



HM lays emphasis on the need to prioritise the interest of the nation above all other considerations

His Majesty the Sultan spoke about a number of topics of relevance to realising the desired goals of the country and citizens, within



At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan laid emphasis on the need to prioritise the interest of the nation above all other considerations, by strengthening partnership and integration between the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman, to serve the overall public interest. -ONA

Snow Oman to open on December 24

1 The wait is over. Making the Oman winter merrier will be Snow Oman, the largest indoor snow park in the country, which is all set to open its door at the Mall of Oman on December 24. In a tweet, Snow Oman announced that the opening will be on December 24. Advance tickets have been put on offer, starting from OMR12.5. **>A3**



WORLD

Zelenskyy plans to visit Washington

2 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is travelling to Washington, to hold a meeting with US President Joe Biden and address the United States Congress. This will be his first trip abroad since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The White House confirmed the trip late on Tuesday. **>A7**

MARKET

Treasury bills worth OMR12mn issued

3 The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR12 million by way of allotting treasury bills. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from December 21 until January 18, 2023. The average accepted price reached OMR99.713 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.710 per OMR100. **>B1**



Oman to organise Muscat Nights from January 19

The Municipality said in an online statement that it had invited on November 16 interested and talented people to participate in a competition to design a logo for the Muscat Nights event.



The statement added that “we value the participation of all creators who were part of the community’s voice to develop a visual identity for our next event, which will start on January 19” **>A3**

‘Public debt reduction to ensure financial and economic stability’

“The Sultanate paid OMR5 billion as interest on debt alone between 2016 and 2022, out of which



He confirmed that spending for 2023 comes to OMR13 billion, which is similar to actual spending for 2022, while revenues have been projected at OMR11.6 billion on the back of a conservative oil price of \$55 per barrel to hedge

Al-Wardi said oil revenues has been put at OMR\$3 billion and gas revenues at OMR3 billion. Al-Wardi also said that budget expenditure includes several sectors, including education (about OMR2 billion, or 44% of social spending, health (about OMR1 billion, or 22%, and debt interests (OMR1.2 billion), while security and defence sector has been allocated OMR3 billion. While development expenditure amounts to OMR0.9 billion, support expenses (fuel, electricity, food, etc.) amount to OMR1.8 billion." **»A2**

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STATEMENT

Oman condemns killing of security persons in Jordan

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has voiced its deep sympathies and condolences to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, its government and people and families of security men who fell martyr when performing their sacred duty in preserving the Kingdom's stability. It wished the injured quick recovery.

In a statement issued here, the Foreign Ministry affirmed Oman's full solidarity with Jordan in undertaking all measures to maintain its security and en-



sure its stability. Oman expresses its absolute rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism targeting countries' security or the gains or achievements of their peoples. -ONA

BUDGET

'Dealing with public debt important'

< FROM A1 As for the most important sources of income other than oil and gas that the Sultanate should pay attention to, Al-Wardi said: "The Sultanate relies on economic diversification of the structures as also the sources of budget income, starting from sectors in which the Sultanate has competitive advantages such as the fish, clean energy, industrial minerals, tourism sectors etc."

Dr. Al-Wardi said: "The government's commitment to the budget items is good, but it is always necessary to be flexible to adapt to developments and fluctuating circumstances, especially since the budget is con-

servative." "After 7 years of the financial impact of the collapse in oil prices on state budgets, the 2022 budget returns to the levels of oil sales revenues during the years of the financial boom. We returned, but only after the debt reached OMR20.8 billion. Therefore, dealing with public debt is the most important priority of the government."

Noora Al Badi said: "The security and defence budget has been put at OMR3 billion. This includes defence, police, security, guards and the royal office. Therefore, the amount is very reasonable compared to the expenses of the neighbouring countries in this sector."

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TOURISM

NEW FORMAT

Snow Oman to open at Mall of Oman on December 24

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The wait is over. Making the Oman winter merrier will be Snow Oman, the largest indoor snow park in the country, which is all set to open its door at the Mall of Oman on December 24.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Snow Oman announced that the opening will be on December 24. Advance tickets have been put on offer, starting from OMR12.5.

Developed by Majid Al Futtaim, Snow Oman is an indoor snow park destination spread over 14,830 square metres. Among the major attractions, Snow Oman offers rides, a local colony of king and gentoo penguins and real snow.

Snow Oman is the third and newest brand to join Global Snow, the indoor snow and ski entertainment arm of Majid Al Futtaim. In 2005, Majid Al Futtaim pioneered a one-of-a-kind, sub-zero leisure offering in its



Snow Oman is an indoor snow park destination spread over 14,830 square metres

Flag ship shopping mall the Mall of the Emirates: Ski Dubai. The award-winning brand has been recognised as the “World’s Best Indoor Ski Resort” by the prestigious World Ski Awards for six consecutive years.

Visitors will experience a visit to an icy Omani port town complete with shipwreck and a frozen lighthouse. The Ice Skating Trail will engage both new and experienced skaters, while sledding

down soft white dunes under a breathtaking snow dome that will be unprecedented for the region. Over a bridge will be the Snow Village, where little ones can enjoy soft play activities with warm seating for parents.

The nearby Snow Café will be stocked full of plentiful seating and hot and cold drinks. Topping it off will be the park’s resident penguins for that magical photo opportunity.

<FROM A1 Muscat Nights welcomed

The winning logo has as its first letter ‘L’ which depicts the first letter of the Arabic word, Liali, and the last letter ‘M’, which is the first letter in ‘Muscat’.

So happy

Naji Al Balushi from Sohar in North Al Batinah said, “I’m so happy at the announcement of Muscat

Nights after a break of three years. Muscat Governorate is distinguished by this event, and we really missed enjoying its ambience.” Fatima Al Zadjali from Muscat Governorate said: “I am very happy at the intention of the Muscat Municipality to hold the Muscat Nights. I will take my children to enjoy the wonderful event. I’m re-

ally excited to know that this event will be held after a break of three years. Thanks to Muscat Municipality and all those in charge of the event.”

It may be noted that Muscat Festival was last held in 2019. It got interrupted due to the Covid 19 pandemic for a period of three years.

GROWTH THROUGH TOURISM

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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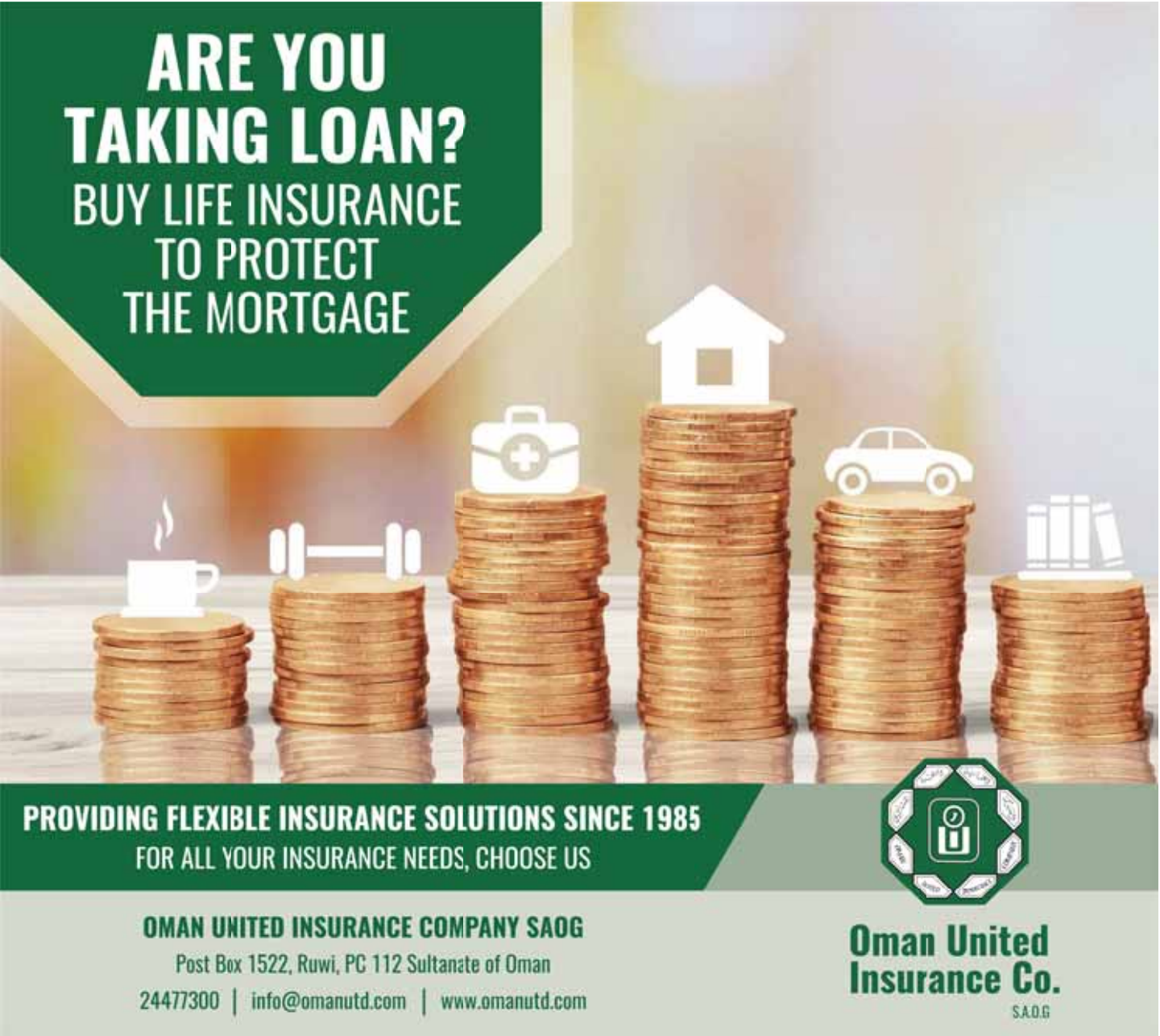
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HM praises role of Shura Council



PARADE

Sayyid Shihab presides over graduation of RAO cadets

MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) on Wednesday celebrated the passing out of officer cadets after a graduation course at Sultan Qaboos Military College (SQMC). The ceremony was presided over by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs.

The protocols of celebration, held at the military parade grounds at Al Murtafaa Garrison, began with the graduates' giving the military salute to the chief guest.

The RAO band played the Royal Anthem, after which the commander of the column, asked HH Sayyid Shihab permission to inspect the front row of the parade. The graduates performed a military show in slow motion and normal march. They passed in front of the dais of the celebration square, led by the SQMC colours. Then, the column advanced forward in parade form.

After that, HH Sayyid Shihab handed the Sword of Honour to RAO's cadet officer Mohammed Hamad Al Shibli, who won first place at the level of the batch of cadet officers.

This was followed by the SQMC colours changing hands, with the graduating batch handing the flag over to the current batch undergoing training at the SQMC, who vowed to keep the flag fluttering high as ever. Then, the Flag Anthem was played, and the bearers of the flag roamed the rows of their batch.

The graduates chanted the RAO anthem. They performed the Oath of Loyalty, proclaiming allegiance and chanting thrice "Long Live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the Supreme commander".

The column of graduating officers performed the military salute. Then, the band played the Royal Anthem and the commander of the column asked chief guest's permission to dismiss.

The column passed in front of the dais, giving the military salute to HH Sayyid Shihab.

Then, the RAO band presented various musical pieces and a military musical show, with different detachments exhibiting their skills, which reflected high morale and dexterity in using the latest equipment and musical instruments which the band was supplied. The performance also reflects various aspects of modernization and preparedness offered by the RAO to its personnel. Later, it shaped out the letters forming the name of "Sultanate of Oman" on the floor of the parade grounds.

The ceremony was attended by ministers, undersecretaries, Chairman of the State Council, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other military and security units, commandants of military colleges in GCC states, retired commanders, senior SAF officers, retired senior officers from other military and security detachments, military attachés from embassies of Arab and friendly countries accredited to Oman, RAO personnel and parents of the officer cadets. -ONA



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Pact to reduce waiting list of eye surgeries

The initiative includes conducting 1,000 eye surgeries at private hospitals, starting from January 2023



AGREEMENT: The programme was signed by Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health and the sons and daughters of Sheikh Suhail Bahwan (Omar, Othman, Ali and their sisters). - **ONA**

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health on Wednesday signed a cooperation and support programme to implement the social initiative "Ibsar".

The initiative, which will help reduce waiting lists for eye surgeries, includes conducting 1,000 eye surgeries at private hospitals, starting from January 2023.

The programme was signed by Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health and the sons and daughters

of Sheikh Suhail Bahwan (Omar, Othman, Ali and their sisters).

The humanitarian initiative targets ophthalmic patients in the waiting lists according to the earliest appointment and urgent need for surgery. "Tbsar" covers expenses of surgery, medical care, and medication, in addition to post-surgery follow up appointments.

The Ministry of Health began at an earlier time an extensive campaign to shorten the accumu-

lating appointments for a number of services, including radiology and outpatient clinics' appointments in the Ministry's health institutions.

Moreover, the Ministry seeks to promote cooperation with the private health institutions and expand the role of community partnership in tackling challenges that face the health sector in a bid to provide optimal health services. -ONA

NCSI DATA

Oman's GDP at current prices exceeds OMR32 billion

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices increased by 30.4 percent by the end of September 2022 to reach OMR32.04 billion compared to OMR24.61 billion at the end of September 2021, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and information (NCSI).



This rise is attributed mainly to the surge in oil activities at the end of September 2022 by 72.5 percent to stand at OMR12,487.4 million compared to OMR7,239.6 million in September 2021.

Growth of crude oil activities constituted the largest rise in oil activities by going up 79.1 percent. The contribution of crude oil to the GDP reached OMR10,949.0 million by the end of September 2022 compared to OMR6,114.1

million by the end of September 2021.

Natural gas activities increased by 36.7 percent from OMR1,125.5 million to OMR1,538.4 million.

Non-oil activities rose by 14.9 percent from OMR18,115.0 million by the end of September 2021 to OMR20,765.9 million by the end of September 2022.

Further, industrial activities went up by 28.6 percent from OMR4,878.5 million by the end of

September 2021 to OMR6,274.3 million by the end of September 2022.

Activities of agriculture, forestry and fishing increased by 12.4 percent from OMR550.70 million to OMR619 million at the end of September.

During the same period, service activities also grew by 9.7 percent from OMR12,685.9 million to OMR13,872.6 million by the end of September 2022. — **UNA**

ANNUAL MEETING

Officials tasked with drafting development plans hold meet

MUSCAT: Sessions of the 24th annual meeting of technical officials tasked with preparing plans in GCC states kicked off at Grand Millennium Muscat on Wednesday.

The two-day meeting, organized by the Ministry of Economy, was attended by Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, and a large turnout of representatives of government departments concerned.

Dr. Nasser Al Ma'awali hailed the efforts made in accomplishing transition in GCC economies. Since the 1960s, GCC countries incorporated developmental planning at the heart of their economic and social march, so that the member states could achieve unprecedented growth and success.



A recent World Bank report indicates that the aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) of the GCC states is expected to touch \$2 trillion by the end of 2022, he said.

In his speech, Dr. Nasser stressed GCC states' great interest in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) endorsed by the United Nations.

The bloc's attention stems from a keen desire to achieve welfare and prosperity for its respective peoples, he said.

Towards that goal, the GCC states exerted efforts in drafting policies, programmes and plans to promote the region politically, economically, socially and environmentally, Dr. Nasser concluded. **-ONA**



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EP:10012156B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Al-Sahli

(16) Patent No.: **US 10,032,156 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: **Jul. 24, 2018**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONDUCTING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS USING A MOBILE DEVICE**

(31) **Reference Cited**
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

(71) Applicant: **Mohamed Anas Mohamed Al-Sahli, Muscat (SA)**

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(Continued)

(72) Inventor: **Mohamed Anas Mohamed Al-Sahli, Muscat (SA)**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d) by 0 days.

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(Continued)

(21) Appl. No. 13,475,228

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(22) Filed: May 1, 2013

Canadian Office Action dated Feb. 15, 2013 in Canadian Application No. 2,714,276.

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(Continued)

US 2013/040265 A1 Sep. 19, 2013
Related U.S. Application Data

Primary Examiner: **Pat Toss**
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm: **Hagen Slayes Solicitor PC**

(63) Continuation of application No. 12,918,442, filed as application No. PCT/CA2008/000133 on May 14, 2008.

(37) **ABSTRACT**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

A subscriber identity module (SIM) chip system and method for enabling users registered in the system to control their financial and telecommunications resources from their mobile device over a mobile communications network. The system enables mobile network providers and financial service through the use of SIM chips without the need for modifying the user's mobile device or SIM chip installed therein. A SIM chip System Operator (SCSO) registers data flow between user, bank, mobile communications service provider, SIM chip Automated teller Machines and SIM chip Service Providing Machines through a plurality of communications channels. Upon a user connecting to the SCSO to request a transaction, the SCSO connects to the appropriate bank to authorize the requested transaction. Upon successful negotiation, reports are sent back and forth to users confirming the event.

Mar. 9, 2008 (US) P11072008

(31) **Int. Cl.**
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G06G 30/02 (2012.01)
(Continued)

(32) **U.S. Cl.**
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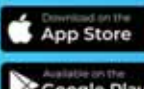
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Commandants of GCC Military Colleges received

MUSCAT: Maj.Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) received at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Wednesday Maj. Gen Amer Mohammed Al Neyadi, Commander of Zayed II Military College at the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Maj. Gen Dr. Ali Saleh Al Hudaif, Commander of King Abdulaziz Military College at the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Brigadier Khalid Shuja Al Otaibi, Commandant of Ali Sabah Military College at the State of Kuwait and Brigadier Abdulhadi Mohammed Tarhib Al Hajri, Commandant of Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College at the State of Qatar. This meeting comes within the framework of the commandants' participation in the passing out

ceremony of officer cadets of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). The meeting touched on various matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Salim Saif Al Hosni, Senior Officer at the RAO Command, Brigadier Said Zaid Al Habsi, Commandant of Sultan Qaboos Military College and several senior RAO officers. — **ONA**





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Hotels and restaurants gear up for festive season with attractive offers

The air of festivities brings about a beautiful change and restaurants and hotels in Oman are all geared up to make the most during the season of celebrations



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The season of merrymaking is already knocking at our door.

Delicious plum cakes, decorated Christmas trees, traditional Turkey with trimming, Xmas shopping, followed by parties to usher in the New Year have all managed to play their magic on us.

No wonder, the air of festivities brings about a beautiful change and restaurants and hotels in Oman are all geared up to make the most of the season of celebrations.

It is also the time when Oman is a hot spot for European tourists and hotels have shown an upward trend in occupancy.

As we groove into the mood of the festive season, here's a look at a few of the offers in hotels and restaurants in Muscat.

At Kempinski Hotel Muscat, 'A Merry Brunch' is on offer on Sunday, December 25, at The Kitchen. Live cooking stations and traditional festive Turkey with seasonal favourites are priced at OMR30++ inclusive of soft drinks and juices while it would be OMR48++ for festive cocktails and house grapes. The Kitchen is also celebrating Christmas Eve dinner on Saturday at the same price.

At Zale, the other Kempinski outlet, select tapas and beverages

are on offer for the Brunch for OMR28++ while on Christmas Eve, an intimate dinner under the stars and overlooking the sea would cost OMR48++.

Grand Millennium Muscat's festive season has a takeaway offer on Grand Turkey that began on December 18 and will continue till January 7, 2023.

The Christmas Eve dinner is priced at OMR23 net, the same price for the Christmas Brunch next day.

Heart of Muscat

The hotel in the heart of Muscat in Bausher is celebrating New Year's Eve dinner, which is priced

at OMR33 net, while the New Year Brunch will cost OMR21 net per person.

Hormuz Grand Muscat is offering endless fun and a variety of culinary offers, delightful entertainment and exciting activities in a luxurious setting.

Christmas celebrations officially began with a traditional gingerbread house decorating competition and the lighting of a Christmas tree on December 6.

A Festive Friday brunch is offered with a special selection of treats, including traditional turkey with trimmings, beef Wellington, Yorkshire pudding and much more on December 23. A Christmas

Day brunch offers an exceptional spread of traditional treats, live carving stations, grills and a decadent dessert station.

A four-course Christmas Eve feast is on offer at OMNY, which will also host New Year's Eve. An exquisite five-course set menu is available with a perfect setting with options of a la carte and children's menu or Ring in the New Year under the stars at Oasis terrace.

For an exceptional Arabian experience, Hormuz has New Year's Eve with a special live performance by singer Iwan from Lebanon and guest singers to enjoy a night filled with music, dance and food.

There are also some attrac-

tive accommodation packages to choose from to bring in 2023 in style with exclusive celebration packages.

One of the most popular places to hang out in Muscat is the Dolphin Village club in Bausher.

Christmas Day Lunch

The Christmas Day Lunch on December 25 has been priced at OMR16++ and includes a glass of beverage. And on December 31, live band and guest DJ will usher in the New Year with tickets priced at OMR34 for non-residents and OMR29 for residents and members of Dolphin Village.

Inspired by the magic of the festivities, Park Inn by Radisson Muscat & Duqm hotels are ready to make this time of the year extra special. For Christmas, Park Inn by Radisson Muscat's RBG Grill Chef's presents special menus. On offer are a delicious Christmas Eve dinner buffet and celebrations on Christmas day with a special roast-themed buffet. Both are priced at OMR13.5 net per person.

Say goodbye to 2022 in style at RBG Grill with a delicious buffet including starters, soup, live grill stations, unlimited sips and live entertainment. It is priced at OMR20 per person and OMR36 per couple.

For those who want to change the scene and celebrate with beachfront views, RBG Duqm will host a special festive BBQ buffet dinner

inclusive of sips and live music on December 24 and 31. Both dinner packages are priced at OMR12 net per person at Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Residence Duqm.

Al Nahda Resort & Spa will usher in the New Year in style with a Bollywood Live DJ Night on December 31. Priced at OMR35 per person, the gala dinner includes one drink while the entry charges are OMR15 with a drink. The resort is also offering room rates starting from OMR35 including breakfast.

Dunes by Al Nahda is celebrating New Year's Eve under the stars with a live DJ and gala dinner for OMR35 including a drink. Luxury suites are offered at OMR149 with breakfast. At Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, the celebrations begin with an extravagant feast on New Year's Eve at Al Tanoor restaurant, which includes Chef's specials.

Al Tanoor will host festive brunch on Friday and December 30 for OMR26 net per person. Christmas dinner will also be served on December 24-25 at Al Tanoor (OMR35 net) and Samba (OMR26 net).

Also Bait al Bahr, Sultanah and Capri Court will be serving delightful cuisine on Christmas Eve and the next day.

New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve celebrations will be held with dinner offer at Al Tanoor (OMR50 net), Samba (OMR40 net), Capri Court (OMR55 net), Chow Mee (OMR22 net minimum spend) and Baith al Bahr (OMR55 net)

For beach lovers, Muscat's glamorous White Party on the beach will be the place to usher in the New Year. Shangri-La is also offering special Spa packages and host of kids activities.

One of the popular Indian restaurants, Woodlands, is also offering New Year Eve dinner for a full course vegetarian/non-vegetarian set menu for OMR12++ and OMR15++ with unlimited beverages.

A lavish Christmas lunch (vegetarian/non-vegetarian) on December 25 has been priced at OMR12.5++ and includes unlimited select beverages in the house.

FOR COVID-19

India restarts random sampling of international passengers at airports

NEW DELHI: A sudden surge in COVID-19 cases in the United States, China, Brazil and South Korea has prompted the Union Health Ministry to review the pandemic situation in India and as per the precautionary measure the government has restarted random sampling of international passengers at airports across the country for Covid from Wednesday. Sources told ANI, "Random sampling of international passengers for Covid-19 has started at airports in the country from today."

"There are currently 10 different variants of COVID-19 in the country, with the latest variant be-

ing BF.7. At present various variants of Omicron are spreading in the country and Delta variant can still be seen in the country," said the sources.

Earlier in the day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also conducted a high-level meeting to review the COVID-19 situation in India and the preparedness of the public health system for surveillance, containment and management of COVID-19 in view of the recent spike in cases of COVID-19 in some countries along with Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, senior officials and public health experts were present.

"The Union Health Minister was briefed on the global COVID-19 situation and the domestic scenario. Underlining the challenge posed by the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in some countries across the world such as China, Japan, South Korea, France and the United States, Union Health Minister noted the importance of being prepared and remaining alert against new and emerging strains of COVID-19, especially in view of the upcoming festive season,"

reads the statement issued by the Health Ministry after the meeting.

Mandaviya also said that Covid-19 is not yet over and directed officials to be alert and strengthen surveillance amid a surge in coronavirus cases globally. He urged people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and get vaccinated against COVID.

Present in the meeting, Dr VK Paul, Member, Niti Aayog said, "Only 27-28 per cent of people have taken precaution dose. We appeal to others, especially senior citizens, to take the precautionary dose. Precaution dose is mandated and guided to everyone." — **ANI**





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TRAVELLERS STUCK AT VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DUE TO SNOWSTORM

A passenger reads flight information (left) while people sit on trolleys at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. Thousands of travellers were stuck at the Vancouver International Airport on Tuesday as many flights were cancelled or delayed due to the snowstorm. — Xinhua



Ukrainian President Zelenskyy planning to visit Washington

President Biden is also expected to announce new package of nearly \$2 billion of security assistance and a Patriot missile battery, which will be a critical asset to defend Ukrainian people against attacks by Russia

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is travelling to Washington on Wednesday, to meet with US President Joe Biden and address the US Congress. This will be his first trip abroad since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The White House



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. — DW

confirmed the trip late on Tuesday. On Tuesday night, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden looks forward to the visit and that the address to Congress will demonstrate “the strong, bipartisan support for Ukraine.” A US official said Biden and Zelenskyy first discussed the idea of a visit to Washington during their phone call on December 11, and a formal invitation followed three days later. Zelenskyy accepted the invitation on Friday, and the trip was confirmed on Sunday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who visited Zelenskyy earlier this year in Kyiv, encouraged lawmakers to be available for Wednesday evening’s session. “They are fighting for democracy for all of us,” she said of Ukrainians. **Military aid, Patriot defence system for Ukraine** Zelenskyy’s trip includes a visit to the Capitol to meet lawmakers and a meeting with Biden in the White House for an announcement of a fresh package of military aid for Ukraine. This includes

the Patriot air and missile defense battery to help defend against Russia’s missile attacks. “President Biden will announce a significant new package of nearly \$2 billion of security assistance for Ukraine. It will contain a very important new capability: a Patriot missile battery, which will be a critical asset to defend the Ukrainian people against Russia’s barbaric attacks on Ukraine’s critical infrastructure,” the White House statement said. Russia warned Washington last week against supplying the Pa-

triot system to Ukraine. The US has already supplied Kyiv with HIMARS multiple rocket launchers and NASAMS ground-based air defense systems, among other military aid. This trip comes soon before US lawmakers are set to vote on a year-end spending package that includes about \$45 billion in emergency assistance to Ukraine. Zelenskyy is travelling to the US after a trip to the city of Bakhmut, which he called the hottest spot on the 1,300-kilometre frontline of the war. There, he spoke to Ukrainian troops and commended their “courage, resilience and strength.” Both Washington and Kyiv have said they do not expect a resolution to the war in the near future. Soldiers in Bakhmut handed Zelenskyy a Ukrainian flag with their signatures on it, video footage released on Ukrinform TV showed. “We will turn it over to the Congress and to the US president from the guys,” Zelenskyy said in the video. “We are grateful for the support. But it’s not enough,” he added. Kyiv says it needs Western help to strengthen its air defenses as Russian strikes have repeatedly cut electricity and water supplies in Ukrainian winter temperatures. — DW

TENNIS LEGEND

Becker admits to being ‘guilty’

FRANKFURT: Tennis legend Boris Becker has recounted the moment the door of his single-occupancy cell at London’s notorious Wandsworth prison closed for the first time, describing the experience as “the loneliest moment” of his life. Becker was sentenced to two and a half years in prison at the end of April for concealing assets worth millions from his insolvency administrators. “Of course I was guilty,” he said of the four counts he was convicted of. He faced 29 charges. The 55-year-old told German broadcaster SAT.1 in an interview that aired on Tuesday that he “felt hunger for the first time” during his eight months behind bars. “Sunday roasts” consisted of a chicken drumstick, he recalled. Becker recounted instances, at Wandsworth and later at HMP Huntercombe, where some prisoners had threatened to harm him until others stepped in. But there were more heartwarming moments, such as when, in November, inmates organized several cakes for his birthday, Becker said. “I’ve never experienced such solidarity in the free world,” he said, adding that he planned to stay in touch with some of the people he met in jail. Becker, who was deported to his native Germany last week, said he prayed daily in the three weeks between his conviction and sentencing. — DW

NEW VARIANT

Health experts advise caution amid international surge in Covid cases

NEW DELHI: With the recent spike in Covid cases in China and other countries, health experts across the nation urged people to follow the covid protocols. Though they have assured, India is safe as of now, people have to be cautious, they reminded. Speaking to ANI, Dr K Sudhakar, Health Minister of Karnataka said, “As of now India is safe due to the robust vaccination programme implemented by the government. People had already taken two doses along with a booster dose. I would appeal to the people to take booster dose, who have not taken it yet.” He added, “We are keeping a close watch and monitoring the newly registered positive cases as any new variant is showing up or not.” The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday requested States and Union Territories to send samples of all COVID-19 positive cases to INSACOG labs to track new variants if any. Speaking at the same tune, Guwahati Medical College & Hospital (GMCH) Superintendent Dr Abhijit Sarma told ANI, “There’s no need to panic but people need to follow precautions and covid protocols.”



With the impending Christmas and New Year’s celebrations, people will gather in large numbers on the streets and at various other places. Dismissing the fear, K Sudhakar said, “There’s no need to curb people’s movements as of now. We need to monitor only.” Dr Arindam Pandey cardiologist & Medical expert from Kolkata spoke to ANI and pointed out the failure of China’s Zero Covid policy. He mentioned, “No vaccine can give 100 percent assurance. But China’s covid policies backfired. The government of China failed to administer the situation with effective policies. As variants are changing, we can’t predict the future with full conviction.” — ANI

POLITICAL MEDDLING

Peru expels Mexican ambassador

LIMA: Peru declared Mexico’s ambassador to Lima, Pablo Monroy, persona non grata late on Tuesday. Monroy was ordered to leave the country within 72 hours, Peru’s foreign minister announced. This move came shortly after Mexico announced it had granted asylum to the family of ousted Peruvian President Pedro Castillo. Peru’s foreign ministry posted on social media that the ejection of the Mexican Ambassador was due to “repeated statements from the highest authorities of that country regarding the political situation in Peru.” Mexico responded by saying its Lima embassy would continue to operate normally, and it was ordering its envoy back. Peru said the safe passage of Castillo’s family had been formally approved. The Peruvian foreign ministry said Castillo’s wife, Lilia Paredes, was under criminal investigation. The government of Peru last week declared a 30-day nationwide state of emergency. Protests have rocked the country in the tumultuous days since President Pedro Castillo was removed from office on charges of rebellion and conspiracy last week. — DW

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50 MILLION LIKES

Messi’s World Cup celebration post breaks Instagram record

BUENOS AIRES : Football star Messi added another record to his name two days after he won the FIFA World Cup 2022 Argentina as a carousel of photographs commemorating the triumph has since surpassed all other posts on Instagram in terms of likes.

The previous most-liked Instagram post was an image of an egg that received almost 56 million likes. Chris Godfrey posted the photo of the egg as a social experiment in January 2019.

Messi’s post of rejoicing after winning the World Cup has over-

taken it. The Argentinian football legend’s photo also became the quickest to 50 million likes on social media as per the Olympics website.

“World Champions! I dreamed of it so many times, I wanted it so much that I still can’t believe it... Thank you very much to my family, to all who support me, and also to all who believed in us,” Lionel Messi wrote in the post.

“We demonstrate once again that Argentines when we fight together and united we are capable of achieving what we set out to do.



The merit belongs to this group, which is above individualities, it is the strength of all fighting for the same dream that was also the dream of all Argentines... We did it!” he added.

Ballon d’Or winner

Seven-time Ballon d’Or winner Lionel Messi is also only the second person to have more than 400 million Instagram followers. Before the FIFA World Cup began, he had 376 million followers.

Cristiano Ronaldo, a competitor of Messi’s, presently has 519 mil-

lion Instagram followers, making him the platform’s most popular user.

The two legendary football players were recently seen playing chess in a photo together. With almost 40 million likes as of Monday, it was the most popular Instagram post by an athlete.

On Instagram, the most-liked posts are dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Messi or Ronaldo appear in seven out of the top nine Instagram postings. Between 2021 and 2022, all seven posts were uploaded. **ANI**

‘England trip a step to bring cricket back to Pakistan’

ICC CEO Allardice watched England defeat Pakistan 3-0 while he was in Karachi



KARACHI : ICC CEO Geoff Allardice stated that the recent tour of England to Pakistan was a huge success and was optimistic of future tours to the Asian country being equally triumphant.

In 2022, test cricket made rejoicing come back to Pakistan, with successful recent series played there by Australia and England as well as a tour later this month by the current World Test Champions, New Zealand.

Allardice watched England de-

feat Pakistan 3-0 while he was in Karachi, and the ICC (International Cricket Council) president was impressed by how frequently local fans interacted with those who had travelled from abroad for what was England’s first Test series there since 2005.

“The fans in Pakistan are pas-

sionate about the game and passionate about their team, but most importantly they are welcoming of visitors. I have always had great experiences when I have travelled to Pakistan and I have been to see a few series over the last few years and the welcome is always very warm,” said Allardice as quoted

by ICC.

Additionally, Allardice recognises the value of holding future tours in Pakistan and expects that other ICC members will schedule red-ball series there in the ensuing years.

“Pakistan is one of the strongest cricketing countries in the ICC membership. To have series like this taking place and fans travelling to Pakistan and New Zealand starting in a few days time for their Test series as well is a huge step forward to getting cricket back in Pakistan on a regular basis,” Allardice noted.

Pakistan’s prospects of making it to the World Test Championship final received a huge blow after their series whitewash to England and now, Babar Azam’s team must hope against hope to make it to the game at The Oval in June.

On Boxing Day, Pakistan will play New Zealand in the first Test match; the series will end on January 3 in Multan. **ANI**

Bangladesh coach wants seamers to be ‘more aggressive’

DHAKA : Bangladesh fast bowling coach Allan Donald on Wednesday said that he wants to see his seamers show some extra aggression when they take on India in the second and final Test of two-match series here at Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Thursday.

Donald said that a 350-380 score would set up the second Test in Mirpur. Fast bowling is normally avoided at Mirpur because of the nature of the pitch, but Donald believes that brief bursts of aggressive bowling, similar to how India’s quicks performed in Chattogram, are the way to go. “How they get themselves involved in the contest. Despite three spinners, you have a free ride to be a bit more expansive as a quick. You can bowl short and full for longer. You can put everything on the table for four overs,” ESPNcricinfo quoted Allan Donald as saying.

He showed that he can take on the very best bowlers. He has been a terrific breath of fresh air. He backs himself,” Donald said.

Donald also stated that Bangladesh cannot afford to let India off the hook in the second Test, as they did in the first. India were 48 for 3 in the first innings in Chattogram, but they dug their way out of a difficult situation to register a 400-plus score that set them up for victory.

“You got one chance to cash in. You win the toss, hopefully, bat first, and make 350 or 380. I am guessing what the value of that first innings score might be. Pitch looks fairly dry so you have to cash in in the first innings. It is your only chance to set the Test match up in the first innings. If we bowl, we have also shown that in the first innings when we had India 48 for 3. We dropped a couple of tough chances but we cannot drop at this level. Then you get put to the sword,” the Bangladesh coach further stated.

Donald also mentioned that India has a handful of hitters up their sleeve, like KL Rahul and Virat Kohli, who would be looking for big scores after missing out in Chattogram.

“They are the prized wickets. It is like when [Sachin] Tendulkar walks to the crease, you know the value of getting it right is absolutely paramount. When the great Kohli steps up, you miss a chance against him, and you suffer. They don’t give many chances after that. I thought we were very good against Kohli and KL,” he said. **ANI**

TEST SERIES

Pakistan name squad for series against NZ

KARACHI : Pakistan has named an uncapped middle-order batter Kamran Ghulam and fast bowler Hasan Ali in the 16-player squad for the two-Test series against New Zealand, which will commence at Karachi’s National Stadium on Monday, December 26.

Kamran has replaced Azhar Ali, who announced his retirement last week, while Hasan Ali has taken over from Mohammad

Ali, who, like Faheem Ashraf, has been advised to participate in the ongoing Pakistan Cup in Karachi. Haris Rauf has not been included in the squad as he is recovering from an injury he sustained while fielding in the Rawalpindi Test. However, fast bowler Naseem Shah, who missed the Multan and Karachi Tests due to a shoulder niggle, has been being declared fit and as such, retained in the squad,

as per a statement from Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Test squad: Babar Azam (captain), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shan Masood and Zahid Mehmood

Umpire and match referee appointments for the series: December 26-30 - 1st Test, Karachi. Alex Wharf and Aleem Dar (on-field), Ahsan Raza (third umpire), Asif Yaqoob (fourth umpire); Mohammad Javed Malik (match referee).

January 3-7 - 2nd Test, Multan. Alex Wharf and Aleem Dar (on-field), Ahsan Raza (third umpire), Rashid Riaz (fourth umpire); David Boon (match referee). **ANI**

ICC

Test rankings: Rohit moves to No. 9; Babar claims career high

DUBAI: India skipper Rohit Sharma has claimed to number 9 position in the latest ICC Test rankings while Pakistan captain Babar Azam has risen to a career-high Test batter ranking.

The victories for Australia, England and India in their respective recent Test matches have seen a host of their stars climb the charts on the latest ICC Men’s Test Player Rankings. Babar’s knocks of 78 and 54 have helped him overtake Steve Smith, who managed 36 and six in a low-scoring game between Australia and South Africa in Brisbane. Babar, who is ranked first in ODIs and fourth in T20Is, trails Marnus Labuschagne by 61 points in the Test rankings.

India spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel have made rapid progress after helping win the Chattogram Test. Yadav’s Player of the Match effort of eight for 113 has lifted him 19 places to 49th

while Patel’s five scalps in the match see him jump 10 places to a career-best 18th position.

Australia batter Travis Head, whose first innings score of 92 was the highest in the Brisbane Test, has gained three slots to reach a career-best fourth position as he crosses the 800-rating point mark for the first time in his career. His previous best was the fifth position in January this year.

In the latest weekly update that also takes into account performances in the first Test of the WTC series between Bangladesh and India in Chattogram, Cheteshwar Pujara’s knocks of 90 and 102 not out have lifted him 10 positions to 16th while Shreyas Iyer (up 11 places to 26th) and Shubman Gill (up 10 places to 54th) have also gained after some fine performances in the match.

In the bowlers’ rankings, South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada has

gained four spots to reach the third position after grabbing four wickets in each inning at Gabba. Rabada, a formerly top-ranked bowler, was third in August this year before slipping down the table.

England captain Ben Stokes (up places to 23rd), South Africa’s Temba Bavuma (up eight places to 24th) and Bangladesh’s Shakib Al Hasan (up four places to 37th) are some others to move up the batters’ list. England’s Harry Brook is in the top 50 for the first time after scoring centuries in all three Tests in Pakistan.

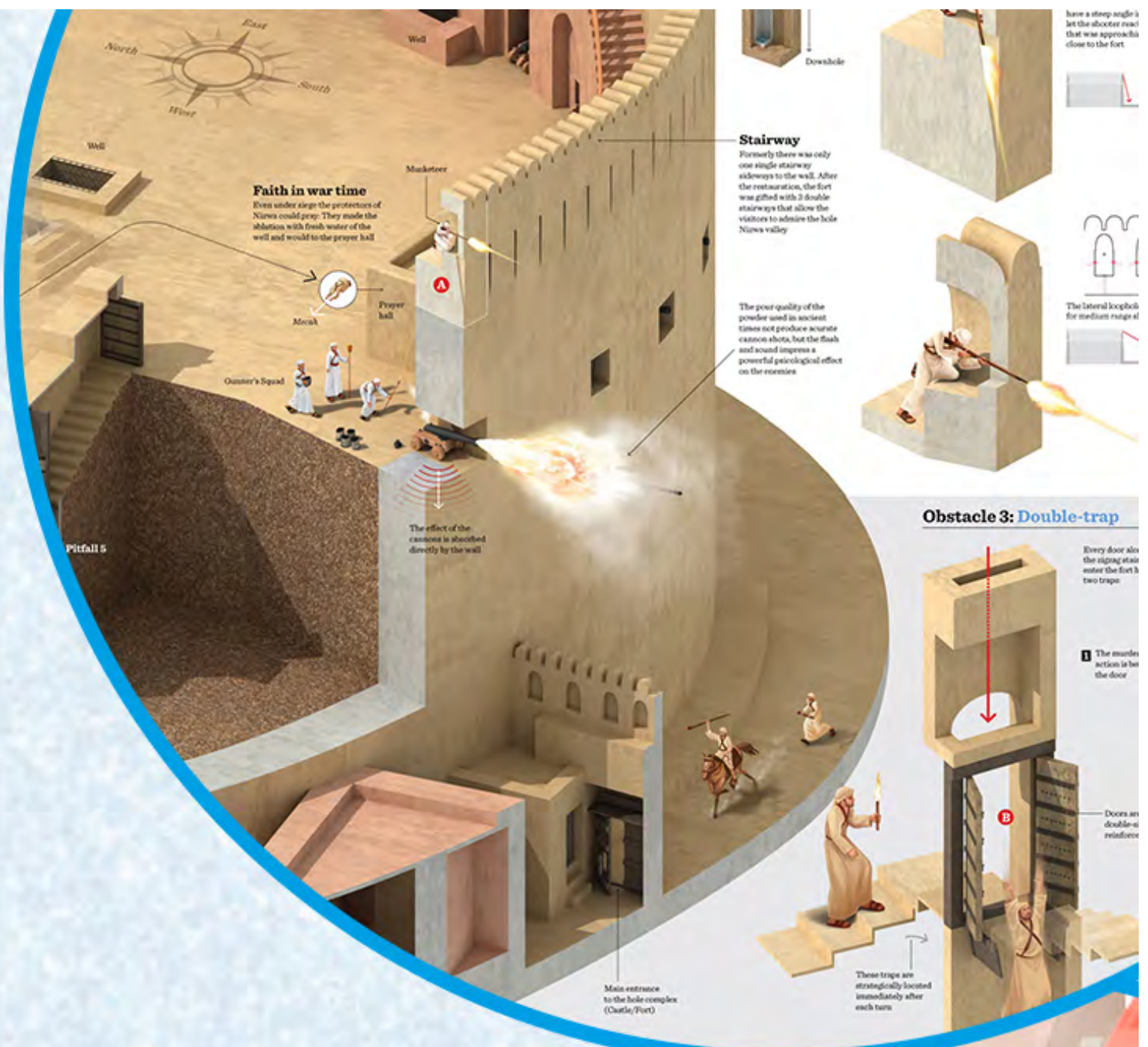
Other bowlers to move up the list include Marcon Jansen, Jack Leach, Mark Wood, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Scott Boland and Mohammad Siraj.

Results over the past week see Australia consolidate their position at the top of the WTC table with India in the second position. **ANI**





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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased with prices for delivery by February 2023 reaching \$77.17, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 95 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$76.22. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,797.36 points, down by 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06 per cent at 497.05 points. Al Suwadi Power, up 7.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Raysut Cement went down by 5.65 per cent.



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Treasury bills worth OMR12mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from December 21 until January 18, 2023



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR12 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from December 21 until January 18, 2023.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.713 for every OMR100, and the minimum ac-

cepted price arrived at OMR99.710 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.73690 per cent and 3.74766 per cent, respectively.

Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity

to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills

Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.50 per cent.

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

SOFT POS SERVICE

BankDhofar inks pact with Dalilee for payment solutions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: BankDhofar and Dalilee, an Omani pioneer in the logistics sector recently signed an agreement for payment solutions. The agreement was mutually signed by Dr Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Chief Retail Banking Officer, at BankDhofar, and Dawood Sulaiman Al Amri, CEO of Dalilee, with the presence of executive management team members. As part of the agreement, BankDhofar will provide Dalilee with an innovative Soft POS payment solution.

Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BankDhofar, said: "We are proud to sign the agreement with Dalilee to provide them with the first of its kind payment solution in the Sultanate. This partnership illustrates our ongoing support to the SME sector. In a short time, Dalilee became one of the well-recognised Omani delivery SMEs, and we are confident that our solution will reflect positively on their operations and en-



hance the customer experience. At BankDhofar, providing innovative products, services, and solutions to our customers has always been our priority, and we look forward to furthering similar agreements."

BankDhofar realises the importance of integrating new technologies into its business. The first-of-its-kind solution in the Sultanate is a low-cost, maintenance-free solution that allows merchants to accept payments quickly and

conveniently through their NFC-enabled Android devices.

Dawood Sulaiman Al Amri, CEO of Dalilee, stated, "Signing this agreement is within the company's strategy to strengthen the technological transition in daily receivable and withdraw the manual financial transactions. We seek to provide a convenient solution for our customers through providing a soft POS payment solution using a mobile phone by courier drivers and

receptionists in all governates. This agreement expresses the bonds of partnership and institutional cooperation between Dalilee and leading private sector institutions such as BankDhofar in achieving the economic goals and Parallels set by Oman Vision 2040."

With the Soft POS solution, businesses can accept payments from any contactless-enabled card or mobile wallet from their NFC-enabled Android device. Items can be selected on the mobile application, where the merchant can receive the payment using their mobile or tablet device as a point of sale (POS) device. The service requires no additional hardware and delivers quick and convenient payment experiences. Merchants also have the option to send the payment receipt via email or SMS. In addition to these innovative services, the Bank has always been at the forefront of supporting FinTech initiatives; understanding that FinTech is the future of the financial sector.

ORGANISED BY MSX



National Finance takes part in 'Fundamentals of ESG and Sustainability' panel discussion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Finance, one of Oman's largest finance companies, recently participated in an event hosted by Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on December 20 at the Sheraton Oman Hotel.

In line with MSX's commitment to the UN Sustainable Stock Exchange (SSE), the event witnessed the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between MSX and the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Environment Authority in Oman. Showing active support, the company's General Manager of Risk and Controls, Bikram Monga, took part in an interactive session themed 'Fundamentals of ESG and Sustainability'.

Commenting on the company's participation, Monga said, "Customers in a continuously evolving market have become increasingly conscious about companies embracing sustainable practices, promoting transparency and contributing to the welfare of society as a whole. We at National Finance are committed to establishing relevant policies for our internal operations and working in tandem with a clearly defined sustainability framework

that is in sync with ongoing ESG demands. At the same time, the company continues to improve and look for sustainable solutions for all stakeholders."

He added saying, "Our participation in the panel discussion reiterates our commitment to driving meaningful dialogues in the area of ESG and sustainable development. Through the discussion facilitated by MSX, where industry leaders who are passionate about the cause were able to interact, engage and share ideas for further development."

The panel discussions highlighted the importance for companies to adopt ESG whilst simultaneously diving deeper into the reasons and benefits of its integration and the ways it can improve investor relations.

The conversation also evoked an interesting debate on its impact on company returns.

Meanwhile, individual companies also shared their unique experiences and reasons for embarking on the journey.

Through such participation in key industry events, National Finance will continue to cement its position as a company that is invested in achieving sustainable, long-term positive impact and steering society to further socio-economic progress.

RBI BULLETIN

Inflation in India down but 'certainly not out'

MUMBAI: Inflation in India moderated recently but it is "certainly not out", Reserve Bank of India said in its monthly bulletin on Tuesday.

The central bank said if anything, inflation has "broadened and become stubborn". "Inflation may be slightly down, but it is certainly not out. If anything, it has broadened and become stubborn, especially at its core," RBI said in the bulletin in a section called 'State of the Economy'.

"Central banks may have moderated the pace of monetary policy tightening or hinted at it but they are in no mood to ease off in their fight against inflation," it added.

Meanwhile, India's retail inflation rate based on Consumer Price Index declined to 5.88 per cent in November from 6.77 per cent during the previous month, according to data released recently by the ministry of statistics. - **ANI**



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MSX index ends lower

Al Suwadi Power, up 7.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Raysut Cement, down 5.65 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,797.36 points, down by 0.42 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06 per cent at 497.05 points. Al Suwadi Power, up 7.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Raysut Cement, down 5.65 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 411 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.35 million, with more than 6.39 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 12 advanced, 20 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR287,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR263,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR25,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,762.25 points, down 0.22 per cent. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank and Ahli Bank were up by 1.28 per cent, 0.95 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. Prices of Mus-

cat Finance, National Finance, United Finance, Bank Dhofar, and Al Anwar Investment were down by 1.37 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 1.52 per cent, 1.18 per cent and 1.18 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,347.31 points, down 0.79 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, Oman Cement and Oman Fisheries were up by 1.37 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 0.99 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, A'Saffa Foods, Jazeera Steel Products, Voltamp Energy, and Galfar Engineering were down by 5.65 per cent, 4.53 per cent, 3.40 per cent, 2.11 per cent and 1.73 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.48 per cent before closing at 1,605.59 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Al Batinah Power, Phoenix Power, Al Jazeera Services, and Muscat Desalination were up by 7.14 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 1.79 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively. Prices of National Gas, Renaissance Services, Ooredoo, OIFC, and Sembcorp Salalah were down by 2.73 per cent, 2.54 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 1.45 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,829.28	4,796.41	4,797.36	4,817.55	-20.19	-0.42
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,798.93	7,760.28	7,762.25	7,779.08	-16.83	-0.22
Industry Index	6,407.81	6,341.16	6,347.31	6,397.67	-50.36	-0.79
Services Index	1,619.03	1,601.31	1,605.59	1,613.29	-7.70	-0.48
MSX Shariah Index	498.93	496.86	497.05	496.73	0.32	0.06
MSX TR INDEX	6,095.43	6,053.94	6,055.14	6,080.63	-25.49	-0.42
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,160.71	8,120.26	8,122.33	8,139.94	-17.61	-0.22
SERVICES TR IDX	1,711.18	1,692.45	1,696.97	1,705.11	-8.13	-0.48
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,671.32	6,601.93	6,608.34	6,660.77	-52.43	-0.79

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
6,395,316	1,349,474	411	23,707,339,561	12	20	15	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM000000226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	210,000	60,133	38	0.282	0.292	0.282	0.285	0.280	0.005	1.786	0.285	0.284	0.284	0.100	17,443,218
OM000001749	OMAN CEMENT	9,000	2,786	1	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.300	0.004	1.333	0.304	0.302	0.330	0.100	100,585,304
OM000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	148,462	11,893	13	0.080	0.081	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.076	0.079	0.100	7,110,000
OM000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	286,066	30,327	14	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.892	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	486,546,835
OM000002200	AHLI BANK	283,586	48,412	4	0.184	0.185	0.184	0.185	0.184	0.001	0.610	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.100	321,693,482
OM000001533	OMINVEST	137,666	57,778	14	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	280,713,479
OM000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	79,000	11,060	5	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.100	42,440,939
OM000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM	10,000	9,002	3	0.908	0.908	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	62,100,000
OM000003125	GLOBAL INV.H.	20,000	1,100	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.055	0.100	11,000,000
OM000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	464	45	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.095	0.098	0.100	25,348,556
OM000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,000	876	2	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.100	24,900,000
OM000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	2,000	100	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	11,112,000
OM000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,626,360	465,701	43	0.288	0.288	0.286	0.286	0.288	-0.002	-0.694	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.000	21,146,829,560
OM000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	258,525	73,675	8	0.290	0.290	0.283	0.283	0.285	-0.002	-0.702	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.000	1,460,142,815
OM000003026	OMAN TELECOM	22,450	20,973	5	0.936	0.936	0.928	0.928	0.936	-0.008	-0.855	0.928	0.928	0.928	0.000	696,000,000
OM000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	68,700	7,460	6	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.893	0.111	0.111	0.112	0.100	15,540,000
OM000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	20,000	2,560	2	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.128	0.128	0.129	0.100	30,336,000
OM000003968	OOREDOO	32,799	14,056	5	0.428	0.430	0.420	0.420	0.430	-0.010	-2.326	0.420	0.420	0.424	0.100	373,398,577
OM000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	57,951	26,533	9	0.470	0.470	0.460	0.460	0.472	-0.012	-2.542	0.460	0.460	0.464	0.100	108,748,600
OM000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	42,600	9,830	7	0.235	0.235	0.227	0.227	0.235	-0.008	-3.404	0.227	0.215	0.229	0.100	28,351,837
Total		30	3,325,529	854,550	185											
Parallel Market																
OM000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	381,900	10,772	13	0.029	0.030	0.028	0.030	0.028	0.002	7.143	0.030	0.028	0.030	0.100	21,432,190
OM000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	20,000	590	3	0.030	0.030	0.029	0.029	0.030	-0.001	-3.571	0.029	0.029	0.030	0.100	13,573,725
OM000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,500	143	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.092	0.003	3.261	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	190,000,000
OM000005963	PHOENIX POWER	8,076	339	2	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	62,891,863
OM000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	5,150	350	3	0.068	0.074	0.068	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.068	0.074	0.100	1,000,000,000
OM000007084	MCT DESALINATE	126,253	12,628	11	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.100	15,555,040
OM000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	4,600	673	2	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.102	0.106	0.100	18,571,997
OM000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	9,750	731	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.068	0.075	0.100	6,663,750
OM000001509	DHOFAR INT.	6,523	978	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	30,336,947
OM000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	768,342	124,147	13	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	324,050,672
OM000001685	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	43,400	3,255	7	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.068	0.075	0.100	9,140,625
OM000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	144,255	6,059	10	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.041	0.042	0.100	8,384,695
OM000004420	BANK NIZWA	147,321	14,585	10	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	221,458,350
OM000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	40,000	3,560	2	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.088	0.090	0.100	15,575,000
OM000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	54,700	4,570	6	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.100	16,800,000
OM000002549	BANK DHOFAR	163,122	27,731	7	0.170	0.170	0.168	0.168	0.170	-0.002	-1.176	0.168	0.168	0.170	0.100	503,387,041
OM000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	3,000	204	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	14,510,933
OM000002374	UNITED FINANCE	140,265	9,117	4	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.064	0.069	0.100	22,694,387
OM000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,200	140	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.119	-0.002	-1.681	0.117	0.115	0.117	0.100	49,698,115
OM000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING	66,889	11,422	8	0.171	0.171	0.170	0.170	0.173	-0.003	-1.734	0.170	0.164	0.173	0.100	34,507,699
OM000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	9,000	843	2	0.095	0.095	0.093	0.093	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.093	0.090	0.095	0.100	1,000,000
OM000001160	NATIONAL GAS	105,156	11,370	18	0.115	0.115	0.107	0.107	0.110	-0.003	-2.727	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	9,095,000
OM000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	56,653	3,099	5	0.118	0.118	0.115	0.115	0.120	-0.005	-4.167	0.115	0.115	0.128	0.100	62,241,502
OM000002804	ASAFA FOODS	104,153	22,448	30	0.223	0.238	0.211	0.211	0.221	-0.010	-4.525	0.213	0.213	0.212	0.100	25,520,000
OM000001390	MUSCAT FINANCE	212,000	13,540	10	0.066	0.066	0.063	0.063	0.066	-0.003	-4.545	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	19,930,000
OM000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	250,879	42,968	45	0.179	0.180	0.162	0.167	0.177	-0.010	-5.650	0.167	0.167	0.167	0.100	33,400,000
Total		26	2,844,090	326,102	217											

ENERGY DATA

EU gas consumption down by 20.1%

BRUSSELS: The EU consumption of natural gas has dropped by 20.1 per cent in the period August-November 2022, compared with the average gas consumption for the same months (August-November) between 2017 and 2021, according to energy data published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

The Council Regulation (EU) 2022/1369 on coordinated demand-reduction measures for gas, part of the REPower EU plan to end EU dependence on Russian fossil fuels, set a reduction target of 15 per cent for the period August 2022 - March 2023 as compared to the average of the same period of the five previous consecutive years.

During August-November 2022, natural gas consumption dropped in most Member States. In 18 Member States, consumption dropped beyond the 15 per cent target, in some, by a large margin (above 40 per cent). Consumption fell the most in Finland (-52.7 per cent), Latvia (-43.2 per cent) and Lithuania (-41.6 per cent).



Six Member States, while reducing their natural gas consumption, have not yet reached the 15 per cent target. By contrast, natural gas consumption increased in Malta (+7.1 per cent) and Slovakia (+2.6 per cent).

Looking at monthly data from January to November 2022, consumption has been consistently below the 2017-2021 average of

the respective months of those years. Between January and July 2022, natural gas consumption in the EU varied between 1 938 petajoules (PJ) in January, seasonally a colder month with higher consumption, and 785 PJ in July, indicating a monthly decrease overall, even before the target of 15 per cent gas reduction was set up by the Council Regulation (EU)

2022/1369.

This fall was higher in May (-12.9 per cent compared with the average May of the 2017-2021 period of 956 PJ) when 833 PJ were consumed, then down by 7.1 per cent in June (775 PJ vs 833 PJ). The reduction jumped to 13.9 per cent in August, 14.2 per cent in September, 24.2 per cent in October and 23.6 per cent in November. -WAM





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DID YOU KNOW COMFORT FOODS HELP SOOTHE A BROKEN HEART?



When you think of all the things that happen in the busy month of December, breakups are probably the last thing that come to mind. However, research shows the holidays are a prime time for ending relationships.

Whether it's a romantic partnership that's come to an end or a friendship that no longer serves you well, breakups are unfortunately common this time of year. Are you or is someone you know experiencing a breakup?

A milestone month

A vast majority of younger adults confirm December is a make-or-break milestone for relationships. Nearly 3 in 5 say they or a couple they know have broken up in the month of December, including 40% who experienced it themselves.

No matter the reason or circumstances, breaking up is difficult. While there are numerous ways to help mend a broken heart, seeking comfort foods is one of the most popular breakup solutions among Gen Z and Millennials.

Savoury over sweet

When it comes to what cuisine can help mend a broken heart during the holiday season, the majority say comfort food such as soup, pasta and pizza are the way to go, compared to more indulgent choices such as chocolate, ice cream or baked goods. So ditch the sweets this season and grab a bowl of warm and comforting soup.

In fact, younger adults' taste in breakup soup skews toward the traditional. An overwhelming 88% identified soup as a breakup

comfort with nearly 3 in 5 Gen Z and Millennials citing chicken noodle as the most comforting soup to eat after a breakup, followed by tomato soup and vegetable soup.

Whether you've experienced a breakup or you want to support a friend or family member, you can count on your favourite soup and broth brand to provide you with nourishing products that feel like a warm hug. So stock up on the classics including Hearty Vegetable Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup and Tomato Bisque

to help get you through both the good times and the bad.

Prioritise yourself

Everyone experiences breakups differently. Whether you're getting over your work crush, starting a new solo chapter or have just parted ways with a friend, it's important to make time for yourself and do things that bring you comfort.

This season, no matter your situation, head for delicious recipes, new soup and broth options and more. - BPT



IN-PICTURES



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Scenery of Yamdrok Lake in Tibet
Picture shows the scenery of the Yamdrok Lake in Nagarze County of Shannan City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. *Xinhua*



Penguins visit Harbin Ice-Snow World
Penguins from Harbin Polarpark are seen at the Harbin Ice-Snow World, a renowned seasonal theme park opening every winter, in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. *Xinhua*



Pharmacies in Changsha work to ensure anti-epidemic medicines supply
A staff member registers information of medicines at a logistics centre of a pharmacy in Kaifu District of Changsha, central China's Hunan Province. Pharmacies in Changsha are working to ensure the supply and transportation of anti-epidemic medicines to meet the needs of the public. *Xinhua*



Germany hands over 22 artifacts looted by British colonists to Nigeria
Officials from Germany and Nigeria attend a handover ceremony of returned artifacts in Abuja, Nigeria. Nigeria received 22 looted artifacts from the German government, as part of the official repatriation of 1,130 Benin bronzes taken away by European countries from the West African country over 120 years ago. *Xinhua*



People visit celebration event for coming Christmas in San Jose, California
People visit a celebration event for the coming Christmas at a park in San Jose, California, the United States. *Xinhua*



Tabu, Arjun Kapoor, Radhika Madan with director Aasmaan Bhardwaj at the trailer launch of 'Kuttey'
Bollywood actors Tabu, Arjun Kapoor, Radhika Madan and director Aasmaan Bhardwaj at the trailer launch of their upcoming film 'Kuttey', in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



International campaign to protect Palestinians set to launch: Abbas
Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas delivers a speech during a joint meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee and his Fatah movement's central committee that he chaired, in the West Bank city of Ramallah. *Xinhua*



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FEATURE





5

WAYS TO A
SUSTAINABLE
CHRISTMAS

The festive season is a time of goodwill, food, gifts — and a lot of waste. So, here’s a short guide to having yourself a sustainable little Christmas.

Christmas may be the most wonderful time of the year, as the song goes, but — and not to be a total Grinch about it — it’s also the season of over-consumption. In the UK alone, the average household spends 700 pounds (£811, \$853) more in December compared to other months on gifts, food and other Advent extras.

With that increase in consumption, comes an increase in trash. Household waste in the US rises by about 25 percent over the festive period.

If not properly disposed of, plastic packaging, for instance, can end up in rivers, lakes and the ocean where it harms animals. Wasted Christmas fare ends up on landfills where it rots and contributes to the 8-10 percent of yearly greenhouse gases emissions heating the planet caused by uneaten food.

But fear not, because there are plenty of sustainable hacks to make your Yuletide green.

Gifts: From secondhand to home-made and everything in between

Giving and receiving presents is one of the hallmarks of Christmas. But you can extract yourself from the consumer rush by gifting sustainably.

Think carefully about what purchases and look out for locally produced items made from sustainable or recycled materials. Also try to ensure gifts are durable and reusable, rather than novelty items that someone may use once and then throw away.

Regifting or donating unwanted presents is another option. One YouGov survey in the found that 57 percent of people in the UK had received at least one unwanted present at Christmas, but most found re-gifting acceptable.

According to a 2020 study in scien-



tific journal “Nature,” stuff made by humans now outweighs all life on earth. So instead of adding to the Anthropocene mountain of things, check out the many vintage or secondhand stores both on and offline where you can find all sorts of unique gems for the special people in your life.

For those of us blessed with the skills of crafting or cooking, there are also plenty of online guides for making clever gifts, from photo albums to homemade preserves. And for the less artistically inclined, there are always gift certificates for local gigs, theater productions and other events.

Cutting down on Christmas waste

If you want to stop your trash cans from overflowing this Christmas, avoid gifts with excess packaging, cut down on sin-



old newspaper. Reusable cloth bags are a good alternative or check out this DW guide on how to wrap gifts in fabric.

A green Christmas dinner

Some 61 percent of the 931 million tonnes of food that was wasted in 2019 came from households, and Christmas can be one of the worst times for binning of uneaten food.

You can help your pocket and the environment by planning how much you’ll need for the number of people you’re feeding. Using a portion calculator can help, as can finding good Christmas leftover recipes.

Going vegetarian — or better still, vegan — is the best way to lower your Christmas dinner’s carbon emissions. While poultry like chicken and turkey, does have a lower CO2 footprint than the worst carbon offenders, beef and lamb, they still far outstrip legumes, pulses and vegetables.

There are plenty of delicious and exciting veggie recipes, just a click away. But if you can’t go the whole animal-free hog, cutting down on the amount and kinds of meat and dairy you consume can help.

One tip for cutting down on your own transport emissions is to carshare with a nearby friend or neighbour when you go

shopping. If you live close enough to your local supermarket or farmers’ market, invest in the two-wheeled trolley beloved of grannies throughout the ages and which can then be used year-round.

Deck the halls with eco-friendly decorations

Where would we be without Christmas decorations and lights to brighten up the bleak midwinter?

LED lights are the green alternative to old, incandescent ones. They’re energy-efficient, safer, more durable and will keep your Christmas days merry and bright.

Instead of buying new Christmas decorations each year, upcycle your old ones. Or have some fun with family, friends, or by yourself, by making some with spare or recycled materials lying around your house, like origami or fabric ornaments.

If you are buying new ones, then steer clear of plastic and look out for second-hand decorations or those made from recycled or sustainable materials.

Fake or real? The great Christmas tree debate

And finally, to the Christmas tree. Is it better to go real or fake? Environmental organisation WWF says buying a fake tree only makes sense if you’re going to use it for at least 10 years. They are made from fossil-fuel byproduct plastic after all and cannot be recycled.

But if you’re going for a real one, WWF advises buying it from a sustainable, FSC-certified forest and ensuring you have it turned into wood chips after Christmas.

There are other alternatives though. Some tree-renting services have popped up in recent years. These potted Christmas trees are returned and planted once the festive season is over. Or if you want to get really creative, decorate a few spruce or pine branches or make a “tree” out of a ladder or a pile of books. -nw



ROUND-UP



Wonderland of festivities awaits at Kempinski Hotel Muscat

Experience the joy of the holiday season with a variety of events at the hotel

MUSCAT: An unbelievable wonderland of festivities awaits at Kempinski Hotel Muscat. During this period, parents and their little ones can experience a variety of activities to take part in, from a festive Afternoon Tea at Amwaj Lounge to a special afternoon tea with Santa at Café One. A lavish Christmas Eve dinner as well as Christmas Day brunch

will be held at The Kitchen restaurant, where guests can enjoy a festive buffet of culinary delights and a variety of festive goodies hand-crafted by the hotel's culinary team, including assorted Christmas cookies and even the hotel's signature classic Christmas Turkey. For a more intimate experience, Zale Lounge offers a special dinner under the stars with a live musical performance for Christmas Eve and a set menu crafted by Spanish chef David Pastor for Christmas Day, perfect for friends and loved ones. Ring in 2023 with an extravagant New Year's Eve dinner as well as New Year's Day brunch, with live cooking stations, fresh seafood, international flavours, and decadent pastries at The Kitchen restaurant. Also for New Year's Eve, an exclusive beachfront celebration

awaits at Zale Lounge, featuring a dazzling performance by an international singer, premium house beverages with Japanese twists and tapas, guaranteed to be a fabulous evening. Other New Year festivities will continue throughout the hotel's various restaurants. Bukharashowcases the diversity of India with a fun-filled celebration in a colourful and authentic atmosphere. Kick off the New Year in Soi Soi and experience a boasting, vivacious fusion of Thai flavours and aromas straight from the streets of Bangkok. Experience all the festivities with an exhilarating room offer. Welcome 2023 in style with 20% off the best available rate, daily buffet breakfast at The Kitchen restaurant and New Year's Eve dinner buffet at The Kitchen for two persons.



32ND ANNUAL DAY



Indian School Muladha organises grand annual day celebrations

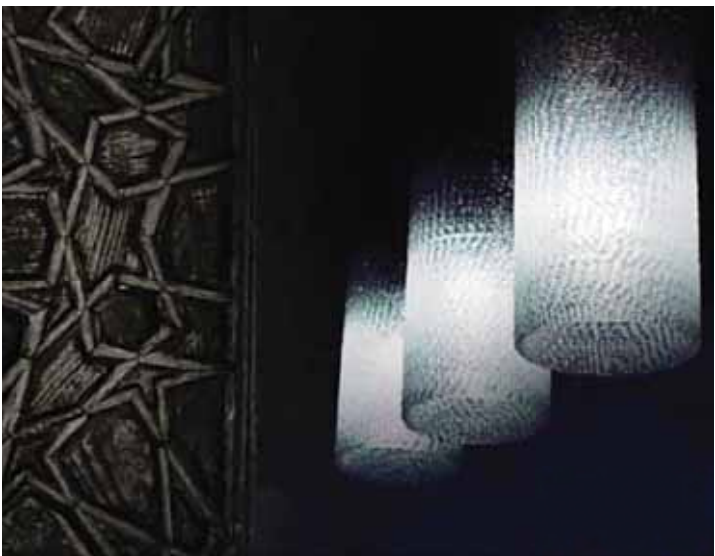
MUSCAT: The 32nd Annual Day celebration was held in sheer splendence and decor at Indian School Muladha on December 15. It was a blend of charisma and unerring finesse. The glamorous event commenced with the school choir comprising 270 students who drew the strings of the spectators' hearts with their soothing voice. The chief guest Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to Oman and the other dignitaries on the dais conjointly lit the lamp. The digital presentation of the annual report by the principal was a visual treat which gave a kaleidoscopic view of the various spheres of activities performed by the students during the academic year. In the prize distribu-

tion ceremony that followed, the members of the staff who completed 25 years, 20 years and 10 years of service in the institution were felicitated. The toppers in AISSCE and AISSE were honoured with a token of appreciation. Trophies for academics, co-curricular activities, games and sports, and Overall Championship were presented to the respective houses by the dignitaries. The School Newsletter Aurora 2022 and School Magazine Spectrum 2022 were released. The formal function was followed by the grandiloquent show put up by the talented students. The barrage of variety entertainments was very colourful and mind blowing in its genre.

WEALTH MANAGEMENT SEGMENT

Alizz Islamic Bank's 'Tharwa' service offers premium banking experience

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank offers a variety of Sharia-compliant banking services and products including its Wealth Management segment 'Tharwa' service, which is one of the highest quality banking services in the Sultanate. Tharwa members can enjoy a variety of benefits that raise their standard of living when it comes to accommodation and dining while travelling. In addition, Tharwa provides a variety of exclusive offers and discounts and gives access to VIP lounges, special events and more than 550 various lounges at all airports worldwide and much more. Through Tharwa, Alizz Islamic Bank is committed to providing unprecedented banking services that guarantee service quality and peace of mind. All banking solutions have been designed to offer ideal levels of quality services that meet the customers various banking needs. Through deposits, finance and high value deposit accounts like Izdihar Savings Account, Term Investment Deposit Accounts and Wakala Accounts, Tharwa customers will be able to know the expected profits and will



partners. We find solutions for all of your wealth management requirements. Tharwa's World MasterCard gives you flexibility to discover the best deals & offers. Worldwide acceptance and valuable benefits mean that you have the freedom to do the work you like whenever you like. The special advantages and benefits while traveling give you the exceptional services you expect from MasterCard, like access to airport lounges in more than 400 cities all over the world, insurance while travelling against accidents and flight cancellation, special health club offers, special year-round flight offers and other numerous offers and benefits which can be reviewed on our website," said Mohammed bin Juma Al-Ghassani, AGM - Chief Consumer Banking Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank. All customers that have a monthly income of OMR 3,000 or a deposit of OMR 30,000 or more are eligible for Tharwa. The bank also provides Internet banking, mobile banking, interactive teller machines, phone / SMS banking and a toll free customer service centre.

EXCITING CAMPAIGN

Lulu, Khimji Ramdas hold Gillette 'Best fan face' Guinness record-breaking campaign

MUSCAT: Lulu Hypermarket teamed up with the P&G division of Khimji Ramdas in a unique and exciting attempt to break the Guinness Record for the most number of people moisturising their beard simultaneously to pick up the 'best fan face' during the season of football. The event was held at Lulu Baushar under the campaign Gillette 'Shave and show your best fan face' on December 20. The event, which was held to promote Gillette brand from the P&G stables, brought together 300 consumers who participated in the campaign with the aim of breaking the world record. The event also gave an experiential moment for the consumers to try Gillette products as they were allowed to keep the grooming bag with various products, they consumed for the record breaking execution. As part of the event, Lulu had set



up a grooming area in the parking area of its Baushar outlet, providing consumers a chance to present their smartest look using the Gillette Mach3 razor which is built for precision and made for comfort, with stronger blades that stay sharper longer, as well as the best in category KCG beard oil. Consumers were then invited to "present their best fan face" by showcasing their best emotions to different football-related activities, such as

penalty kick etc. All consumers participating in the campaign also received a gift hamper. Commenting on the campaign, Shabeer K A, Regional Director - Lulu Hypermarkets, Oman, remarked "The timing of this activity is perfectly in sync with the season. With the just concluded football world cup football fans all over the country are still basking in the excitement the season has provided. We are happy and privileged to be

again a part of P&G's record breaking initiatives and hope that this platform provides an eco-system to encourage some out of the box marketing concepts and innovative products. P&G as a brand has been supporting our outlets with one of the strongest portfolios of trusted and quality brands." Sridhar Moosapeta, CEO Consumer Products Cluster, Khimji Ramdas stated, "We are extremely happy with the response we received through this campaign and we thank Lulu for their continuous support towards all our initiatives. We are also happy to have reached out to as many people as possible, as we could witness the thrill and enthusiasm of fans as they showcased what they loved the most about the game. At P&G, we are committed to introducing fresh and innovative ideas to serve the heightened needs and behaviours of consumers worldwide," he added.

TOURISM PROMOTION

Oman Air Holidays signs agreement with Jordan Tourism Board

MUSCAT: Oman Air Holidays has announced a strategic partnership with the Jordan Tourism Board to undertake joint promotional activities in Oman and Jordan. The partnership will include a series of co-branded tactical campaigns that aim to position Oman Air Holidays as a preferred provider of international travel packages and encourage those in Oman to visit Jordan during peak season. Oman Air currently operates seven flights a week from Muscat to the Jordanian capital, Amman, which is popular amongst travellers for its spectacular landscape and ancient treasures. Mundher Al Shaikhani, Senior Manager Holidays and Loyalty Programme at Oman Air, said, "Oman and Jordan already enjoy a warm relationship and this part-

nership seeks to increase value creation for both countries and contribute to our respective tourism agendas. We look forward to working with the Jordan Tourism Board as we continue strengthening our presence across the region, while creating amazing itineraries that offer something completely different to our guests." Dr Abed Al-Razzaq Arabiyat Managing Director of Jordan Tourism Board, added, "As we strive to increase Jordan's competitiveness as a global tourism destination, we are expanding our reach to new and more targeted markets. Our growing touristic relationship with Oman offers many mutual opportunities, and our partnership with Oman Air Holidays is sure to add considerable momentum to our goals."



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Festive Season 2022-2023

Grand Turkey TakeAway

18th December 2022 - 7th January 2023 | Taybat Restaurant
OMR 48 net serving 6 to 8 people

Christmas Eve Dinner

24th December 2022 | 7 pm to 11 pm | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with Christmas buffet | Painting activities | Christmas-themed movie

OMR 23 net per person (Adult)
OMR 11.5 net per child (6-12 years old)

Save 25 % when you book between 18th December - 21st December 2022

Christmas Brunch

25th December 2022 | 12 pm to 4 pm | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with Christmas buffet | Painting activities | Christmas-themed movie
Santa Claus gifts

OMR 23 net per person (Adult)
OMR 11.5 net per child (6-12 years old)

Save 25 % when you book between 18th December - 21st December 2022

NYE Dinner

1st January 2023 | 7 pm - 01 am | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with NYE buffet | Painting activities | NYE-themed movie
Live DJ performance

OMR 33 net per person (Adult)
OMR 15 net per child (6-12 years old)

Save 25 % when you book between 18th December - 21st December 2022

New Year's Brunch

1st January 2023 | 12 pm to 4 pm | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with new year's buffet | Painting activities | NY-themed movie

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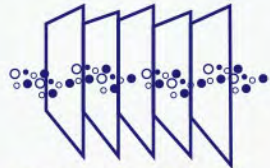
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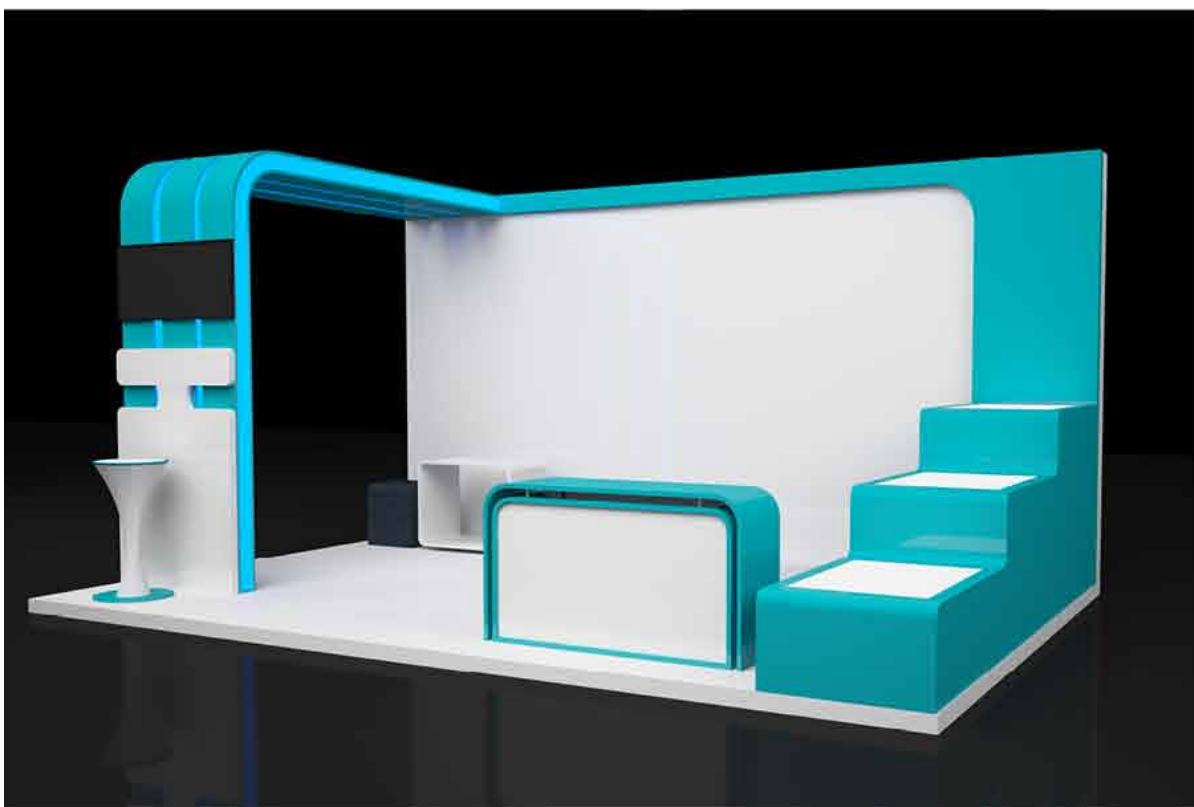
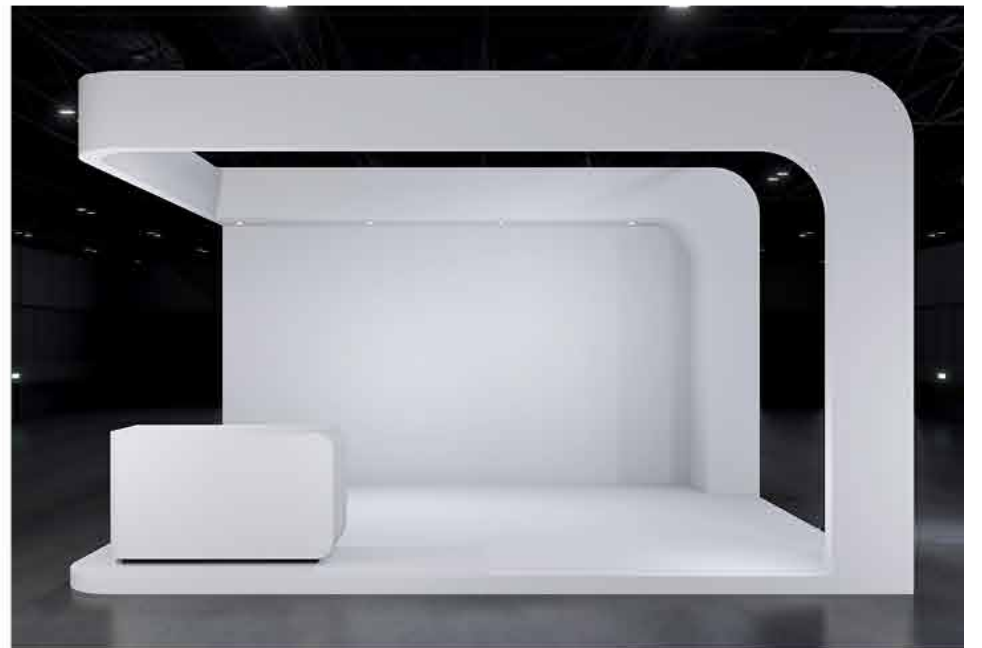
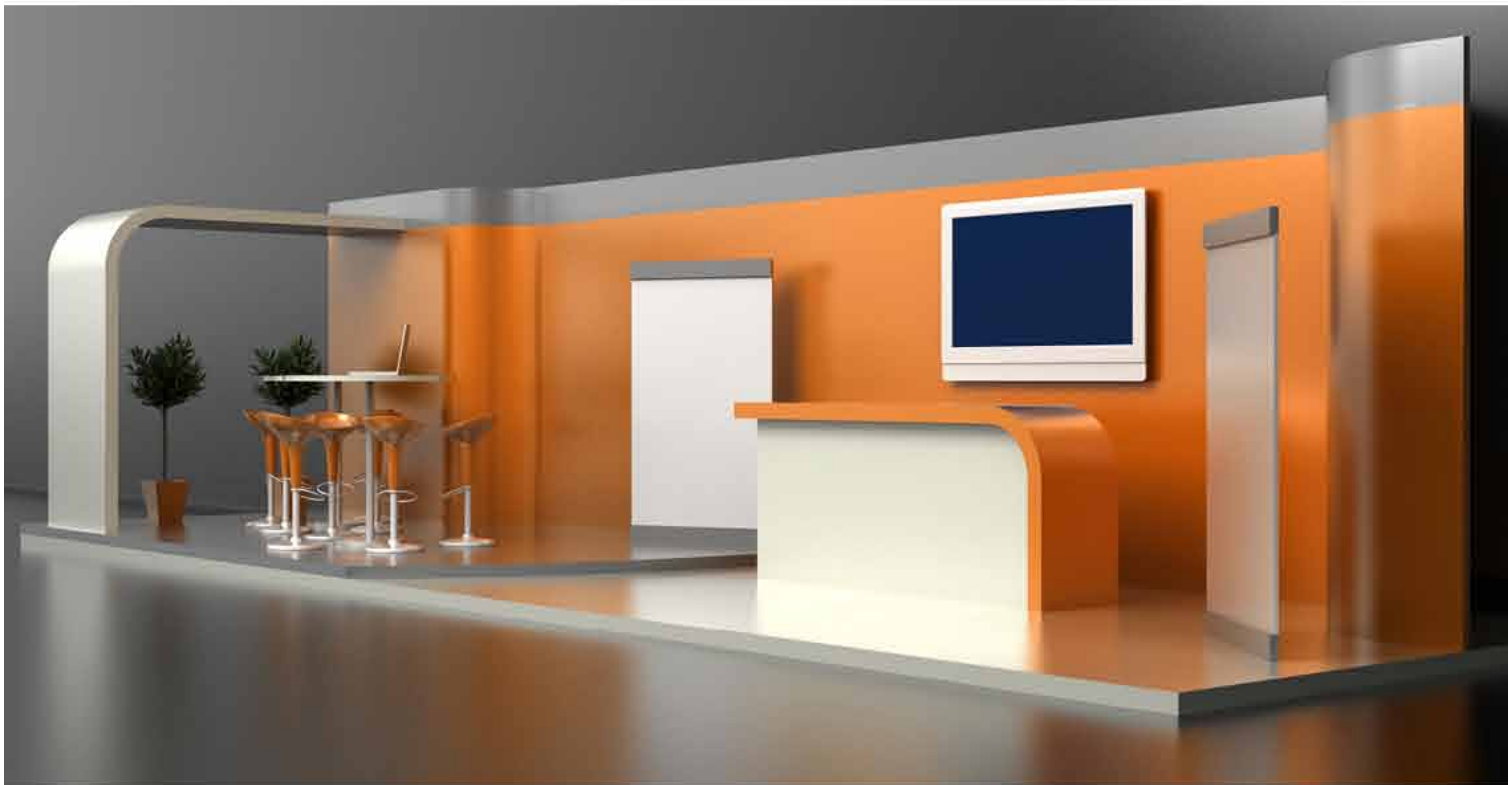
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