projects, with a value of OMR16.6 million, while work is underway on 14 projects to develop and invest heritage sites and historical monuments, with an investment value of OMR13.8 million.

The minister added that the number of projects to improve museums and private heritage houses reached 8 projects, with an investment value of OMR17,000. He also said that the number of projects for establishing museum exhibition halls in castles and forts reached to 6 projects, at an investment cost of OMR45,000.

There are a number of local tourism development projects being implemented directly by the governorates within the framework of their specializations and through the governorate development programme.

Preparations are also underway to invest in 34 historical landmarks, with an investment value of OMR1.884 million. with ONA inputs

AL BUSTAN AREA

Agreement to manage and operate fish farm

MUSCAT: An agreement was inked here on Wednesday between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) for FDO to handle managing and operating the Ministry’s fish farming centre at Al Bustan area.

The agreement aims to commercially manage and operate the centre. It is also expected to contribute to producing approximately 9 million of marine fish fry.

The agreement targets boosting cooperation in carrying out research in the field of fish farming.

Moreover, the agreement was signed by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Sheikh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, Chairman of FDO’s Board of Directors.

-ONA

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Al Shabiba emerge champions of OJA Ramadan football tournament

MUSCAT: A dominating performance by *Al Shabiba* newspaper team saw them trounce *Oman Daily* newspaper side 3-0 to lift the title at the Oman Journalists’ Association (OJA) Ramadan Football Championship, which concluded at the Al Hilal grounds in Azaiba on Tuesday.

The final match was held under the auspices of Mohammed bin Saeed Al Balushi, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Information, who later gave away the awards

Oman News Agency (ONA) team completed the podium with a third place after defeating Oman Radio 6/2 in the third place playoff match.

Later, the chief guest also awarded the best player in the tournament, best goalkeeper and top scorer, and honoured the match referees.

Earlier, *Oman Daily* newspaper beat ONA while *Al Shabiba* beat Oman Radio in the semi-finals.

Al Shabiba topped Group B as they won all the three matches to garner nine points. *Al Shabiba* beat *Oman Daily* 3-1, defeated Galfar Media team 2-1 before edging Administration and Finance team of Ministry of Information 5-3 in the concluding round of group stage. *Oman Daily* finished second with six points. They beat Galfar 3-0 and defeated the Administration and Finance team of the Ministry of Information 4-1.

ONA topped Group A by registering wins in all their three matches to collect nine points. They defeated Oman TV 4-1, edged past Oman Radio 1-0 and routed Oman Journalists Association (OJA) 4-1. Oman Radio came second with six points as they recorded victories against Oman TV 2-0 and OJA with 3-0 score.

The tournament witnessed the participation of eight teams, representing different media institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.





شركة إسمنت عمان
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G.)

Notice and Invitation to Attend the Ordinary General Meeting

The Board of Directors of OMAN CEMENT SAOG (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Ordinary General Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, 30/04/2023 at 03:00 PM, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Ordinary General Meeting shall be held on Thursday, 04/05/2023 at 03:00 PM, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) to discuss the following agenda:

- Election of four members to fill vacant seats on the Board of Directors. Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director's Nomination Form. The completed Form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Ordinary General Meeting of the Company (no later than the end of the business hours on Tuesday, 25th April 2023). The candidate must satisfy the company's board membership requirements.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
- Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact Ms. Afnan Al Mughairi on telephone No 98053928 or email: afnan.mughairi@omancement.com

Ramadan Iftar Program



The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1444 AH AD 2023

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Biden to meet Rishi Sunak, Northern Ireland leaders

US President Joe Biden is set to deliver a keynote speech at the University of Ulster in the Irish capital, Belfast



BELFAST: US President Joe Biden kicks off his public schedule in Northern Ireland on Wednesday after arriving in Belfast to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The deal, which ended decades of sectarian violence that killed thousands, has faced testing times in recent years amid discord over post-Brexit trade arrangements and political instability in the province's devolved government.

What's on the itinerary? Biden is due to meet with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak over coffee on Wednesday morning. The US President will also meet with the leaders of Northern Ireland's five main political parties. It is unclear if they will hold separate meetings. "The message is twofold. It's congratulations on 25 years of the Good Friday agreement... (and) to talk about the importance of trying to work on trade and economic

policies that benefit all communities as well as the United States," said White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby, who is traveling with Biden. Biden will give an address at the University of Ulster. The speech will be delivered at a business event at the university's new campus in Belfast. Afterward, he will head south to the Republic of Ireland for two-and-a-half days of meetings with officials and distant relatives.

Biden is staunchly proud of his Irish heritage. His great-great-grandfather Owen Finnegan, a shoemaker from County Louth, immigrated to the United States in 1849, followed by several other family members.

Unionists unswayed by visit The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which has refused to participate in Northern Ireland's power-sharing government for more than a year in protest of trade rules that it says treat Northern Ireland separately from the rest of the United Kingdom, said Biden's visit will not pressure it to change tack.

Sammy Wilson, a DUP lawmaker who sits in the UK Parliament in Westminster, said in an interview on Talk TV that Biden "has got a record of being pro-republican, anti-unionist, anti-British." Security has been stepped up ahead of Biden's visit. On Tuesday, masked protesters threw Molotov cocktails at a police van in Londonderry.

-DW

MYANMAR'S MILITARY

100 killed in airstrike on Myanmar village

KANBALU: As many as 100 people, including many children, were killed in an air raid by Myanmar's military in Sagaing Region's Kanbalu Township, reported The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) citing a witness of a local pro-democracy group and independent media. The attack occurred on Tuesday morning around 8 am during the ceremony held to mark the opening of a People's Administration Team office in Pa Zi Gyi village, junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun confirmed, as reported by malaymail. He said some of the dead were anti-coup fighters in uniform while acknowledging "there could be some people with civilian clothes." Sagaing region -- near the country's second-largest city, Mandalay -- has put up some of the fiercest resistance to the military's rule, with intense fighting raging there for months. "According to the ground information we got, people were killed not because of our attack only. There were some mines planted by PDF around that area," malaymail quoted him saying, adding the airstrike had also hit a storage area for gunpowder and mines. However, The Irrawaddy re-



ported that 50 civilians including children were killed and 30 injured. Meanwhile, Myanmar Now, a News agency stated that the airstrike killed 80 people. Reacting to the incident, UN rights chief Volker Turk said on Tuesday he was "horrified" by the deadly air strikes, whose victims he said included schoolchildren performing dances, with the global body calling for those responsible to be brought to justice. It was the junta's deadliest attack since seizing power in 2021. As resistance forces have become better armed, the military has doubled down on its strategy of carrying out air raids and targeting civilians. Photos from the village being shared on social media showed

more than a dozen burned and mutilated bodies, while videos showed a destroyed building, burned motorcycles and debris scattered over a wide area. Rescuers at the scene confirmed the authenticity of the images with The New York Times. The apparent target of the attack was a celebration to mark the local resistance movement's opening of an administration office. Only the charred frame of the building remained standing after the air raid, a video and photos showed. Myanmar's military, which has battled armed ethnic groups for territorial control since soon after independence in 1948, has a long history of brutal attacks on civilians. -ANI

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Zelenskyy seeks humanitarian aid

NEW DELHI: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking additional humanitarian aid including medical equipment from India, the external affairs ministry said on Wednesday. The request came during the recent three-day visit to India by Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova who handed over Zelenskyy's letter to Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakashi Lekhi, a statement from the foreign ministry said. "Dzhaparova also called on Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakashi Lekhi. Besides holding discussions on a wide range of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, she handed over a letter from President Zelenskyy, addressed to Prime Minister Modi. Ukrainian request for additional humanitarian supply, including medicines and medical equipment was also shared by her," according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs. -ANI

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ANOTHER TERM

Erdogan launches reelection campaign

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched his reelection campaign on Tuesday, with pledges to slash soaring inflation to single digits and boost economic growth. "We will reduce inflation to single digits again, and definitely, we will save our country from this problem," Erdogan told his supporters at the election campaign ceremony in the capital of Ankara. When elaborating on his party's election manifesto, Erdogan said the ruling Justice and Development Party's (AKP) aimed to achieve annual economic growth of 5.5 percent between 2024 and 2028, raising gross domestic product to 1.5 trillion US dollars by the end of 2028. "In the coming period, with an annual growth rate of 5.5 percent,



we will increase our national income to 1.5 trillion US dollars, and then our main target is 2 trillion dollars," he said. After two decades of rule, Erdogan seeks another term of presidency in the elections scheduled for May 14, while the ailing economy with elevated inflation and

weak currency becomes one of his biggest challenges. Türkiye's annual inflation had risen for 17 months to hit 85.5 percent last October, bringing about a sharp decline in Turkish households' purchasing power. The rate decreased to 50.5 percent in March.

In response, Erdogan promised to improve the welfare of employees, civil servants and retirees by "always increasing their wages above inflation." Erdogan also offers further financial assistance for the households to help them get a steady income. "We will establish a Family and Youth Bank, funded by our natural gas and oil income to provide a financial contribution to the youth, to encourage them to start their families, to help their education, employment, and childcare," he said. His government will focus on investment, production, and exports to boost growth, aiming to reach the targeted foreign trade volume of 1 trillion dollars, Erdogan said. -DW



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COOPERATION PROGRAMME

SQU inks pact for research

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University and Tuv Sud Middle East Company yesterday signed a cooperation programme in the field of enhancing cooperation in research and cultivating abilities. Through the cooperation programme, the two sides aim to explore various research opportunities, conduct workshops and feasibility studies, as well as carrying out research and development. The agreement was signed by Amer Saif Al Hinai, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research at SQU and Eng. Hassan Ahmed Farrouh, the company's Head of Green Energy and Sustainability. Moreover, Tuv Sud Middle East is an international non-profit company which has been offering its services for more than 150 years in the fields of safety, security and sustainability. -ONA

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

India to be fastest growing economy in the world: IMF

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its flagship World Economic Outlook projected that India will be the fastest growing economy in the world amid financial sector turmoil, high inflation, ongoing effects of the Russia-Ukraine war, and three years of COVID. IMF on Tuesday lowered its growth projection for 2023-24 to 5.9 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier but despite a significant drop, India continues to be the fastest-growing economy in the world, the World Economic Outlook figures revealed. The IMF projects India's inflation to slow to 4.9 per cent in the current year and further to 4.4 per cent next fiscal year. IMF growth forecast is lower than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projection. The central bank predicted 7 per cent GDP growth for FY 2022-23 and 6.4 per cent in the ongoing fiscal that started on April 1. The government is yet to release full-year GDP numbers for 2022-23. Meanwhile, the international lender flagged concerns about inflation, debt and risks to the financial sector from rising interest rates. It warned that if banks cut lending further, the global output will reduce by another 0.3 percentage point in 2023. "Despite the fillips from lower food and energy prices and improved supply-chain functioning, risks are firmly to the downside with the increased uncertainty from the recent financial sector turmoil," the report said. The IMF projects growth to bottom out at 2.8 per cent in 2023, picking up to 3 per cent in 2024. Inflation is expected to stay elevated at 7 per cent for the rest of the year, before declining to 4.9 per cent next year. Supply-chain disruptions and rising geopolitical tensions have brought the risks and potential benefits and costs of geo-economic fragmentation to the center of the policy debate, added the report. FDI flows are increasingly concentrated among geopolitically aligned countries, particularly in strategic sectors. Several emerging market and developing economies are highly vulnerable to FDI relocation, given their reliance on FDI from geopolitically distant countries. In the long term, FDI fragmentation arising from the emergence of geopolitical blocs can generate large output losses, especially for emerging market and developing economies, added the report. Tentative signs in early 2023 that the world economy could achieve a soft landing--with inflation coming down and growth steady--have receded amid stubbornly high inflation and recent financial sector turmoil. Although inflation has declined as central banks have raised interest rates and food and energy prices have come down, underlying price pressures are proving sticky, with labor markets tight in a number of economies. Side effects from the fast rise in policy rates are becoming apparent, as banking sector vulnerabilities have come into focus and fears of contagion have risen across the broader financial sector, including nonbank financial institutions. Risks to the outlook are heavily skewed to the downside, with the chances of a hard landing having risen sharply, added the report. -ANI



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Record-breaking Haaland puts Man City in command

The 22-year-old Norwegian scored his 45th goal of the season during City's facile 3-0 win over Bayern Munich

LONDON: Manchester City took a giant stride towards the Champions League semi-finals with an outstanding performance to overpower Bayern Munich 3-0 in the first-leg of their quarter-final match at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday.

Erling Haaland, inevitably, was on target with his 45th goal of the season to make him the highest scorer in all competitions in a single campaign since the Premier League began 30 years ago, surpassing Mohamed Salah and Ruud van Nistelrooy.

City, however, gave a powerful all-round team display and Bayern, under new coach Thomas

Tuchel, face a mountainous task to turn this quarter-final around in the second leg at the Allianz Arena.

“Emotionally I’m destroyed,” said Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola. “I have aged 10 more years. It was such a demanding game. It was not comfortable.

“Now I have to relax - a day off for the guys, prepare for Leicester [in the Premier League on Saturday].”

Rodri broke the deadlock in spectacular fashion with a curling left-foot drive into the top corner after 27 minutes while Bayern had chances of their own, especially former City forward Leroy Sane, who brought a vital save out of Ederson early in the second half.

City were always a threat and extended their lead with 20 minutes left, the Norwegian Haaland crossing perfectly for Bernardo Silva to head home after Jack Grealish stole possession off Dayot Upamecano.

Haaland was not to be denied himself and he pounced for City's third six minutes later, getting on the end of John Stones' headed knockdown to sweep a finish past Bayern keeper Yann Sommer.

“It was an incredible result but I know a little bit what can happen in Munich,” added Guardiola, who

managed Bayern Munich from 2013 until 2016, winning three league titles and two domestic doubles.

“If you don't perform really well they are able to score one, two, three. I know that, the players know that.

“It's an incredible result, but we have to play our game with a huge, huge personality. If we don't do our game anything can happen.

“To knock out these teams you have to have two good games, not just one.”

Haaland's record breaking will capture the headlines as the 22-year-old Norwegian's voracious appetite for goals shows no sign of being satisfied.

Thomas Tuchel, the Bayern coach, said:

“I try to not allow my players to focus on the result. I think it is not a deserved result, it does not tell the story of this match.

“We played with personality, courage and a lot of quality but we didn't get the rewards we deserved.

“This does not feel like a 3-0 but it is a 3-0. It is a huge task to turn it around but we will not give up.”

The second leg of the quarter-final will take place in Munich on April 19. - Agencies

Lukaku scores as Inter win at Benfica

LISBON: Romelu Lukaku scored an 82nd-minute penalty as Inter Milan put themselves in a strong position to advance to the semi-finals of the Champions League after a deserved 2-0 win away to Benfica on Tuesday.

Nicolo Barella's downward header gave Inter the lead in the quarter-final first leg in Lisbon.

Benfica struggled to dictate play in front of their own fans as Inter produced a defensive masterclass in Lisbon.

Rafa Silva was denied by Andre Onana's first-half save before Inter's Netherlands defender Denzel Dumfries produced a crucial block from close range as Benfica pushed for an equaliser.

The Italian visitors wrapped up a solid win when substitute Lukaku, on loan from Chelsea, scored from the spot after former

Inter player Joao Mario handled.

Premier League referee Michael Oliver awarded the penalty after watching the incident on the pitchside monitor, with replays showing the ball struck the side of Mario's head before hitting his hand.

Simone Inzaghi's side will fancy their chances of finishing the job in front of their own fans in the return leg on 19 April.

Inter arrived in Portugal's capital on the back of a poor run of form after failing to win any of their past six games.

But they took advantage of a hesitant Benfica to take a firm hold of the tie.

Barella's goal came after an excellent cross by Alessandro Bastoni, with the Italy midfielder heading it back across the keeper and into the net. - Agencies

RAMADAN CRICKET

OCT Ruwi lift All-Omani T20 title

MUSCAT: An unbeaten OCT Ruwi claimed the All-Omani T20 Tournament title, which concluded at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Al Amerat on Tuesday.

Eight Omani teams took part in the competition that was played on a round-robin format during the ongoing holy month of Ramadan.

OCT Ruwi, led by Wasim Al Balushi, emerged champions as they stayed unbeaten in seven games. OCT Mabela, led by Asif Al Balushi, claimed the runner-up title.

Wasim Al Balushi said, “We have always believed in ourselves and that is our team's strength. After finishing runner-up in the A Division, this title is a great feeling.

“We would thank Oman Cricket for organising this event for the development of cricket among Omani youths. We hope more locals take up the game and we would like to see them represent Oman in future.”

Oman Cricket (OC) vice-chairman Paul Sheridan and OC board advisor Younis Sakhi were present at the prize-distribution and gave away the prizes.

Individual awards: Best batter: Zubair Ali Al Balushi (243 runs). Best bowler: Haythim Bahar Ali (14 wickets). Most Valuable Player: Zubair Ali Akbar Al Balushi (243 runs, 12 wickets).

IFTAR GATHERING

UTSC felicitates OHA chief Al Juma

MUSCAT: United Thalasserry Sports Club (UTSC) on Monday honoured Oman Hockey Association (OHA) president Marwan Juma Al Juma on his recent appointment as the vice-president of the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

Al Juma was elected as one of the AHF vice-presidents during the recently-held AHF Congress in South Korea.

The honouring ceremony took place during an Iftar gathering at Hotel Haffa House, where the UTSC community came together with OHA fraternity to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan.

Anoop Bijli, Second Secretary at the Embassy of India, and Lijihass Ussain of UTSC presented Al Juma with a plaque to honour the OHA boss.

Bijli said, “It is an honour to be here to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan and also recognise

the achievements of Marwan Juma Al Jama. His appointment as the Asian Hockey Federation vice-chairman is a testament to his dedication and hard work, and we congratulate him on this achievement.”

Al Juma expressed his gratitude for the honour and said: “I am humbled and honoured to receive this recognition. This appointment is not just a personal achievement, but a result

of the hard work and dedication of the Oman Hockey Association over the past many years. I look forward to working with the Asian Hockey Federation to promote hockey and take it to greater heights.”

UTSC also honoured Manha Mariyam, a student of Indian School Muscat, for winning a gold in the 4x100m relay at the CBSE National Athletic Meet held in India.



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SUPER KINGS STAR

Dhoni reaches milestone with 200th game as CSK skipper

CHENNAI: One of the greatest captains in the history of the sport, former India skipper MS Dhoni on Wednesday reached a landmark in the ongoing season of the IPL 2023.

As Dhoni took the field in match 17 of IPL 2023 between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Rajasthan Royals (RR), he achieved the feat of leading the franchise for the 200th time.

Dhoni, who announced his retirement from international cricket in August 2020, was bought by Chennai ahead of the inaugural edition of IPL in 2008.

Dhoni said: Feels good [to lead for 200th time]. The crowd is fantastic. We have seen cricket change. Feels good to have survived for so long and it's a format we have to keep evolving."

Dhoni is the most consistent skipper in IPL history. He has led CSK to four IPL titles (2010, 2011, 2018 and 2021 editions). Though Mumbai Indians (MI) have won five IPL trophies, MS-led CSK enjoys the advantage of consistency.

He has led CSK to the final four stage of the tournament in 11 out of 13 editions of the league, with the side finishing as runners-up on five occasions.

ROYALS WIN A NAIL-BITER

Rajasthan became the first team to defend a sub-190 total this season but Chennai fought hard till the final ball

CHENNAI: It was yet another day of drama at the IPL. This time, the venue was the MA Chidambaram Stadium, and Rajasthan Royals clinched a thriller, with a three-wicket victory coming off the last ball of the match, against Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday.

Chasing 176 to win, Chennai Super Kings left it late for the experienced skipper MS

Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja took them home after the Rajasthan Royals trio of spinners – Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and Adam Zampa – kept them in the game.

Needing 40 off the last two overs, after Chennai opener Devon Conway departed for a 38-ball 50, Jadeja and Dhoni stole 19 from Jason Holder to leave them-

selves 21 to win off the last over from Sandeep Sharma. Sandeep bowled the first two balls wides followed by a dot ball before Dhoni hit to deep fine leg for a six.

Another six followed and a single meant that Chennai needed 6 off 2 balls. A yorker could get Jadeja (25 n.o.) only a single leaving Dhoni to score five. Sandeep nailed another yorker and all Dhoni (32 n.o.) could manage a single for Royals to steal a heart-stopping victory at Chepauk.

Ashwin, Chahal and Zampa shared five wickets with Ashwin and Chahal picking up two wickets each. Earlier, Chennai Super Kings bowlers restricted Rajasthan Royals to 175/8.

Batting first, Yashasvi Jaiswal was out for 10 as he mistimed a bouncer from Tushar Deshpande. Devdutt Padikkal (38) and Jos Buttler (52) revived the innings with boundaries at intervals. Dhoni brought Ravindra Jadeja in the 9th over and the all-rounder dismissed Padikkal for 38 off 26 balls.

The veteran Indian spinner struck again as he sent back Royals skipper Sanju Samson for a duck.

Ashwin came in to steady the sinking ship and his stand with Buttler proved crucial.

Ashwin slammed two successive sixes to boost the run rate in the 15th over but ended up losing his wicket with a mistimed shot to end his knock of 30. Dhoni gambled in the 17th over and brought Moeen Ali.

Moeen took Buttler by surprise as the English batter missed a sweep shot to be bowled for valuable 52 off 36 balls that included one boundary and three maximums. Buttler's fifty came in 33 balls.

Shimron Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel were unable to pace the run rate and a couple of wickets fell as Rajasthan reached 175/8. Hetmyer was unbeaten on 30 that included two fours and two sixes. Akash Singh, Deshpande and Jadeja took two wickets each.

Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals 175/8 (Buttler 52, Padikkal 38, Ashwin 30, Hetmyer 30 n.o.; Jadeja 2/21, Deshpande 2/37, Akash 2/40) beat Chennai Super Kings 172/6 (Conway 50, Dhoni 32 n.o., Jadeja 25 n.o.; Chahal 2/27, Ashwin 2/25, Zampa 1/43). -Agencies

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TODAY'S MATCH



VS

Punjab Kings

Gujarat Titans

6pm, Mohali

POINTS TABLE

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RR	4	3	1	0	0	+1.588	6
LSG	4	3	1	0	0	+1.048	6
KKR	3	2	1	0	0	+1.375	4
GT	3	2	1	0	0	+0.431	4
CSK	4	2	2	0	0	+0.225	4
PBKS	3	2	1	0	0	-0.281	4
RCB	3	1	2	0	0	-0.800	2
MI	3	1	2	0	0	-0.879	2
SRH	3	1	2	0	0	-1.502	2
DC	4	0	4	0	0	-1.576	0

CSK: Chennai Super Kings, DC: Delhi Capitals, GT: Gujarat Titans, KKR: Kolkata Knight Riders, LSG: Lucknow Super Giants, MI: Mumbai Indians, PBKS: Punjab Kings, RCB: Royal Challengers Bangalore, RR: Rajasthan Royals, SRH: Sunrisers Hyderabad

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June reaching \$85.55, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.01 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$84.54.

- ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) lost (1.2) point, comprising a drop by (0.02%) to close at (4767.37) points, compared to the last session, which stood at (4768.55) points. The trading value stood at (OMR2,869,700).





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CBO issues OMR75mn development bonds

The size of the new issue stands at OMR75 million with a maturity period of 5 years and will carry a coupon rate of 5.25 per cent annually



coupon rate of 5.25 per cent annually. The 68th GDB issue is offered to all investors, residents and non-residents.

The issue will be open for subscription from April 16 to May 1, while the auction will be held on May 2. The issue settlement date will be on May 4. Interest on the new bonds will be paid semi-annually on November 4 and May 4,

every year until the maturity date on May 4, 2028.

Investors may apply for these bonds through the competitive bidding process only and may submit bids through commercial licensed banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Furthermore, investors with applications of OMR1 million and above may submit their bids directly to CBO, at

their discretion, after getting them endorsed by their banks. Prospectus and application forms can be obtained through the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) official website.

Notably, the bonds are direct and unconditional obligations of the Government of Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance. The bonds can be used as collateral to obtain loans from any local commercial licensed bank and can also be traded at prevailing market rates through Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).

The details of the bonds allotted will be recorded in the register maintained by Muscat Clearing and Depositary Company (MCD). Therefore, investors must provide the same bank account details registered with MCD to ensure the smooth processing of their bids and the receipt of the coupon payments and principal amount on their scheduled dates. -ONA

COMMERCIAL FLEET



Asyad Line adds new vessel and operates additional weekly frequency of IEX

MUSCAT: Asyad Line, part of Asyad Group, announced two new additions to its maritime and shipping capabilities, a brand-new vessel added to its sizeable commercial fleet and an increase in the frequency of one of its flagship lines, the India Express Service (IEX).

Eyeing both sustainability and improved competitiveness in the maritime sector, Asyad Line acquired the state-of-the-art vessel. The vessel features a capacity of 2800 TEU and an excellent environmental efficiency rating, thanks to its low carbon footprint. The latest addition to the elite global carrier's maritime arsenal puts into action Asyad

Group's bullish growth plans and proactive sustainability strategy, as it spearheads Oman's drive to green logistics.

Additionally, Asyad Line has reinforced its IEX service by doubling its frequency, from two to four sailings per month, responding to the increasingly global and regional demand.

IEX has proven to be a reliable and hugely popular direct route that connects Oman's ports to India's, calling on major GCC ports from Sohar Port to Dubai's Jebel Ali, Qatar's Hamad Port and Saudi Arabia's King Abdul Aziz Port in Dammam, as well as Mundra, Nhava Sheva and Hazira ports in India. -ONA

GENERAL TRADE LICENCE

Sohar Freezone incentives provide environment for business growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing to drive growth for new and expanding local and international businesses, Sohar Freezone has extended its competitive rates on General Trade License (GTL), allowing businesses from around to base themselves within the complex at a reduced rate for up to three years.

Companies can save up to 50 per

cent on the regular rates and begin trading immediately by using Sohar's electronic portal to secure all required permits through the on-site one-stop. Sohar Freezone is targeting further growth in 2023 and has extended its competitive rates for new and renewing tenants to encourage trading in an already rapidly expanding Sohar Port and Freezone.

Businesses seeking to relocate

can also access a complete working solution through Corporate Parks, Sohar Port and Freezone's commercial office partner, which offers a reduction of between 15 per cent and 40 per cent in office rental rates for up to three years to help their operations thrive.

Investors can also enjoy 0 per cent personal income tax, 0 per cent import and re-export duties and a corporate tax holiday of up to

25 years, with no minimum capital requirement.

Meanwhile, the partnership with Corporate Parks offers businesses access to meeting room space with high-speed internet and utilities included for one competitive annual fee.

The success stories emerging from the Sohar Port and Freezone have highlighted its unique value as a rapidly growing business hub.



OPAZ

Opaz inks pact to boost the efficiency of national cadres



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) signed a cooperation programme with the Industrial Innovation Academy aimed at strengthening cooperation between Opaz and the academy.

Through this programme, both parties seek to boost the local added value in the special economic, free and industrial zones affiliated with Opaz. As well, they intend to empower the zones with various programmes, which the academy will conduct along with other endeavours. These programmes will allow Opaz and the academy to capitalise on their competencies, improve the efficiency of national cadres, and empower existing industries in the different zones.

The programme was signed

by Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones and Dr Ayman bin Abdullah Al Fudaili, Acting CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy.

The programme stipulates that both, Opaz and the academy, will implement 'Rabt Programme', which aims to link local products with government tenders and procurement processes in the zones. This programme serves to create a database of products and services of the companies operating in the zones and will be linked to government tenders and procurement, so such products are given a preference. Thus, the companies that are awarded the tenders are obliged to purchase and supply their projects with local products and industries.

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WEAR CONTACTS?

HERE ARE 5 TIPS TO ELEVATE YOUR ROUTINE

If you're one of the millions who wear contact lenses, you know what a great choice they can be, whether you play sports, want to avoid the nuisance of foggy glasses or simply find yourself feeling more confident in them. However, it may be time to give your contact lens care routine a makeover, particularly if your lenses feel dry or uncomfortable.

Unfortunately, one in five contact lens wearers find lenses to be less comfortable by the end of the day. Consider the following tips for all-day comfort:

PRACTICE HEALTHY TECH HABITS

Long hours on screens can be a contributing factor to eye discomfort, mainly because of less blinking; however, making a few adjustments can help. The experts at Bausch + Lomb recommend following the 20-20-20 rule. For every 20 minutes of screen time, take a 20 second break to look at something 20 feet away. If you work with computers all day, you should also remember to blink regularly. It can be surprisingly easy to forget to blink when you're focused on the next deadline! Finally, adjust the brightness and text size on your devices to reduce eye strain and optimise comfort.

1

INSERT AND REMOVE CONTACTS WITH CARE

The order of steps you follow as you insert and remove your contacts matters. In the morning or as you're getting ready to go out, insert contact lenses with clean hands before applying makeup. Before bed, wash your hands, remove your contacts and clean your lenses before going to sleep. One-third of contact lens wearers have fallen asleep in their lenses, but doing so increases the risk of infection.

3

FOLLOW LENS CARE DIRECTIONS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention based in the US, 40-90% of contact lens wearers do not properly follow their contact lenses' care instructions. It is recommended to follow the complete recommended lens rubbing and rinsing times in the product labeling to adequately disinfect your lenses and reduce the risk of contact lens contamination. Reduced rubbing or rinsing time may not adequately clean your lenses. And never "top off" or reuse solutions. Fill the lens case with a fresh solution every time you store your lenses - don't cut corners!

4

CLEAN AND MOISTURISE

One in three contact lens wearers experiences dry lenses, and one in five find lenses to be less comfortable by the end of the day. Show your eyes some love by using a contact lens solution recommended by board-certified optometrists, one that is uniquely-formulated for dry, uncomfortable contact lenses.

5

RECYCLE

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ROUND-UP

Celebrate Eid holidays at Grand Millennium

Designed to provide the utmost comfort, convenience and relaxation, the Eid package has been thoughtfully curated to meet the needs of its guests

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat announced its amazing Eid package that offers a perfect getaway for all those looking for some relaxation and quality time with their loved ones during the holiday season.

With an exclusive offer of only OMR55 with bed and breakfast, guests can enjoy a comfortable stay along with 20% discounts on spa services and 20% discounts on food and beverage.

Designed to provide the utmost comfort, convenience and relaxa-



tion, the Eid package has been thoughtfully curated to meet the needs of its guests.

The Grand Millennium Muscat is conveniently located and provides easy access to nearby attractions, ideal for those who want to explore a bit.

However, guests can equally appreciate their time relaxing at the

property with perks like a healthy breakfast, and calming spa services to help them unwind.

"The holiday season is always special, and we're excited to offer our guests a truly memorable experience," said Luca Medda, General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat. "Whether you want to create everlasting memories with

your family or savour a romantic getaway with your sweetheart, Grand Millennium Muscat's Eid package is a perfect choice."

So, book your stay today and take advantage of our exclusive Eid offer that guarantees large savings. With a warm and friendly staff and a luxurious atmosphere, the Grand Millennium welcomes you.

HOLY MONTH



Al Maha hosts annual Iftar event for its employees

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to enhance the spirit of forgiveness, reflection, and gratitude, Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company wished its valued employees with their families 'Ramadan Mubarak' at a special Iftar event held in Grand Millennium recently. In addition to the Al Maha staff, senior officials, and members of the board also attended the Iftar get-together.

This kind of gathering as one big family strengthens the bond within the workplace and reinforces the Al Maha team spirit. Aside from the celebration, four Al Maha employees, who have been associated with the company for the last 25 years, were also felicitated and honoured.

During the event, there were also a few games that were played, and the winners were awarded.

ACCLAIMED SHOW



Internationally acclaimed show Björn Again to make its debut at Sheraton Oman Hotel

MUSCAT: Known for bringing the biggest names in global entertainment to the Middle East, MAC Globalis pleased to announce that the internationally acclaimed show, Björn Again, will make its debut in Muscat, Oman on Thursday May 25. Tickets are now available to purchase at <https://muscat.platinumlist.net/>.

For one night only, guests at the Sheraton Oman Hotel will be able to experience a nostalgic showcase of some of ABBA's greatest hits performed the way only the Björn Again show does.

Founded in 1988 in Melbourne by Rod Stephen, Björn Again is a rocked-up, light-hearted ABBA show which has rapidly achieved worldwide cult status. The show

has been acknowledged for singlehandedly initiating the ABBA revival which brought about ABBA Gold, Muriel's Wedding and Mamma Mia.

Rob McIntosh, CEO of MAC Global commented, "This is the first time we have brought Björn Again to Oman so we are very excited for people in Muscat to experience the show that is known and loved around the world for its incredible showcase of ABBA's biggest hits. Björn Again will be a truly unforgettable evening and is a party you really don't want to miss!"

Now in its 35th year, Björn Again has amassed 5,300 performances in 72 countries and reflects the enduring appeal of ABBA. Hailed as the most popular and successful

show of its type, Björn Again has performed at Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh and has toured with Cher and Shania Twain, as well as playing at Wembley Arena, London's prestigious Royal Albert Hall, London Palladium and Hyde Park.

International acclaim for Björn Again includes:

"Welcome to Buckingham Palace I hope you have a great show... If you are onstage at 11pm, it's a bit late for me - I'll be tucked up in bed by then!" - HRH Queen Elizabeth II (Christmas Party 2012)

"It was a great show. I loved the choreography ... it was very true to life..... Good luck for the next tour." - Agnetha Fältskog (TV3 / TV6

20th Anniversary party Stockholm 2007)

"Björn Again has been going for twice as long as ABBA did!" - Benny Andersson (The Observer OMM, Mamma Mia Film Interview London 2008)

"A wonderful evening in this magnificent setting dancing to Björn Again." - J.K. Rowling - Harry Potter author (2006 MS Charity Ball)

"You were great - the show was tremendous. Thank you very much." Rowan Atkinson - Mr Bean (2000 Millennium NYE party)

"Thanks for the great show." - Kylie Minogue (New Year's Eve Wembley Arena 2006)

Tickets start at OMR 22 and are now available to purchase at <https://muscat.platinumlist.net/>

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ahlibank offers aid to multiple charitable organisations during holy month of Ramadan



MUSCAT: Rejoicing the spirit of Ramadan and with a determination to make a meaningful impact on the local community, ahlibank has offered aid to multiple charitable organisations throughout the holy month of Ramadan, as a gesture of respect and in recognition of the fundamental values of Ramadan in line with its corporate social responsibility endeavours.

Ramadan is a time for introspection, devotion, and charitable giving. This is a moment for demonstrating compassion for those who are less fortunate. In keeping with the same, the bank sees it as an opportunity to support the less fortunate in the community. To provide food boxes to families in need, it has partnered with neighbourhood associations and charitable trusts authorised by the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD).

Commenting on the initiative, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM-Head of Retail Distribution at ahlibank, commented, "We are pleased to continue our annual practice of giving back to the community during the holy month of Ramadan. This initiative aligns with our core values and reflects our commitment to supporting the society, we believe in engaging with the community and reaching different wilayats to support our fellow citizens and make a meaningful impact on their lives."

ahlibank considers social responsibility as a fundamental aspect of its business strategy and has incorporated it into its plans to enhance the community's well-being through several programs that aim to enrich the lives of people all across Oman. The bank has introduced several initiatives to aid society and believes that such programmes not only promote social responsibility but also play a crucial role in developing a sustainable future for Oman.



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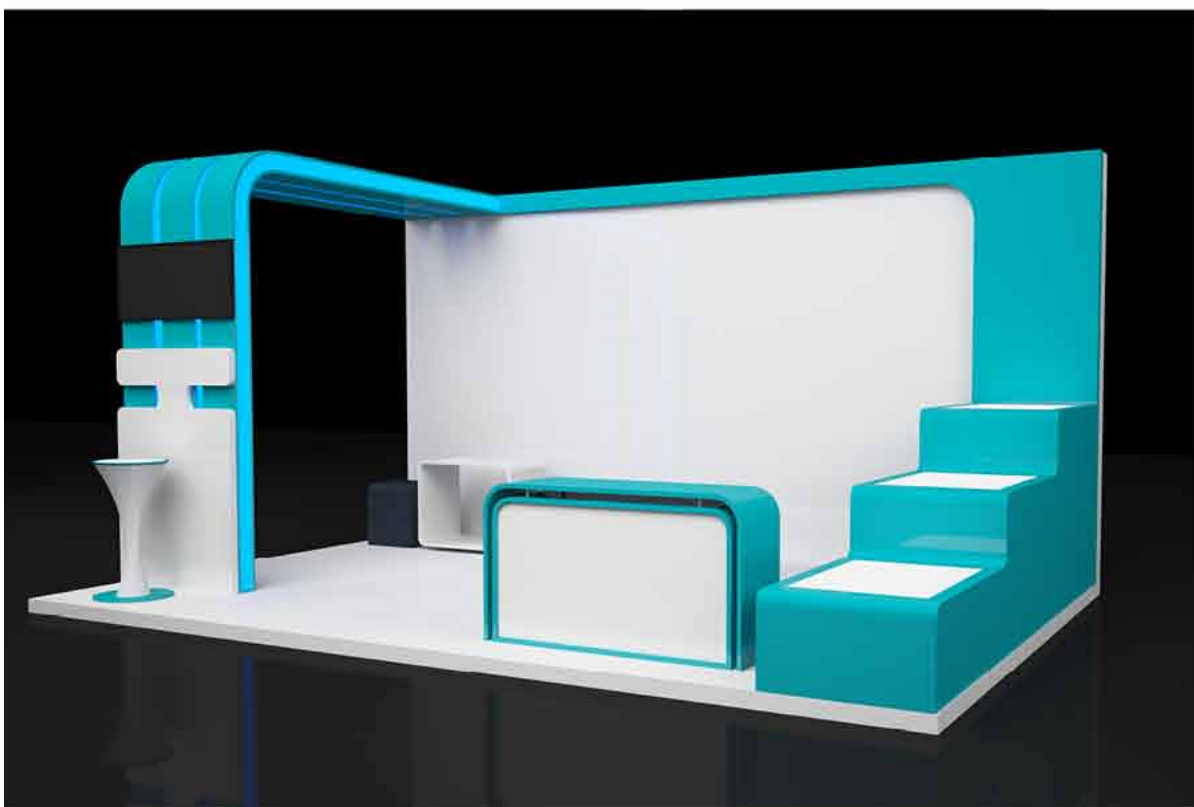
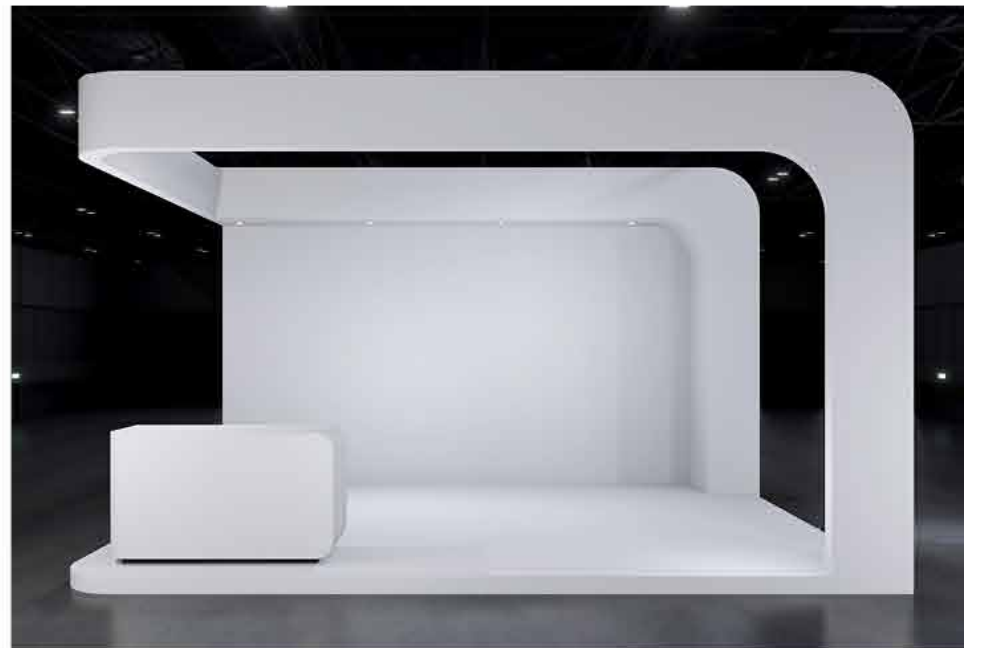
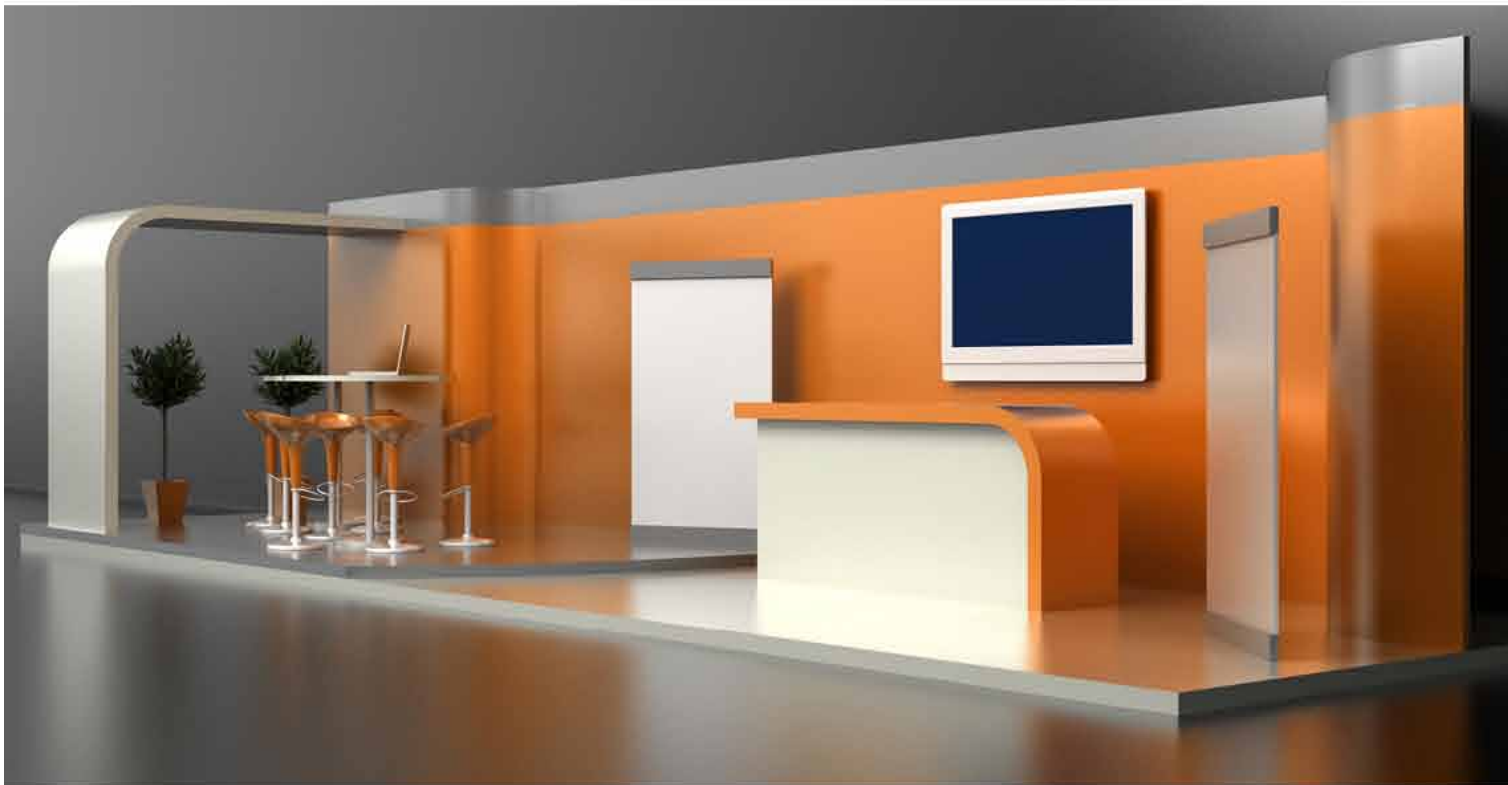
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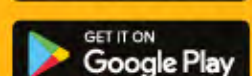
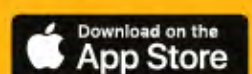
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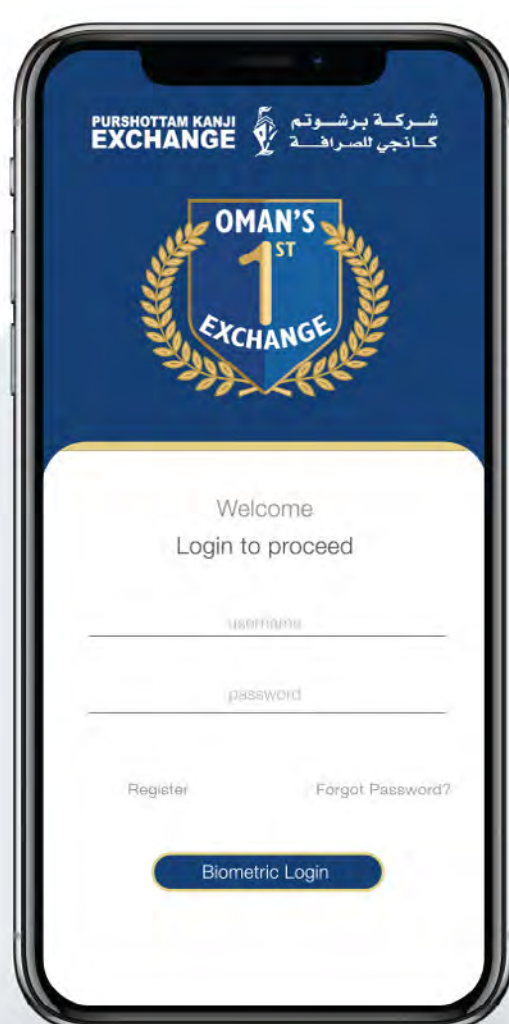


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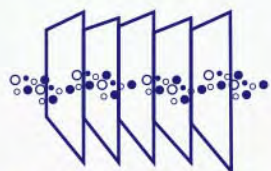
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