

OMAN EXPRESSES SYMPATHY WITH INDONESIA OVER EARTHQUAKE

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has expressed its sympathy with Indonesia over the earthquake that hit the city of Cianjur in West Java. In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, Oman expressed sincere condolences to the Indonesian government and people, as well as families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. -**ONA**



HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Alexander Van der Bellen, of the Republic of Austria in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable on his re-election as his country's President. In the cable, President Alexander expressed his sincere appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's heartfelt sentiments. He also affirmed the importance of enhancing relations between the two countries. -**ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 182 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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MINISTER OF FINANCE

Shura to hold closed-door session with FM tomorrow

MUSCAT: The Shura Council will hold a closed-door session with Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, on November 23 to discuss the draft of State Budget 2023. Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary General of the Shura Council, said that the council's second ordinary session on Wednesday will be closed-door round of discussion to be dedicated to terms, financial and economic indices of next year's State Budget draft.

According to the provisions of Article (52) of the Council of Oman's Law, the session will be a secret elaboration on various topics of the budget, including estimates of general revenues, public spending, developmental allocations, the public debt standing, the State's fiscal position, subsidy policies, government investments, economic diversification programmes, direct foreign investment and privatisation programmes, he said. The council's third ordinary session on November 24, will discuss the Economic and Financial Committee's report about State Budget 2023, as well as two draft laws forwarded to the government—one on Higher Education and the other on Basic Education. It will cover draft projects on biometric fingerprints, Oman-EU comprehensive air transport agreement, Oman-South Africa air services agreement and Oman-Rwanda air services agreement. -**ONA**



'NEGLIGENCE BY MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN OMAN'

Errors in judgment or the line of treatment can be possible as the medical personnel are human beings and not machines but negligence cannot be condoned and in such cases where negligence is proved beyond doubt, the medical personnel have been taken to task rather firmly.

DR. HILAL ALI AL SABTI, Minister of Health

Oman has panels to look into cases of negligence, says Minister of Health

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has a specialised committee at the national level to adjudicate cases of deficiency or negligence in medical services. Besides, there are committees in every hospital to handle such

cases. Medical personnel found guilty of erroneous treatment or negligence are dealt with firmly, the Minister of Health said.

In an exclusive interview with Shabiba FM, the Minister of Health, Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, said errors in judgment or the line of treatment can be possible as the medical personnel are human beings and not machines but negligence cannot be condoned and in such cases where negligence is proved beyond doubt, the medical personnel have been taken to task rather firmly.

About complaints against medical personnel, he said this is liable to be very subjective and that is why there are redressal committees in every hospital and another at the national level in

the Sultanate of Oman. In cases of complaints regarding loss of life, rigorous investigations have been made and dealt with accordingly so that the complainants had no reason for dissatisfaction, the Minister said.

He said that health workers are dealt with firmly in cases of medical negligence as they are ambassadors of health. The government, he said, is aware of this aspect and trying its best to build trust between the Ministry and the health workers on the one hand, and between the health workers and the community, on the other.

The Minister said that wherever deficiency in medical services comes to the fore, the government will do its utmost to bring in modifications in the system. But if there

are deficiencies on the part of medical workers, it is dealt with firmly.

Al Sabti pointed out that besides a committees at the Ministry of Health level, there are committees at Sultan Qaboos University, the Armed Forces Hospital, the Police Hospital and the Diwan hospital.

These committees, besides looking into routine complaints, look into cases which require to be treated abroad. Additionally, these committees requisition the services of specialists from other countries for cases requiring their expertise.

Al Sabti said that there have been cases in which patients or their family members were intimated about the advanced condition of their diseases from which

retrieval was an impossibility. Still they insisted on being treated abroad for which the payments they made were exorbitant, in some cases going up to OMR1,000 per day, especially when admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICUs) in those countries.

His Excellency the Minister of Health pointed out that everyone should first consult his doctor or someone close to them before taking any step in this regard.

He said that medical facilities in the Sultanate are highly advanced and in a majority of cases, even the complicated ones, treatment is available in the Sultanate, and unless advised otherwise by the specialists, patients or their guardians should go in for treatment by the local doctors.



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29th
MUSCAT



RESEARCH

New species of wetland fish discovered in Oman

MUSCAT: A joint research team comprising members from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and Shiraz University in Iran has registered a new species of wetland fish found in wetlands of the Sultanate of Oman. The organism, given the name *Oxyurichthys omanensis*, was discovered as part of a project funded by the SQU's Research Deanship.

Oxyurichthys omanensis was part of samples of different fish collected from the shallow, muddy waters of Khor Yetti creek in the Wilayat of Muscat. By studying the qualities, external traits and DNA of the fish, the team concluded that it was a new find. The Omani side at the team



was headed by Dr. Saud Musallam Al Jufaili, while Dr. Humaid Ismaili led the Iranian side.

The scholars plan to launch the first book of its kind on Omani fresh water fish. The project will be financed by Oman Environment Authority. -**ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN National Museum highlights Oman's civilisational role

1 The National Museum seeks to highlight the heritage and the civilisational, historical, cultural and scientific role of the Sultanate of Oman regionally and internationally. **>A5**

WORLD

46 killed in Indonesia earthquake

2 At least 46 people died in an earthquake that hit Indonesia's main island Java on Monday, Channel News Asia reported citing an Indonesian government official. In the morning, a shallow 5.4 magnitude earthquake hit the West Java province, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). **>A6**

MARKET

Khazaen Dry Port joins 'Ports of Call' network

3 Khazaen Dry Port, established in partnership between Asyad and the private sector, announced that it joined A.P. Moller - Maersk's extensive 'Ports of Call' network. By joining global shipping lines, the port will further bolster its global position as an import, re-export and transshipment centre. **>B1**

21-MEMBER BOARD

OCCI board members to be elected today



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Elections to the 21-member board of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will be held on Tuesday. There are nine contestants in the fray for a lone expat category seat among a total of 122 contestants for membership to its board of directors and its branches for 2022-2026 across 11 governorates in the Sultanate of Oman.

It may be noted that for the first time the OCCI has opened the doors for foreign investors for the sole seat. The chamber said the OCCI has issued a number of important directives for the voting day which begins at 8 am and ends at 6 pm on Tuesday. The voters must carry their ID card, and photography inside the voting halls is strictly forbidden. The ID card must also be produced by the voters at the headquarters of the OCCI at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center in Muscat, the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in the Governorate of Dhofar, the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Khasab and the Chamber's office in the Wilayat of Dibba in the Governorate of Musandam, the headquarters of the Chamber in the Wilayat of Al Buraimi in the Governorate of Al Buraimi.

Voters in the elections will also be received at the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Rustaq in Al Batinah South Governorate, the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Sohar in the governorate of North Al Batinah, the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Nizwa in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Ibra in the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah, the headquarters of the Chamber in the Wilayat of Sur in the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah, the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate, and the Chamber's headquarters in the Wilayat of Haima in the Al Wusta Governorate.

The OCCI has called on everyone not to be drawn into emotions during elections saying: "Dear voter, to ensure the opportunity to actively participate in voting on election day, you must be careful to activate the electronic authentication feature in the ID card and do not let emotions affect your decision, vote honestly; choose the qualified candidate to represent the private sector."

Meanwhile, ROP announced that the issuance of the ID card for its citizens and the resident card for the expats will be suspended on Tuesday for OCCI elections.



England rout Iran to begin campaign in style

A7



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PRAYER TIMINGS



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Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:07am



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RNO CONDUCTS JOINT NAVAL DRILL 'SEA BREEZE 2022'

Vessels of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) fleet are conducting the joint naval drill 'Sea Breeze 2022' at the naval zones of Al Batinah and Al Wusta. The exercise runs till 24 November 2022. The joint drill is participated by crews of vessels from the Indian Navy and several Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) aircraft. The drill comes within the framework of RNO's annual training plans that aim to sustain preparedness. —ONA



MEETINGS



Royal Office Minister receives ambassadors of Brazil, Yemen

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Monday Ligia Maria Scherer, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty.

countries during her tour of duty, wishing her success. Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office also received on Monday Dr. Khaled Saleh Shoteif, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the Sultanate of Oman.

Brazilian ambassador

The Brazilian ambassador expressed her appreciation for the cooperation extended to her in the Sultanate of Oman. She also lauded the bilateral relations between Oman and Brazil.

In his turn, Al Nu'amani thanked the ambassador for the efforts she exerted in boosting the relations between the two

Bilateral cooperation

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and discussed several matters of mutual interest.

The Yemeni ambassador lauded Oman's sincere efforts in resolving the Yemeni crisis and establishing peace in coordination with relevant international parties. —ONA



FOR SPORTSPERSONS

Programmes for athletes' grooming system launched

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth today launched programmes of a project to develop athletes' grooming system.

The step seeks to initiate a comprehensive formula for the selection of emerging athletes and provide them with material and logistic support, as well as medical care and psychiatric services. The programmes kicked off under the auspices of Basil Ahmed Al Rowas, Sports and Youth Undersecretary.

As part of the launch ceremony, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth inked a number of agreements to lend sup-

port to nascent sportspersons. The agreements were signed with Oman Athletic Association, Oman Paralympic Committee, Oman Weight Lifting and Physical Fitness Committee and the Oman Fencing Committee.

The ministry also signed agreements to set up centres for the preparation of sportspersons in cooperation with Oman Hockey Association, Oman Basketball Association, Oman Athletic Association, Oman Cycling Association, Oman Volleyball Association, Oman Bowling Committee, Oman Fencing Committee and Oman Taekwondo Committee.

—ONA



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TIGER BY THE TAIL OMAN

More awareness needed to tackle stray animals



HELPING HANDS: TBTT has performed 1,800 TNRs on homeless cats in Oman and found homes for 138 Omani cats elsewhere.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Calls are being made to reduce the menace of stray animals in Oman.

One of the most effective way to control this problem is to adopt TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return at the location where it was trapped). This method involves neutering or spaying of the animals by veterinary professionals in a safe environment.

Cats become mature at an early age, at around 4 months to be precise, and are, therefore, capable of breeding.

By spaying or neutering just one male and female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just 4 years.

It is on the strength of this logic that Tiger By The Tail Oman (TBTT Oman) has been working since over 6 years and is active in 3 major locations in Oman, namely, Muscat, Sohar and Sur.

TBTT was founded by Jaison Mathai in 2016 and since then along with the core members, including Dr Peter Nolosco, Dr Anamika Pandey, Arul Natarajan, Nivya Crasto and Kaveri Dewan in association with Capital Veterinary Centre LLC, Qurum, they have achieved the herculean task of performing 1,800 TNRs on homeless cats in Oman and providing home to 138 Omani cats across the world.



Since the last three years, the organisation is focused on TNR and emergency rescue of injured and unwell cats.

Recently, TBTT conducted the first-ever mass TNR in Sur with the help of Hay Al Sharooq International School teachers and TBTT members wherein a total of 19 cats were sterilised in a single day.

Earlier too, TBTT conducted Mass TNRs in Sohar and sterilised 20 homeless cats in single day and adopted a few others as well.

TBTT Oman is active on Social Media platforms as well which is handled by Jaison Mathai and Dr Anamika Pandey to create awareness across the world. Active members of TBTT group get special discounts on TNRs for homeless Omani cats and emergency rescue operations.

The main objective of the TBTT Oman is controlling the population of stray cats across Oman in a humane way, create awareness and involve people in animal welfare activities.

FESTIVAL VILLAGE

Musandam multi-sport festival concludes

KHASSAB: Musandam’s multi-sport festival concluded on Monday. The festival included off-road multi-sport events in Musandam Governorate’s magnificent sea and mountainous terrain.

The festival village served as a family entertainment arena and central hub to highlight many

adventure sports and adventure tourism opportunities. The village also included an exhibition for local SMEs and traditional craftsmen to display and promote their products to festival attendees, in cooperation with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED). — ONA





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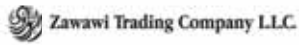
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Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority



Zawawi Trading Company L.L.C.

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz
GLS (167 platform)
Model year: 2019-2023



Date of Campaign: 22.11.2022
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
22	WDC1679591A109150	TO	WIN1679591A612741	GLE 450 4MATIC
4	WIN1679861A248429	TO	WIN1679861A249960	GLS 580 4MATIC
1	WIN1679891A538054			AMG GLS 63 S 4MATIC+

Description of defect:

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain GLS (167 platform) vehicles, the springs in the locking mechanism of the third seat row backrest might not have been installed according to specifications. In the event of a crash, a failure of the seat backrest lock cannot be ruled out. Local legal requirements might not be met. The basic functionality of the rear seat backrest lock would be given as intended.

Procedure:

As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company will check the spring of 3rd seat row back rest on the affected vehicles and replace the seat row back rest, if required. It will take around 30 minutes to carry out a workshop visit, and (free) rework if necessary.

For more information:

Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 22.11.2022 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:

Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:00 to 17:30 hrs with effect from Tuesday 22.11.2022.

Mercedes-Benz





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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Oman-South Korea B2B event promotes SMEs in ICT sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A B2B (Business to Business) partnership between Korean and Omani SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and contents development sector was successfully held on November 21, 2022 at the InterContinental Hotel, Muscat.

Nineteen Korean SMEs showcased their technological expertise in such state-of-the-art technology fields as cyber security, e-commerce platform, digital and metaverse contents, and healthcare products.

The platform helped facilitate



cooperation and capacity building of SMEs in Korea and Oman, which is in line with the Oman Vision 2040. B2B matching was

conducted where over 150 Korean and Omani business people met and interacted. Two MOUs (Memorandum of Understand-



ing) were concluded between the Korean and Omani SMEs concerned.

The platform is supported by the National IT Industry Promotion Agency (NIPA) of Korea, the Representative Office of the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA) in Muscat and the Office of the Ko-

rea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in Muscat. H.E. Halima Al Zarie, Chairperson of the Authority for SMEs, Hon. Hatim Al Taie, Member of the State Council, H.E. Sheikh Pankaj Khimji, Advisor to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Sheikh Saad

Suhail Bahwan, Chairman of the Oman-Korea Friendship Association, and H.E. KIM Kiejoo, Korean Ambassador to the Sultanate, graced the event while senior officials of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT and other Omani partners were also present.

Ambassador KIM underscored in his remarks the importance of the meeting in that “the SMEs of Korea and Oman can build a strong and reliable bridge between our two industrial and economic sectors.” He further highlighted that “the Oman Vision 2040 envisions digital transformation, and that Korea will align with the Oman Vision 2040 in pursuing partnership with the Omani stakeholders.”

TERRACED GARDENS OF WAKAN VILLAGE



WAKAN VILLAGE is a small mountain village with beautiful terraced gardens overlooking the surrounding mountains above and Wadi Mistal below. It is officially part of Wilayat Nakhal in the South Batinah Governorate, although it's located right on the border with Al Dakhiliyah Governorate through the Hajar mountain range.

A viewing platform is the first sight that greets you as soon as you enter the village. It offers spectacular views of Wadi Mistal and the surrounding mountains. There is also a visitor's information centre building. From there you can explore this beautiful village by foot. There are a couple of hiking tracks that start at the village, and they are marked by the familiar yellow, green and red flag that mark most hiking tracks in Oman.

There are, however, advisories to follow while getting there. The road into the mountains is narrow and winding, and in places - is unpaved. The steep inclines mean you are definitely going to need a four-wheel drive when you make the journey.

This region enjoys moderate temperatures in summer and low temperatures in winter. Visitors will observe many agricultural terraces supporting fruit trees, including grapes, pomegranates and apricots, as well as some legumes. A trail has been built stretching for 1,100 metres, comprising 700 steps rising to the top of the mountain, surrounded by a protective fence and containing service areas as well as observation towers that look like castles and umbrellas. You'll also find sitting areas and a rest shelter overlooking the village and its terraces, according to Oman's Ministry of Tourism.





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BY HOSTING EXTERNAL EXHIBITIONS

National Museum highlights Oman’s civilisational role

MUSCAT: The National Museum seeks to highlight the heritage and the civilisational, historical, cultural and scientific role of the Sultanate of Oman regionally and internationally.

It has launched initiatives and held exhibitions on Oman’s unique heritage through the ages in a bid to introduce Oman to audiences in the country and abroad. These activities are held in cooperation with a selected group of international leading and prestigious museums. The National Museum signed a number of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements with these museums in the cultural and museum fields.

Since the opening of the National Museum on 15 November 2022, it has organised many external exhibitions and hosted a number of museum exhibitions for cultural exchange, enrich-



ing cultures, developing mutual understanding and cooperation with regional and international cultural institutions.

Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that many events will be held in the upcoming months within the framework of the museum’s annual programme to introduce Oman’s history and civilization. The programme also aims to open channels of dialogue

between cultures and generations to enhance knowledge transfer.

He pointed out that as part of the agreement signed with the Museum of Fine Arts of Lyon, an exhibition will be held in April 2023. This exhibition will highlight the civilization of frankincense and the culture of perfumery in Oman, which is a historical experience that extends to nearly five thousand years.

Al Moosawi added that the National Museum pursues cultural diplomacy with the aim of strengthening the bonds of friendship and kinship with Arab and friendly countries. The museum also seeks to introduce visitors to the culture of “Al Teeb” or “Perfumery” with a focus on the ancient history of frankincense, said the National Museum’s Secretary General. — ONA

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ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Police foil attempt to smuggle drugs

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has foiled an attempt to smuggle some quantities of drugs into the Sultanate of Oman by three smugglers.

Infiltrators

According to the ROP, the South Al Batinah Governorate Police Command, in cooperation with the Coast Guard Police, arrested three infiltrators who were trying to smuggle quantities of drugs.

Legal procedures against them have been completed.

— Times News Service

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Invitation to Tender

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Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
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Tender Fee	RO. 525.000 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 fee process.
Experience	Minimum 5 years of experiences in Wastewater services
Pre-qualification	Consultancy Services with expertise in Wastewater sector registered in Oman with similar experience of minimum 5 years. Should have completed minimum 2to 3 major wastewater projects in last 5 years
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 7 th December 2022
Tender document publish date	8 th December 2022
Site Visit	NA
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	03:00 PM on 18 th December 2022
Last date for Response for pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 25 th December 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 1 st 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.
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BARKA WATER AND POWER COMPANY S.A.O.G

NOTICE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Barka Water and Power Company SAOG (the “Company”) is pleased to invite all shareholders to the Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 7th December 2022 via the electronic platform for convening general meetings which can be accessed through the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company website (www.mcd.gov.om), if quorum is not met, a second Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 14th December 2022 to discuss the following agenda:

Agenda for the Ordinary General Meeting:

- To consider and approve the related party transaction with First National Company for Operation & Maintenance Services LLC to carry out the Amendments to the Operation and Maintenance Agreements to provide for the continued operation of the RO1 and RO2 Plants and the preservation of the Main Plant on the terms set out in the Proposed Amendment Agreements as summarized in Appendix 1.

NOTE: Related parties must abstain from voting on this resolution. This resolution must be approved by a simple majority of the shares represented in the meeting.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association and the rules for convening general meetings via electronic means issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

A legal (juristic) person, exclusively, shall have the right to appoint a natural person, as proxy, to attend the general meeting, and vote on decisions taken on his behalf using electronic means. Such natural person must have an investor number registered with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.

Shareholders will be able to vote for the items set out in the agenda starting from 3 days prior to the meeting date up until the end of the voting process for that particular item presented in the agenda on the day of the meeting. If a shareholder’s shareholding is increased or decreased, then such shareholders votes will be void, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the general meeting.

For further information please contact Mr. Taha Ali Al Lawati on phone number: 93677667.

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PRIMARY COURT OF AL-AMERAT COURT SECRETARIAT

JUDICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The court secretariat announces that the plaintiff/ KAVITHA SAJU PRABHAKARAN has filed lawsuit No. 302, 1105, 2022 before the Legitimacy Court against the defendant/ SAJU PRABHAKARAN to claim as follows:

First: An urgent request is to oblige the defendant to pay the plaintiff and her children an alimony in the amount of 700 O.R. Seven Hundred Omani Riyal only, until the case is decided upon, based on the text of Article 116 of the Personal Status Law

Secondly, on the case, judgements in subject are as follows:

1. Divorce based on the grounds of harm, discord, lack of expenditure, and the impossibility of maintaining the relationship between the two of them; this is according to the text of Articles 101 and 109.
2. Confirmation of the plaintiff's custody of her children and transfer of their residency to her according to the text of Articles 130 and 132 of the same law.
3. Obliging the defendant to provide comprehensive alimony for his children after divorce, an amount of 700 O.R. Seven Hundred Omani Riyal only, starting from the date of the judicial claim according to the text of Article 90 of the same law.
4. Obliging the defendant to pay the plaintiff prior alimony of one year prior to the judicial claim according to the text of Article 58 of the same law.
5. Obliging the defendant to pay his children prior alimony of 6 months prior to the judicial claim according to the text of Article 58 of the same law.
6. Compensating the plaintiff for the damage she sustained as a result of the beating, an amount of 1,000 O.R. One Thousand Omani Riyal only.

Third: Obliging the defendant to pay the expenses and fees of the attorney, an amount of 500 O.R. Five Hundred Omani Riyal only.

It was not possible to notify the defendant by the usual means, accordingly, this publication is considered to be a notification to him of the case, and the date set for a hearing session on Sunday, 27/11/2022 at nine a.m. at the court's headquarters located in (Al-Amarat State - Sixth - next to the Al-Wahab Mosque), this is according to the text of Article (13) of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law issued by Royal Decree No. 29, 2002 AD.

COURT SECRETARIAT

MAJOR EARTHQUAKE

46 killed, 700 injured in Indonesia earthquake

JAKARTA: At least 46 people died in an earthquake that hit Indonesia's main island Java on Monday, Channel News Asia reported citing an Indonesian government official.

In the morning, a shallow 5.4 magnitude earthquake hits Indonesia's western province of West Java, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The earthquake's epicentre was on land in Cianjur, about 75km southeast of Jakarta, and at a depth of 10km.

According to CNA citing several reports, stated that around 700 people were injured in the West Java town.

"The latest data showed that 46 people were killed. Victims kept

coming from many areas. Around 700 people were injured," Herman Suherman, the head of the administration in Cianjur, told broadcaster Kompas TV.

He also earlier told broadcaster Metro TV that many of the injured "had fractures from being trapped by the ruins of buildings".

A 5.6- magnitude earthquake rattled the Indonesian capital of Jakarta for several seconds on Monday, the country's weather and geophysics agency (BMKG) said, adding there was no potential for a tsunami.

The epicentre was determined to be at 6.840 degrees south latitude and 107.107 degrees east longitude. Java's largest city is the national capital of Jakarta. **ANI**



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

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CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

BALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCH

North Korea expresses 'regret' over UN chief's rebuke of missile launch

SEOUL: North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui has called United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "a puppet of the United States," Yonhap news agency reported citing KCNA news agency. She made the remarks after Guterres condemned North Korea's ballistic missile launch of an intercontinental range.

Choe Son-hui said that the Guterres "connived at the facts" that the United States and its "vassal forces" were referring to North Korea's exercise of "inviolable sovereignty" to the United Nations Security Council to impose pressure on Pyongyang. "The [UN] secretary-general connived at the fact that the US and its vassal forces were referring the DPRK's exercise of its inviolable sovereignty to the UN Security Council to put pressure on it. This clearly proves that he is a puppet of the US," Yonhap cited KCNA for quoting Choe Son-hui.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui expressed regret over UN Chief's "deplorable attitude." Referring to UN Secretary-General's statement regarding North Korea on Friday, she said that Guterres termed North Korea's "just exercise" of their right to "self-defence." She made the remarks as the UN Se-



curity Council is due to convene an emergency meeting in New York on Monday (local time) in response to North Korea's latest ICBM launch.

"I express my strong regret over the fact that the UN secretary-general has taken a very deplorable attitude, oblivious of the purpose and principles of the UN Charter and its proper mission, which is to maintain impartiality, objectivity and equity in all matters," Yonhap cited KCNA for quoting Choe Son-hui.

"We recently warned the UN secretary-general to consider the issue of the Korean peninsula on the basis of impartiality and objectivity," she added. Earlier on Friday, Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General in a statement said that Antonio Guterres "strongly condemns" North Korea's launch of another ballistic missile of intercontinental range. **ANI**

ELECTIONS

Tokayev set to win presidential election in Kazakhstan

ASTANA: Incumbent Kazakh leader Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is set to win the snap presidential election in the country, according to preliminary results emerging on Monday.

Tokayev will win the presidential election after receiving the support of 82.45 percent of the voters, Astana Times reported, citing the Open Society International Institute for Regional Studies.

Snap presidential elections were held in Kazakhstan on November 20 to elect the President of Kazakhstan.

The presidential polls come against a series of fundamental and comprehensive political reforms, in continuing the process of decentralising political power in the central Asian country. **ANI**



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THREE LIONS ROAR TO BEGIN THEIR CAMPAIGN IN STYLE

England put up an authoritative display to rout Iran and kick off their campaign in style

MUSCAT: A dominating display by England saw the Three Lions trounce Iran 6-2 in a Group B match to kick off their World Cup campaign in style at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, on Monday.

Gareth Southgate's men displayed their authority, thanks to a brace from Bukayo Saka and efforts from Jude Bellingham, Raheem Sterling, Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish.

Bellingham opened the scoring with his first England goal in the 35th minute while Sterling and Saka helped Gareth Southgate's side establish a 3-0 lead before half-time. Saka produced a brilliant individual effort to take England further out of sight just past the hour mark before Mehdi Taremi netted a consolation for Iran, but substitutes Rashford and Grealish put the gloss on the Three Lions' Group B debut despite a stoppage-time penalty from Taremi.

There were problems before kick-off as fans experienced issues with their tickets with the FIFA app down, leading to swathes of



empty seats at the Khalifa International Stadium close to kick-off while Iran's players did not sing the national anthem at the start.

Iran suffered an early blow when goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand collided with teammate Majid Hosseini. Beiranvand initially played on, before being stretchered off in the 19th minute.

Southgate's team broke the deadlock in 35th minute when Bellingham headed home unmarked from Luke Shaw's lofted cross. England pulled clear with two quickfire goals before half-time. Saka produced a fine half-volley from a Maguire knockdown to increase England's lead in the 43rd minute, before Sterling finished on the volley following a right-footed cross from Harry Kane in stoppage time - the Chelsea forward's first World Cup goal.

It became an exercise in damage limitation for Iran after the break,

but Saka punished them again in the 62nd minute when he side-stepped past two defenders in the box and curled home a low effort.

Iran found a goal from nowhere three minutes later, however, when Taremi seized on a moment of hesitation from Maguire to ghost in and smash past Jordan Pickford. Rashford came on as a substitute and coolly slotted home his first goal at a major tournament in the 71st minute to re-establish England's four-goal lead. There was still time for Grealish to score late on.

Sardar Azmoun almost added another consolation for Iran when he raced through in stoppage time, but Pickford produced a fingertip save to turn his effort onto the bar. Iran were awarded a late penalty after a VAR check for a foul on Morteza Pouraliganji, however, and Taremi slotted home to restore some pride for Iran.



BY THE NUMBERS

80,000

The capacity of Lusail Stadium, which will host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final. Eight stadiums are hosting the first-ever World Cup in the Middle East and Gulf region.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Group C

2pm (Oman time)

ARGENTINA vs SAUDI ARABIA

Lusail Stadium

Group D

5pm

DENMARK vs TUNISIA

Education City Stadium

Group C

8pm

MEXICO vs POLAND

Stadium 974

Group D

11 pm

FRANCE vs AUSTRALIA

Al Janoub Stadium

FIFA.COM

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

TEAM STANDING

Group A									
	COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	
	Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ecuador	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	
	Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Qatar	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	

as of November 21, 8pm

Group B									
	COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	
	England	1	1	0	0	6	2	3	
	USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Iran	1	0	0	1	2	6	0	
	Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

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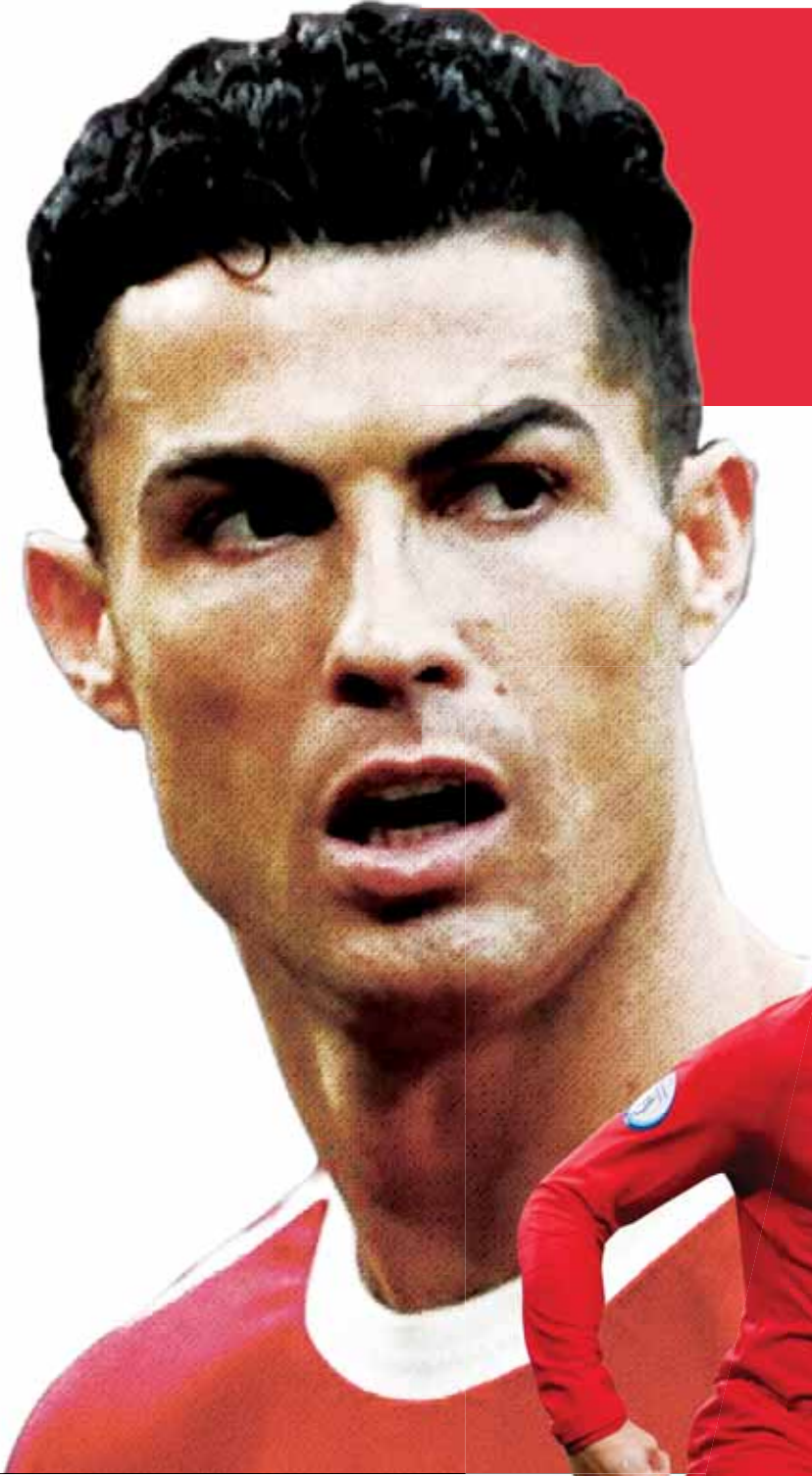
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FIFA WORLD CUP

Qatar 2022



I TALK WHEN I WANT TO: RONALDO

Portugal superstar hits back at criticism of his Man United interview

DOHA: Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo made a surprise media appearance in which he hit back at criticism over his explosive Manchester United interview insisting, "I talk when I want to". Portugal will open their 2022 World Cup campaign against Ghana on Thursday. The five-time winner of the Ballon d'Or, who has had a frustrating season at Manchester United doing regular bench duty, startled the world with a series of videos in which he took

aim at the Manchester United board, manager Erik ten Hag, and former players like Wayne Rooney. With the revelations, he appears to have ended his second stint at Old Trafford, though it has been questioned whether the timing of that interview could have an effect on the Portugal team as they get set to launch their World Cup campaign. Ronaldo, who has offered no apologies after making an impromptu appearance at a press conference in Qatar was quoted as saying by GOAL.com, "Timing is always timing. From your side, it is easy to look at how

we can choose timings. Sometimes you write truths, and sometimes you write lies. I don't have to worry about what others think. I talk when I want to. Everybody knows who I am, what I believe in." On the other hand, Ronaldo became the first person to hit the 500 million followers mark on the social media site Instagram. Portugal superstar and Manchester United striker entered the 500 million club on Monday. With this, he became the first person to have 500 million followers on Instagram. Argentine superstar Lionel Messi is on the second spot in the list of most followers as he has 376 million on Instagram. India's star batter and former captain Virat Kohli is on the seventh spot in the list with 203 million followers. - ANI



ROCHET: PLAYING AGAINST SON DOES NOT WORRY ME

DOHA: Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet insists he has no fear about facing South Korea's masked warrior Son Heung-min at the World Cup. Rochet is set to come face to face with the Tottenham striker when Uruguay begin their Qatar 2022 campaign on Thursday. Son was the joint Golden Boot winner in the English Premier League last season, matching Mohamed Salah's haul of 23 goals. A fractured eye socket injury came as a jolt to 30-year-old Son ahead of the World Cup, but he was fit enough to be selected by coach Paulo Bento. Now, Son is set to lead the Korean attack, almost certainly in the face mask he has been wearing in training, with his world-class ability set to pose a threat to Uruguay's rearguard. Rochet said: "You are prepared for everything, not only for Son. We know that the best players are in the national teams. He has shown that he is at a very high level and one has been looking at him for a long time, studying him, respecting him, but trusting in what one does. "One thinks that he is going to play. He does not worry me anymore. If he is not there, another one will enter in his place and he will be good, too." Uruguay must also face Portugal and Ghana in Group H, with Rochet facing a challenge of keeping out the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Inaki Williams. Much has been made of Uruguay's attacking strengths, with the likes of Darwin Nunez and veterans Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani in their ranks. Rochet, however, says the defence is also of a high calibre as the two-time champions plot a deep run, saying: "We are all at a very good level, and whoever has to play will do so in the best way." Uruguay play South Korea on 24 November. - fifa.com

QATAR 2022 REVENUE EXPECTED TO SURPASS ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS

NEW DELHI: With the start of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Sunday, global audiences are set to enjoy some memorable sporting achievements on the field. However, there are commercial and reputational opportunities across the entire technology, media and telecommunications sector, according to a new analysis by global financial information and analytics services provider S&P Global Market Intelligence. Based on its analysis, it pegged that Qatar is expected to generate US\$6.5 billion, surpassing all previous tournaments and at four times the figure seen in Korea and Japan in 2002. World football governing body FIFA operates as custodian of the game, with all income distributed back into the sport. Expenses consist of event-related costs, development payments to member nations, governance and other administration costs. During the 2018 World Cup in Russia, revenue worth US\$5.2 billion was generated, it said in its analysis report. "Analysis of the last complete four-year World Cup cycle that led up to Russia 2018 shows that just under half of FIFA revenue came from broadcasting rights fees," it said in the report. "An additional 26 per cent came from marketing rights with sponsors signing contracts to associate with the event. Hospitality and ticket sales brought 11 per cent, illustrating that media exposure and a global affinity with the sport drive overall revenue," it said. Notably, the FIFA World Cup 2022 will be the first time the event has taken place during the fourth quarter of a calendar year. "This delayed scheduling means that matches will be taking place within the most lucrative TV advertising period of the year," the S&P Global Market Intelligence report said. - ANI

NEED TO DEFEND WELL IF WE HAVE TO BE COMPETITIVE: SANCHEZ

AL KHOR: After the loss to Ecuador in the opening match of the FIFA World Cup, Qatar coach Felix Sanchez said that his team needs to defend well and stay organised in order to be competitive. Enner Valencia scored a brace to help Ecuador defeat Qatar in the opening game of the 2022 FIFA World Cup at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar on Sunday. "We fought this game in a certain way, but our opponent had their own ideas. It is not that we did not want to attack, but our opponent had their own weapons," said Sanchez as quoted by Sky Sports. "If we want to be competitive, we will need to defend, and be very well organised. When we have possession we would like to be more effective," added the coach. Qatar seemed better with their passing in the second half with a few threatening runs but lacked the finishing touches. They played better football in the second half but did not look like scoring, not posing any significant danger to Ecuador. Qatar came close to scoring in the 86th minute with Mohammed Muntari making an excellent run and taking a shot at the goal, missing by a few inches. With this win, Ecuador became the first team to beat the host nation in the opening match of the World Cup in the 92-year history of the tournament. Ecuador will now face the Netherlands in their second group match on Friday while Qatar will host Senegal on the same day. - ANI



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by January 2023 reaching \$81.46, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.71 from the price of Friday, which was \$84.17. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,500.55 points, up by 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09 per cent at 462.06 points. National Bank Oman, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 4.55 per cent, was the top loser.

FACILITATING TRADE

Khazaen Dry Port joins A.P Moller – Maersk’s ‘Ports of Call’ network



MUSCAT: Khazaen Dry Port, which was established in partnership between Asyad and the private sector, announced that it joined A.P. Moller – Maersk’s (Maersk) extensive ‘Ports of Call’ network.

Joining global shipping lines, the port will further bolster its global position as an import, re-export and transshipment centre as the country presses ahead to become one of the leading logistics hubs in the region.

Underlining Asyad’s role as a

market growth leader, this integration is yet another step in the group’s plan to improve efficiency and adopt higher standards across the logistics sector. Asyad complements these efforts by providing and facilitating services that will enable local traders to effectively expand their reach to global markets and attract higher volumes of trade to and through Oman.

Juma Al Maskari, Executive Director of Khazaen Dry Port said,

“By integrating Khazaen Dry Port within global shipping lines, including Maersk’s network, we are able to improve international market accessibility, facilitate trade and increase the flow of products and services to and from Oman at the touch of a button. We are home to more than 80 local and global companies with an annual capacity of 50,000 TEU. This integration with a powerful global network facilitates business and trade for

the private sector, providing them with operational efficiencies and cost optimisation by simply leveraging Maersk’s global routes to best suit their supply chains.”

Mads Skov-Hansen, Head of Ocean Customer Logistics at Maersk West and Central Asia, said, “At Maersk, our ambition is to connect and simplify our customers’ supply chains by providing them with integrated logistics services across land, sea and air network.”

REVIEWING PROCEDURES

Opaz enhances environmental compliance standards

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz), represented by the Environmental Regulation and Compliance Sector, made several visits to the companies operating in the zones affiliated with the authority.

The visits were made to review the procedures followed by the operating companies in the field of environmental control and the extent to which projects comply with the legislation, laws and regulations issued by Opaz and to review their compliance with the requirements of activity licenses and environmental permits followed in environmental management systems.

The programme included briefing the companies on the role of the compliance and legislation sector to clarify compliance standards and environmental affairs and to strengthen partnerships with companies operating in the economic and free zones.

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الأهلية Al Ahlia

NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY TO PURCHASE MINORITY SHARES IN AL AHLIA INSURANCE COMPANY

Nov 21, 2022

Following the completion of the sale of Royal & Sun Alliance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c) (RSA Middle East) to National Life & General Insurance Co. SAOG (NLGIC), a public notice was made on July 7th by NLGIC of its intention to purchase the minority shares of Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG (Al Ahlia), a subsidiary of RSA Middle East.

Further to the public notice, on 20 November 2022 NLGIC issued a public announcement to purchase 47.5% of Al Ahlia's shares. The Board of Directors of Al Ahlia confirms receipt of the offer and that it is not seeking another person to make a competing takeover offer.

NLGIC will hereby enter a strategic transaction with Al Ahlia Insurance Company to complete the takeover steps with common interests to further broaden and strengthen its regional insurance business.

The transaction aims to transform both companies into a larger, stronger and more competitive regional insurance player emerging from Sultanate of Oman.

The transaction is subject to approvals from the respective

regulators and shareholders.

For the avoidance of doubt, this announcement is a Takeover Offer Advertisement as defined by the Takeover and Acquisition Regulation (E/2/2019).

About Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG (Al Ahlia)
Established in 1985, Al Ahlia is one of the longest serving non-life insurance companies in Oman. Al Ahlia offers a wide range of products and services in the retail sector including Motor, Travel, Personal Accident and Home products. With 24 branches, over 26 exclusive agents, a dedicated call center and a convenient online platform, the company provides its customers with unmatched sales and service support. It also offers a wide range of commercial insurance products including Property, Casualty, Motor, Construction, Marine, Specialty lines and SME solutions. Al Ahlia has received consistent recognition and awards such as 'Oman Insurer of the Year' & 'AIWA Award for Best Performing mid-cap company' for many years at regional and local award platforms.

About National Life & General Insurance Co. SAOG (NLGIC)
NLGIC is a subsidiary of Oman International Development

and Investment Company SAOG (OMINVEST). Listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, NLGIC is the market leader and the largest insurance company in Oman with branches in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. NLGIC has been in the insurance industry for more than 25 years, offering a wide range of insurance solutions in Medical, Life and General Insurance segments with a successful track record of business performance across various financial parameters. NLGIC is the market leader in Oman in the Motor and Health Insurance segments and one of the major players in the UAE and growing fast in its new markets including Kuwait.

About Royal & Sun Alliance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c) (RSA Middle East)
RSA Middle East is a leading provider of property and casualty insurance in the Middle East with operations in Bahrain, UAE, Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It offers solutions for both commercial and retail clients, across a range of product lines, including motor, property, medical, SME as well as tailored solutions for large corporates. It has operated in the region for over 60 years, bringing best-in-class international solutions and expertise to the Middle East.



MARKET



MSX index ends higher

National Bank Oman, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 4.55 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,500.55 points, up by 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09 per cent at 462.06 points. National Bank Oman, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 4.55 per cent, was the top loser.

Bank Muscat Perpetual Bond 1 was down by 26.4 per cent. Shares of Bank Dhofar were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 550 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.65 million, with more than 13.86 million shares changing hands. Out of 40 traded securities, 9 advanced, 17 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR387,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR327,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR61,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,269.90 points, up 0.96 per cent. Prices of National Bank Oman, Bank Dhofar, Ominvest, Bank

Nizwa, and Bank Muscat were up by 3.70 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 1.68 per cent, 1.06 per cent and 0.36 per cent respectively. Prices of United Finance, Al Anwar Investment and Taageer Finance were down by 0.67 per cent, 1.32 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,084.63 points, down 0.38 per cent. Prices of Oman Flour Mills was up by 0.67 per cent respectively. Prices of National Aluminium, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy, Gulf International Chemicals, and Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 3.61 per cent, 3.35 per cent, 2.08 per cent, 1.24 per cent and 0.87 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.92 per cent before closing at 1,541.09 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, Sembcorp Salalah and Oman National Engineering were up by 2.26 per cent, 1.89 per cent and 0.92 per cent respectively. Prices of National Gas, Renaissance Services, Al Batinah Power, Oman Telecom, and OIFC were down by 4.55 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 2.70 per cent, 2.34 per cent and 1.52 per cent respectively. –

United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,507.72	4,462.28	4,500.55	4,481.84	18.70	0.42
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,273.19	7,168.97	7,269.90	7,200.76	69.14	0.96
Industry Index	6,107.56	6,084.63	6,084.63	6,107.56	-22.93	-0.38
Services Index	1,555.32	1,540.53	1,541.09	1,555.32	-14.24	-0.92
MSX Shariah Index	462.06	461.48	462.06	461.66	0.40	0.09
MSX TR INDEX	5,687.31	5,629.98	5,678.26	5,654.67	23.60	0.42
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,610.58	7,501.52	7,607.13	7,534.79	72.35	0.96
SERVICES TR IDX	1,625.98	1,610.51	1,611.09	1,625.98	-14.88	-0.92
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,358.72	6,334.85	6,334.85	6,358.72	-23.88	-0.38

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
13,868,742	3,645,590	550	23,280,206,401	9	17	14	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST HD	LAST OFF	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,507,635	417,744	36	0.265	0.281	0.265	0.280	0.270	0.010	3.704	0.280	0.280	0.290	0.100	455,264,980
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	298,159	107,832	12	0.380	0.384	0.380	0.384	0.358	0.006	1.676	0.384	0.358	0.368	0.100	243,286,065
OM0000001512	OMAN NAT ENG	238,401	26,294	4	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.917	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	15,000	9,032	3	0.600	0.604	0.600	0.604	0.600	0.004	0.667	0.604	0.600	0.604	0.100	95,130,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,476,867	690,645	98	0.279	0.281	0.274	0.280	0.279	0.001	0.358	0.280	0.277	0.280	0.100	2,101,791,177
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	8,000	12,720	3	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	0.000	0.000	1.590	1.510	1.590	0.100	142,623,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	5,000	1,030	1	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.000	0.000	0.206	0.203	0.212	0.100	25,728,980
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	320,000	44,800	5	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.138	0.144	0.100	272,952,045
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	6,800	490	2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.070	0.074	0.100	5,480,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,008,020	102,823	12	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	468,168,354
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	592,709	234,713	33	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.000	0.000	0.396	0.392	0.396	0.100	257,773,915
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	95,407	28,336	12	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.298	-0.001	-0.336	0.297	0.297	0.298	0.100	98,269,195
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	122,000	11,346	14	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.100	24,055,547
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	90,219	11,728	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.132	-0.002	-1.515	0.130	0.130	0.131	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	383,248	322,020	27	0.848	0.848	0.836	0.836	0.856	-0.020	-2.336	0.836	0.840	0.844	0.100	627,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	119,200	55,559	13	0.472	0.472	0.460	0.460	0.480	-0.020	-4.167	0.460	0.456	0.480	0.100	108,748,600
Total	16	7,286,665	2,076,824	277												

Parallel Market

OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	2,869,000	420,842	49	0.146	0.150	0.146	0.150	0.146	0.004	2.740	0.150	0.150	0.153	0.100	449,452,715	
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	61,000	8,296	9	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.133	0.003	2.256	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.100	10,270,992	
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	157,344	8,517	9	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.054	0.048	0.055	0.100	51,546,885	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	487,416	46,144	23	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538	
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	63,000	9,875	4	0.155	0.157	0.155	0.157	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.152	0.157	0.100	314,040,000	
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	51,000	2,810	6	0.055	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.100	17,200,194	
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	2,607	2,127	4	0.816	0.816	0.816	0.816	0.816	0.000	0.000	0.816	0.820	0.816	0.100	77,520,000	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	25,000	925	2	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.035	0.038	0.100	7,386,517	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	11,180	939	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	14,700,000	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	180,000	6,300	11	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.100	25,004,222	
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	100	12	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.110	0.115	0.100	17,888,296	
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	6,596	455	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.075	0.100	32,511,861
OM0000004669	SHARGIAH DESALIN.	100	12	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.129	0.100	11,442,853
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	200	23	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.115	0.120	0.100	49,698,115	
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	3,458	781	3	0.225	0.228	0.225	0.228	0.230	-0.002	-0.870	0.228	0.225	0.228	0.100	9,486,002	
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEM	100	8	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	1,680,000	
OM000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	45,000	3,375	5	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	15,000,000	
OM0000002374	UNIT FINANCE	858,642	54,574	10	0.062	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	22,345,242	
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	15,100	1,419	3	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2.083	0.094	0.093	0.095	0.100	7,651,859	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	16,306	587	3	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.037	-0.001	-2.703	0.036	0.034	0.036	0.100	24,295,947	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	103,030	18,180	15	0.178	0.178	0.173	0.173	0.179	-0.006	-3.352	0.173	0.172	0.178	0.100	35,116,655	
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	325,530	28,177	14	0.083	0.083	0.080	0.080	0.083	-0.003	-3.614	0.080	0.079	0.083	0.100	2,685,716	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	2,600	276	4	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.110	-0.005	-4.545	0.105	0.105	0.114	0.100	8,925,000	
Total	23	5,284,309	612,655	181													

ECONOMIC FALLOUT

Asian share markets and oil prices skid

SYDNEY: Asian share markets and oil prices slipped as investors fretted about the economic fallout from fresh COVID-19 restrictions in China, with resulting risk aversion benefiting bonds and the dollar.

Beijing's most populous district urged residents to stay at home as the city's COVID case numbers rose, while at least one district in Guangzhou was locked down for five days, Reuters reported.

The rash of outbreaks across the country has been a setback to hopes for an early easing in strict pandemic restrictions, one reason cited for a 10 per cent slide in oil prices last week.

Chinese blue chips fell 1.3 per cent in early trade, dragging MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan down 1.4 per cent. Japan's Nikkei was flat and South Korea lost 1.2 per cent.

S&P 500 futures were down 0.3 per cent, while Nasdaq futures slipped 0.2 per cent. EURO STOXX 50 futures lost 0.4 per cent and FTSE futures 0.2 per cent.

The US Thanksgiving holiday on



Thursday combined with the distraction of the soccer World Cup could make for thin trading, while Black Friday sales will offer an insight into how consumers are faring and the outlook for retail stocks.

Futures imply an 80 per cent chance of a rise of 50 basis points to 4.25-4.5 per cent and a peak for rates around 5.0-5.25 per cent. They also have rate cuts priced in for late next year.

Central banks in Sweden and New Zealand are expected to hike their rates this week, perhaps by an outsized 75 basis points.

Bond markets think the Fed will tighten too far and tip the economy into recession as the yield curve is the most inverse it has been in 40 years. Yields on 10-year notes eased to 3.79 per cent, leaving them 72 basis points below the two-year.

The Fed chorus has helped the

dollar stabilise after its recent sharp sell-off, though speculative positioning in futures has turned net short on the currency for the first time since mid-2021.

The dollar was little changed at 140.36 yen, after last week's bounce from a low of 137.67. The euro eased 0.2 per cent to \$1.0298, well short of the recent four-month top of \$1.1481. The US dollar index firmed 0.25 per cent to 107.180, away from last week's trough of 105.300.

Meanwhile, turmoil in cryptocurrencies continued unabated with the FTX exchange, which has filed for US bankruptcy court protection, saying it owes its 50 biggest creditors nearly \$3.1 billion.

In commodity markets, gold was a fraction lower at \$1,747 an ounce, after dipping 1.2 per cent last week.

Oil futures failed to find a floor after last week's drubbing saw Brent lose 9 per cent and WTI roughly 10 per cent.

Brent shed another 98 cents to \$86.64, while US crude for January lost 90 cents to \$79.18 per barrel. -BNA

GLOBAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION POWERHOUSE

Nortal launches Oman Talent Hub

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to developing local talent in Oman, Nortal, the global digital transformation powerhouse, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), launched the Oman Talent Hub in the week leading up to the Sultanate's 52nd National Day.

Located at Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM), the talent hub will offer valuable work experience across a variety of advisory and technology fields through the Nortal University programme. The Nortal Oman Talent Hub was launched at a special ceremony held on November 14.

The event was held under the auspices of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion. Also in attendance were Ingrid Amer, Ambassador-Designate of Estonia to Oman, Dr Amer Al Rawas, Consul of Estonia to Oman, Taavi Einaste, CEO, Middle East and Africa, Nortal, and Tomy Bosco, Partner, Business Area Director, Nortal, together with several other members of the executive management and staff at Nortal.

Speaking at the launch of the new facility, Al Yousef said: "Nortal has played a key role in Oman's digital transformation journey, working on some of the country's most important projects in recent years. Among them, are the development of the Invest Easy portal, Oman



e-Census 2020 and Oman Tax Authority's Tax Management System. Nortal is an excellent example of a company that has won and worked on public sector contracts over several years, believed in the country and is now a major investor and technology partner. Oman Talent Hub which was launched today is set to bring the skills, know-how and expertise to Oman that will help grow our profile as a tech-forward nation."

Touching on Nortal's longstanding relationship with Oman, Taavi Einaste said, "As Nortal continues to support Oman in its digital transformation journey, it is also celebrating ten years of operations in the country. The opening of the Talent Hub will further strengthen our position in the region and the decade-long relationship between Estonia and Oman."

The Nortal Oman Talent Hub

will serve as a key location for Oman-based talent development. It will also work closely with local universities in Oman to provide internships for young Omani talent in project management, software development, quality assurance, and more through its Nortal University programme. As part of the training programme, trainees will also have the opportunity to work on international projects for Nortal to gain hands-on experience in multiple markets.

"The opening of the Oman Talent Hub reaffirms our commitment to developing local talent, especially female talent. It has always been a priority for Nortal to support women in technology. As a matter of fact, over 65% of the Omani nationals employed in our Oman office are women. We hope that this talent hub will open even more doors for women in Oman

looking to jumpstart their careers in tech," said Tomy Bosco. "Each year, with the Nortal University programme, we aim to give talented Omanis the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in key tech areas."

Nortal is a digital transformation powerhouse and a trusted strategic partner for healthcare institutions, governments, leading businesses, and Fortune 500 companies globally. The company was founded in Estonia in 2000 and, as of 2022, has 23 offices in Europe, the Middle East, and the US. Since then, it has delivered 40% of Estonia's e-transformation projects and initiatives and countless other digital government projects worldwide. The company has been active in the GCC, including Oman, for over ten years, leading several critical digital transformation projects.



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FEATURE





Exclusive launch event in Dubai saw attendees embark on a journey through time at the world’s first Nissan Z Pop-up Museum

NISSAN HOSTS REGIONAL PREMIERE OF ALL-NEW 2023 NISSAN Z IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Times News Service

TO THE delight of automotive enthusiasts across the region on Thursday night Nissan revealed the all-new 2023 Nissan Z for the first time in the Middle East. In the presence of VIPs, partners, media, and employees, the much-anticipated seventh generation of the iconic sports car made a roaring entrance at an exclusive event in Dubai, piloted by Nissan’s Brand Ambassador and Nissan Z Product Specialist, Hiroshi Tamura.

Serving as a testament to the brand’s passion and dedication towards driving excitement, the Nissan Z has been the first word in Japanese performance since 1969. Steeped in sports car history, and since its global introduction over 50 years ago, the Nissan Z has built a reputation for power, performance and utility at a competitive price.

An icon for over 50 years, the all-new Nissan Z is its most thrilling iteration yet, with 400 horsepower and 475 Nm of torque. Adding to the excitement is a 6-speed close-ratio manual transmission with an EXEDY high-performance clutch and carbon-fibre composite drive shaft, or an all-new 9-speed automatic transmission.

Hosted by Thierry Sabbagh, President, Nissan Saudi Arabia, INFINITI Middle East and Managing Director, Nissan Middle East, the event also served as the world’s first Nissan Z pop-up museum. Audiences were taken on a journey through time as they discovered the Z sports car’s evolution over decades, set against a backdrop of a lively Japanese city street complete with street-style artists and unique decorative embellishments.

Speaking at the exclusive event, Thierry Sabbagh, said: “The Nissan Z is an icon, one that is loved by the people of the Middle East and an integral part of our exciting line-up across the region. It is a pleasure to welcome the all-new Nissan Z in the presence of our longstanding partners. Embodying our brand promise of ‘Innovation that Excites’, each generation of this iconic model has seen the brand raise the bar and attract a larger following of enthusiasts, in search of thrilling driving experiences. The Nissan Z serves as a tangible testament towards our dedication to making our cars safer, more connected, and more fun to drive, built on three key pillars of heritage, design, and thrill.”

An automotive veteran with decades of experience as part of

- Seventh generation model is its most powerful iteration to date with 400 horsepower and 475 Nm of torque
- Iconic design pays homage to previous models while being built for the future
- Exclusive launch event sees attendees embark on a journey through time at the world’s first Nissan Z Pop-up Museum

the global Nissan Z product team, Hiroshi Tamura, was the lead on the product development of the seventh generation Z.

At the Regional Premiere of the Nissan Z, the company’s Brand Ambassador, said: “The Nissan Z has been a core part of our brand DNA for over 50 years. This all-new seventh generation model is the result of a hardworking team who took pride and wanted to share the thrill of this iconic sports car with past and future generations of driving enthusiasts. A perfect blend of tradition and modernity, the all-new Nissan Z encompasses the essence and excitement of models before it while strengthening the human-machine bond that has dominated and set the Nissan Z apart for over half a century.”

A distinctive silhouette
The all-new 2023 Nissan Z boasts a fresh, sleek exterior design with an appearance that communicates respect to its lineage. Available in a choice of nine exterior colors, including six two-tone colors, the new Z takes on a traditional rear-wheel-drive sports car design, with a long hood, lower rear stance, and a silhouette that pays homage to the first-generation



Fairlady 240Z. Inspired by the shape and colour of a katana blade (samurai sword), the silver roof accent highlights the lower body section and emphasises the sweeping silhouette of the all-new model. In the rear, combination lamps incorporate modern technology with new 3D signature LED taillights, reminiscent in design of the famed 300ZX.

A driver-focused cabin
The cabin of the all-new 2023 Nissan Z, which is available in two color options, including a sporty dual-tone color scheme, seamlessly blends modern technology with vintage touches. The centre stack takes inspiration from generations before it, with the placement of three ana-

logue pod gauges on the instrument panel and climate control switches near the shifter.

A 12.3-inch customisable digital metre display with three individual modes helps drivers grasp important information at a glance and includes the redline shift point at the 12 o’clock position, taking strong inspiration from modern racecars.

Equipped for driving excitement, the R32 GT-R inspired steering wheel and design of the seats in the all-new 2023 Nissan Z utilize know-how from the GT-R’s development.

An expanded use of suede on the seatback suppresses initial lateral shake for more comfortable drives, as well as reducing body movement when driving

spiritedly.

Thrilling driving experiences

One of the defining traits of the Nissan Z has always been a bond forged between the vehicle and the driver – a physical and visceral connection.

That human-machine bond dominates the new Z, which is powered by a 3.0-litre V6 twin turbo engine that produces 400 horsepower at 6,400 rpm and 475 Nm of torque starting from 1,600 to 5,600 rpm.

In a first for a rear-wheel drive Nissan vehicle, all-new Z models equipped with the 6-speed close-ratio manual transmission include an advanced launch assist control system that helps pri-

oritise acceleration and allow for the optimal amount of wheelspin. The 9-speed automatic transmission offers direct and quick acceleration, with a wide gear ratio for an engaging driving experience. Adding to the thrill are aluminium paddle shifters and two drive modes – Standard and Sport – to cater to driver preferences.

Innovative technologies to keep you connected

The all-new 2023 Nissan Z offers a range of driver assistance and safety technologies, including Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Blind Spot Warning, Lane Departure Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, High Beam Assist, and Intelligent Forward Collision Warning.

In addition to the wide range of safety and convenience features, the all-new Z also comes equipped with an 8-speaker Bose® Audio System and an 8.0-inch touchscreen with navigation, Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™, and Bluetooth® Hands-free Phone System with audio streaming capabilities. With a rich lineage spanning over 50 years, the legacy and thrill of the Nissan Z is celebrated across the Middle East. Admired for its capabilities, the legendary sports car set a Guinness World Record for the longest twin-vehicle drift in the UAE, winning the respect of enthusiasts across the region.

The all-new 2023 Nissan Z is now available for order at Nissan’s partner network across the Middle East.



SPORTS



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Saudi Arabia upset Bahrain to help Oman set up clash with Canada

Saudi Arabia's massive victory paved the way for hosts Oman to squeeze into the Desert Cup final despite their narrow defeat to Canada

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Unfancied Saudi Arabia caused the biggest upset of the Desert Cup T20I Series on Sunday night when they shocked Bahrain by nine wickets in the concluding game of the double round-robin format at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) grounds.

Saudi Arabia's massive victory paved the way for hosts Oman to squeeze into the final despite their narrow defeat to Canada.



Canada's three-wicket win ensured their spot in the final as they garnered a total of ten points to finish on top of the table.

Oman's defeat left them with six points and Bahrain's loss meant both the teams finished with six points each. However, the hosts had a better net run-rate of +2.135 as compared to -1.044 of Bahrain to scrape through and set up a title clash with Canada. Saudi Arabia had lost all their previous matches and, Bahrain, which was the only team to defeat table-toppers Canada, was expected to have it easy. However, Bahrain,

after winning the toss elected to bat, a decision that they would regret later. Saudi Arabia restricted the much-experienced rivals to just 112/9 with half the team out back in pavilion inside the power-play at 32/5.

Haider Ali's 41 was the only notable score as Saudi Arabia's bowlers wreaked havoc.

Atif-Ur-Rehman with 3/19 was the most successful bowler while Ishtiaq Ahmed, Usman Najeeb and Zain Ul Abidin picked two wickets each. In reply, Saudi opening batter Faisal Khan smashed an unbeaten 81 off just 32 balls,

which included nine boundaries and six maximums to power them to a memorable win. Abdul Waheed Ghaffar's unbeaten 20 saw the Saudis race to win in just 10.5 overs finishing at 115/1.

Earlier, Oman lost to Canada in another exciting game with the leaders recording a three-wicket win with a ball to spare.

The two teams will face-off in the final on Monday night.

Canada put Oman to bat first and last match centurion and skipper Zeeshan Magsood continued his rich vein of form by hitting a half-century. His 54 came of 34 balls and along with opener Jatinder Singh shared a crucial stand of 93 runs for the third wicket in nine overs. Jatinder missed his half-century with his 47 coming off 37 deliveries. Sandeep Goud's late charge fetched 26 off 14 that included three sixes helped Oman end their innings with 169/7.

Canada's chase revolved around Aaron Johnson as the opener hammered 81 off 41 balls, an innings that included 11 boundaries and five maximums. Oman fought back with Rafiullah and Kaleemullah picking three wickets each and Canada needed 31 in 18 balls after the fall of Harsh Thaker (24).

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Muscat boy Ayman bags bronze at MESAC golf tournament

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ayman Al Busaidi of ABA International School Muscat claimed a bronze medal in the individual category at the recently concluded MESAC (Middle East and South Asia Conference) golf tournament held at the Ras Al Hamra golf course.

Oman national team golfer Ayman shot a card of 75, just two shots behind the first place winner, Dubai American Academy's Edoardo Scialanga. Edoardo was a stroke ahead of Anahie Hutzli of American Embassy School Delhi.

In the team competition, it went down to the last putt of the 2,268 hole for ABA to clinch third place in a dramatic and packed fourth green. American Embassy School Delhi emerged team champions while Dubai American Academy were runners-up.

Over 2260 holes of golf were played by 36 of the best international high school students from around the region as ABA International School hosted the MESAC golf tournament. The event lasted three days and featured an individual modified handicap tournament with the main event pitting each of the ABA's six golf-

ers against similar seeded golfers from the other schools. Schools featured were: American School of Dubai, American Community School, Abu Dhabi, Dubai American Academy and the American Embassy School of New Delhi, along with the hosts ABA.

Speaking after picking up the medal, Ayman said: "It was an incredible experience to play against schools in the region. The format this year added much needed pressure to every shot and made MESAC much more exciting along with the challenging Ras Al Hamra golf club."

Head Coach Chris Downey said: "The ABA team managed to keep their cool in a tense last couple of holes. It was a wonderful sight, with all the schools gathered around for the concluding putts. This golf team is still yet in development and we look forward to seeing them perform at an even higher level next year in Dubai." Coach Essex said: "You have never heard a bigger cheer for a bronze medal! The team deserved a podium place as they fought hard all the way against formidable opposition. It was a fantastic tournament."

YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ESG boys crowned champions of Oman Youth Football League

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ESG Football Academy Under-12 and Under-14 teams were crowned champions of the Oman Youth Football League.

The league which has been taking place over the last five weeks

was held at the new ABA Oman International School facilities.

Teams from all over Muscat competed every week in what was a great opportunity for young, talented players to showcase their football skills.

The ESG Football Academy teams did extremely well to fend

off all challengers to lift their first Oman Youth Football League Titles. ESG Technical Director Coach Dom said "It's been great that all the kids can come together and play competitive football in this amazing environment. There was some exceptional talent on show and fantastic football

played."

"I'm delighted with how our boys competed and its always nice to come away with the winning trophy. Participating in league games has been brilliant for our players' development and we'll continue providing these opportunities for them," he added.

TENNIS

Novak Djokovic clinches record-equalling 6th title, defeats Ruud in ATP Finals

TURIN: Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic earned a record-equalling sixth ATP Finals singles title win, beating Norway's Casper Ruud in the summit clash.

Djokovic defeated his opponent by 7-5, 6-3 to walk away with a historic payday of \$4.7m. He has now equalled the record of Swiss legend Roger Federer, who has six ATP title wins. The Serbian's high-quality return game proved to be a huge difference between both players. He carved out all five break-point opportunities in the match. Ruud also hit strongly, but the 'Big Match Djokovic' was too good for him in this 93-minute battle for the title.

"I missed a couple of forehands in the last game when I was serving for it," Djokovic was quoted as saying by ATP after his win.

"I had nerves, but I am really grateful to be able to serve the match out. I had a big ace to close out. Seven years [since winning this title] has been a long time. At the same time, the fact that I waited seven years makes this victory even sweeter and even bigger," he added. The Rome, Wimbledon, Tel Aviv and Astana champion



now has ATP titles in three different cities. He won the title in Shanghai back in 2008 and made London his stomping grounds with wins in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Now he has a title in Turin, Italy. He is also the oldest champion in history of the tournament. Him being able to lift the trophy in three different decades is proof of his longevity and ability to bring his elite game while competing against the very best in the game.

Djokovic is still hungry for big trophies.

"I do not know what the future holds, but I know that what I hold in my mind is a huge hunger still to win trophies," said Djokovic in

his post-match press conference.

"Make history of this sport, compete on the highest level all around the world, and bring good emotions to sports fans, tennis fans. That's what drives me a lot," he added.

"I have a lot of different motivational factors, and I do not lack any motivation for the moment. Of course, we all have bad days or bad weeks. But generally, the feel is still there," he concluded.

Djokovic lifted his 91st tour-level trophy and was extremely pleased with his win.

"It is finals. Usually, these kinds of matches are decided by very small margins. One break of serve was enough in both sets. I knew Casper was playing really well coming into this match. We both served really well and I think in some decisive moments, like the 12th game of the first set, I managed to put a few returns back in play," said Djokovic.

"I made him run, made him play. I was really pleased with the way I played. I was looking to be very aggressive and it worked great. I am really pleased with the performance," added the Serbian. **ANI**

FORMULA ONE

I feel a bit empty, says Sebastian Vettel after final F1 race of his career

ABU DHABI: Sebastian Vettel finished 10th in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix to round out his illustrious Formula One career and bid adieu to the F1 racing track.

Numerous events were held to commemorate Vettel's final race, including a track run on Saturday night that the four-time world champion organised for spectators of all skill levels. Additionally, Lewis Hamilton paid for all 20 drivers' meals at a dinner earlier this week to bid the German driver farewell.

Before the race, the other competitors presented Vettel with a guard of honour, and after the finish line, he performed doughnuts on the track. After getting out of his car, he was then given an interview in front of the main grandstand, which is usually only given to the top three finishers.

"I feel a bit empty, to be honest, it's been a big weekend," Vettel said in an interview on track after the race as quoted by ESPN.

"It was a bit of a different warm-

up today to get into the race, but once the lights go off it's full-on race mode. Obviously, we didn't go for maybe the best strategy, so it was a shame because I think we could have turned the constructors' championship around for us. But overall, obviously a big day and a big thank you to all the support, so many flags, so many smiling faces which has been very, very special. I'm sure I'm going to miss more than I understand right now," said the decorated F1 driver. **ANI**



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ROUND-UP



COLLABORATION

Saud Bahwan Group and Okura Hotels & Resorts sign agreement for Okura’s first 5-star luxury hotel in Middle East



Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan and Okura's senior official signing the agreement.



View of the lobby.



Speciality Japanese Teppanyaki Restaurant .

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Group recently signed an agreement with Okura Hotels & Resorts for the world-renowned hotel chain's first 5-star luxury hotel in Oman and the Middle East. The world-class luxury hotel will be designed by a leading Japanese architect using a Neo-Omani theme.

Sharing his thoughts on this special occasion, Mohammed Saud Bahwan, Chairman, Saud Bahwan Group said, “It gives me immense joy to be partnering the globally-renowned Japanese Hospitality Group – Okura Hotels & Resorts. Saud Bahwan Group has been closely associated with Japanese brands for decades. Through The Okura Resort Muscat luxury hotel, we aim to offer customers in Oman and from around the world, some of the finest experiences in line with inspiring Japanese hospitality.”

Highlighting the potential of the growing hospitality sector in Oman he said, “Oman, under the leadership and guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said is making rapid progress on all fronts. Oman Vision 2040



Exterior design of the Okura Resort Muscat.

launched by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, is set to transform Oman into one of the most rapidly growing and diversified economies in the region. The hospitality sector in Oman is witnessing impressive growth. Oman is blessed with rich history and diverse landscapes, making it a major tourist attraction for

tourists to enjoy ultimate experiences and adventure. The Okura Resort Muscat will significantly contribute to making Oman one of the most traveller-friendly and leading tourism destinations in the region.”

Toshihiro Ogita, President, Representative Director - Hotel Okura Co. Ltd., Japan, said, “We

are thrilled to be partnering Saud Bahwan Group to bring the Okura brand to the Middle East and especially in the Sultanate of Oman. This significant partnership further highlights our priority and focus on offering customers exceptionally inspiring experiences in the hospitality industry. We are confident that this partnership

will encourage us to better cater to our customers by introducing them to the Japanese art of hospitality right here in Oman.”

Located at the Al Mouj Muscat in Seeb and in close vicinity to the Muscat International Airport, The Okura Resort Muscat luxury hotel is set on 30,000 sq. m area.

It will have 150 well-appointed rooms and suites, each of which will offer breath-taking views of world-class Al Mouj golf course and of the vast blue seas.

The hotel will offer exceptional

dining options with the availability of an all-day dining restaurant, a speciality Japanese restaurant, a Teppanyaki restaurant and fine-dining restaurant.

A vast and well-laid out ballroom and banquet hall will offer numerous opportunities to host important events, meeting and milestone celebrations. A host of recreational amenities focused on offering customers relaxing moments, will include an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, spa and a fully-equipped gymnasium.

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ROUND-UP



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National Finance joins hands with Tasdeed

The new initiative will make it even easier for customers to carry out their transactions through a reliable, secure and convenient channel

MUSCAT: Oman's largest finance company, National Finance, has collaborated with Tasdeed for electronic services to digitalise its payments and enhance the entire customer experience with seamless transaction flow.

Expanding its technological capabilities to reach customers all across the Sultanate, the signing of the agreement is also a testament to National Finance's commitment to its digitalisation goals. The new initiative will make it even easier for customers to carry out their transactions through a reliable, secure and convenient channel.



"We are delighted to bring on board one of the top payment platforms, Tasdeed. In our experience, integrating digital payment options for customers increases the overall consistency and efficiency of the collection process and drives customer self-service," said Tariq Al Farsi –Chief Executive Officer. "An ongoing relationship also means regular collaboration to address mutual business and market requirements. This will not only help us keep pace with continuous developments in the industry but will also go a long way in promoting digital payments across different sectors. Through our ongoing initiatives, National Finance has proven that it is strongly aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and the national digital transformation agenda."

On his part, Abdullatif Al Shaqsi, Chief Executive Officer of Tasdeed for Electronic Services, expressed his pleasure in the collaboration with National Finance, stating it to be a pioneer financing company in the Sultanate. He also said that Tasdeed is a simple, effective and user-friendly electronic platform for determining due payments and settling them instantly.

Individuals can use Tasdeed to pay at ease from the comfort of their homes or offices through several electronic payment channels, including those offered by banks, mobile wallets, mobile payment applications, payment service providers, their online portal, and ONEIC branches located throughout the Sultanate of Oman, where one can pay via bank accounts,

debit cards or credit cards. Mirroring National Finance's values of providing transparency and security to customers, the system provided by Tasdeed also ensures optimum built-in security and stringent authentication features.

With the country placing increased emphasis on fostering a cashless economy, National Finance has been at the forefront of integrating the latest technological advancements into all its operations. This has been instrumental in creating a sustainable ecosystem that is robust, dynamic and capable of handling market complexities. At the same time, it has remained unwavering in its commitment to its clients, ensuring that customer convenience takes priority.

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE



MCBS Math League II competition receives overwhelming response

MUSCAT: The response to Math League II competition conducted by Math Club Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) on November 17 had been overwhelming. A total of 15 teams participated from various colleges and schools in Oman.

To promote affinity towards mathematics and its applications Math Club continues in their efforts to conduct these kinds of events.

Math League 2 is an inter-collegiate and inter-school Math competition hosted by the Math Club. The event started with a welcome address and an explanation of the rules of the com-

petition by the Club President. The competition had two rounds which had duration of 30 minutes each. Dr Khalfan Al-Asmi, Associate dean of academic affairs presented the Certificates of Participation to the Contestants. Dr Moosa Al-Kindi, Dean of Modern College of Business and science gave the awards to the winners.

The winners for the college level categories were as follows:

- German University of Technology in Oman
 - Middle East College
- School level categories were:**
- Indian school Al Ghubra
 - Indian school Al Wadi Al Kabir

LAUNCHING NEW LUXURY PARTNERSHIP



Muscat Bay & Mercedes Benz join hands with new arrive in style promotion and transfer service

MUSCAT: Muscat Bay, Oman's only fully integrated resort village recently launched its new lifestyle campaign to promote various new additions and amenities it is bringing to the market as it moves to full resort operations with its new Jumeirah 5 Star Beach Resort opening.

The campaign focus is to celebrate the everyday holiday experiences curated at Muscat Bay with the new slogan "Live the extraordinary. Everyday", beautifully visualised in the newly developed website www.muscat-bay.com.

To further enhance the campaign, Oman's luxury resort village has inked an agreement with Mercedes Benz Oman to further develop its hospitality credentials by enhancing its customer arrival experience to the breathtakingly, naturally beautiful resort destination.

The promotional agreement will include the creation of content with existing and new models, and the formalisation of a week-end luxury transfer service between Muscat Bay's offsite sales offices, and ongoing tactical promotions onsite at events and client activations.

New content will be shot at Muscat Bay outside some of its key luxury properties and beautiful beach and mountain back-

drops, as well as a sequence to highlight the stunning natural scenery of the arrival journey to the resort.

Muscat Bay has recently opened new offices at Shatti Waterfront and at The Mall of Oman to promote its offering to Muscat residents and visitors. As part of the promotion Mercedes Benz will offer free car transfer services to interested clients wishing to tour the resort every Saturday, available from both Mall of Oman & Shatti Waterfront.

Speaking about the new partnership, Donatella Donatelli, Mercedes Benz Marketing Director has said, "We have worked with Muscat Bay successfully over the years because our clients share the same passions for high quality experiences and engineering. This new promotion will build on these successes and help both parties grow their respective franchises in a market that is now definitely on the upward move!"

Vice President at Muscat Bay, Jawad Sajid said, "Muscat Bay is all about cherishing the moment in a natural and beautiful way and Mercedes Benz will help us allow our clients to experience the extraordinary landscapes and nature onsite as they arrive in style with our new elegant car brand partnership."

STATE-OF-THE-ART BRANCH

Sohar International officially unveils its revamped branch in Qurum

MUSCAT: Advancing its commitment towards enhancing the banking experience for its customers through world-class products and an extensive network of branches, Sohar International inaugurated its full-fledged newly revamped branch in Al Qurum commercial area.

The inauguration ceremony, which was held on November 16, witnessed the presence of Sayyid Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Wali of Muttrah as the Guest of Honour. Representing the bank was Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Retail Banking Officer of Sohar International along with a number of the bank's executive management.

Located in a vibrant commercial area, the state-of-the-art Al Qurum branch has been concentrating on convenience, ease of accessibility, and quick service while embodying every element of excellence that Sohar International has been revered for. The innovatively designed branch reflects Sohar International's brand elements, and is fully-equipped to



provide a comprehensive suite of products and services, a 24-hour digital lobby with ATM and CDM facilities, and a dedicated area for Wealth Management services. Operational from 8am to 2pm from Sunday to Thursday, it upholds the level of customer service and operational effectiveness that the bank's customers have grown increasingly familiar with. Focusing on providing opportunities to the local workforce, the branch is also staffed by a team of experienced

professionals who reserve the knowledge, competency, and zeal to cater to the diverse demands of the bank's elite clientele.

Commenting on the official opening of the branch, Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Sohar International, said, "Al Qurum branch marks another milestone in our shared journey with customers who seek world-class banking services and aspire to make better gains. Owing to its strategic location, Al Qurum branch

has successfully been servicing customers in and around the Qurum commercial area with a host of modern banking and financial services. At Sohar International, we place increased emphasis on convenient branch locations, seamless procedures, and personalised services. Delivering the same level of excellence through all our touchpoints has yielded positive results and helped us to strengthen our bonds with our clients – this is a strategy that we will remain committed to pursuing."

Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi added saying, "By cementing our presence in the Sultanate's vibrant financial ecosystem, Sohar International seeks to provide a more holistic and differentiated banking experience for its customers. The common thread of customer-centricity unites our well-knit branch network through which we will continue to enhance our service propositions, exceed customer expectations, and set new benchmarks in the industry."

SPECIAL OCCASION

A'soud Global School celebrates National Day

MUSCAT: A'soud Global School, Salalah, celebrated the glorious 52nd National Day with its own grand programme of events on November 17.

Faiza Mohammed Al Rahbi, the wife of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar attended the school's event as guest of honour and was joined by imansu Mohapatra, Group General Manager - Investment from Muscat Overseas Group and member of the school's senior management.

Damon Hewson, Principal, delivered a speech in which he said, "I am honoured to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said and the Omani people on



the glorious occasion of Oman's 52nd National Day'. Addressing the gathering, he also expressed his thanks to all staff and students at AGS for their hard work and effort, commenting especially on the fantastic quality and range of

the event's diverse programme. He further identified the considerable efforts of all the talented Omani staff at AGS who were the pillar of the day's colourful programme. One of the wonders of the unique Omani culture is its excep-

tional, mouthwatering traditional cuisine, samples of which were available courtesy of the school's Omani staff.

National pride and patriotic fervour were on full display at the school's celebration, which was well decorated with the national colours of red, green and white.

Reflecting the welcoming and inclusive nature of Oman to all, students from all years - KG 1 to Grade 9 - participated in the prestigious event, offering a well-choreographed show that included Quran recitation, poetry, singing, traditional Omani dances and a fashion show in which the school's international students contributed their own appreciation of what Oman means to them.



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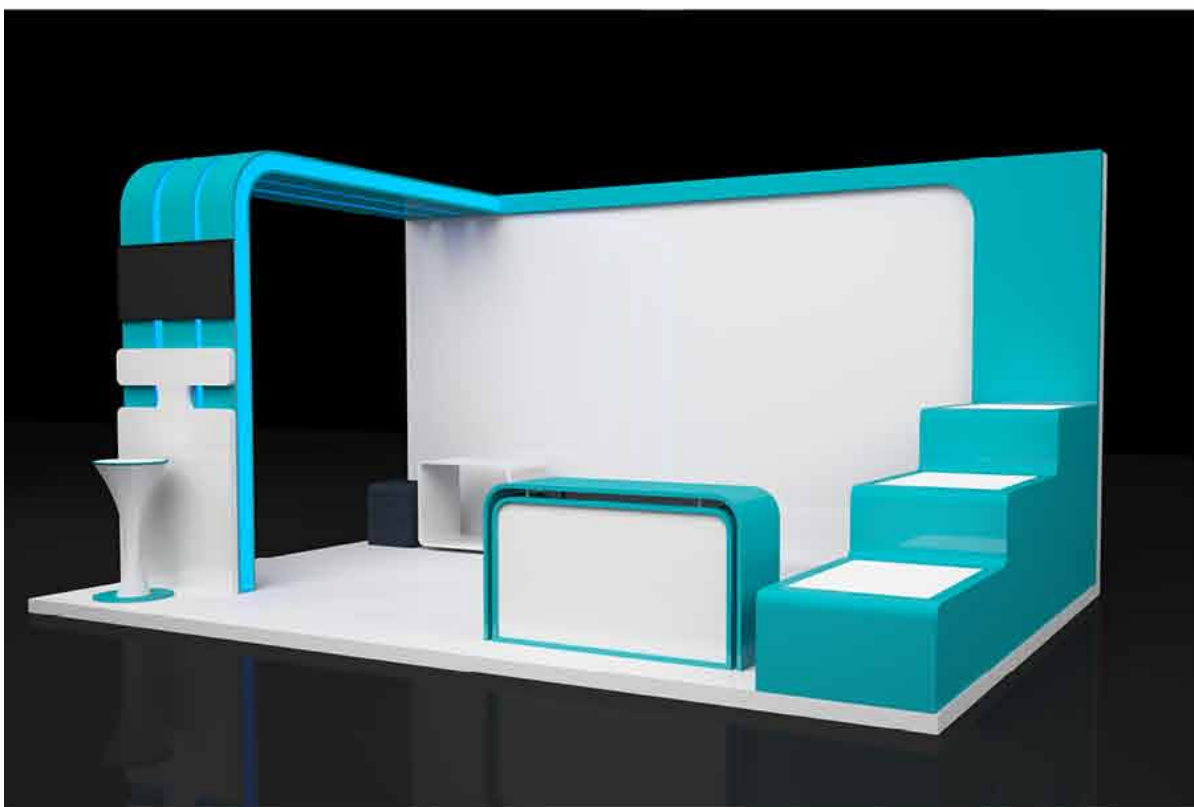
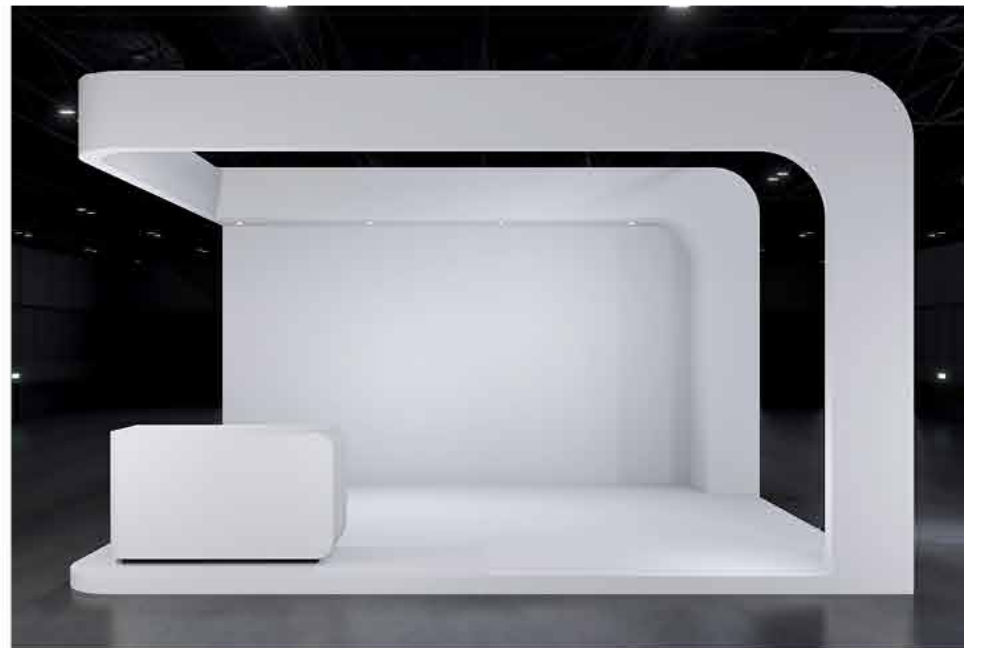
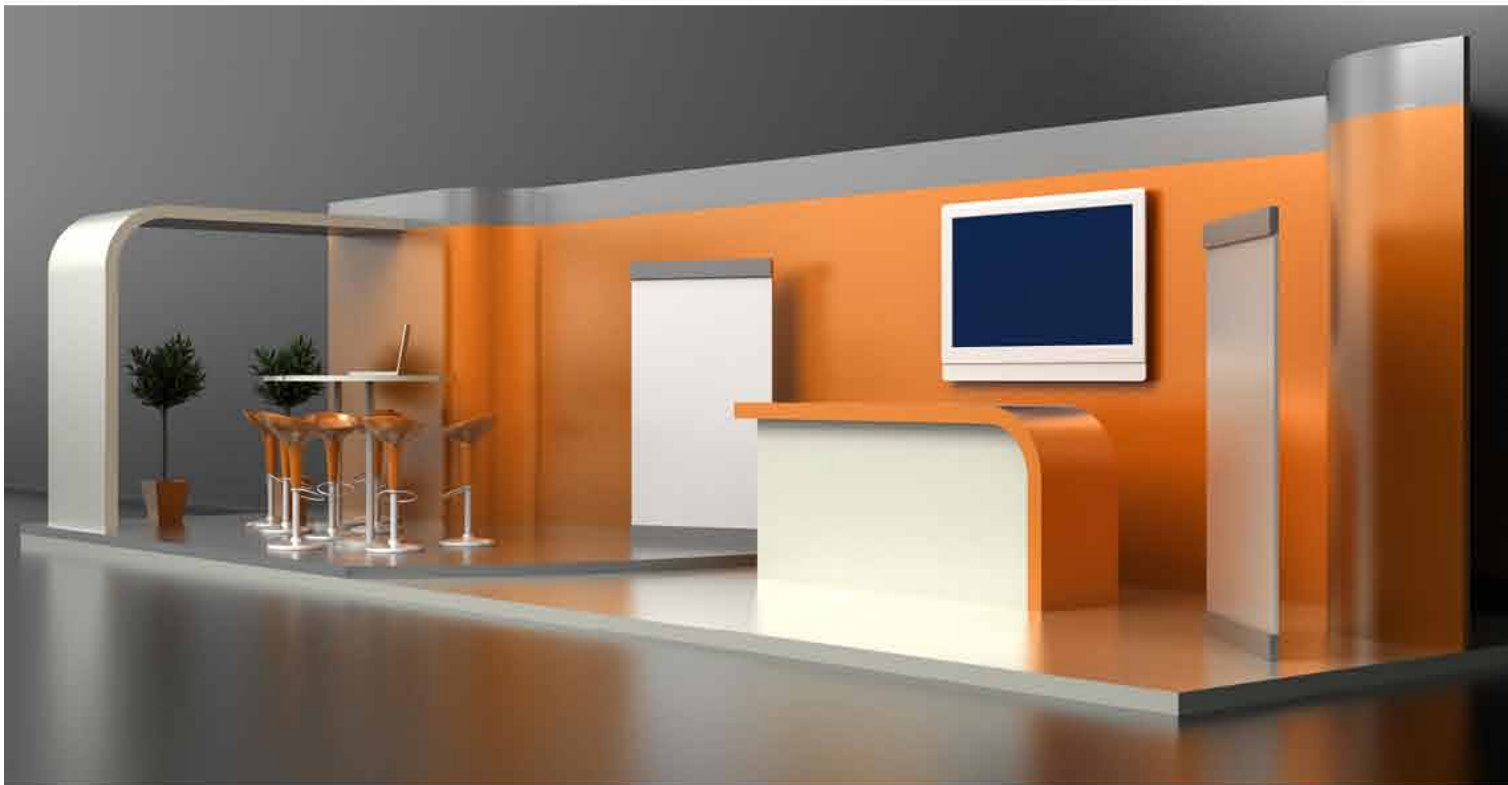
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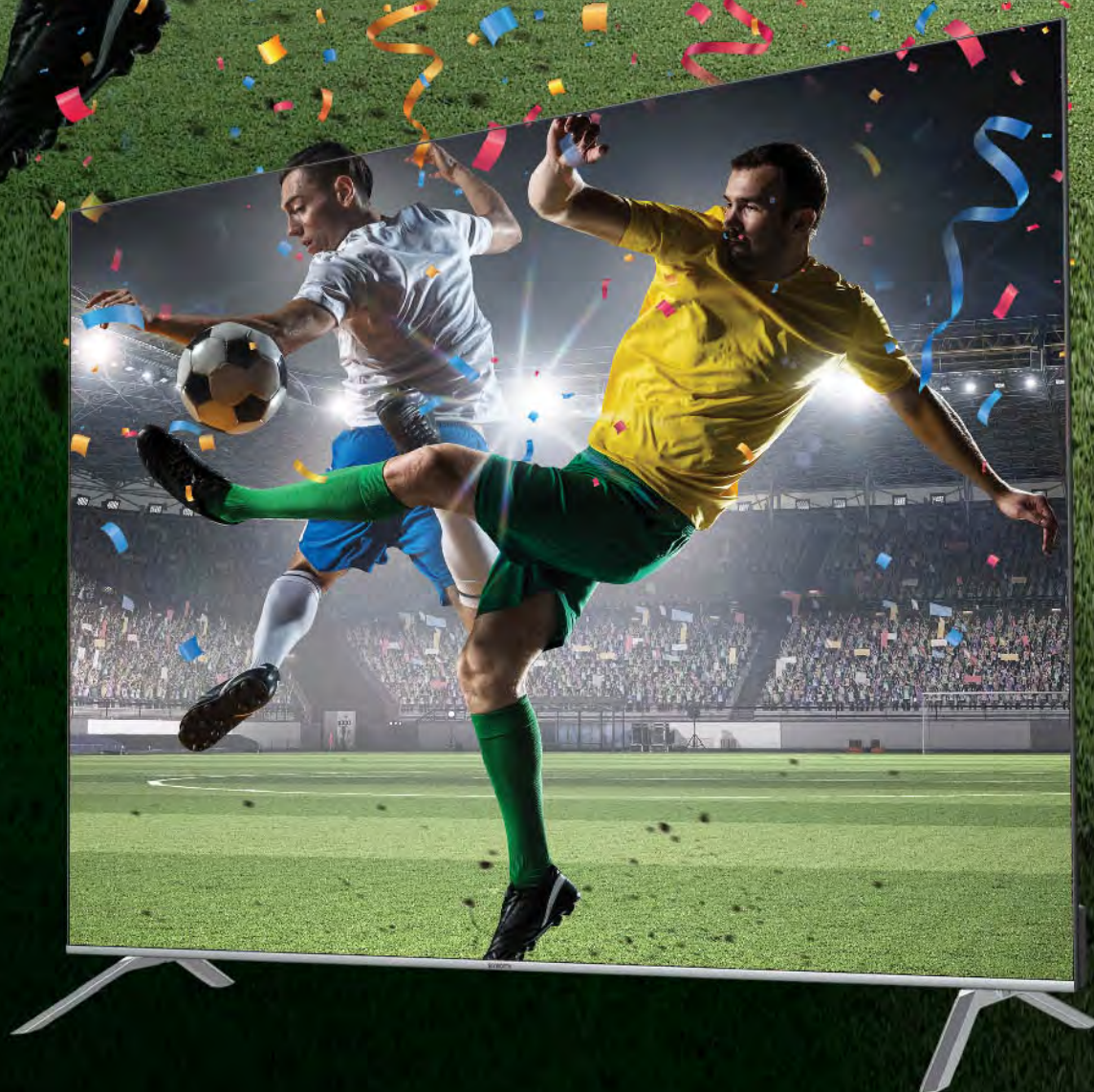
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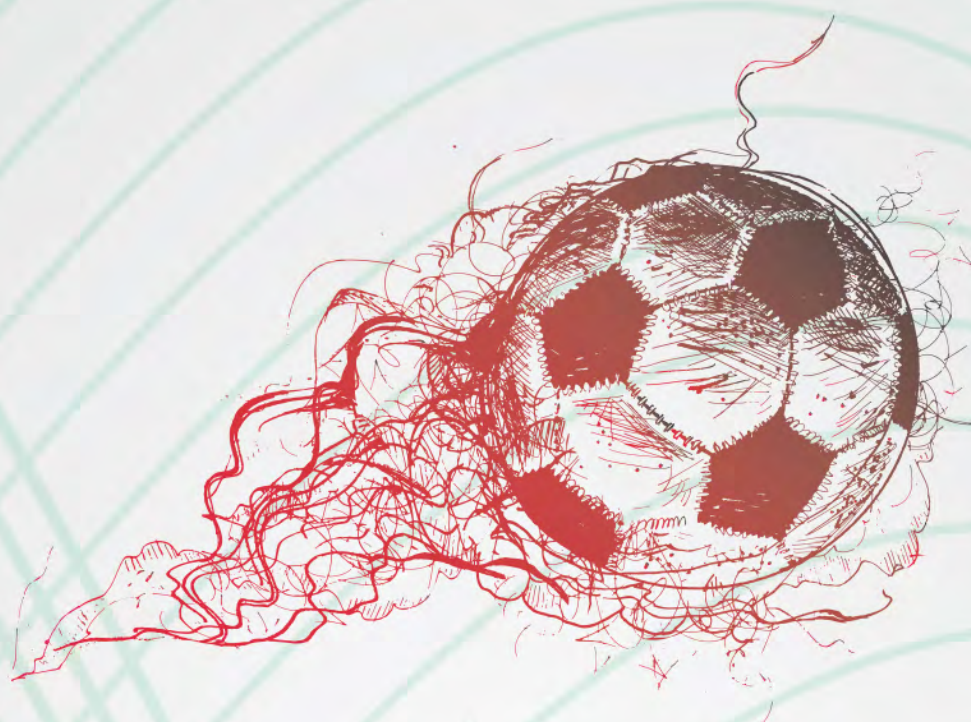
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