

3 Opaz has awarded the construction of the dual carriageway of the main road from Duqm Airport Roundabout to Ras Markaz for a total length of 51km. **>B1**



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Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:08am



Muscat Book Fair to begin on 22 February

MUSCAT: The Main Committee of Muscat International Book Fair announced that the 27th edition of the event will begin on 22 February 2023 and continue till 4 March 2023.

Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information and Chairman of the Main Committee of Muscat International Book Fair, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the upcoming round of the book fair will see the launch of an extensive range of cultural programmes. The event will have adequate depth and rich diversity that appeal to the tastes of yearning readers and knowledge seekers across different domains of thought, culture, literature and science.

The minister said, "The extravaganza constitutes an opportunity for all of us, as readers, researchers, academics and students to pursue our interests in a full-fledged manner." He pointed out that the event includes family and children's programmes that cater to their educational aspirations and skills development.

Emphasis will be laid on sciences of the future providing access to wide scopes of knowledge, he added.



Dr. Abdullah stressed that Muscat International Book Fair provides a major cultural platform for publishers, distributors and authors from Oman and abroad.

Besides the rich selection of exhibits, the book fair comprises interactive cultural events and seminars.

The 26th edition of Muscat International Book Fair attracted more than 300,000 visitors and occupies an advanced place on the map of Arab and international book fairs. — ONA

OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

<FROM A1 OCCI board winners for 2022-26 term announced

The ten chairmen of the boards of directors of the branches who were elected are Na'ef bin Hamid Fadhil (Dhofar Governorate), Saeed bin Ali Al Abri (North Al Batinah Governorate), Hamoud bin Salem Al Saadi (South Al Batinah Governorate), Saif bin Saeed Al Badi (Al Dhahirah Governorate), Mohammed bin Nasser Al Maskari (Al Sharqiyah North Governorate), Anwar bin Hamad Al Sinani (Al Sharqiyah South Governorate), Saif bin Nasser Al Tiwani (Al Dakhiliyah Governorate), Raed bin Mohammed Al-Shehi (Musandam Governorate), Zahir bin Mohammed Al Kaabi (Al Buraimi Governorate), and Salem bin Sulayem Al Jenaibi (Al Wusta Governorate).



Abdul Latheef makes history, becomes first expatriate investor to be elected on OCCI board

Times News Service:

MUSCAT: History was made as the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) polls saw the election of the first-ever expatriate board member on Tuesday.

Abdul Latheef, managing director of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, the largest private healthcare group in Oman, polled the maximum 107 votes to be elected to the sole seat as an expatriate investor on the OCCI board.

A total of 21 candidates were elected following the conclusion of the polls earlier in the evening.

Abdul Latheef beat the other eight contestants in the fray. The others in fray were Ahmed Ibrahim Khalousi, Ahmed Subhani, Amir Tawqir Mudh'har, Ahmed Mohamed Redha, Abraham (Raju) Thanangadan,



Abdul Hakkim Valanthara Mohamed, Mohammed Ahmed Al Sharqawi and Yogendra Singh Katiyar.

Latheef has promised to make the expatriate community a key partner in the economic growth of the Sultanate of Oman.

Ahead of the victory, Latheef

told *Times of Oman*: "Representation from the expat community is a historic and an important step. The move will provide significant opportunities and entrust responsibilities upon us to support the expat business community in meaningful ways and help them become a substantial partner

in the economic growth of our beloved nation."

He added: "My main aim will be to work on making the expat business community an integral part and catalyst in the realisation of Vision 2040 of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

"I would like to represent the expat business community and pursue progress in business policy and streamline businesses, legal and economic issues and suggest positive changes. I will make efforts to further strengthen the position of the Sultanate of Oman as a global player.

"Another focus will be putting thrust and exerting efforts to establish more Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for undertaking and accomplishing projects of national importance and pushing for more FIIs and FDIs in advancing various industries."

HH SHEIKH SALEM AL ALI AL SABAH INFORMATICS AWARD



Emir of Kuwait honours Omani CEO with prestigious award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the sisterly State of Kuwait, honoured Engineer Majed Al Amiri, founder and CEO of Thawani Technologies Company, for winning His Highness Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al Sabah Informatics Award at its twenty-first session (2021) in the category of Excellence in Smart Financial Solutions. This recognition comes for his efforts to establish the first financial technology company in the Sultanate of Oman, and to provide innovative products that serve the business sector and individuals alike. The award came at its twenty-first session under the title 'Excellence in Technologies and Their Uses', where the Award Authority announced the victory of four contestants for this award from the State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and the

Sultanate of Oman, and the medal was awarded to the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

In a press release, the Authority said, "The informatics awards were won by a group of distinguished technicians who distinguished themselves by using advanced smart digital technologies in the field of artificial intelligence and the Internet, in addition to providing innovative community services." It stated that the winners from the State of Kuwait are Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutawa, an academic at Kuwait University, for his distinction in the field of artificial intelligence, and Engineer Muhammad Al-Doub, for his excellence in information security, and from the United Arab Emirates, the Dubai Health Authority, for its excellence in smart health solutions, and from the Sultanate of Oman, Engineer Majid Al-Amiri, for his excellence in the field of financial technologies.

Eng. Majed Al-Amiri confirmed the importance of this award in developing informational skills and culture among institutions and individuals, as it comes in line with the recent global technological developments in the field of technology, so that it has become the strategic choice for progress and fuelling the spirit of competition, excellence and innovation in the field of information technology.

Pointing out that this honour comes in conjunction with the Sultanate of Oman's celebrations of its eighteenth National Day on the glorious November 18th, and that this honour is a mandate to exert more effort and development; to build digital products that serve humanity, and to achieve greater achievements on a global level, placing the Sultanate of Oman at the forefront of countries exporting innovations related to the financial technology sector.

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‘Green hydrogen ‘bridge’ to be new Muscat-Seoul link’



Kim Kiejoo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman

‘We wish to build on the traditional ‘energy bridge’ between South Korea and Oman and turn it into a ‘green hydrogen bridge,’ says the South Korean envoy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The strong relations and long-standing partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Korea have grown from strength to strength since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974, according to Kim Kiejoo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman.

The bilateral relations have been based on a dependable “energy bridge” following a long-term



contract for supplying Omani LNG to South Korea. South Korea is the largest off-taker of Omani LNG with 44 percent of its LNG, equivalent to 4 million tonnes annually, exported to South Korea.

Oman is the fourth-largest supplier of LNG to South Korea with a substantial share of 9.6 percent of the demand in the Korean market.

During a recent interactive session with Oman-based journalists, Kiejoo said: “We wish to build on the traditional ‘energy bridge’ between South Korea and Oman and turn it into a ‘green hydrogen bridge’.

Oman’s strong push to usher in green hydrogen industry, its rich natural conditions, geostrategic location, and well-developed infrastructure network would be enabling factors for the development of green hydrogen economy in Oman.

“South Korea also attaches great importance to developing green hydrogen economy. It legislated the Hydrogen Industry Promotion and Safety Management Act of 2020, which is the first of its kind in the world. Developing hydrogen economy including green hydrogen capacities is also one of priorities of Korea. A good number of renowned Korean firms are developing technology and seek to leverage their expertise in cooperation with Omani partners.”

As a step towards establishing the ‘green hydrogen bridge’, the Embassy of South Korea in Oman

and the H2KOREA (Hydrogen Convergence Alliance of Korea) will co-host a Korea-Oman Green Hydrogen Strategic Forum on the sidelines of the Oman Green Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition on December 5. The Forum is aimed at leveraging strategies, perspectives and best practices of South Korea and Oman in green hydrogen industry with the participation of key public and private stakeholders.

Kiejoo said the Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman have shared commitment to peace and the prosperity of the two countries has guided the relationship to their mutual benefit.

48th anniversary

He said: “This year marks the 48th anniversary of the diplomatic relations. We will continue to promote the already-strong bond of partnership in the years to come. The high-level visits between the two countries this year have further reinforced cooperation in the relevant fields. These included visits of H E Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals in September; H E Ahmed Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality last month and H E Khalifa Al Harthy, Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, also in October.”

The South Korean envoy said:

“South Korea and Oman have developed mutually beneficial economic and trade relations. The two-way trade volume has recorded US\$ 4.47 billion as of September this year, which represents 87.8 percent of year-on-year increase and is expected to grow even further by the end of this year. We are the third-largest trade partner of Oman, and the bilateral trade balance is strongly in favour of Oman. Investment exchanges have been substantial with accumulated two-way investment standing at US\$ 1.4 billion as of June this year. South Korean investment to Oman is US\$1.3 billion while Omani investment to South Korea recorded US\$ 100 million.”

He added: “His Majesty’s Sultan Haitham bin Tarik’s Oman Vision 2040 works as a guidance for redefining the collaboration between South Korean and Omani partners. The South Korean government and private sector stakeholders are more than committed to contribute to diversification of the Omani industry in close alignment with the Oman Vision 2040.”

South Korea and Oman have spared no efforts in contributing to regional and international peace and stability. “Our government has deployed the Cheonghae Unit, a naval contingent to safeguard maritime security and navigation off the Somalia and adjacent waters since 2009,” he said.

Oman-South Korea green hydrogen strategic forum to be held next month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Birba Energy, the organisers of next month’s Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) 2022 Conference & Exhibition, received in their offices in Ghala recently a delegation headed by Kim Kiejoo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman.

At a meeting that followed, Ambassador Kim shared details of the Korea-Oman Green Hydrogen Strategic Forum 2022 that will take place against the backdrop of GHSO 2022 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The latter event – a 3-day showcase of Oman’s future green hydrogen industry – will run from 5 – 7 December 2022, while the Korea-Oman forum will take place as a half-day event at the same venue on 5 December 2022.

Energy partners

Welcoming the Korean Ambassador and his colleagues, Abdullah Al Harthy, Chairman of Birba Energy, said: “We were honoured to receive Ambassador Kim and discuss with him a seamless and impactful delivery of the Korea-Oman forum as one of the highlights of the main GHSO Summit. Korea is already one of Oman’s biggest energy partners and is now exploring opportunities for cooperation with the Sultanate in the green hydrogen space as well.”

Ambassador Kim stated: “This forum will provide a great opportunity for Korea and Oman to share their respective priorities for developing their low-carbon economies. Both countries can capitalise on their competitive advantages to support each other in a mutually beneficial way to

achieve their respective national objectives. With many public and private sector stakeholders in attendance, this forum will also provide an opportunity for both sides to share perspectives, vision and best practices for green hydrogen projects in the MENA region, as well as in Korea and Oman.”

Co-hosting the forum alongside the Embassy is the Hydrogen Convergence Alliance of Korea (H2KOREA), a public-private consultative body established by the Korean government in 2017 to promote and develop the hydrogen economy.

GHSO Summit

In addition to H2KOREA, there will be presentations by high-level representatives from POSCO Holdings, Samsung Engineering and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

Speaking on behalf of Oman will be key officials representing the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, OQ Alternative Energy, Hydrom and HY-FLY.

Meanwhile, an estimated 800 delegates are due to attend the main GHSO Summit organised by Birba Energy on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

The 3-day conference and exhibition opens on 5th December 2022 with an exclusive Executive Roundtable for a select gathering of energy ministers, heads of international energy thinktanks and CEOs of global energy companies. Entry to this event, which will be held at Kempinski Hotel Muscat, is by invitation-only.

The main summit proceedings, featuring a series of conference and technical sessions, will begin at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on 6th December 2022 and last for two days.

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Discussion session reviews objectives of foreign capital investment law

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in cooperation with the Oman Economic Association organised at the Diplomatic Club a discussion session on the Foreign Capital Investment Law and its Executive Regulation.

The session is organised with the support of the views and proposals aimed to improve the investment environment in the Sultanate.

The session discussed reviewed the objectives of the foreign capital investment law, promulgated by Royal Decree No. 50/2019, which objective included showcasing the Sultanate of Oman as an investment destination capable of attracting foreign capital, boosting the Sultanate's competitiveness in international indices and making simple the procedures and licences necessary for commencement of foreign investment in the Sultanate through the Investment Services Centre at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and



Investment Promotion.

The session came within the rapid changes witnessed in the business environment and within the government efforts aimed to create legislative environment attractive to investment in all fields and which serves the objectives of the Sultanate's future outlook and boosts the competitive of the national economy at the world level.

Dr. Khalid bin Said Al Ameri, Chairman of Oman Economic Association said that the session came within requirements of the upcoming stage and for keeping abreast of the changes which occur in the business environment since issuance of the foreign capital investment law in 2019.

He said that the Oman Economic Association would coop-

erate with the government sector and the private sector and assigns experts and provide the opinion on the various economic issues and exchange information with other associations and entities. It also contributes to regulation of te rules and ethics of economic consultations profession among other issues.



MEETING

Oman and Tanzania review bilateral ties

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs received on Tuesday Nape Moses Nnauye, Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The two sides reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them in all fields. They also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by officials from both sides.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME

A1 Modern financial technologies to be used

The overall aim is to achieve the strategic objectives of the programme, with arrangements to follow up workflow of the programme and rectify its course, as needed.

The programme will focus on several themes, including the development of business system policy to realise government and private financial institutions'

contribution in economic and investment programmes and meet the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Other goals

Other goals of the programme include reviewing legal aspects to streamline the operation of the financial sector so that they could fit with the needs of the desired

transformation. The programme also seeks to raise the efficiency of the capital market, augment financial liquidity rates and opportunities to attract investments.

It will be a true enabler of the national economy. It will utilise the concepts of financial amplitude and modern financial technologies to raise the capabilities of the financial sector—both the

banking sector and the capital market sector.

It will also drive home the concept of insurance through the application of global standards based on the most successful experiences in the field of modern finance, thereby realising connectivity with regional and international financial and business institutions.



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For site visit, please contact Mr. Zahid, Director of Engineering @ 24764191, the site visit is scheduled on Monday, 28th November 2022 @ 10.00AM

Tender must be submitted in a sealed Envelope along with companies Trade License and certificates addressed to:

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1	102/2022	Supply and Installation Indoor Functional Current Transformer Switchgear At Quriyat GS.	07/12/2022	03/01/2023	Local Companies with Experience in Same Field, Have A Valid Commercial Registration.	26.250
2	106/2022	Supply Spare Parts for OETC Network	07/12/2022	03/01/2023	Local Companies with Experience in Same Field, Have A Valid Commercial Registration.	52.500

Participation:	Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity Apply on E-tendering
Buying the Tender:	By E-Tendering System
Fees:	Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document. (Payment Through Bank Transfer)
The deadline for clarification:	Before (21) Days from closing date.
Submission:	The submission of hard copy will be only for Bid Bond & other documents by E-Tendering
Terms and conditions:	- No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope. - The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from closing date. - The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from closing date, addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC). - Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted. - OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.
Offer:	The bid bond should be submitted in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.
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TAX MEASURES

Japan panel calls for more taxes to boost military spending

TOKYO: The Japanese government should start new tax measures to pay for a hike in defence spending prompted by regional security threats, notably from China, a panel of experts advising Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday.

The experts' advice comes as Kishida's administration is looking for ways to fulfill its pledge

on boosting the defence budget, which would result in Japan's biggest military buildup since WWII. Kishida is set to announce a revised national security strategy and midterm defense buildup plan by the end of the year. His Liberal Democratic Party is aiming to double military spending to around 2% of gross domestic product over the

next five years. That would mean a defence budget worth 10 trillion yen (€68.1 billion; \$70 billion). The plans come as Tokyo sees regional security undermined not only by neighboring China but North Korea and Russia as well. "Recognising that the entire nation must cooperate in this, it is necessary to win public understanding with a range of tax measures that spread the burden," the panel's report said.

However, it also urged the government to curb other spending to bolster the country's public financial security. Possible tax measures may include both more corporate tax from businesses and imposing higher income taxes on individuals. **rw**

Death toll in Indonesia's earthquake soars to over 250, hundreds injured

President Widodo offered his condolences, stressing that he has ordered the government to provide financial assistance to the victims

JAKARTA: Rescue operations continued in Indonesia's island of Java on Tuesday as the president visited the site of the 5.6-magnitude quake which local officials now say claimed over 250 lives. President Joko Widodo offered his condolences, stressing that he has ordered the government to provide financial assistance to those whose homes were impacted. The president made his way to the Cianjur area by car "to ensure that access roads that were closed due to the earthquake have reopened." This would clear the way for any needed food, medicine or other aid.



The earthquake severed several roads leading to the largely rural, mountainous region, also causing a power outage. By Tuesday, 89% of electricity was restored.

Death toll discrepancy Cianjur town's local government announced that the latest death toll from the quake rose to 252 in an Instagram post on Tuesday. It added that 31 more remain missing, in addition to 377 injured, the Reuters news agency reported. However, the Indonesian Na-

tional Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) had earlier reported a death toll of 162. The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) cited an even smaller figure of 103, in addition to 31 people missing. The spokesman of the BNPB agency justified the discrepancy by suggesting that some bodies were initially counted three times. Over 7,000 people were displaced by the earthquake, the Reuters news agency cited the local

government as saying. Cianjur, a town with roughly 175,000 people, is located in a mountainous district of the same name with over 2.5 million inhabitants. The town is known for having a large number of mosques and Islamic boarding schools. Indonesia is situated on the so-called "Ring of Fire" — a region around the rim of the Pacific Basin that is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The country of 270 million is frequently struck by quakes. **rw**

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TWITTER BLUE

Musk announces 'holding off' relaunch of Twitter Blue

WASHINGTON: Twitter CEO Elon Musk on Tuesday announced that he is putting on hold the relaunch of Blue verified until there is high confidence of stopping impersonation. He made the announcement through a tweet. Elon Musk stated that Twitter might use different colour checks for organisations and individuals. Taking to his official Twitter handle, Musk said, "Holding off relaunch of Blue Verified until there is high confidence of stopping impersonation. Will probably use different color check for organizations than individuals." After taking over the microblogging site, Musk had announced the ability for users to purchase a blue tick verified through Twitter Blue. Despite getting internal warnings from Twitter's own trust and safety staff, Musk's plan resulted in the impersonation of high-profile accounts, including Twitter's advertisers, The Verge reported. After Musk took over Twitter, the microblogging site has been adding and removing separate, grey checkmarks on high-profile accounts without explaining the reason. On Monday, Elon Musk told Twitter employees that the company will not relaunch its paid verification subscription, Twitter Blue until they are "confident about significant impersonations not happening." The Verge cited a recording of his remarks. Last week, Elon Musk said that his \$8 per month Blue subscription will be made available on No-



vember 29. However, in his meeting with employees, he confirmed that the timing of the launch of Blue verified was not clear, as per The Verge report. In his meeting with Twitter employees, Elon Musk said, "We might launch it next week. We might not. But we're not going to launch until there's high confidence in protecting against those significant impersonations," The Verge reported. Elon Musk in his meeting with Twitter employees on Monday said that the company will "probably" need to give "institutions and companies" a "different colour check." However, he did not give further details regarding the plan. Musk stressed any social media platform according to him "is going to be vulnerable to bots and trolls" until there is payment introduced to increase the "cost of bots and trolls significantly." Meanwhile, Elon Musk in a tweet on November 22 claimed that Twitter has added 1.6 million daily active users in the past week. **ANI**

CONDEMNED

India condemns ballistic missile launches by North Korea at UN Security Council

NEW YORK: India on Monday condemned the recent ballistic missile launches by North Korea at the United Nations Security Council. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said that the recent intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) "affect the peace and security of the region and beyond." Incidentally, this was the second meeting on DPRK after Pyongyang fired an intercontinental ballistic missile. The isolated country fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) toward the East Sea last Friday, the South Korean military said, in protest over the United States move to reinforce its "extended deterrence" protection of South Korea and Japan. Attending the site with his daughter and wife, Kim said threats from the United States and its allies pursuing a hostile policy prompted his country to "substantially accelerate the bolstering of its overwhelming nuclear deterrence," reported The Jerusalem Post. "Kim Jong Un solemnly declared that if the enemies continue to pose threats ... our party and government will resolutely react to nukes with nuclear weapons and to total confrontation with all-out confrontation," the official KCNA news agency said. "India condemns the recent ICBM launch by the DPRK. This follows other ballistic missile launches in the preceding month, following which the Security Council had met," said Kamboj, adding "These launches constitute a violation of resolutions of Security Council relating to the DPRK. They affect the peace and security



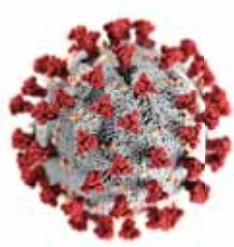
of the region and beyond." The launch is presumed to have involved the Hwasong-17 ICBM, according to Yonhap, the same ICBM was test-fired on November 3, but the launch was seen as a failure. The launch of the Hwasong-17 ICBM was confirmed by the north and was part of a "top-priority defence-building strategy" aimed at building "the most powerful and absolute nuclear deterrence," KCNA said, calling it "the strongest strategic weapon in the world." The Hwasong-17 ICBM was called a "monster" of a missile for its sheer size. It is able to carry multiple warheads and has a range of around 15,000 km, according to North Korea, long enough to reach the entire US mainland, reported The Jerusalem Post. She further called for full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council relations, relating

to the DPRK. "We would also like to reiterate once again the importance of addressing the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies related to the DPRK. The proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies is a matter of concern, as they have an adverse impact on peace and security in the region, including India. We hope that the international community and the Security Council can be united on this front," said the Indian envoy. Kamboj also reiterated India's continued support for denuclearization toward peace and security in the Korean peninsula. "Ensuring peace and security in the Koran peninsula is in our collective interest, going forward we will continue to support dialogue and diplomacy as the means to resolve the issues in the peninsula," she added. **ANI**

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHO to identify pathogens that could cause future outbreaks, pandemics

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) is launching a global scientific process to update the list of priority pathogens—agents that can cause outbreaks or pandemics—to guide global investment, research and development (R&D), especially in vaccines, tests and treatments. In a statement, the WHO on Monday said that starting with a meeting held last Friday, November 18, WHO is convening over 300 scientists who will consider the evidence on over 25 virus families and bacteria, as well as "Disease X." Disease X is included to indicate an unknown pathogen that could cause a serious international epidemic. The experts will recommend a list of priority pathogens that need further research and investment. The process will include both scientific and public health criteria, as well as criteria related to socioeconomic impact, access, and equity. The list was first published in 2017 and the last prioritization



exercise was done in 2018. The current list includes COVID-19, Crimean-Cong haemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Nipah and henipaviral diseases, Rift Valley fever, Zika and Disease X. "Targeting priority pathogens and virus families for research and development of countermeasures is essential for a fast and effective epidemic and pandemic response. Without significant R&D investments prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it

would not have been possible to have safe and effective vaccines developed in record time," said Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme. For those pathogens identified as priority, the WHO R&D Blueprint for epidemics has developed R&D roadmaps, which lay out knowledge gaps and research priorities. Where relevant, target product profiles, which inform developers about the desired specifications for vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests, are developed. Efforts are also made to map, compile and facilitate clinical trials to develop these tools. Complimentary efforts - such as to strengthen regulatory and ethics oversight - are also considered. "This list of priority pathogens has become a reference point for the research community on where to focus energies to manage the next threat," said Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist. **ANI**

FREE TRADE

Australia ratifies free trade pact with UK

CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday said that the country's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Britain has passed through its parliament. "BREAKING: Our Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom has passed through parliament," Anthony Albanese announced in a tweet. The deal, which was earlier agreed upon by the UK Prime Minister in June was finally signed today in a virtu-

al format by the UK International Trade Secretary, the official website of the UK government said. This trade deal, a first 'from scratch' since UK's exit from European Union (EU), will benefit the UK by eliminating most tariffs on UK exports and unlock 10.4 billion pounds of additional trade. As per the official website of the UK government, the final trade deal was signed in a virtual ceremony by International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan

on Friday morning and will now be laid in the UK Parliament for a period of scrutiny. Notably, the free trade agreement deal between Australia and the UK will generate new opportunities for businesses for both countries. Moreover, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Tuesday that the Australian parliament has passed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) deal with India. **ANI**





FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022



SAUDI'S FOOTBALLING ZENITH



Green Falcons' win over Argentina would be every Saudi football fan's proudest moment

MUSCAT: Saeed Al Owairan described his swashbuckling goal against Belgium at USA 1994 as “a Saudi miracle”. And it was. The attacking midfielder hot-footed across the Robert F Kennedy Memorial Stadium, slaloming past opponents from inside his own half into Belgium's penalty area, before slamming the ball into the roof of a net guarded by no less than Michel Preud'homme, who would win the Lev Yashin Award at that very tournament. It is, astonishingly, no longer top of the list of Saudi miracles. Today, a 90-minute supernatural

occurrence dethroned 10 seconds of genius. Saudi Arabia went into their Group C opener as the immeasurable underdogs. Argentina had gone 36 games unbeaten and needed just one more to equal Italy's world record. With a backline that had kept 13 clean sheets in its last 15 internationals, and an attack featuring Angel Di Maria, Lautaro Martinez and Lionel Messi, that was a given. Furthermore, Asian sides had been overwhelmed in their first two outings at Qatar 2022, with Ecuador cruising to victory over the hosts and England thrashing Iran 6-2. And it seemed a question not of the outcome, but of how many Argentina would win by in the early stages. Lionel Messi put them 1-0 up from the spot after 10 minutes, and Lionel Scaloni's side had three goals disallowed for offside. The Saudis, however, didn't let

their heads drop. Whatever coach Herve Renard said at half-time, it sent them out optimistic. Expectant even. Saleh Al Shehri, within minutes, equalised. Soon after, having magically kept the ball from three Argentinians, Salem Al Dawsari made it 2-1. Thereafter it was down to defensive heroics. Ali Al Bulaihi and Hassan Al Tambakti were rocks at the heart of the rearguard. Goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais made several outstanding saves. The final whistle sounded and Saudi Arabia had pulled off one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history – one that gives them a great chance of reaching the knockout phase for the first time since 1994. Italy's world record had been preserved. Saeed Al Owairan's distinction had been lost. Not that he will care in the slightest. Tuesday was not only the Green Falcons' zenith, but every Saudi football fan's proudest moment. - [fifa.com](#)



THE GREATEST WORLD CUP UPSETS

In its near 100-year history, the FIFA World Cup has seen many shock results, including Tuesday's win of Saudi Arabia over Argentina. Several unfancied teams have pulled off unlikely wins against illustrious opponents. Here is a look at some of those upset victories

- Italy 0-1 Costa Rica, Brazil 2014
- France 0-1 Senegal, Korea / Japan 2002
- South Korea 2-1 Italy, Korea / Japan 2002
- Spain 2-3 Nigeria, France 1998
- Brazil 1-2 Norway, France 1998
- Argentina 0-1 Cameroon, Italy 1990
- West Germany 1-2 Algeria, Spain 1982
- East Germany 1-0 West Germany, Germany 1974
- Italy 0-1 North Korea, England 1966
- England 0-1 USA, Brazil 1950

TODAY'S MATCHES

Group F	Group E	Group E	Group F
2pm (Oman time)	5pm	8pm	11 pm
MOROCCO vs CROATIA	GERMANY vs JAPAN	SPAIN vs COSTA RICA	BELGIUM vs CANADA
Al Bayt Stadium	Khalifa International Stadium	Al Thumama Stadium	Ahmed Bin Ali Stadium



FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

TEAM STANDING

as of November 22, 8pm

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

Group C								
COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Argentina	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	

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

Group D								
COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	
Tunisia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Denmark	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

GROUP D MATCH

No goals as Denmark fail to hit stride against Tunisia

DOHA: Denmark and Tunisia served up the first goalless draw of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in an exciting match in which either side could have snatched the win at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan on Tuesday. Despite fielding many Premier League regulars, the much-fancied Danes were given a tough workout in Group D. Both sides had goals ruled out for offside, while Denmark's Andreas Cornelius somehow missed from a yard. The best chances of the first half fell to the Tunisians - Mohamed Drager's heavily deflected shot almost dipped in and Kasper Schmeichel pulled off an excellent save to deny Issam Jebali – but it was in the second half where the golden chance fell. As Andreas Christensen rose to head a corner goalwards, his namesake Cornelius dived for the ball. Whether the outcome would have been different had he led with his foot rather than his head it cannot be known, but with it seeming like an opening goal was certain it was the striker who ended up across the goal line rather than the ball. Jesper Lindstrom's late, swirling cross-come-shot proved the final unsuccessful sight of goal. There was 95th-minute drama when Mexican referee Cesar Ramos checked the pitch side monitor over a potential Denmark penalty as Montassar Talbi had possibly handled the ball. This game, which had entertained but not found its route to a winner, was offering a last chance for victory. However, the Mexican referee waved away the claim only to stick with his original



decision and award a goal-kick and the two sides shared the spoils. The match witnessed 19-year-old Hannibal Mejbri became just the second teenager to play for Tunisia in a FIFA World Cup match following Yasin Chikhaoui against Saudi Arabia in 2006. - [fifa.com](#)

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Late goals from
Cody Gakpo and
Davy Klaassen
guided the Dutch
past Senegal in a
Group A match

DOHA: Following his side's loss to Netherlands in their FIFA World Cup 2022 opener on Monday, Senegal manager Aliou Cisse said that the side is disappointed in not being able to score and absence of star striker Sadio Mane is a problem for them.

Late goals from Cody Gakpo and Davy Klaassen guided a spirited Netherlands to a 2-0 victory over Senegal in the Group A match here at Al Thumama Stadium.

"We are disappointed to have not scored, we had two or three very good chances. We needed to be more effective in front of the goal," said Cisse as quoted by Sky Sports after the match.

"Ismaila (Sarr) and Krepin (Diatta) are responsible there, but of course, the absence of (Sadio) Mane is a problem for us... Our attackers are good and we know what they are capable of."

"It was a challenging game... We need to work on it (scoring goals) with Ismaila and the others. We expect a lot from him and Krepin," he concluded.

Mane is not playing in this tournament due to an injury, though he was included in the squad initially.

The contest was tight and the two teams were unable to score for the most part of the match. The teams made several moves but each time the ball missed the goal or was put out. The breakthrough came for the Netherlands in the 84th minute through a strike by Gakpo.

The Dutch were playing

their first World Cup match since 2014, failing to qualify for the tournament's previous edition in Russia in 2018.

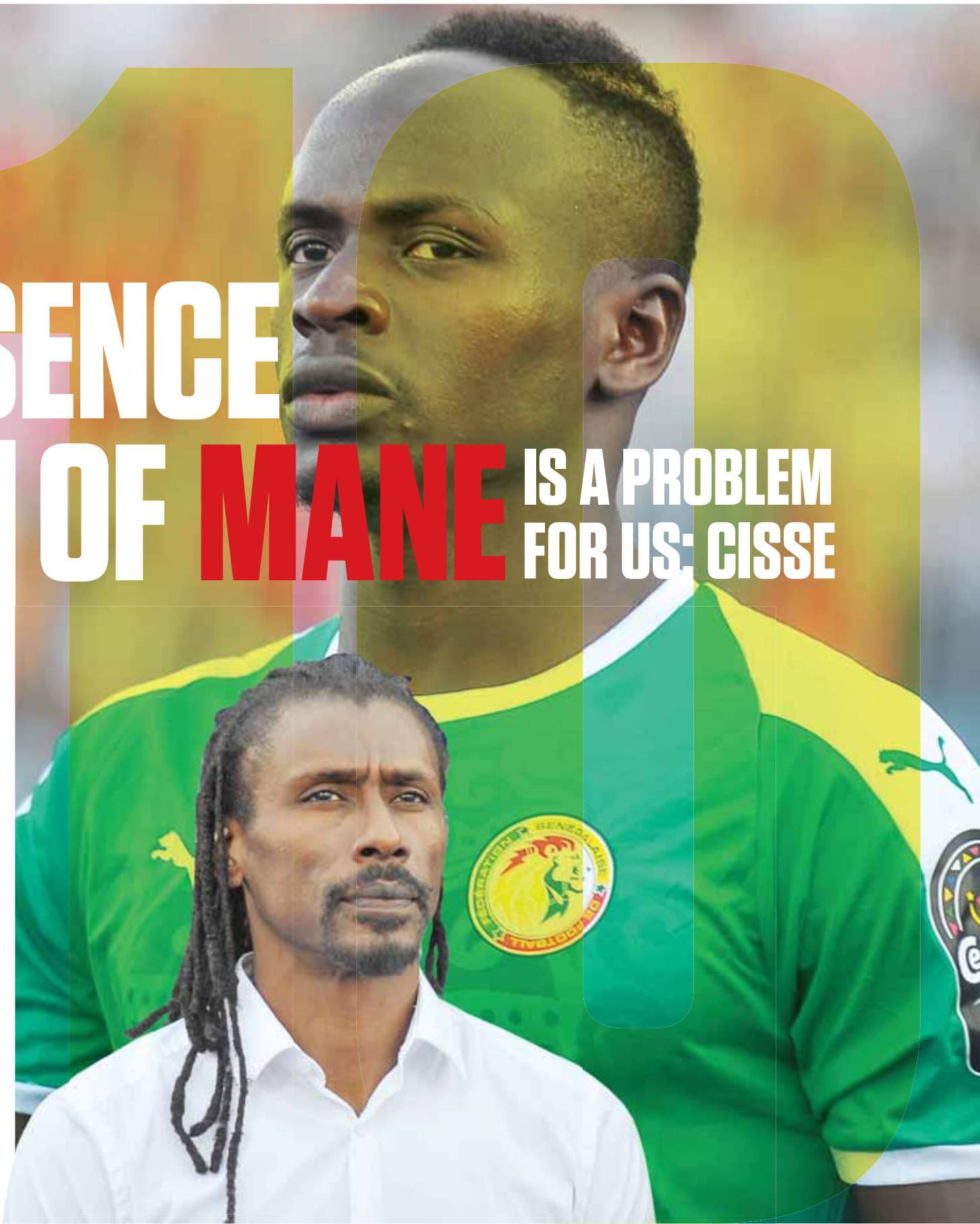
The Netherlands failed to convert their chances into the goal and the first half ended in a deadlock. While the Dutch team seemed to have an edge in the first half, it looked to have lost some steam in the second half.

Gakpo's goal was also a result of poor goalkeeping by Eduard Mendy as he went out to punch the ball and completely missed it. Gakpo's header was on target as the Netherlands opened their account.

In the stoppage time, Memphis Depay's shot forced Eduard Mendy to parry to Davy Klaassen, who provided a comfortable tap-in to make it 2-0 for the Netherlands.

The Dutch are on top of Group A with Ecuador, who scored a 2-0 win over Qatar in the tournament's opening match on Sunday.

There was not much to choose from in terms of ball possession as the Netherlands had 53 per cent in comparison to Senegal which had 47. Senegal had four shots on target while the Netherlands had only three. -ANI



GROUP B MATCH

LATE PENALTY STRIKE BY BALE HELPS WALES SECURE A DRAW AGAINST USA



DOHA: A late penalty by striker Gareth Bale helped Wales earn a point in the 1-1 draw against USA in their FIFA World Cup 2022 campaign opener on Monday.

The Welsh side was left staring at a defeat in their first World Cup match in 64 years, but Bale converted the penalty into a goal with just a few minutes to go for full-time to secure a point in Group B.

The USA dominated early phases of the match and could have had the lead in nine minutes, but Joe Rodon's header, directed towards his own goal, was

kept out by Wayne Hennessey and Josh Sargent nodded against the post just shortly after.

USA earned their breakthrough in the 36th minute after Christian Pulisic got some space to slip a pass to Timothy Weah, who netted the ball past Hennessey into the bottom corner of the goal. The USA were up 1-0.

At the end of the first half, Wales was totally overwhelmed and manager Rob Page brought Kieffer Moore to the pitch at the break in place of an ineffective Dan James.

In the 65th minute, opportunity knocked on the door for

Wales, but Moore's header went just over the bar.

With eight minutes to go, Bale got himself in front of Walker Zimmerman in the box, got tripped and won a penalty, which he gracefully converted, sending the ball past Matt Turner.

England are currently the Group B table topper following their dominant 6-2 win over Iran. Wales are at second spot while the USA are at third with one point each. Wales will face Iran next on Friday and the USA will take on England on the same day in evening. -ANI



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by January 2023 reaching \$82.32, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 86 cents from the price of Monday, which was at \$81.46. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,504.49 points, up by 0.09 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.10 per cent at 462.50 points. Oman Chromite, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser.

Opaz awards key dual carriageway project in Duqm

The road will connect those coming from the south to the central area of Sezad and it will serve the growing movement of people and cargo between strategic projects in the zone



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Complementing the implementation of the strategic road network within the comprehensive plan of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) has awarded the construction of the dual carriageway of the main road from Duqm Airport Roundabout to Ras Markaz, a total length of 51km.

Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, Chief Executive Officer in charge of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, explained that the project

to develop the dual carriageway of the main road from Duqm Airport to Ras Markaz is one of the important projects proposed within the main road network in Sezad, as this road connects the southern part of the zone, which includes Ras Markaz reservoirs project, one of the most vital projects in the Zone, and Dhahr village with Duqm Airport roundabout.

The road will connect those coming from the south to the central area of Sezad and it will serve the growing movement of people and cargo between strategic projects in the zone.

Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, added, that the total lengths of the roads are 51- km, including 45 - km long dual carriageways and 6km of single carriageways.

The scope of work of the road project includes the development of a road junction to Ras Markaz as the starting point of the project, as the road consists of four traffic lanes, two lanes in each direction.

The two directions are separated by a hardscaped centre median with shoulders on both sides for each direction, in addition to eight roundabouts.

The project also comprises the installation of smart lighting (LED) poles and road signs. The road was designed with high specifications to avoid the accumulation of surface water and flooding, through the construction of concrete bridges for wadis.

In addition, 10 per cent of the total value of the road construction works will be allocated to SMEs.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR2mn issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR2 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from November 23 until December 21.

The average accepted price reached 99.820 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.820 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 2.34643 per cent and 2.35066 per cent, respectively.

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



It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.50 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury

Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.00 per cent.

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**

COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYEES

Oman Cables offers its employees inclusive share ownership plan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cables Industry (OCI), Oman's leading manufacturer of energy cables and innovative service provider, celebrated the 52nd Oman National Day demonstrating a renewed commitment to employees by rolling out a company share-based variable remuneration and profit-sharing plan.

This scheme is rolled out by Prysmian Group - the strategic partner of OCI - and is based on an on/off condition in achieving the specific local and regional target, awarding the employees with receiving Prysmian Group shares.

Targeting a wide employee base with a focus on blue-collar workers, OCI's share-based plan will serve as a core driver to improve employee engagement, foster a sense of belonging, encourage employees to excel in their roles and maintain alignment with Prysmian Group's framework for future success while promoting stability. The plan is part of OCI's 'Empowerment, Innovation and Excellence' vision, which extends from its products and services to the opportunities available to its workforce.

employee engagement, foster a sense of belonging, encourage employees to excel in their roles and maintain alignment with Prysmian Group's framework for future success while promoting stability. The plan is part of OCI's 'Empowerment, Innovation and Excellence' vision, which extends from its products and services to the opportunities available to its workforce.

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CORPORATE PROCUREMENT

Saudi Aramco signs 59 new agreements worth \$11 billion

DHAHRAN: Saudi Aramco signed 59 corporate procurement agreements (CPAs) with 51 local and global manufacturers, with the potential to create 5,000 new jobs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the next decade.

The agreements, valued at \$11 billion, are expected to reinforce Aramco's robust supply chain and result in the development of materials manufacturing facilities in the Kingdom.

The 59 CPAs cover multiple strategic commodities, such as drilling chemicals, wellheads, switchgear, vibration monitoring systems, pipes, compressors, structure steel, fittings and flanges, and air-cooled heat exchangers.

Among the companies signing the agreements were Baker Hughes, Cameron Al Rushaid, Halliburton, SLB, and TechnipFMC. The CPAs fall under a strategic pillar of the Aramco in-Kingdom Total Value Add program (iktva), wherein they are used to establish long-term agreements and commitments with supplier partners. - **SPA**

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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Oman Chromite, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,504.49 points, up by 0.09 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.10 per cent at 462.50 points. Oman Chromite, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser. Prices of Bank Muscat Perpetual Bonds 1 was up by 7.61 per cent. 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 475 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.69 million, with more than 8.14 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 11 advanced, 16 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR383,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR279,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR105,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,273.59 points, up 0.05 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, Taageer Finance and National Bank Oman

were up by 2.14 per cent, 1.08 per cent and 1.07 per cent respectively. Prices of Vision Insurance, Muscat Finance, Bank Muscat and Bank Nizwa were down by 10.00 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.79 per cent and 1.05 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,099.50 points, up 0.24 per cent. Prices of Oman Chromite, Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 10.00 per cent, 3.03 per cent, 2.31 per cent and 1.94 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy and Oman Flour Mills were down by 3.50 per cent, 1.06 per cent and 0.66 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.15 per cent before closing at 1,538.81 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Muscat Desalination and Oman Telecom were up by 7.41 per cent, 1.74 per cent and 0.96 per cent respectively. Prices of National Gas, Al Maha Marketing, Barka Desalination, Shell Oman Marketing, and Oman National Engineering were down by 4.76 per cent, 2.60 per cent, 1.47 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.91 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,526.59	4,476.64	4,504.49	4,500.55	3.94	0.09
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,312.47	7,229.35	7,273.59	7,269.90	3.70	0.05
Industry Index	6,107.46	6,080.65	6,099.50	6,084.63	14.87	0.24
Services Index	1,542.41	1,536.59	1,538.81	1,541.09	-2.28	-0.15
MSX Shariah Index	463.38	461.91	462.50	462.06	0.44	0.10
MSX TR INDEX	5,711.13	5,648.10	5,683.24	5,678.26	4.97	0.09
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,651.69	7,564.70	7,611.00	7,607.13	3.87	0.05
SERVICES TR IDX	1,612.48	1,606.39	1,608.71	1,611.09	-2.38	-0.15
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,358.63	6,330.71	6,350.33	6,334.85	15.48	0.24

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,143,469	1,690,542	475	23,356,466,905	11	16	17	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFF	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002168	35,100	11,589	4	0.340	0.340	0.330	0.340	0.330	0.010	3.030	0.340	0.330	0.340	0.100	74,800,000
OM0000002200	20,916	2,994	4	0.144	0.144	0.141	0.143	0.140	0.003	2.143	0.143	0.141	0.141	0.100	278,198,018
OM0000002176	1,860	391	1	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.206	0.004	1.942	0.210	0.205	0.212	0.100	26,228,572
OM0000003281	47,000	4,391	6	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.094	0.100	0.100	24,314,209
OM0000001483	343,130	97,758	18	0.288	0.288	0.283	0.283	0.280	0.003	1.071	0.283	0.283	0.285	0.100	460,142,819
OM0000003026	61,562	52,062	16	0.844	0.848	0.844	0.844	0.836	0.008	0.857	0.844	0.844	0.848	0.100	633,000,000
OM0000001087	0	0	1	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.000	0.000	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.100	28,500,000
OM0000001525	100,000	13,000	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000001707	10,000	15,900	7	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	0.000	0.000	1.590	1.520	1.590	0.100	142,623,000
OM0000001749	81,771	24,288	7	0.297	0.298	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.000	0.000	0.297	0.297	0.320	0.100	98,289,195
OM0000003398	502,000	51,206	2	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	468,186,354
OM0000003968	79,306	31,331	23	0.396	0.396	0.394	0.394	0.396	-0.002	-0.505	0.394	0.392	0.394	0.100	256,472,027
OM0000001400	24,894	14,836	2	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.604	-0.004	-0.662	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.100	94,500,000
OM0000003224	102,843	47,305	4	0.460	0.460	0.456	0.456	0.460	-0.004	-0.870	0.456	0.456	0.460	0.100	107,802,960
OM0000001152	529,981	58,213	14	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.105	0.110	0.100	15,260,000
OM0000002796	2,260,840	626,594	117	0.280	0.281	0.274	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.100	1,002,064,259,192
OM0000003000	64,440	57,996	3	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.924	-0.024	-2.597	0.900	0.900	0.924	0.100	62,100,000
Total	17	4,267,643	1,110,494	231											

Parallel Market

OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	332	730	1	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.000	0.200	10.000	2.200	2.200	0.000	1.000	6,600,000
OM0000004735	SEBMCORP SALALAH	95,883	5,491	8	0.056	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.054	0.004	7.407	0.058	0.055	0.058	0.100	55,365,173
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	255,000	45,533	22	0.177	0.179	0.177	0.177	0.173	0.004	2.312	0.177	0.177	0.178	0.100	35,928,601
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	7,000	819	3	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.115	0.002	1.739	0.117	0.117	0.110	0.100	18,199,397
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	2,530	256	3	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.000	0.101	0.100	18,389,918
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	128,750	9,530	8	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	15,900,000
OM0000002036	Muscat Thread MILL	9,900	545	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.000	0.100	883,996
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	15,000	7,514	3	0.500	0.514	0.500	0.514	0.514	0.000	0.000	0.514	0.500	0.514	0.100	35,005,281
OM0000002549	BANK DHOHAR	305,300	45,792	10	0.150	0.150	0.141	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.144	0.150	0.100	449,452,715
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	9,816	825	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	200,780	7,228	7	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.100	24,295,947
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,112,765	39,383	45	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.100	25,004,222
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	32,856	6,163	10	0.180	0.195	0.178	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.180	0.195	0.100	19,500,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	28,400	2,065	3	0.069	0.074	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	32,511,861
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	54,800	6,362	4	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.116	0.117	-0.001	-0.855	0.116	0.116	0.117	0.100	49,273,345
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	160	129	1	0.808	0.808	0.808	0.816	0.808	0.008	0.808	0.808	0.880	0.808	0.100	76,760,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	830,000	87,858	16	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.094	0.096	0.100	210,273,585
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	52,916	4,951	6	0.094	0.094	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.001	-1.054	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	7,770,456
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	2,000	268	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.136	-0.002	-1.471	0.134	0.134	0.143	0.100	10,119,948
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	20,850	1,143	4	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.056	-0.001	-1.786	0.055	0.054	0.056	0.100	16,893,048
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	5,000	464	2	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.002	-2.128	0.092	0.092	0.097	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	20,000	2,180	2	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.112	-0.003	-2.679	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.100	10,900,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	16,000	2,208	4	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.143	-0.005	-3.497	0.138	0.135	0.138	0.100	27,600,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	212,821	21,292	13	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.105	-0.005	-4.762	0.100	0.101	0.110	0.100	8,500,000
Total		3,516,859	298,729	178												

ENERGY CRISIS

France bets on floating offshore wind energy

PARIS: On a recent Monday morning, a group of journalists visited what could be the beginning of a new energy era in the port of Fos-sur-Mer on the French Mediterranean coast. It's here that one of France's four floating wind farm pilot projects is taking shape. The country aims to take the lead in this sector. But technical and financial challenges abound. Floating offshore wind farms feature turbines mounted atop floating platforms that are moored to the ground — as opposed to towers atop foundations installed on the seabed like in conventional, so-called bottom-fixed offshore wind farms. The pilot project's size is limited to 25 megawatts. A nuclear reactor is 40 times bigger with a capacity of roughly 1,000 megawatts (one gigawatt). But floating offshore wind energy is a bearer of hope; unlike existing renewables, it could produce electricity 24/7. "Traditional offshore wind farms can only be constructed in up to 50 meters of water, but there's no such limitation for



Christine de Jouette from EDF Renewables is betting big on floating offshore wind farms. -wv

floating platforms. They can be installed further away from the coast where the wind is stronger," Christine de Jouette, project director of Provence Grande Large at EDF Renewables, told DW. "These wind farms could be key to reaching carbon neutrality," she added looking at the three yellow-grey 45-meter high and 80-meter wide metal structures behind her. EDF Renewables and its co-developers, the Canadian energy

company Enbridge and the UK's CDP Investment, are investing €300 million (\$308 million) in the pilot wind farm, which will be installed 17 kilometres off the coast in about 100 meters of water. Amongst the roughly 140 people working at the construction site to get the project running by next year was a team from platform provider SBM Offshore. The Dutch company has been mainly active in the oil and gas sector but

is now hoping to supply platforms for 2GW of floating offshore wind projects by 2030. That would represent 25 per cent of its business. "With the war in Ukraine, every country needs to be independent in terms of energy — there's real interest in a balanced energy mix around the world," Stephanie St Hill, commercial director for renewables at SBM Offshore, told DW, adding that the demand for floating offshore wind platforms had gone up since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. "We can see that this energy type will be part of the future mix," she emphasised. Renewables are indeed thought to be one of the solutions to the current energy crisis caused by the Ukraine war. In France, fears of blackouts during the winter are mounting as several nuclear reactors remain offline for maintenance or repairs. Nuclear energy normally accounts for about 70 per cent of France's electricity production. -DW

5G: THE NEXT WAVE REPORT

Metaverse among 6 key consumer trends driving 5G adoption in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 5G adoption is setting the path to the metaverse in the future, according to the new 5G: The Next Wave report from Ericsson ConsumerLab. The report forecasts that Consumer 5G adoption will be inflation-resilient as 32 per cent of users in Oman intend to upgrade to 5G subscription in the next 12 months. Around 9 in 10 existing 5G users in Oman say that despite rising costs they are not willing to go back to 4G. As Oman consumers' 5G upgrade intention remains strong, service providers need to do more to drive interest in 5G. The second consumer trend calls to motivate 5G adoption by providing innovative services to early adopters. Oman 5G adoption today is driven by tech early adopters as only 8 per cent are on 5G today. When 5G penetration reaches approximately 15 per cent, the next wave of users emerges. These are mainstream tech adopters who are less forgiving, value conscious and demanding. Findings reveal that 1 in 4 5G potential users see higher speed as the most important reason for signing up for 5G and 4 times as many 5G early adopters compared to potential subscribers identify innovative applications and services as their main reason

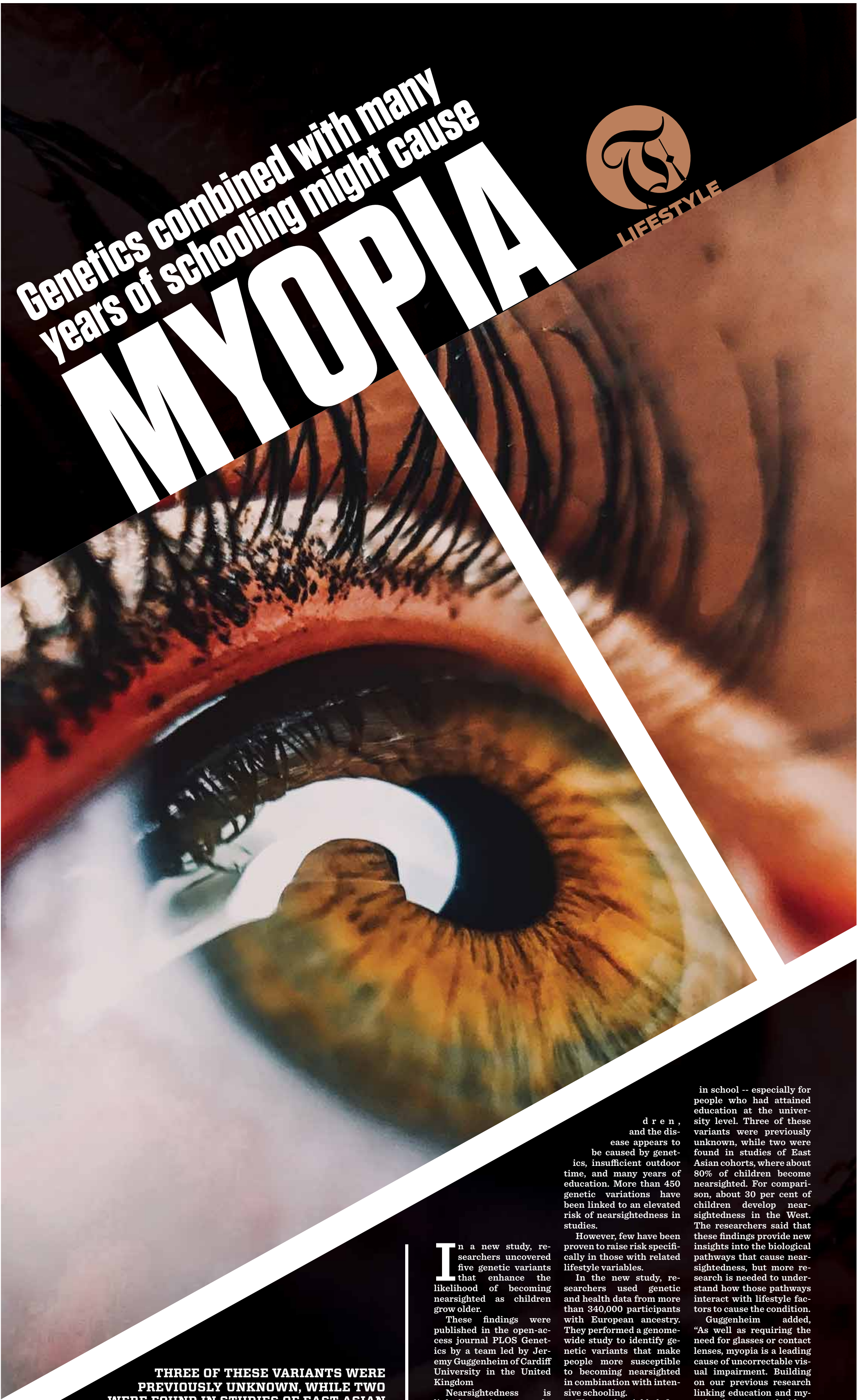


Abdullah Al-Balushi

for signing up. The third trend highlights the gap between 5G population coverage and consumer perceptions of 5G availability. While Oman has 5G population coverage of 50 per cent, only 32 per cent of 5G users typically perceive being connected to 5G more than 50 per cent of the time. Of those with high 5G perceived availability, 77 per cent say they are satisfied with 5G. Abdullah Al-Balushi, Country

Manager of Ericsson Oman says: "This is our biggest 5G study to date representing 1.7 billion consumers globally and three million consumers in Oman including 100 thousand 5G users. "Through our research, we have highlighted six key trends powering the next wave of 5G in Oman and implications for service providers to unlock the true potential of this market. 5G will drive enormous opportunities for communication service providers in consumer business over the decade, and service providers that quickly and proactively evolve their consumer propositions are likely to be bigger winners." The fourth trend highlighted in the report expects 5G to increase usage of cloud gaming and AR/VR. 5G consumers have increased service usage over the past two years. There are thrice as many 5G users in 2022 compared to 2020, and they are typically engaging with more than three services compared to 2020. With 5G pushing up usage of cloud gaming and AR, the demand for faster uplink throughput will be key to the overall immersive user experience. The report further forecasts that 5G monetisation models are expected to evolve as consumers want tailored network capabilities for specific needs in 5G plans.

Further, 5G early adopters prioritize rich experiences in 5G data plans as 93 per cent of 5G early adopters in Oman consider innovative 5G experiences to be important inclusion on their mobile broadband plans. Finally, the report predicts that 5G adoption is setting the path to metaverse. Usage of early metaverse apps/services is growing along with 5G uptake with 5G early adopters on average spending 3.5 hours more per week in metaverse-related services than 4G users. In Oman, 1.5 times more 5G early adopters engage in metaverse activities on a weekly basis than 4G users and 5 in 10 of 4G users say they will start or increase using AR applications in real-world once sign up for 5G. Further, 5G early adopters with current experience on XR will set the pace for metaverse adoption. The report reveals that 1.6 times more 5G early adopters than 4G users believe AR apps will move from smartphones to headsets within 2 years and 92 per cent of existing iPhone users on 5G network are interested in purchasing a lightweight mixed reality headset. Next-gen connectivity will be important to the metaverse, there are other aspects of the metaverse ecosystem that can be explored or participated in by mobile service providers.



Genetics combined with many years of schooling might cause

MYOPIA



THREE OF THESE VARIANTS WERE PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN, WHILE TWO WERE FOUND IN STUDIES OF EAST ASIAN COHORTS, WHERE ABOUT 80% OF CHILDREN BECOME NEARSIGHTED. FOR COMPARISON, ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF CHILDREN DEVELOP NEARSIGHTEDNESS IN THE WEST.

In a new study, researchers uncovered five genetic variants that enhance the likelihood of becoming nearsighted as children grow older. These findings were published in the open-access journal PLOS Genetics by a team led by Jeremy Guggenheim of Cardiff University in the United Kingdom. Nearsightedness is linked to various eye problems, making it a primary cause of irreversible visual impairment in the elderly. People frequently acquire nearsightedness as chil-

dren, and the disease appears to be caused by genetics, insufficient outdoor time, and many years of education. More than 450 genetic variations have been linked to an elevated risk of nearsightedness in studies. However, few have been proven to raise risk specifically in those with related lifestyle variables. In the new study, researchers used genetic and health data from more than 340,000 participants with European ancestry. They performed a genome-wide study to identify genetic variants that make people more susceptible to becoming nearsighted in combination with intensive schooling. The study yielded five genetic variants that progressively increased the risk of becoming nearsighted for individuals, the more time they spent

in school -- especially for people who had attained education at the university level. Three of these variants were previously unknown, while two were found in studies of East Asian cohorts, where about 80% of children become nearsighted. For comparison, about 30 per cent of children develop nearsightedness in the West. The researchers said that these findings provide new insights into the biological pathways that cause nearsightedness, but more research is needed to understand how those pathways interact with lifestyle factors to cause the condition. Guggenheim added, "As well as requiring the need for glasses or contact lenses, myopia is a leading cause of uncorrectable visual impairment. Building on our previous research linking education and myopia, the new study identifies 5 genes associated with myopia development whose effects are amplified by additional years spent in education." -ANI

Canada are Desert Cup T20I champions

Opting to field first, Canada's decision proved to be the correct one as Oman lost few early wickets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Canada stamped their overall superiority to lift the 2022 Desert Cup T20I Series with an emphatic eight-wicket win over hosts Oman in the final at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) grounds on Monday.

Except for one defeat at the hands of Bahrain in the group stage, Canada's dominating display in the four-nation tournament culminated in the title win. Opting to field first, Canada's decision proved to be the correct one as Oman lost opener Jatinder Singh early and were soon down to 17/3 in five overs with Jeremy Gordon's double strike off successive balls dismissing Kashyap Prajapati and in-form skipper Zeeshan Maqsood.

Canada bowlers were on top as Oman were tottering at 23/4 in the seventh over. Mohammed Nadeem and Ayaan Khan tried

to stem the rot but Nikhil Dutta broke the stand to leave the hosts at 50/5. The procession of Oman batters continued and with just over five overs to go, they were 74/8.

It was a blistering counter-attack by wicketkeeper-batter Naseem Khushi that aided Oman cross the 100-mark as he stayed unbeaten with a gutsy 47 off 23



balls that included two boundaries and five sixes.

Gordon's 3/36 was the best figures while Dillon Heyliger took 2/29. With Canada restricting Oman to 137, the favourites, who had won their previous match against the hosts narrowly on Sunday with a ball to spare, began their chase on a rousing note as Aaron Johnson, who finished at the tournament's top run-scorer with 402 runs, and his opening partner, Srimantha Wijeyeratne, sent the Oman bowlers on a leather hunt.

The two hammered the rival attack to all parts of the park in a sizzling 124-run stand in 12 overs to secure the game. Johnson, who had earlier hammered a century in the tournament, was finally out for a 41-ball 68. His inning was studded with eight fours and four maximums. Besides Johnson, the only other centurion in the tournament was Oman captain Zeeshan Maqsood.

Wijeyeratne remained unbeaten on a solid 51 off 35 balls as Canada achieved the target in 14 overs, scoring 139/2.

In a third-place playoff match, Saudi Arabia defeated Bahrain by 32 runs to record



their second successive win in two days over the same rivals. Batting first, Saudi Arabia rode on Saad Khan's 69 to reach 155/8. Imran Javed of Bahrain was the pick of the bowlers with 4/24. Saudis then restricted their opposition to 123/5 with Ahmer Bin Nasir staying unbeaten on 55.

Canada's players dominated the individual awards as Johnson was the best batter while Ammar Khalid was the highest wicket-taker of the tournament with 12 wickets. Later, Oman Cricket (OC) chairman Pankaj Khimji presented the winner's trophy to Canada skipper Saad Zafar.

T20 SERIES

India win series against New Zealand as third T20I in Napier ends in a tie

NAPIER: Heavy rain interrupted play with Team India scoring just enough for a tie in the final T20 against New Zealand here and walking away with a series win in the three-match series.

Duckworth-Lewis method was employed as the rain did not allow play after India had scored 75/4 in 9 overs chasing a target of 161 runs. With the first match having been washed away due to rain and India having won the second match, the Hardik Pandya led-team clinched the series 1-0. This is the second time India has won a T20 series under the leadership of Pandya. India had earlier won a series against West Indies under his leadership earlier this year.

Chasing 161, the visitors did not get the best of starts losing opener Ishan Kishan dismissed by Adam Milne for 10 in the second over as they lost the first wicket with only 13 runs on the board. Rishabh Pant looked dangerous in his short stay but was dismissed in the very next over by Tim Southee for 11 of 5 balls. In the very next ball Shreyas Iyer was sent packing to leave India tottering at 21/3.

India desperately needed a partnership and skipper Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav did just that by taking India's total beyond 50-run mark in 4.4 overs. India went on to score 58 runs with the loss of three wickets in six overs of powerplay. Ish Sodhi was introduced into the attack and he broke the 39-run partnership. Deepak Hooda walked out to join his skipper Hardik Pandya and the duo took India's total to 75/4 in 9 overs. Rain then interrupted the play and it started pouring heavily forcing the umpires to call off the match.

India's score of 75/4 in 9 overs



was on par with the Kiwis as per Duckworth-Lewis method.

Mohammed Siraj was declared as 'Player of the Match' while Suryakumar Yadav was named 'Player of the Series'.

Earlier in the day, New Zealand won the toss and opted to bat first. New Zealand faced a jolt in the second over as pacer Arshdeep Singh trapped Finn Allen leg-before-wicket for just three runs off four balls. NZ was 9/1 in 1.3 overs. Mark Chapman joined Devon Conway, the other opener. Both started to hit Indian bowlers with some clean strikes. Conway in general looked aggressive, smashing Arshdeep for two fours and a six in the fourth over.

The duo were slowly building a good partnership but Chapman found Arshdeep at mid-on on Mohammed Siraj's second delivery of the spell. Chapman was back for 12 off 12 balls. Kiwis were reduced to 44/2 in 5.2 overs.

Glenn Phillips joined Conway. At the end of six overs, NZ was at 46/2, with Phillips (1*) and Conway (23*) unbeaten.

Phillips and Conway brought up their fifty-run stand in 43 balls. In the second half of the innings, Phillips upped his run rate, smashing Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal and Harshal Patel for fours and sixes. Conway brought up his half-century in 39 balls, while Phillips brought up his eighth T20I fifty in just 31 balls. **ANI**

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ROUND-UP



Changan launches luxury sedan all-new UNI-V 2023 model in Oman

All-new UNI-V 2023 model has stunning exterior design, premium interiors, impressive performance and drive assistance technologies which will create superior owner experience



MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) has launched the luxury sedan Changan UNI-V in Oman; further expanding the Changan auto's luxury model range – the UNI series in Oman.

A spokesperson for AGAE said the all-new UNI-V 2023 model has stunning exterior design, premium interiors, impressive performance and drive assistance technologies which will create superior owner experience. The UNI-V continues its family tradition of a borderless grille and adapts a more agile and accurate design to help the model feel much sportier. It has exterior features that make it unique including panoramic glass sunroof, split and auto LED Headlamps, ORVM – electrically folding and hidden door handles.

All-new UNI-V has short overhang, long wheelbase and notch-back design which create the sporty feel of a luxury sport sedan. The wider front and rear wheel and longer axle length contributes to more agility for high-speed driving and stability.

Under the hood the UNI-V comes equipped with the Blue core 1.5 L turbocharged engine making 188 hp of power and a staggering 300Nm of torque. The engine is paired to a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission which powers the front drive system.

The tyre aspect ratio of 0.78 and the UNI-V wheel height which is half of the car height makes the car body look lowered and comparable that of a luxury sports sedan.

The All-new Changan UNI-V's interior design with hidden air vents, integrated centre buttons create a sense of simplicity and sporty, the bright colors center console, armrest and dual panels add excitement. In addition, the



asymmetrical design in instrument cluster creates momentum and style.

The UNI-V adapts 3+1 Quadruple screen layout which appears to be two screens, but which are interconnected, the Double 'D' design steering wheel looks distinctive of a sporty sedan.

All-new Changan UNI-V's extraordinary interior design is very formidable. It has a comprehensive set of advanced safety features such as front airbags, side airbags, curtain airbags, BS +EBD+ ESP+TSC+HHC+HDC+TPMS, auto hold function, front and rear parking sensors, 360 ° Camera HD, 360 ° dashcam, adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, automatic emergency brake and lane departure warning.

Infotainment attributes include 10 instrument cluster, 10.25" infotainment screen, Navigation, Voice Control Function, mirror link with Apple CarPlay, wireless charger, radio, Bluetooth, USB (front and rear) and eight speakers. It has comfort features such as electronic parking brake, key-



less entry with push start button, remote engine start/stop, rear air outlet, paddle shifter, electric tailgate and rear seat centre headrest.

UNI Series

Changan Auto Luxury brand is called UNI and it's positioned as futuristic and fashionable, the UNI range features progressive design and smart technologies offered only in luxury brands. Changan UNI range of automobiles is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors. For a luxury model to be 'sporty

at a glance', the UNI range adopts a short overhang and long axle design, adding the sporty feeling to a luxury range. This improves the overall handling of the UNI range having high agility and high-speed stability when driving.

The UNI Series are equipped with IACC system, the UNI range can achieve L2 autonomous driving having features of FCW + AEB +LDW+LAS+TJA+AEB+LCDA. UNI range is equipped with four high-definition wide-angle cameras giving 360-degree view around the vehicle in real time to park your vehicle safely.

The UNI range adopts a simplis-



tic yet Avante grade interior design. It uses an asymmetrical design in the instrumentation and centre console as well as bright colours that create technically dynamic interiors. It adopts the Intelligent Cockpit Interaction System which appears to be two screens staggered on the surface, but internally they are connected as one has a high-resolution display and adaptive backlight control to protect the eyes from fatigue to the max while reading and driving.

The UNI range features newly

designed seats with fuller side wings which also provide more reliable support and confidence when cornering. The wireless charging provides ultra-fast charging with wide-range compatibility.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment has set up a spacious and state-of-the-art showroom in Al Qurum and a service centre in Ghala, Muscat. AGAE has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in many cities including Salalah, Sohar, Sur, Nizwa, Ibra and Barka etc.



ROUND-UP



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Lahunna partners with Visa and Bank Muscat

Rialy, a series of knowledge-sharing sessions in financial literacy that will benefit 900 women was launched



MUSCAT: With an increasing number of women in the workforce and in running their small businesses, Lahunna Oman has joined hands with global digital payments leader, Visa and Bank Muscat to launch 'Rialy'.

A series of knowledge-sharing sessions, coaching and online programmes will be delivered to 900 Omani girls and young women to build their confidence in making responsible financial decisions. Starting in November 2022, the initiative will shed light on the behaviour needed to lead financially sound lives – from planning, budgeting and saving, to spending and borrowing.

"Information is power and stud-

ies have consistently shown that financial education should be a continuous process from a young age, to unlock the full potential of the youth, so they can contribute to our community's development and our country's economic growth," said Shatha Al Maskiry, Founder of Lahunna Oman. "Rialy is one of many initiatives that serve our vision to cultivate the right mindset for our dynamic and promising youth and instil financial confidence so they can have a positive impact on our society as a whole. We are confident that our partnership with Visa and Bank Muscat will support us in nurturing confident, driven, and successful women with stronger decision-making capabilities."

Supported by Visa, Lahunna

Oman and Protiviti Oman along with Bank Muscat will conduct in-person and virtual workshops on financial literacy that will guide young women to plan their financial future effectively. As the program's financial literacy partner, Visa and knowledge sharing partner, Bank Muscat, will provide participants with mentors, insights, and access to online material on how best to manage personal finances as well as offer guidance to entrepreneurs and start-ups.

"Visa is committed to ensuring that financial education and digital upskilling are available to individuals and small businesses. Purpose-driven partnerships are critical in advancing this mission and that is why we are delighted to partner with Lahunna Oman and

Bank Muscat to provide women SMB owners in Oman the resources they need to thrive in the digital economy. This is not only in line with our purpose to uplift everyone, everywhere but also supports the Omani government's efforts to provide more individuals, communities and businesses access to the digital economy," said Carl Manlan, Visa's Vice President, Social Impact for Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa.

Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said: "Building further on its existing financial literacy and awareness programmes, Bank Muscat is delighted to partner in the Rialy initiative to equip women with the skills needed to better manage their own and their family's finances, and coach them to take fiscally-prudent decisions. By targeting women, Rialy will not only influence women who makeup half of our society but also enable them to play a key role in guiding and influencing future generations. There is no doubt that financial awareness and literacy programmes are empowering people in Oman to contribute to the socioeconomic development and progress of the Sultanate in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040."

Oman Hotel and Tourism celebrates National Day



MUSCAT: Oman Hotel and Tourism celebrated the 52nd National Day at Sur Plaza Hotel, by cutting the longest 5.2-metre cake in Sur. Talal Bin Khalfan Al Shaaibi Assistant Director Ministry of Tourism & Heritage Department In South Al Sharqiyah Governorate Sur, hoisted the flag and the National Anthem was played. Anslam, the general manager informed that this the first time Sur has witnessed such a big cake.

Nesto dedicates special song on 52nd National Day



MUSCAT: Nesto Hypermarket has launched a special song as part of its celebrations of the 52nd National Day of Oman. The special song is a humble tribute and an expression of love and gratitude to the nation, its great leader His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, and the people of the country. The song titled 'Ben Beladi' is composed and sung by Faisal Al-hadhrami. Omar Alquraishi is the director of the album. The launch of the song was held on November 17 at Nesto Management office, Ghala.

EXPANSION

Delta Pharmacy opens 10th retail branch

MUSCAT: Delta Pharmacy opened its 10th retail pharmacy branch in Nesto Hypermarket, North Al Hail on November 18. The inauguration was done in the presence of Board Directors Ghalib Mohammed Al Maaawali, Jamsheed NK and Mohammed Munzir MK.

"Delta Pharmacy is active in the retail pharmacy chain and wholesale distribution and we are delighted to open the 10th Retail Branch on the auspicious 52nd National Day of the Sultanate of Oman. We thank the Almighty, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Ministry of Health officials, the Delta Pharmacy team, the pharma community of Oman and especially the people of Oman. 'Delivering the Best Care' is the motto of Delta Pharmacy and to achieve the same, our pharmacists are well-trained to be keen on delivering better care, better service and better advice for the patient community. Delta Pharmacy is committed to expanding quality Pharmacy service to various parts of Oman in future," said Ghalib Al Maaawali during the opening ceremony.

Delta Pharmacy operates its pharmacies in Nesto Wadi Al Kabir, Nesto Mabela, Nesto Al Khud, Nesto Barka, Nesto Al Hail, Safa Mall Mabela, Sawadi and Salalah and are distributors of various critical care medicines, health care products, cosmetics and medical devices in Sultanate of Oman.

AT AL MOUJ MUSCAT



Vodafone Entertainment Village brings 'We Fan Together' campaign to life

MUSCAT: Vodafone is kicking-off the adrenaline-pumped season with a purpose-built Entertainment Village in the heart of Al Mouj Muscat.

Designed to bring the company's 'We Fan Together' campaign to life, the village is harnessing the nation's passion and excitement for football and bringing fun-filled activations for all ages. For 28 days, families big and small, will enjoy music shows, talent acts and freestyle performances, as well as competitions with exciting prizes, and giveaways.

The Entertainment Village will also feature a variety of other engaging mini football challenges such as penalties and fastest kicks to test the mettle of participants, a PlayStation cor-

ner with weekly tournaments, a play area for children ages 3 to 10, and F&B stations serving upmouth-watering local and international dishes for all palates. Vodafone customers with RED Elite plan or above will enjoy free access to the Entertainment Village.

"Vodafone is delighted to be working with Al Mouj Muscat to connect fans in Oman and share the excitement of the football season together through our family-friendly Entertainment Village," said Sultan Al Qamshouai, Vodafone's Senior Marketing Specialist. "There will be something for everyone, from music performances to football challenges, paying tribute to our football-loving nation and creating a highly memorable experience for all."

OMANISATION

Zubair Corporation appoints Haitham Al-Hamdani as head of HR Department for Smart Electricity & Automation sector

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation, in a prominent step, has recently appointed Haitham bin Abdul Rahman Al Hamdani as the Sectoral Head of HR Division for Smart Electricity & Automation Sector, which includes the Energy and Natural Resources Sector, Industrial and Chemical Solutions Sector, in addition to the Zubair Electricity Group and Federal Power Transformers and Electrical Products in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates United.

Omanisation policies is fully observed by The Zubair Corporation to enable Omani youth to assume key responsibilities in leadership positions at all levels and sustain a stable Omanisation process in all technical and administrative leadership positions within its group companies.

Al Zubair Mohammad Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation, said: "We congratulate Haitham Al Hamdani for this appointment and wish him every success in his new position". He also pointed out that this appointment comes within the framework of The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries' commitment to invest in promising Omani cadres in various jobs to assume higher responsibilities. He further explained: This appointment is in line with the rec-



ommendations of the work team launched last year, which aims to qualify, train and enable Omanis in various positions in the group companies.

The practical and professional qualities demonstrated by Haitham in his workfield was the main element for this appointment. He began his career in the Accounting Department then moved to several other positions to finally be appointed as the senior manager of the human and administrative resources. He joined Al Zubair Corporation innovative "Himmah" programme, designed to train promising Omani competencies, which provides the appropriate training and working environment for national cadres.

Sultan Al Ghaithi, Head of Smart Electrical Systems & Automation Sector (SEA Sector), said: We are pleased that Haitham Al Hamdani has assumed the position as Head of Human Resources Department for the Electricity & Automation Sector, his appointment will contribute to strengthening the human resources management in this vital sector. The Zubair Corporation is keen to develop and qualify Omani cadres for leadership positions and undertake greater responsibilities." We wish him a successful career and call on Omani youth to compete for leadership positions in various administrative, professional, and technical fields.

CASHBACK OFFER

ahli islamic to offer 1% gift on Qitaf new-to-bank deposits

MUSCAT: Upholding its commitment to enhance customers' banking experiences with products and services that are rewarding and gratifying, ahli islamic has announced an exciting 1% gift for new-to-bank deposits.

The cashback offer will be eligible for all new-to-bank and existing customers of Qitaf for deposits of OMR

5,000 and above, and the same who are seeking to grow their fortunes with the Qitaf Savings account that is based on the Islamic Mudaraba principle. As per the scheme, the 1% gift will be credited to the customer's Qitaf account after three-month deposit period. There will, however, be a cap of OMR 5,000 per cashback, per account.

Highlighting the benefits accruing from the new gift offer, Noora Sultan, AGM - Head of Retail Banking ahli islamic, said, "We are leveraging the popularity of our Qitaf Savings Account to help new to bank customers establish a strong financial base with the added benefit of gift. Our objective is to reward customers

with an attractive cashback offer that will augment their financial strengths and inculcate a strong savings culture. We have, from the very beginning, demonstrated our intent to enhance our customers' banking experiences and financial inclusion with products and services that are tailored to meet the customers' immediate and future

needs, and the one percent gift on Qitaf deposits is aimed at precisely this factor. With the one per cent credited directly to the account, after the 3-month deposit period, we are opening investment avenues for our new customers an easy and convenient option to grow their finances.

"The new offer is a part of our

ongoing efforts to provide easy platforms for new-to-bank. We have taken constructive steps to create better awareness and understanding of Islamic banking, inspiring new customers to join our fold. In the recent past, we have introduced a referral scheme, which rewarded our loyal patrons for referring new customers."



Offer valid from 14th August to 13th November 2022.
Existing Oman Oasis 5 Gallon returnable bottle customers and Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible for the offer.

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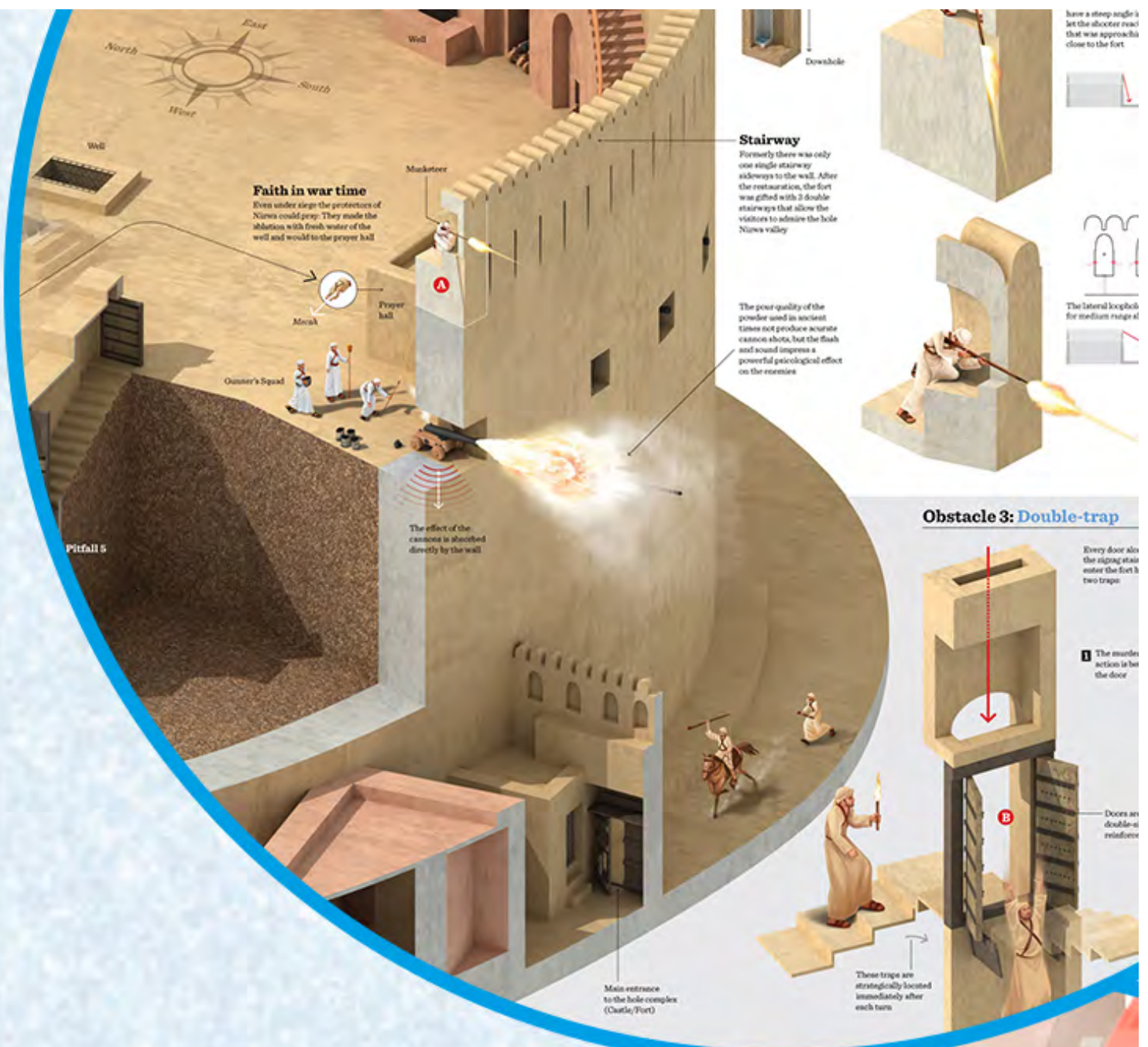
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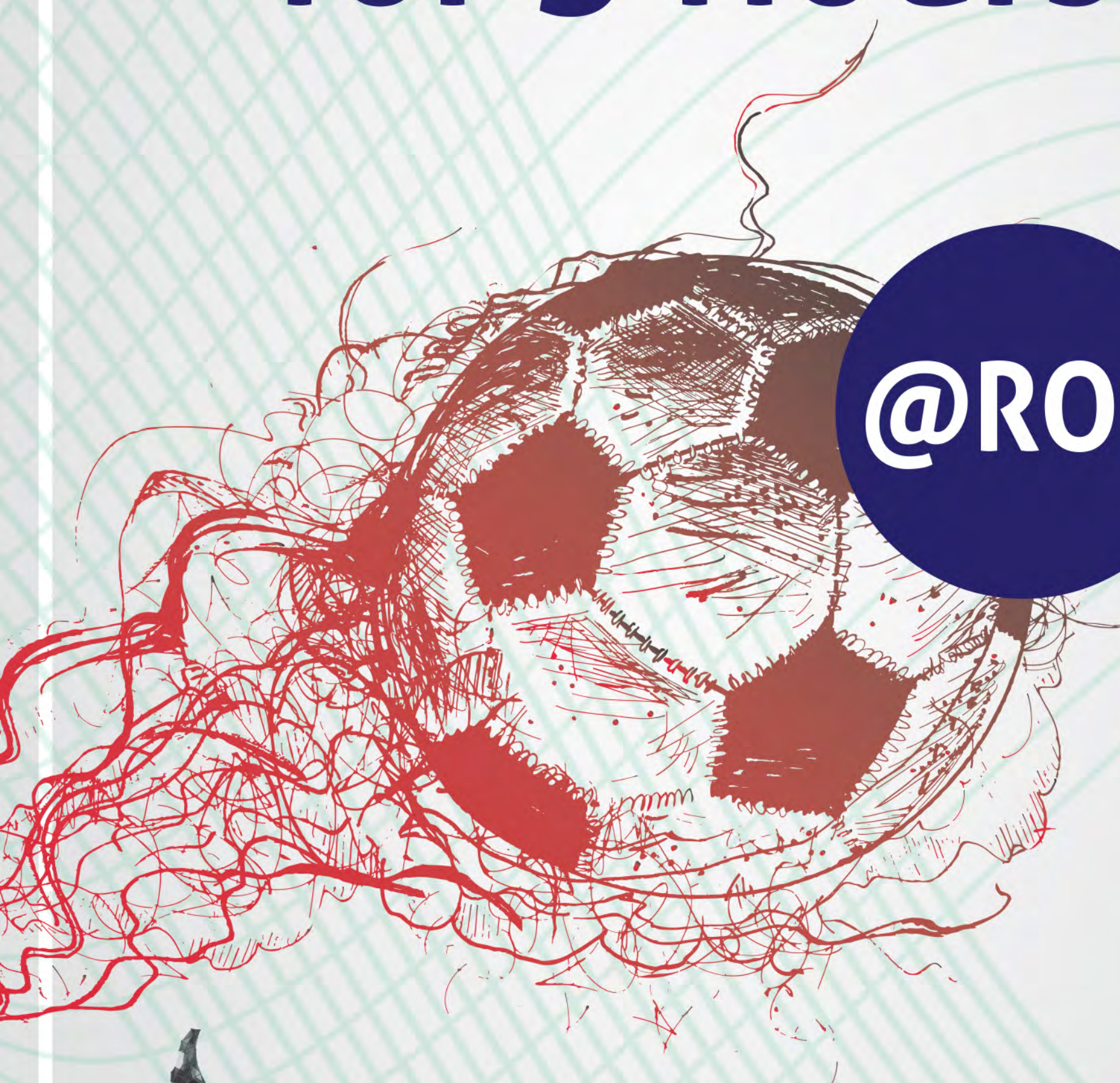


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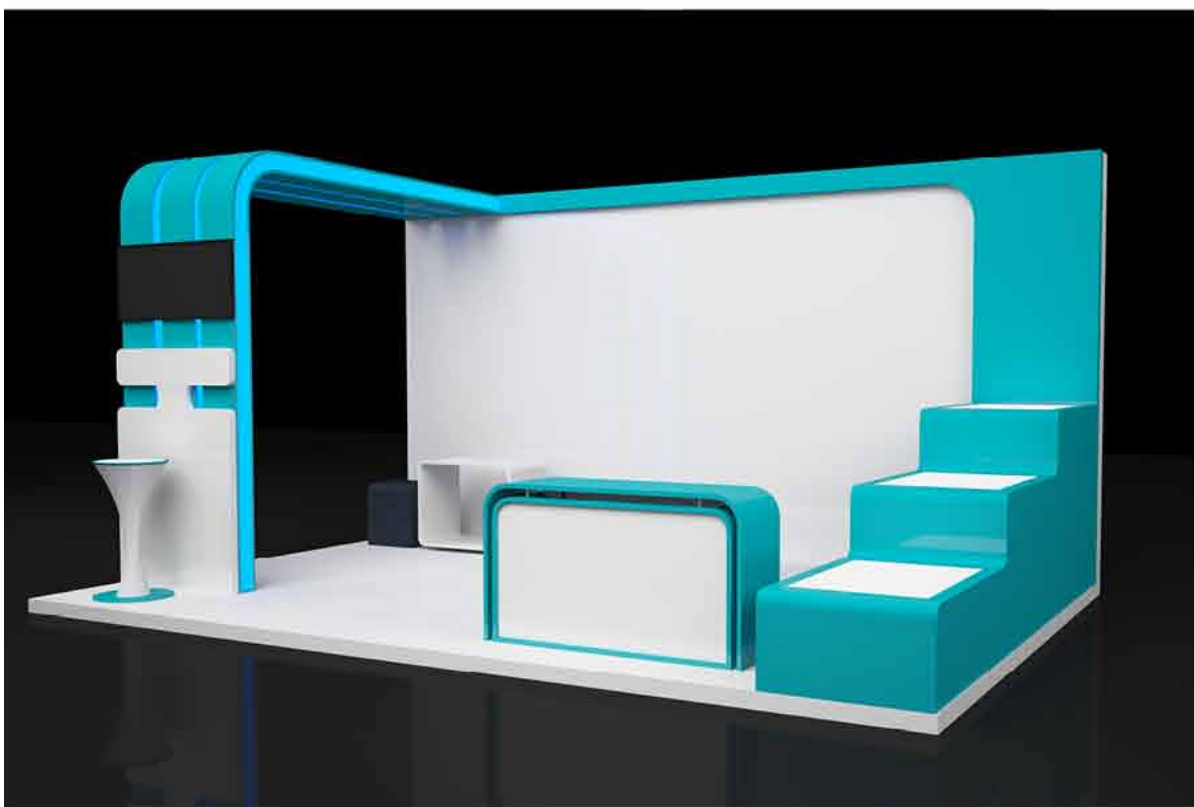
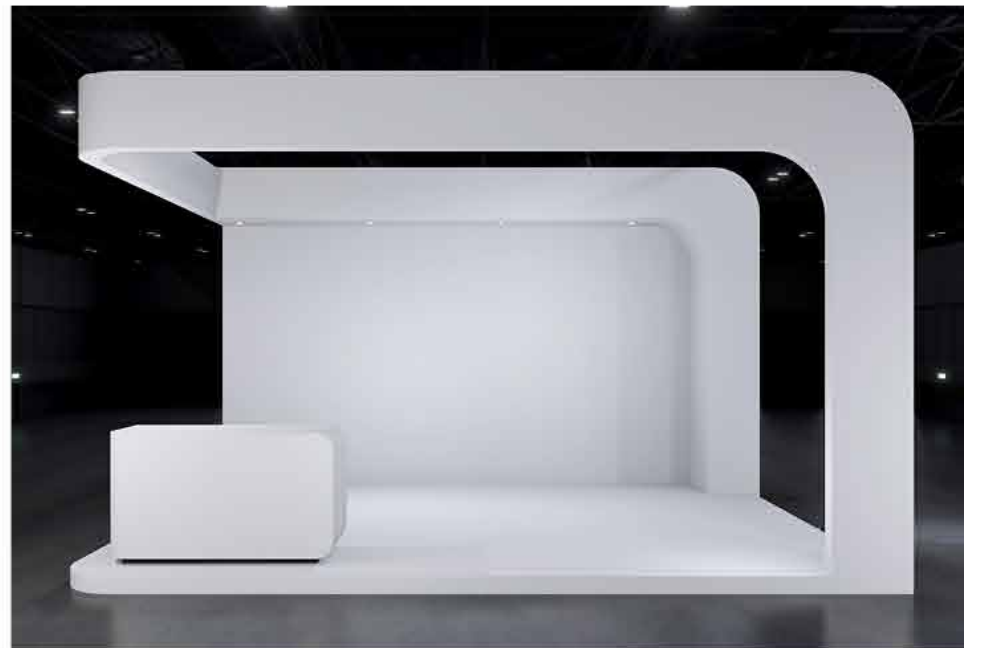
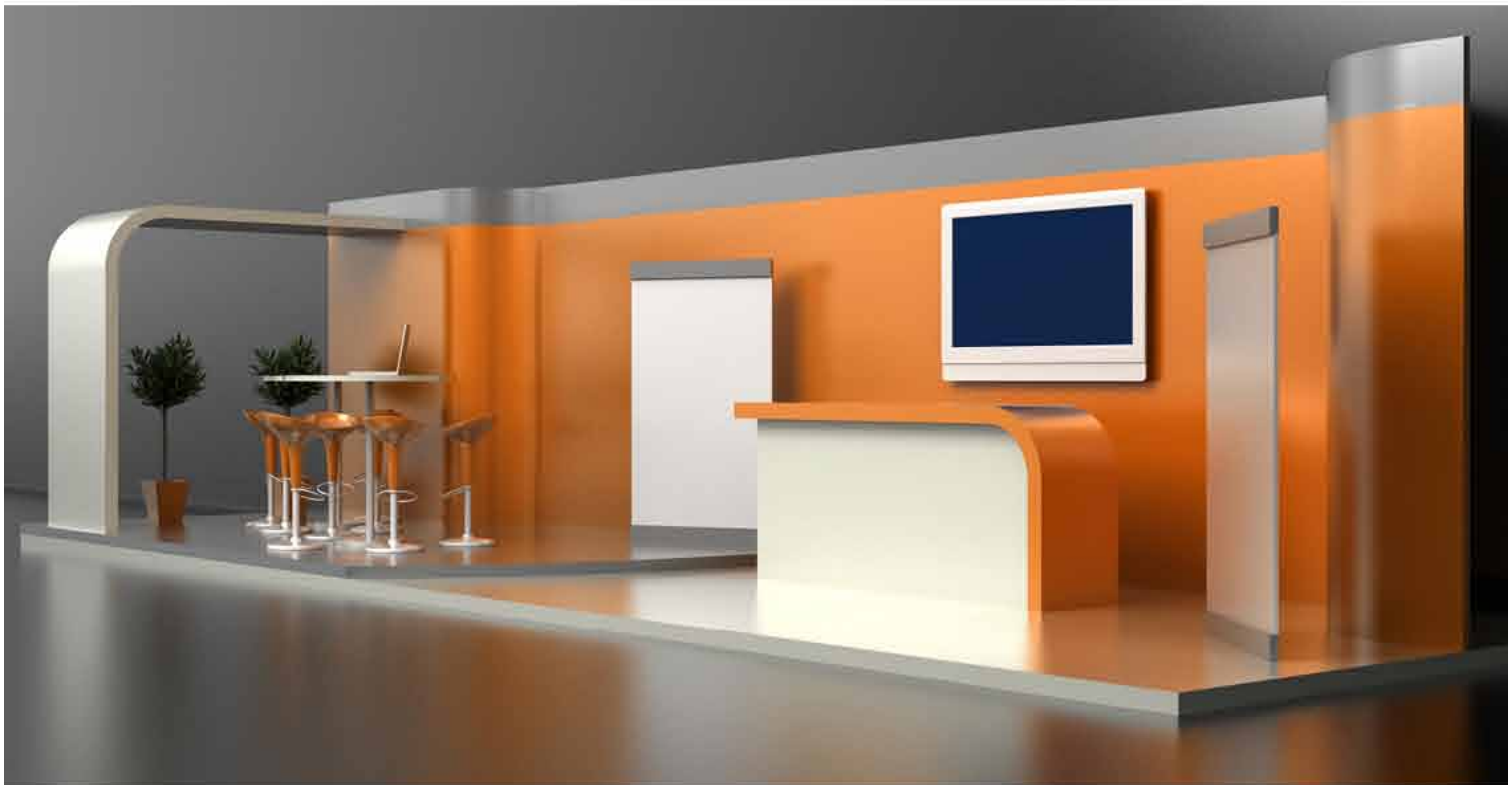


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