

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR ADDS TO NATIONAL ECONOMY GROWTH

Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry has affirmed that the industrial sector is one of the most important sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A4**



HIS MAJESTY SENDS MESSAGE TO CROWN PRINCE OF KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Deputy Amir and Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. It deals with fraternal relations between the two countries and means of promoting them. The message was handed over by Dr. Saleh Amir Al Kharousi, Ambassador of Oman to Kuwait when Sheikh Salim Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Kuwait's Foreign Minister received him on Wednesday. **-ONA**



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OMAN SENDS AID, MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO TURKEY, SYRIA



ROYAL DIRECTIVE

Oman seeks to alleviate the sufferings of people in the earthquake-hit regions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In compliance with the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday began operating flights to send relief materials to the earthquake-

hit areas in Syria and Turkey. The number of deaths in the two countries topped 11,000 yesterday. By sending aid, Oman seeks to alleviate the suffering of brethren and the move is part of the country's keenness to perform its humanitarian duty.

More than 11,000 deaths reported in Syria, Turkey earthquake **>A7**

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority also dispatched a search and rescue team to participate in global operations in southern Turkey. The team left yesterday onboard a Royal Air Force of Oman aircraft. Since the moment Turkish authorities declared earthquake, Oman's Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority joined hands with the International Search and Rescue



Advisory Group (INSARAG), which affirmed the full mobilisation of its force to participate in rescue operations in earthquake-hit areas. Meanwhile, the Omani Charitable Organisation (OCO) has announced a donation drive for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. Donations can be made through following modes: Automatic payment machines of Oman National Engineering and Investment Company. A donation of one Omani rial can be made via each text message. The OCO a licensed and reliable entity in the Sultanate for collecting donations. The World Health Organization has stated the official number of deaths and injured doesn't reflect the magnitude of disaster, saying the number of affected may reach 23 million. **With ONA inputs**

12TH EDITION

Tour of Oman starts on February 11

MUSCAT: The 12th edition of Tour of Oman 2023 will kick off on 11 February 2023. The sport event is being organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and Oman Cycling Association.

As many as 18 global teams representing Europe, Asia, America and Australia will compete during the five-day challenge. The route of the tour is about (830.3 km). The first stage (147.4 km) of the Tour of Oman will start in front of Rustaq Castle in the Governorate of South Al Batinah, and will conclude in the Governorate Muscat, in front of the Oman Convention



and Exhibition Centre.

The second stage (174 km) will begin on 12 February from Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in the Wilayat of Bausher to the Wilayat of Quriyat. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Information Minister holds meeting

1 Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, received Majri Mubarak Al-Qahtani, Director General of Gulf Radio and Television Organisation. The meeting dealt with aspects of cooperation in the field of media training. **>A2**

OMAN

Sayyid Badr meets ambassadors

2 Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received copies of credentials of ambassadors. **>A6**

SPORTS

Ceremonial tee shot starts Series Oman

3 The start of International Series Oman was marked with a ceremonial tee shot at the Al Mouj Golf course. **>A8**

Luxuriate in the award-winning Golf Beach Residences at Al Mouj Muscat

GOLF BEACH RESIDENCES has gained global attention, with these five and six-bedroom ocean-side villas winning international awards as homes that combine exceptional design with an outstanding setting and lifestyle within the stylish Shatti district, where families can enjoy easy access to the beach and Al Mouj Golf.

A very limited number are still available to buy, and with construction of 15 of these majestic family homes underway at the heart of Oman's premier lifestyle community, what can homeowners expect from Golf Beach Residences?

CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani says: "Work on the first phase of these exceptional homes has begun and the entire team is thrilled to transform the vision of Golf Beach Residences into a reality.

"We focus on every detail and the reward of our dedication will be handing the villas over to their new owners knowing that every room, every finish and every feature will surpass expectations. These will be homes where families can enjoy life at its most fulfilling."

Exclusive neighbourhood, exclusive neighbours

Set within an exclusive gated neighbourhood nestled alongside Al Mouj Golf and the 5-star St Regis Resort, this is now one of the Sultanate's most desirable addresses.

In a calm and private setting, yet superbly well-connected to Al Mouj Muscat's many world-class



Unique features

- Customisable garden suite
- Complimentary golf cart and electric charging point
- Dedicated informal and formal family areas
- Built-in Smart home technology
- Energy efficient
- Balconies, landscaped gardens and private pools
- Garage and ample covered parking and staff accommodation
- Discounted membership of Al Mouj Golf

Designed for life

Golf Beach Residences are spacious and contemporary and designed to evolve with the changing needs of daily life with formal and informal areas that can be adapted as families grow. The opportunity to customise a separate garden suite appeals to owners as the space can reflect their passions whether a cinema or games space, gym or music room.

Bringing the outside in

Set close to the ocean with extraordinary natural light and views, Golf Beach Residences are designed to maximise every opportunity to connect with the outside all year round. Huge floor to ceiling windows and architectural features invite gentle sea breezes

and sunlight in, filtering them where needed and through free-flowing layouts, each floor seamlessly connects to the surrounding gardens, exquisitely landscaped with private pools and terraces.

A smarter way to live

An electric car charging point and smart home technology add to a sense of ease, convenience and luxury and smart energy management systems lower CO2 emissions supporting healthier living.

A golf lover's paradise

Every villa comes with its own golf cart and charging point making it easy for golfers to head to neighbouring Al Mouj Golf, 2022 winner of Best Global Course in the World Luxury Travel Awards,

Award winning



Winner of Best Residential Development for 20 Plus Units for Oman and Arabia in the 2022 International Property Awards

either to play or for the whole family to enjoy the club's superb restaurant. What is more, golf lovers can enjoy preferential club membership rates and discounts exclusive to Golf Beach Residences owners.

The perfect balance

From the versatility of the internal space to the beauty of the external surroundings and the playground of leisure and lifestyle opportunities on the doorstep, life at Golf Beach Residences is all about freedom of choice and balance.

Every day, residents can decide whether to savour in the peace and tranquillity of their private retreat, luxuriating in stylish interiors and spending time with family and friends. Or they can immerse themselves in Al Mouj Muscat's warm and thriving community of 8,000 people from 85 countries who call this exclusive environment home.

Al Mouj is Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC) and today more than 4.9 million

annual visitors and its residents enjoy boulevard style, world-class retail, culinary and leisure experiences as well as daily conveniences and services.

As to embracing nature and the great outdoors, along with the ocean and 6km of pristine sandy beach, there are tree-lined walkways, beautifully landscaped parks and 1.5km of cycle trails.

Al Mouj Muscat - a destination without an equal

Al Mouj Muscat is Oman's premier lifestyle community offers a thriving shopping and dining scene with a choice of 85 outlets, and a host of year-round arts and entertainment events.

Alongside the permanent fixtures of an elegant 400-berth marina complete with sea tour operators, a championship golf course and 5-star hotels, it is known as a place where residents from all over the globe enjoy a true sense of belonging.

Al Mouj Muscat believes in creating great moments, every day. From hosting sporting events such as the annual Oman Marathon, to a monthly farmers' market, and staging colourful national holiday celebrations that honour Oman's culture and heritage, Al Mouj Muscat attracts people from across the country to flock to its lively oceanfront setting.

To discover more about Golf Beach Residences, visit www.al-mouj.com

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



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Asr.....3:39pm

Maghrib.....6:03pm

Isha.....7:15pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:27am

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MEDIA TRAINING

Information Minister meets Director General of Gulf Radio, TV Organisation



MUSCAT: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, received on Wednesday Majri Mubarak Al-Qahtani, Director General of Gulf Radio and Television Organisation.

The meeting dealt with aspects of cooperation in the field of media training, between the Information Ministry's Media Training Centre and Gulf Radio and

Television Organisation.

The meeting also touched on various media issues and underscored the need to hold specialised courses on areas of significance to modern developments in media. The meeting was attended by Mohammed Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, among other officials. -GNA

EVENT

< FROM

A1 Tour of Oman boosts tourism

The third stage (151.8 km) will start on Monday (13 February) from Al Khobar in the Wilayat of Samail to Al Jabal Al Sharqi in the Wilayat of Al Hamra.

The fourth stage (204.9 km) will begin on Tuesday (14 February) from the Wilayat of Izki in

the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah to Yiti in the Governorate of Muscat.

The fifth and last stage (152.2 km) will start on Wednesday (15 February) from Al Fayhaa Rest-house in the Wilayat of Samail to Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

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Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the work culture?



Renowned companies like Google, Microsoft, Zain, and Amazon are taking part in the event

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Mahad bin Said Ali Ba'owain, Minister of Labour, presided over the opening of the three-day conference 'OSHRM' on Wednesday.

The conference is now in its sixth edition, titled "The New Era of Work" has been organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the Oman Society for Human Resources Management and at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The conference aims to discuss the development of human resources, enhancement of human capital, and embracing the new work culture.

In light of the events of the past years, including numerous financial and economic crises and significant political upheavals, it becomes crucial to emphasise the importance of human resources, as they form the foundation of any institution.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly influenced and altered working methods, leaving a significant impact. The idea is to create a comprehensive framework to encompass the advancements in technology and best practices that have been established during the pandemic, to maximise their benefits.

The Labour Minister stated that the development and improvement of human resources are top priorities for the government. As they are the driving force behind any urban development.

"We are committed to enhancing their capabilities through every means possible, and we have a strong belief in our national competencies and are determined to reach a point that we can all be proud of," he added.

"The Ministry of Labour, with its close partnership with private sector institutions and human resource organisations, holds high regard and pride for being part of this integrated system that aims to improve and advance human resources. It is evident that private sector institutions are now obligated to devise and carry out plans that align with the current phase and their needs, as well as to communicate effectively with each other and connect to the labour market demands and the development programmes required by national forces," he said.

The minister stressed the importance of focusing on human resource management and its current challenges, emphasising the need to address these issues before the private sector.

He also emphasised the need to continue working towards improving human resources, tracking needs and outcomes of the labour market, and supporting initiatives that contribute to the development, training, and qualifying of our national workforce. This includes improving their work environment and aspiration as well as ensuring their stability and empowerment.

Dr Ghalib Al Hosni, Chairman of OSHRM, commented that this edition is a valuable addition to the ongoing efforts to enhance the human resource sector in the Sultanate, aligning with the Oman Vision 2040.

"Since its establishment in May 2014, OSHRM has been dedicated to generating innovative concepts for the advancement of the human resources industry and providing ongoing support to stay current with global development. Through its assembly, the organisation aims to bolster the

field and provide new strategies and a forward-thinking vision.

The conference will focus on shaping the future and its prospects, taking into account current wise policies and national vision. It also presents an opportunity to generate creative ideas that will further the progress of this field," he added.

The highlight of the sixth edition of the conference is the participation of renowned global companies like Google, Microsoft, Zain, and Amazon. This presents a rare chance to connect with industry experts, discover cutting-edge technologies, exchange ideas on improving work productivity, and provide a stimulating atmosphere for employees.

A total number of eight awards have been assigned for three categories. In the "organisation" category, the award includes "Most effective organisation during the pandemic", "Best HR initiative during the pandemic", "High business impact by adapting data analytics during the pandemic", and "High business impact by adapting e-learning during the pandemic".

The second category targets "Business" awards including "leadership award", "Effective HR professional during the pandemic", and "Most effective CEO during the pandemic". The last award for the "Research" category, where "Best research related to HR during the pandemic" will be awarded.

Mohammed Al-Maimani, OSHRM Board Member, said that the distinguished jury members will include Dr. Yasmin Al Balushi, The Project Manager of "Itimaad" programme at The Royal Academy of Management, Dr. Ramin Mohajer, Managing Partner at Aspire Muscat Institute, Dr. Zahran Al-Salti, Dean of College of Banking and Financial Studies, and Sheikh Saif Al Hosni, General Manager of Microsoft Oman and Bahrain, - who will add quality to the awards, due to their extensive experience in Human Resources fields and related industries.





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Thursday, February 9, 2023

Times
OF OMAN

OMAN INDUSTRY DAY

The Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Al Rawas pointed out that Oman's GDP increased at the end of the third quarter of 2022 by 30.4 percent



Industrial sector is a key driver of the country's economy, says Al Rawas

Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) has affirmed that the industrial sector is one of the most important economic sectors in Oman. It contributes to the growth of the national economy and the prosperity of the business environment in the country, he added.

In a statement marking Oman Industry Day which falls on 9 February every year, Al Rawas pointed out that Oman's GDP increased at the end of the third quarter of 2022 by 30.4 percent, and the total value added of non-oil activities reached RO 20.8 billion, up by 14.9 percent. He added that the statistics in-



19.28%

At the end of September 2022, the percentage of the GDP of industrial activities amounted to 19.28 percent, while the converting industries accounted for 48.3 per cent of the total industrial output

dicating an increase in the value-added rate of industrial activities at the end of the third quarter of 2022, as a result of the increase in the added value of converting industries by 65.6 percent. As of the end of last September, the percentage of the GDP of industrial activities amounted to 19.28 percent, while the converting industries accounted for 48.3 percent of the total industrial output, he explained.

Al Rawas reiterated that the converting industries is one of the promising sectors in attracting foreign direct investments, as the value of foreign investments in this sector in 2021 stood at OMR1.705 million 705, or 9.60 percent of the total investments. -ONA



OMANI INDUSTRY DAY

Sultanate's industrial sector witnesses rapid developments

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The most prominent achievements of the Omani industry during the year and the expected growth prospects in the industrial sector and its related sectors will be highlighted on Omani Industry Day, which falls on February 9 every year.

The industrial sector in the Sultanate has witnessed rapid developments with the establishment of industrial zones, supporting national products and the need to develop and encourage such products at the local and international levels.

This year too, on the occasion of Omani Industry Day, the focus will be on in-country value (ICV) by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

A meeting will be held by Qais bin Muhammad Al Yusef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and a number of officials in the Ministry and the authorities concerned with the in-country value along with industrialists, project owners and investors with the aim to boost in-country value in the industrial



sector and to exchange views on investment opportunities in the sector. The meeting also aimed to find solutions to the challenges and difficulties facing the sector.

Sami bin Salem Al Sahib, Director General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said that the ministry targets development of the industrial sector and to increase its contribution in the gross

domestic product (GDP).

He said that the celebration of Oman Industry Day reflects the partnership between the government sector and the private sector.

The celebration will see the announcement of the outputs of the Transformational Industries Laboratory and the Future Industries coupled with signing a number of agreements which came within the outputs of the laboratory. The



celebrations would also see the launch of Oman Barcoding Centre following the acquisition of the membership of GS1, the global barcode organisation.

Attract investors

The Ministry has been supporting the existing industrial establishments by facilitating the process of purchasing their products in cooperation with the relevant

authorities, according to specific criteria. The ministry is also studying new industrial investment opportunities and ways to attract investors.

According to the statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) the contribution of the industrial sector during the first nine months of 2021 amounted to OMR2 billion, or 8.5 per cent of the total

gross domestic product (GDP).

Foreign direct investments in the industrial sector during 2021 amounted to OMR1.48 billion compared to OMR1.42 billion in 2020. According to NCSI statistics, the number of Omanis working in the industrial sector reached 33,359, or 12.64 per cent of the total national workforce working in the private sector, which numbered 263,913.



Sohar Aluminium and all its employees are honoured to extend their warmest felicitations to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**, and the industry community, on the occasion of Oman's Industry Day.



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• HIV

• HCV

• VDRL

• HBSAg

• Urine Routine

• Blood Grouping

• TSH

• Antenatal Scan

PREMIUM
(First Trimester)

OMR 99

• OBG Consultation – 3 visits

• CBC

• RBS

• Creatinine

• Sickie Cell

• HIV

• HCV

• VDRL

• HBSAg

• Urine Routine

• Blood Grouping

• TSH

• Antenatal Scan

• Dietitian Consultation – 3 visits

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OMR 40

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• Growth Scan

PREMIUM
(Second Trimester)

OMR 101

• OBG Consultation – 6 visits

• CBC

• GTT

• Urine Routine

• TSH

• Growth Scan

• Dietitian Consultation – 3 visits

• Physiotherapy Consultation – 3 visits

BASIC
(Third Trimester)

OMR 40

• OBG Consultation – 6 visits

• CBC

• RBS

• Urine Routine

• Cardio Tocography

• Growth Scan

PREMIUM
(Third Trimester)

OMR 99

• OBG Consultation – 6 visits

• CBC

• RBS

• Urine Routine

• TSH

• Cardio Tocography

• Growth Scan

• Dietitian Consultation – 3 visits

• Physiotherapy Consultation – 1 visit

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MEETINGS

Sayyid Badr receives copies of credentials of Turkish and Italian ambassadors

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Wednesday a copy of credentials of Muhammet Hekimoğlu, appointed ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr welcomed the ambassador, wishing him success in carrying out his duties. He also wished the relations between Oman and Turkey further progress.

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received a copy of credentials of Pierluigi D'Elia, appointed ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate on Wednesday. Sayyid Badr welcomed the ambassador, wishing him success in carrying out his duties. He also wished the relations between Oman and Italy further progress. -ONA

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FRANKINCENSE TREE

National Museum displays rare perfume bottles

MUSCAT: Embodying the historical value of the frankincense tree, the National Museum has displayed at the Land of Frankincense Gallery a collection of perfume bottles dating back to 1983 made of crystal, gold (24 karat) and silver.

The collection stands as the first aromatic innovation of Amouage Perfumes.

The perfumes were presented by late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour to his guests.

The three fragrant flasks depict Oman's three greatest natural treasures namely frankincense, rose and amber along with other rare ingredients. Frankincense

was and still a bridge of communication and highly regarded globally.

One of the perfumes' shape was inspired by the Omani dagger. Another perfume has a cubic design plated with gold and engraved with delicate decorations, while the design of the bottle cap was inspired by the dome of the mosque.

The museum also displays a perfume bottle in the form of "Lily of the Valley" from 1931, made of crystal and designed by "Rene Lalique" in Paris, the French Republic. The perfume bottles will be on display at the museum for a duration of six months. -ONA

JOINT MARCH

Foreign Minister holds talks with Arab League Secretary General

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received in his office yesterday Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

Viewpoints on issues of concern to the Arab action were exchanged during the meeting.

Emphasis was laid on enhancing the march of the joint Arab action in facing the regional challenges.

The meeting was attended by officials at the Foreign Ministry and the delegation accompanying the guest. -ONA

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Sultanate of Oman
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إعلان مزاد إلكتروني

E-Auction Announcement

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT will establish a public e-auction for government items auctioned in www.mazad.om .

Interested auction bidders must examine the following items as per stated below: -

Auctioned items	Examining location	Examining Date/Time
Vehicles + Heavy Machinery	Sayh Qutnah in Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar	8:00AM - 1:00PM
Vehicles + Heavy Machinery + Metal Scrap	The Wilayat of Sinaw (Barzman)	

The auction will start on Sunday 12/2/2023 from 8:00AM and ends in Monday 13/2/2023 at 12:00pm in accordance to the following conditions:

1. Bidders must register at (www.mazad.om).

2. Pay 2000 OMR as insurance electronically through auction website.

3. Bidders who acquired the actioned item successfully must pay auctioning fee, which is 3% of the auctioned item value.

4. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT and Mazad.om company E-auctioning shall not be liable for any mismatch between auctioned items images and descriptions in the platform and its actual state thus bidders must examine the items onsite in the allocated times for items examining.

5. Bidders who acquired the actioned item successfully must process items full payment through e-auction website within 48 work/office hours.

6. Bidders who acquired the auctioned items should dismantle and move the items within a week starting from the date of wining the auctioned item. In case of failing to move the items within the specified time a 5% ground fine will be imposed for each day of delay and the Ministry shall not be liable if anything is lost or damaged.

7. Acquired auctioned items cannot be returned or get a discount and any related request will not be accepted.

8. VAT (5%) is applied on the value of the auctioned item and auctioning service.

9. Insurance payment will be confiscated if the following occurred:
-if the bidder did not process full payment for the acquired item within the specified time.
-If the bidder did not move or dismantle the acquired items within the specified time.

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UNESCO-LISTED

February 10 designated as Annual Day for honouring Omani personalities

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, announced that the 10th of February every year will be designated as an annual day to honour the memory of globally influential Omani personalities included in the UNESCO's list for celebrating the 50th or centenary anniversary for of major historical events and globally influential personalities.

The celebration, which marks the Sultanate of Oman's accession to the UNESCO on February 10, 1972, aims to make influential Omani personalities known at the local and international levels, notably by highlighting their knowledge and scholarly accomplishments.

Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shai-bani, Minister of Education and Chairperson of the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the allocation of an annual day to give tribute to UNESCO-listed Omani personalities fits with the global organization's programme to celebrate the 50th or centenary anniversary of major historical events and personalities.

She pointed out that the event also reflects the country's keenness on innovative throughout history and in the legacies left behind by the scholars for humanity. It celebrates the accomplishments that transcended the boundaries of place and accessed wide global horizons, benefiting many knowledge-seekers interested in medicine, navigation, ge-

Youth for Culture, laid emphasis on Oman's efforts to boost its presence in the UNESCO programme that celebrates influential Omani personalities of global outreach.

Al Busaidi said that Oman's contribution started right upon the establishment of the UNESCO's programme in 2005, namely through the registration of Arab scholar Al Khalil bin Ahmed Al-Farahidi, then the listing of the Arab physician and pharmacist "Rashid bin Omeira" in 2013.

Al Busaidi said that Nouredine Al Salmi, an Omani polymath, encyclopaedist and social reformer was included in the UNESCO's list in 2015, alongside physician and physicist Abu Mohammed Al Azdi (Ibn Al-Dhahabi).

In the field of poetry and journalism, Omani scholar Abu Muslim Al Bahlani was included in the UNESCO's list in 2019, while another Omani scholar named Ahmed bin Majid was added to the UNESCO's list in 2021, Al Busaidi said. -ONA

Death toll tops 11,000 as rescue work continues in quake-hit Turkey, Syria

All the responsible authorities continue to warn that the figures could continue to rise and that the chances of finding survivors under the rubble is diminishing as time passes

ANKARA: Rescuers from Turkey and Syria, and increasingly from around the world as international assistance arrives, have continued to search the rubble for survivors early Wednesday after major earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Officials say the number of dead tallied in the two countries so far has climbed past 11,000, with fears that this figure could double.

Turkey's Disaster Management Authority (AFAD) said on Wednesday that the death toll there had passed 8,500.

The combined death toll from figures provided by Syrian authorities operating in government-controlled and insurgent-held areas has meanwhile topped 2 600.

The White Helmets rescue team, which is coordinating emer-



gency efforts in rebel-held areas, said on Twitter the toll had risen to more than 1,400 deaths and more than 2,600 injured.

Overnight, the Syrian health minister said the number of dead in government-held parts of the country rose to 1,250, the state-run al-Ikhbariya news outlet reported on its Telegram feed. The number of wounded was 2,054, he said.

All the responsible authorities continue to warn that the figures could continue to rise and that the chances of finding survivors under the rubble is diminishing as time passes.

Syria officially asks for EU aid, bloc says

The sanctions-hit Syrian government has put in an official request to the European for emergency assistance, the bloc's commissioner for crisis management has said.

“Earlier today, this morning, we have received a request from the government of Syria for assistance through the civil protection mechanism,” Janez Lenarcic told reporters on Wednesday.

He said the European Commission was "encouraging" EU member states to respond to the request while ensuring that aid "is

not diverted” by the government in Damascus. The regime headed by President Bashar Assad has been sanctioned by the bloc since a bloody 2011 crackdown on anti-government protests that has led to a long-running civil war.

White Helmet group

The White Helmet group, which is leading rescue efforts in rebel-held areas of Syria, has also appealed for international help as it tries to find and save survivors.

The group was formed a decade ago to help save civilians amid the civil war.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has arrived in the region devastated by Monday's earthquakes, his office said on Wednesday.

According to previous information, Erdogan was to travel to the town of Pazarcik, the epicenter of the quake, and to the worst-hit province of Hatay.

Erdogan has declared a state of emergency in 10 Turkish provinces over the earthquake.

During his visit, Erdogan, in apparent response to complaints that authorities had been slow in providing assistance, admitted that there had been initial problems but said operations were back to normal now.

The president was accused on Wednesday by an opposition politician of neglecting to prepare for such a catastrophe during his 20 years in power. CHP party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu said Erdogan had squandered money gathered from a national tax that aimed to finance earthquake protection measures. — **Agencies**

Under 'Operation Dost', India sends humanitarian assistance

NEW DELHI: India is providing materials, supplies, medical supplies, and equipment, to Syria as well as sending search and rescue teams to Turkey under 'Operation Dost', said India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday.

The search for survivors of the terrible earthquake that shook Turkey and Syria on Monday continues on Wednesday. Foreign aid from multiple countries has started arriving in the region. “Under #OperationDost, India is sending search and rescue teams, a field hospital, materials, medicines and equipment to Turkiye and Syria. This is an ongoing operation and we would be posting updates,” Jaishankar tweeted.

According to aid organisations and rescuers, the number of fatalities is expected to rise as many people are still buried beneath the wreckage.

The Turkey-Syria earthquake death toll currently stands at 9,487, CNN reported citing officials as rescue operations continue in the disaster-hit countries. India dispatched its fourth

batch of aid, including 54 members of the medical team from the Indian Army as part of the country's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief on Tuesday.

Recently, over 6 tons of emergency relief assistance reached Syria and was received at the Damascus airport by Deputy Minister of Local Administration and Environment Moutaz Douaji. It included 3 truck-loads of protective gear, emergency use medicines, ECG machines and other medical items, the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official statement.

In the wake of a tragic earthquake that struck North-Western Syria causing massive destruction and loss of precious lives, India dispatched 6 tonnes of emergency relief assistance through a special aircraft of the Indian Airforce to Syria. — ANI

IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Biden vows to 'finish the job'

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden delivered his second State of the Union address on Tuesday night, seeking to overcome pessimism in the country and concerns about his own leadership. His speech before a politically divided Congress came at a time when just a quarter of US adults say things in the country are headed in the right direction, according to a new poll by The As-

sociated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research.

The setting for Biden's speech looked markedly different from a year ago, when it was Democratic stalwart Nancy Pelosi seated behind him as House speaker. She's been replaced by Republican Kevin McCarthy, as Biden's party lost control of the House of Representatives.

With Republicans now in con-

trol of the House, Biden pointed to areas of bipartisan progress in his first two years in office, including on states' vital infrastructure and high tech manufacturing.

Biden called on Republicans to work with him to “finish the job” of rebuilding the economy and uniting the nation. The president uttered the phrase “finish the job” 13 times during his address.

— DW



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SPORTS

ELEVATED SERIES

Ceremonial tee shot starts International Series Oman at Al Mouj Golf

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The start of International Series Oman was marked with a ceremonial tee shot at the Greg Norman-designed Championship golf course, Al Mouj Golf, welcoming local dignitaries to celebrate its Middle Eastern debut and first of 10 International Series events on the Asian Tour in 2023.

Hosted at Al Mouj Golf and led by Asian Tour CEO Cho Minn Thant and Chairman of Oman Golf Committee Mundhir Al Barwani, the tee-off took place on the first hole of the oceanfront course, as several local VIPs gathered to witness the Asian Tour breaking ground in the Middle East for the first time. The event was held under the patronage of Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, Chairperson of Mohsin Haider Darwish and a member of the Board of Directors at Oman Olympic Committee.

Ahead of the elevated series taking place in the Sultanate for the first time Al Mouj Golf, CEO Nasser Al Sheibani welcomed this event, saying, "We are proud



to host the season-opener event of The International Series 2023 on the Asian Tour, here at the championship course of Al Mouj Golf. It's fantastic to welcome so many local dignitaries alongside the world-class field that's been assembled. The International Series promises to promote the country across continents, elevating the competitive experience for players on the Asian Tour and it once again highlights Oman as a unique venue on the

world golf stage."

The impressive 132-player field ready to tee it up this week includes golfers from 23 countries across 6 continents, headlined by Brooks Koepka, Sergio Garcia, Graeme McDowell, Louis Oosthuizen, Joaquin Niemann and Charl Schwartzel, all competing on the oceanfront course for their share in a total prize fund of \$2 million.

Ahead of the tournament, Four-time Major Champion,



Brooks Koepka, spoke about the condition of the golf course and said, "I have only been here for the past day or so but it is a beautiful golf course and the hospitality from the Omani people has been amazing. That stretch of holes by the water is amazing and I'm looking forward to seeing the challenge the course has to offer on Thursday when the tournament starts."

Graeme McDowell commented on playing in the Sultanate for the

first time and said, "I've played a lot of golf in the Middle East for the last 20 years and it's always amazing to come to new places. I like what I see so far, it's a beautiful country with great facilities and a great golf course this week and I'm looking forward to competing this weekend."

Al Mouj Golf has now received 23 International Awards and welcomes 16,000 golfers and 35,000 guests annually, with many more expected as part of this latest

Oman's world-class golf destination welcomes an all-star field this week for the Asian Tour's International Series' Middle Eastern debut

LeBron breaks NBA's all-time scoring record

James made a step-back jump for his 36th point of the evening and the 38,388th of his career with 10.9 seconds left in the third quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' game against the Oklahoma City Thunder



WASHINGTON: LeBron James became the National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer on Tuesday, passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career total

of 38,387 points.

James made a step-back jump for his 36th point of the evening and the 38,388th of his career with 10.9 seconds left in the third quarter

of the Los Angeles Lakers' game against the Oklahoma City Thunder. The Crypto.com Arena erupted in loud jubilation at James' new record of 38,388 points, and he

threw his arms up in relief.

The 38-year-old James accomplished the feat in his 20th season. Abdul-Jabbar's record stood for almost 40 years, when he set the

old mark on April 5 in 1984 - nine months before James was born.

It's the latest, and arguably greatest, accolade in a glittering career for 'King James' - a fitting moniker for a player who, at a remarkable 38 years of age, continues to have a powerful impact on the game of basketball.

The game was stopped with Abdul-Jabbar and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver joining James on the court. "I just want to say thank you to the Laker faithful", Olympics.com quoted James saying to the crowd at Crypto.com Arena.

"You guys are one of a kind. To be able to be in the presence of such a legend as great as Kareem, it means so much to me. It's very humbling. Please give a standing ovation to the captain," he added.

"To my beautiful wife, my daughter, my two boys, my friends... Man, everybody that's ever been a part of this run with me the last 20-plus years, I just want to say I thank you so much 'cause I wouldn't be me without y'all," James said.

James finished with 38 points, seven boards, three assists and three steals as the Lakers lost 133-130. -ANI

NAGPUR: India skipper Rohit Sharma faces selection headaches ahead of the first Test against Australia in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy as all the players are in good form, pushing for a spot and doing really well.

The first Test between India and Australia will take place from February 9 onwards at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium. The four-match Test series against Australia is one of the most eagerly-anticipated series for some time, with the result also set to have a decisive impact on qualification for the ICC World Test Championship Final.

"It is tough. The guys are in good form, pushing for a spot and doing really well, and it is tough to leave some out," Rohit Sharma said in a pre-match press conference in Nagpur.

Rohit said that it is a good sign that players are performing well and all options are open as different pitches need different skill sets.

"But it is a good sign overall that all the guys are performing well and in with a chance for selection. But we will see the conditions and pick teams accordingly. -ANI

JUNE 7 TO 11

ICC World Test Championship 2023 final at Oval from June 7

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed that the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship Final will be played between June 7 to 11, as two years of Test cricket reaches its conclusion in the Ultimate Test at The Oval in England.

The final of the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship will be played at The Oval, London from June 7 to 11 with a reserve day in place on 12 June. New Zealand had won the inaugural edition, defeating India by eight wickets in the 2021 final in Southampton. The South London venue has hosted over 100 Test matches in its rich history, and in June will welcome the top two Test sides in the ICC World Test Championship standings, which will compete for the ICC World Test Championship Mace following two years of hard-fought competition.

The ICC World Test Championship Final is the pinnacle event in the Test calendar and is a week-long celebration of the longest format of the game. This Ultimate Test is the culmination of two years of intense competition in the ICC World Test Championship, spanning 61 Test matches over 24 series played to date.

While the two competing nations may not yet be known, there are a host of significant fixtures due to play out in the coming



weeks to determine the Finalists, and excitement is building ahead of June's clash.

Australia currently top the standings, with India in hot pursuit in second place, and both teams go head-to-head across a four-Test series from 9 February with a place at The Oval, and the coveted ICC World Test

Championship Mace, firmly in their sights.

While six teams in total stand a chance of qualification, among the frontrunners to challenge the top two are Sri Lanka, who sit third in the standings and South Africa in fourth, who take on reigning WTC champions New Zealand and the West Indies respectively over two

two-Test series during February and March.

As the drama ebbs and flows in the coming weeks, the ICC World Test Championship Final will undoubtedly present us with another absorbing encounter, where the victors will write themselves into the annals of this historical format of the game. -ANI

FIRST TEST



Pitch will be a factor in the playing XI: Cummins

NAGPUR: Ahead of his side's first Test against India, Australian skipper Pat Cummins noted that pitch preparation will be a factor in how his playing eleven is selected.

The first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy between India and Australia will take place at VCA Stadium in Nagpur from Thursday onwards. Cummins said that he would not be revealing the final XI until the toss, but uncapped bowler Todd Murphy is close to making his Test debut and batter Peter Handscomb's chances of being included are also increasing since Australia does not want too many left-handers on a made-to-order Nagpur pitch.

The ground staff at VCA stadium has been curating the pitch with some selective watering. The

middle of the pitch and areas outside right-handers off stump were watered, but those on good length outside left-handers off stump at both ends were left bone dry. Selective mowing and brushing were also done in some areas.

"I think it is a factor over here," he said. "With so much traffic from the right-handers bowling, at times there is a bit more out there for the left-handers. The Indian line-up is going to be packed full of right-handers, so I think it plays a small factor," added the skipper.

Cummins ruled out all-rounder Cameron Green from the opener. Matt Renshaw had taken his place in Australia's previous match, against South Africa. But bringing him here would mean having five out of the top seven batters as left-handers. -ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2023 reaching \$82.09, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.64 from the price of Tuesday, which was at \$80.45. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,766.36 points, up by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.22 per cent at 489.85 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemicals, down 7.50 per cent, was the top loser.

IPO boom in GCC region seen to continue in 2023

The initial public offering (IPO) market in the Gulf Cooperation Council saw companies raising more than \$20 billion in 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The IPO boom in the GCC is expected to continue in 2023 and is expected to draw more investments than in 2022, which exceeded \$20 billion, according to an industry expert.

The initial public offering (IPO) market in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) saw a very good year in 2022, in particular in comparison to other regions, which recorded a dearth of listings and a pessimistic sentiment overall as doubts over global economic growth accumulated and interest rates rose, Bas Kooijman, CEO and

Asset Manager of DHF Capital, said in an exclusive interview with the *Times of Oman*.

"The GCC benefited from governmental support and strong energy prices and the markets in the region saw some big IPOs and are expected to maintain this trend for 2023," he added.

Elaborating about OQ subsidiary Abraj Energy's listing on the Muscat Securities Exchange (MSX) Bas said that the announcement of Abraj's IPO has spurred interest in the Omani stock market, which is benefitting from the surge of investments that came from listings in neighbour-



Bas Kooijman

ing countries during 2022. "The IPO could also fuel a positive sentiment for the market as a whole and help push local stock prices to the upside. MSX could see a better year in 2023," he further added.

Speaking about the IPO market in the GCC during the year Bas said, "Overall, the sentiment has been trending up with China reopening its economy and the US

potentially decreasing the pace of interest rate hikes."

This could further push companies in the GCC to speed up their IPO projects to tap the improving risk appetite among investors, he said. "However, the extent of this boom could be exposed to changes in monetary policy, economic growth and investors' appetite for risk," he further added.

Bas said that 2022 saw a number of large IPOs, chief among them, DEWA, which raised \$6.1 billion on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM). Other large IPOs in the UAE included Borouge, Salik and Empower. Saudi Arabia also saw a large IPO in Luberef.

Dubai is constantly finding innovative ways of incentivising business development and healthy growth, which leads to more companies achieving IPO eligibility, and 2023 could outperform last year's trends because of this, Bas said to *Times of Oman*. "The Saudi stock exchange has already announced that a large number of

IPOs are in the works. In Dubai, Salik and Empower entered the emirate's stock market and we could see other government-owned organisations enter the market as well," he added.

Bas said that it remains unclear which companies would be next in the IPO pipeline. "However, we could see some large government-owned companies in the UAE and Saudi Arabia opening their capital to investors, to break last year's trend. In the UAE, four free zone companies could list on the stock market," he added.

Stock market investors face a number of risk factors including inflation, interest rates, the global economic slowdown and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. In this regard, the US monetary policy remains a critical factor due to its large impact on sentiment, stock prices and global economic activity. As such, the main challenge for investors would be to target the companies most likely to thrive under current market conditions.

OIL PRICES

Oil steady on subdued dollar, traders await more inventory data

SINGAPORE: Oil prices were little changed on Wednesday amid subdued movements in the dollar, and as investors waited for more inventory data for more clues on demand trends.

Brent crude futures rose by one cent to \$83.70 a barrel at 0405 GMT, after gaining 3.3 per cent in the previous session.

US West Texas Intermediate crude futures climbed by 15 cents to \$77.29, after jumping 4.1 per cent in the previous session.

Oil benchmarks are expected to retain support after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell sounded less hawkish on interest rates than markets had expected, while the latest data showed US crude inventories fell despite earlier expectations of a climb.

The dollar index was down slightly on Wednesday, extending losses after Powell's comments on Tuesday, making oil cheaper for those holding other currencies. -BNA

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

Fitch affirms OETC at 'BB+'; outlook stable

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fitch Ratings has published a new statement on its website highlighting the affirmation of the Oman Electricity Transmission Company's (OETC) rating of "BB+", and the outlook is stable.

Fitch assesses the Standalone Credit Profile (SCP) at 'BB+'. Their view is supported by OETC's strong business profile, which will remain commensurate with the rating under Price Control 6 (PC6). The SCP reflects OETC's dominant market position as the natural monopoly national transmission system operator within a supportive regulatory framework, stable earnings profile and EBITDA fully generated from regulated



electricity efficient operation.

Fitch stated that it does not expect the restructuring of the distribution companies, which was announced by the Oman Investment Authority in January 2022, to have

an impact on OETC's operations over the medium term.

Eng. Saleh Al Rumhi, OETC's CEO acknowledged the efforts made by the company's employees and the plans for the implementation of national projects. He also stated, "This rating is a strong incentive for the company and the future investments that the company includes in its plans.

"It also increases the confidence of current and independent investors and improves the company's reputation at the global and regional levels."

He added, "OETC management assures its aim to reach higher level ranking as per its future strategic plans and to contribute in achieving the goals of the "Oman

2040 Vision" related to the energy and renewable energy sector."

It is worth mentioning that OETC is the only company responsible for the transmission and control of electricity in the northern Sultanate's network and also in the Governorate of Dhofar, where electricity is transferred from production stations to distributed load centres in all governorates of the Sultanate, and the transmission network operates at a voltage of 132 kV and above, to cover most of the governorates of the Sultanate, whether in the north or the south. OETC also manages the interconnection lines between the Sultanate and the Gulf interconnection network with a voltage of 220 kV.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY



Workshop explores key features, risks of commodities markets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) organised a training workshop titled 'Introduction to Commodities Markets and Trading' in collaboration with the Union of Arab Securities Authorities.

The workshop was attended by several employees of the capital market institutions, regulatory authorities, stock exchanges, intermediaries and commercial banks.

The workshop aimed to explore the key features and inherent risks of commodities markets and how to avail the unique opportunities provided by the sector

and trading of each commodity. The workshop provided the participants with a vision of practical trading strategies and techniques for trading and hedging.

The commodities markets are important as means for obtaining such commodities whether raw materials or primary products at competitive prices.

Commodities markets are good hedging tools against inflation and alternative categories of assets that help in diversifying the investment portfolios further to investors' reliance on commodities during market volatility as commodities prices move in reverse to share prices.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON QUALITY AND VALUE ENGINEERING

Forum to highlight importance of value engineering

MUSCAT: The Secretariat General of the Tender Board, in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour, will organise on 21 February, the 4th International Conference on Quality and Value Engineering.

The 2-day event themed 'Value Engineering in the Age of Uncertainty' will be held at Grand Millennium Muscat.

This year's conference comes as a result of the global challenges faced by various world countries, as well as institutions and companies. These challenges, particularly the



economic ones, require institutions to reconsider many things, including raising production capacity and improving performance and quality levels, while maintaining finan-

cial efficiency and reducing costs.

The event aims at disseminating awareness of the importance of value engineering and the consolidation of the culture of value en-

gineering, its permanence and the importance of using it to improve quality and raise efficiency.

The conference will discuss several topics, most importantly how to manage time and cost as essential elements in value engineering and the importance of teamwork for successful value engineering projects, as well as applying engineering in strategic projects in the water sector and the big data project in the oil and gas exploration and production market in Petroleum Development Oman. - OMA

SAUDI ARABIA

Mawani and eXtra sign pact for logistics centre at King Abdulaziz Port

RIYADH: The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) has signed an investment agreement with leading consumer tech retailer United Electronics Company (eXtra) to set up a state-of-the-art logistics centre at King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam.

The 10-year deal, valued at 35 million riyals, was signed at the Mawani headquarters by its President Omar Hariri, and Chairman of United Electronics Company, Abduljabbar Mohamed Abduljabbar.

The partnership goes hand in hand with Mawani's core mission to establish sustainable, cutting-edge logistics facilities. To be built over 32,000 sq.m, the logistics and distribution centre will feature port-centric warehouses and storage yards designed to handle a wide range of multi-brand products and appliances. -SPA

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Oman Education & Training, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemicals, down 7.50 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,766.36 points, up by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.22 per cent at 489.85 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemicals, down 7.50 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 350 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.22 million, with more than 6.26 million shares changing hands. Out of 40 traded securities, 15 advanced, 6 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR194,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR190,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR3,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,647.04 points, up 0.21 per cent. Prices of Oman Qatar Insurance, United Finance, Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman and Bank Muscat were up by 5.00 per cent, 1.64 per cent, 1.00 per cent, 0.74 per cent and 0.35 per cent respectively. Price of Muscat Finance was down by 8.33 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,983.01 points, down 0.01 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, Oman Chromite and Galfar Engineering were up by 8.33 per cent, 3.75 per cent and 1.00 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, A'Saffa Foods and Oman Fisheries down by 7.50 per cent, 5.00 per cent and 1.14 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.02 per cent before closing at 1,687.46 points. Prices of Oman Education & Training, Muscat Gases, Oman National Engineering, OIFC and Barka Desalination were up by 9.09 per cent, 3.77 per cent, 0.82 per cent, 0.79 per cent and 0.72 per cent respectively. Prices of National Gas and Oman Telecom were down by 3.81 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,780.06	4,757.98	4,766.36	4,757.98	8.38	0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,666.79	7,633.34	7,647.04	7,630.65	16.40	0.21
Industry Index	6,000.04	5,976.05	5,983.01	5,983.88	-0.87	-0.01
Services Index	1,690.27	1,682.33	1,687.46	1,687.79	-0.34	-0.02
MSX Shariah Index	489.85	488.74	489.85	488.79	1.06	0.22
MSX TR INDEX	6,035.63	6,007.75	6,018.33	6,007.75	10.58	0.18
FINANCIAL TRIDX	8,022.44	7,987.44	8,001.77	7,984.62	17.16	0.21
SERVICES TRIDX	1,793.15	1,784.73	1,790.17	1,790.53	-0.36	-0.02
INDUSTRIAL TRIDX	6,246.78	6,221.81	6,229.05	6,229.96	-0.91	-0.01

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
6,264,875	1,223,203	350	23,614,573,030	15	6	19	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

REGULAR MARKET

RIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	500	62	1	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.001	0.820	0.123	0.110	0.125	0.100	17,220,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	15,100	1,933	2	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.001	0.787	0.128	0.126	0.130	0.100	30,336,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	250,338	69,990	21	0.279	0.280	0.272	0.272	0.270	0.002	0.741	0.272	0.297	0.272	0.100	442,257,409
OM0000002224	RENAISSANCE SER.	264,411	121,861	24	0.462	0.464	0.456	0.462	0.460	0.002	0.435	0.462	0.506	0.462	0.100	109,221,420
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	798,627	230,418	35	0.289	0.289	0.288	0.288	0.287	0.001	0.348	0.288	0.314	0.288	0.100	161,842,354
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	25,278	7,075	5	0.270	0.280	0.270	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.276	0.280	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	304	2	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.000	0.000	0.304	0.302	0.304	0.100	100,585,304
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	39,091	8,991	11	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000	0.000	0.230	0.227	0.230	0.100	28,726,531
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	181,315	77,603	16	0.428	0.428	0.428	0.428	0.428	0.000	0.000	0.428	0.470	0.428	0.100	278,604,130
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	213,706	206,340	23	0.964	0.968	0.964	0.964	0.968	-0.004	-0.413	0.964	1.060	0.964	0.100	723,000,000
Total	10	1,789,366	724,396	140												

Parallel Market

OM0000002580	OMAN EDU TRAINING	8,298	1,992	3	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.220	0.020	9.091	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	15,555	936	3	0.058	0.065	0.058	0.065	0.060	0.005	8.333	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.100	2,182,144
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	5,150	819	3	0.160	0.168	0.158	0.168	0.160	0.008	5.000	0.168	0.150	0.160	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	940	103	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.106	0.004	3.774	0.110	0.106	0.108	0.100	3,300,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	468	1,170	6	2.500	2.500	2.490	2.490	2.490	0.000	3.750	2.490	2.500	2.500	1.000	7,470,000
OM0000002274	UNITED FINANCE	1,588,518	78,915	35	0.061	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.061	0.001	1.839	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	21,646,363
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	509,404	102,939	39	0.200	0.204	0.200	0.202	0.200	0.002	1.000	0.202	0.202	0.202	0.100	41,053,262
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,900,752	190,198	15	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.000	0.101	0.101	0.109	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	29,500	4,121	8	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.001	0.719	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	10,573,080
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	11,730	1,533	3	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.130	0.130	0.100	26,400,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	83,985	12,850	4	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.100	458,441,770
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	2,241	314	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.000	0.140	0.100	75,772,264
OM0000005601	VOLTAMP ENERGY	78,505	7,851	6	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	8,140,275
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	14,920	2,074	4	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.100	13,594,500
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	77,564	7,057	13	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	15,925,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	25,680	1,094	5	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	821	29	1	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.033	0.035	0.100	23,621,060
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	56,830	1,985	9	0.034	0.035	0.034	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.034	0.035	0.100	25,004,222
OM0000005390	OMAN ARAB BANK	31,874	3,971	3	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.110	0.000	0.100	196,990,380
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	32,200	1,741	7	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.100	80,443,080
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	25,350	2,484	3	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.092	0.098	0.100	19,600,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	31,000	2,478	3	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.000	0.088	0.100	37,694,911
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	76,000	8,968	2	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.129	0.100	50,122,885
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	12,733	1,115	5	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.087	0.089	0.100	15,840,821
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	4,520	287	1	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.697	0.059	0.058	0.060	0.100	18,122,633
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	83,620	8,446	13	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.105	-0.004	-3.910	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	5,585,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	10,382	1,983	6	0.200	0.200	0.190	0.190	0.200	-0.010	-5.000	0.190	0.188	0.195	0.100	22,800,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT'CHEMI	4,000	296	2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.080	-0.006	-7.500	0.074	0.072	0.084	0.100	1,554,000
Total	28	4,422,540	447,518	204												

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Foreign portfolio flows show signs of improvement: RBI Governor Das

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said foreign portfolio flows have shown signs of improvement with positive flows of \$8.5 billion from July to February 6, led by equity flows.

"Foreign portfolio flows are, however, negative during the financial year so far," he said.

On the financing side, the RBI governor said net foreign direct investment (FDI) flows remain strong at \$22.3 billion during April-December 2022. It was \$24.8 billion in the corresponding period last year, he added.

In his speech, while announcing the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee on Wednesday, Shaktikanta Das said, "Net inflows under non-resident deposits increased to \$3.6 billion during April-November 2022 from \$2.6 billion a year ago, boosted by the Reserve Bank's July 6 measures."



Foreign exchange reserves have rebounded from \$524.5 billion on October 21, 2022, to \$576.8 billion as on January 27, 2023, covering around 9.4 months of projected imports for 2022-23. India's external debt ratios are low by international standards.

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$3.03 billion to \$576.761 billion in the week ending on January 27, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest data.

The reserves are currently at their multi-month highs with the latest three consecutive weeks' rise, the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement Bulletin said.

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, hiked the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent on Wednesday.

According to the governor, a rate hike of 25 basis points is considered appropriate at the current juncture. "The reduction in the size of the rate hike provides the opportunity to evaluate the effects of the actions taken so far on the inflation outlook and the economy at large," he added.

Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee started its three-day meeting on February 6 amid the rate hiking spree that started in

May last year to check inflation.

The Monetary Policy Committee consists of three RBI officials and three external members, who are appointed by the central government. This week's monetary policy is seen as crucial as it will be the RBI's first policy stance for the calendar year 2023 and comes exactly one week after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament on February 1.

The RBI members include Governor Das, Executive Director Rajiv Ranjan and Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

The external members are National Council of Applied Economic Research Senior Advisor Shashanka Bhide; Indra Gandhi Institute of Development Research Emeritus Professor Ashima Goyal; and Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad Professor Jayanth R Varma. -ANI

ECONOMY

China's warming economy a new impetus to global growth

BEIJING: Well begun is half done. Off to a good start in 2023, China's economy is seeing a faster-than-expected recovery, which is boosting confidence and nurturing new impetus both domestically and abroad.

The robust tourism and consumption boom during the Spring Festival, as well as other indicators, serve as evidence suggesting a promising year.

During the seven-day holiday, China saw nearly 2.9 million cross-border trips, up 120.5 per cent year on year, and 308 million domestic trips, up 23.1 per cent compared with 2022. In January, the purchasing managers' index for China's manufacturing sector came in at 50.1, returning to expansion territory after three consecutive months of contraction.

With eased epidemic controls and the start of a new policy cycle, China's economy is expected to open new horizons in 2023, while pragmatic policies to stabilise growth and boost development will further shore up confidence, said Yu Xiangrong, China chief economist of Citigroup.

Encouraging figures are the result of coordinated central and local planning, which echoed a Chinese saying that a year's plan starts with spring. Promoting consumption and expanding domestic demand is a priority task in China in 202

BOLLYWOOD LIFE AND TALK OF THE TINSEL TOWN

Kangana Ranaut all set for 'Chandramukhi 2'

Actor Kangana Ranaut, on Tuesday, reached Hyderabad for the second schedule of her upcoming film 'Chandramukhi 2'. Helmed by P Vasu, the film is the sequel to the blockbuster hit Tamil horror comedy film 'Chandramukhi' which starred Rajinikanth and Jyothika in the lead roles. In 'Chandramukhi 2' Kangana will portray the role of a dancer in the king's court, who was known for her beauty and dance skills. Tamil actor Raghava Lawrence will play the lead role opposite Kangana in the film. The official release date of the film is still awaited. Apart from this, Kangana will also be seen in the upcoming period drama film 'Emergency' which also marks her first solo directorial film. 'Emergency' revolves around the life of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and features Kangana in the titular role of the late politician.

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani make first appearance as married couple

Newly weds Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra made their first public appearance together post their magical wedding in Jaisalmer. The couple was clicked at the Jaisalmer airport a while ago as they left for New Delhi. Sidharth and Kiara tied the knot in Jaisalmer's Suryagarh on February 7. For the ceremony, Kiara donned a Manish Malhotra-designed pink lehenga, which featured intricate embroidery detailing of Roman architecture. The new bride chose diamond jewellery by Manish Malhotra for her big day. The neckpiece features an exquisite composition of ultra-fine hand-cut diamonds crafted with rare Zambian emeralds.



Matthew McConaughey to lend voice for 'Elvis' animated series

Matthew McConaughey is all set to voice late singer-actor Elvis Presley in upcoming Netflix animated series. Eight months after Austin Butler stunned us with his Oscar-nominated Elvis performance, Matthew McConaughey has mastered Elvis Presley's voice. According to E! News Matthew McConaughey will be lending his voice for 'Agent Elvis,' Netflix's forthcoming animated series which will premiere in March this year. "Every once in a while, man accomplishes the impossible," McConaughey's Elvis says in the teaser, which dropped on February 6. "All it takes is someone with a dream. Because when a man dreams, he can change the world."

Raveena Tandon to pair with Sanjay Dutt

Raveena, who was recently conferred with Padma Shri, will be seen rekindling her on-screen chemistry with Sanjay Dutt after a two-year gap in the upcoming romantic-comedy 'Ghudchadi'. She was last seen in KGF: Chapter 2 alongside Sanjay Dutt and Yash. She also has 'Patna Shukla' in her kitty. The film also stars Satish Kaushik and is produced by Arbaz Khan. She is also set to headline an upcoming series for streamer Disney+ Hotstar, Variety reported. "I'm extremely elated to be a part of the Disney+ Hotstar family. This show is going to be very special for me as I've always liked to challenge and reinvent myself with every character I've ever played and this show has given me just that, all I can say is, stay tuned for some fun," she said.



WINTER MORNING HIKES: AN EASY WAY TO GET 10,000 STEPS DONE BEFORE BREAKFAST

Access to the great outdoors, endless kilometres of hiking trails, uninterrupted views and the mild winter sun – these are some of the things that were taken for granted in Oman. But COVID-19 changed all of that. Remaining indoors made people crave the outdoors like never before.

So as the world returns to a new normal, tourists, citizens and residents around the country are lacing up their hiking boots and hitting the trails like never before.

Oman is home to some of the best trails in the region, some of them are easy walks, and some are guaranteed to challenge even the fittest and most sure-footed hikers.

One such easy trail which was recently explored by the Times Team is the Wadi Al Khoud Trail.

Starting off: Well within city-limits, the 6km Wadi Al Khoud Trail begins at Al Khoud Village. Graded 3 on 5 by hikers (5 being extremely difficult), this trail is great for explorers with moderate fitness levels. Once you have parked your car, you just have to walk a few steps, till you find the point marking the start of the trail. Helpful trail-builders have painted arrows and flags along the way, so you can always be assured that you are on the right track.

Sunrise: Starting just before day-break is perfect, as you can reach the highest point just as the sun rises over the horizon. The sunrise is a breathtaking view, over kilometers of small mountains. After this point, the



trek is slightly more challenging, as it snakes downhill. There is a ladder which takes you about 30 feet down, although you can walk along the rocky path as well.

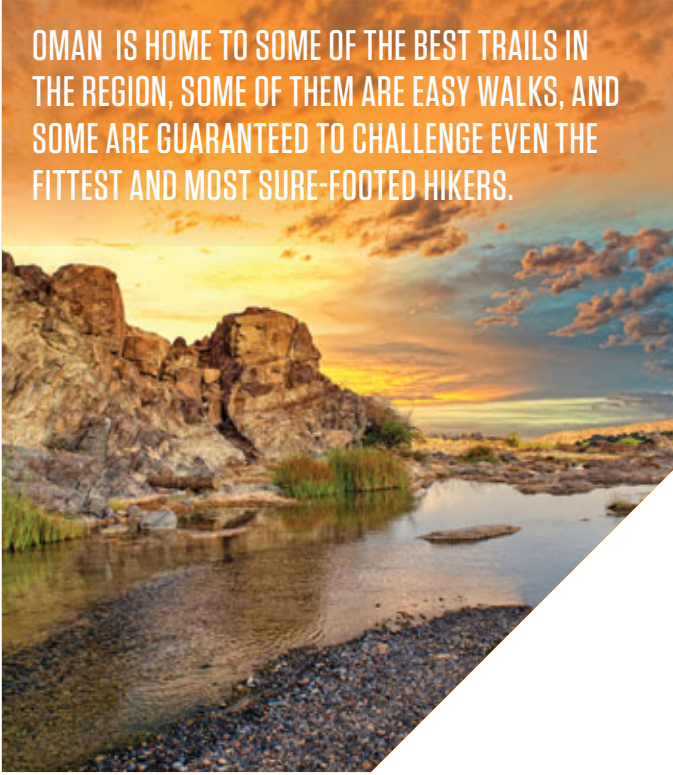
Snack break: After the ladder, the trail takes a sharp bend to the right, and you realise that the wadi is now on your left. As you begin to walk towards the wadi, you are shielded from the sun by the mountain. It's a great place to stop and fuel up on the snacks in your rucksack. Just make sure you don't leave any trash behind.

Wadi adventures: Once you are closer to the valley, you can explore the area. If you are adventurous, look for the small gorge that takes you to the wadi, or stick to the marked path for an easier trail. Splash around, watch the farmers herd their sheep and revel in the fact that you've done almost 7,000 steps and it's not even 8am.

Walk back to the car: This is the tough part! After the fun at the wadi, the hunger pangs for breakfast and a hot cup of coffee strike you. Hurry along, but don't forget to appreciate that such beauty exists within the city.

Always: Hike with a buddy. Carry water and snacks. Make sure your phone is fully charged.

Location: Wadi Al Khoud Trail



OMAN IS HOME TO SOME OF THE BEST TRAILS IN THE REGION, SOME OF THEM ARE EASY WALKS, AND SOME ARE GUARANTEED TO CHALLENGE EVEN THE FITTEST AND MOST SURE-FOOTED HIKERS.



ROUND-UP

Ford Explorer: A capable and dependable vehicle

The Explorer is equipped with a revised 2.3-litre turbocharged EcoBoost engine that produces 300 horsepower and 420Nm of torque

MUSCAT: The Ford Explorer is a capable and dependable vehicle which makes a great choice when it comes to enjoying fun family experiences. Equipped with 4x4 capability, impressive space, comfort and a host of features and technology, the Explorer always rises above and makes a fine mark on every terrain.

The Explorer is equipped with a revised 2.3-litre turbocharged EcoBoost engine that produces 300 horsepower and 420Nm of torque. The engine is matched to an all-new 10-speed transmission and intelligent all-wheel-drive system. With its quick-shifting 10-speed automatic transmission, Intelligent four-wheel drive plus a terrain management system featuring seven selectable drive modes, the new Explorer is built to tackle virtually any adventure. Sand mode comes standard on all models.



In the Ford Explorer improved off-road capability comes courtesy of intelligent four-wheel drive and an available new Terrain Management System that features seven easy-to-engage drive modes. Standard features include a power liftgate, 8-inch digital touch screen with SYNC 3, and a comprehensive package of driver assist and safety technologies.

Every Explorer comes standard with Ford Co-Pilot360, a suite of driver-assist technologies including pre-collision assist with automatic emergency braking, which includes pedestrian detection, forward collision warning and dynamic brake support; blind spot information system with cross-traffic alert; lane-keeping system; rearview camera with built-in lens cleaner and Auto headlamps with auto high-beams.

Other available Ford Co-Pilot360 Assist+ technologies include Evasive Steering Assist, which provides steering support to help avoid a collision; and Post-Impact Braking provides braking after a collision to lessen injury and damage caused by a secondary crash event.

Explorer also is available with Ford's all-new Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control which automatically slows the vehicle down when traffic ahead slows. It also helps keep the vehicle centred in its lane.

The Explorer's 8-inch touch screen mounted in the centre of the dash with navigation maps fills the entire screen for easy viewing, or split the space with audio information. The screen provides a quicker, more responsive interaction with the updated SYNC 3 system. Standard SYNC 3's more intuitive layout gives drivers compatibility with available Apple CarPlay® feature.

A wireless charging pad is available that allows customers to recharge compatible mobile devices, and up to four USB ports, including new type-C outlets, charge next-generation mobile devices. Up to five 12-volt outlets and a 230-volt outlet are also available. For music lovers, Explorer offers an available 980-watt, 12-speaker B&O premium audio system.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.



22nd Rovers Camp launched at University of Technology and Applied Sciences

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Dr Saeed bin Hamad Al Rubaie, Vice Chancellor of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, the 22nd Rovers Camp of the university was launched in the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) in Al Musannah.

In a recorded speech, Dr Saeed bin Hamad Al-Rubaie reminded everyone that the interest of the Sultanate of Oman in Scouts and Guides came in the early stages of the blessed renaissance, and this interest continued during the era of the renewed renaissance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said. This motivated UTAS to organise the annual Rovers Camp.

He also pointed out that the Rover scouting activity is very important to UTAS-Al Musannah "because of the important role it plays in building the student's personality and establishing high Omani values and character in our students, in addition to establishing volunteer work and self-reliance. Thus, it represents an essential part in shaping the personality of the student." He went on to express the university's hope that these activities will continue to be held annually in the various branches of the university with the hosting duties being allocated to a different branch each year to support the voluntary work of the Scouts.

Dr Ahmed bin Ali Al-Shahri, Dean of UTAS in Al-Musannah, delivered the organising committee's speech and welcomed everyone to the camp, which this year has the motto 'Rover Scouting, Revival and Giving'. The motto expresses the role played by the rovers in rejuvenating habits and daily life, embodying the spirit of giving in all fields of work, and volunteering to serve the nation and the people. The camp will take place from February 7-11 with the participation of more than a hundred rovers and leaders from the various branches of the university. This event is held every year in one of the university's branches.

After the welcoming speech, a presentation was given showing the rover scouting movement and its importance in building the individual and spreading the spirit of belonging and loyalty to the homeland and demonstrating how it infuses good morals, such as honesty and dedication in the individual.

OMANI INDUSTRY DAY

Sharakah focuses on providing services to projects that positively contribute to national economy

MUSCAT: Oman government, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, celebrates the Omani Industry Day on February 9 every year. The Industry Day commemorations are marked to motivate the industrial sector to work for economic diversification in Oman.

Promoting the growth of industries and hence increasing its contribution to the economy remains one of the top priorities of the Omani government.

To achieve success, it has put in place a policy framework to create a conducive business environment for industries. To support industries, the government has centred on simplifying processes, job creation, skill development and fostering innovation.

In line with Oman's vision 2040 Sharakah has been and continues its contribution to boosting the industrial sector in the country since 1998. Being committed to entrepreneurship development it offers a wide range of services to aspiring entrepreneurs right from planning a project to reaching its full potential. Sharakah offers three main services including creating awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship and SMEs; providing financial support for startups and existing businesses; and providing consultation, handholding and advice to business owners to ensure their progress and sustainability.

Sharakah has been contributing considerably to the development and preservation of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Oman to help young and aspiring entrepreneurs in Oman grow into successful business leaders. In cooperation with the SME ecosystem, Sharakah also provides advisory support as well as capacity building and creating awareness of the importance and best practices for entrepreneurship targeting different age groups across Oman. It has developed a variety of tools to improve business performance, among them: the risk assessment tool, which gives an insight into the risk associated with each prospective business, producing a mitigation strategy; the business performance monitoring tool, a performance measurement tool that evaluates the business from different angles and provides a plan for improvement of the business over a specified timeframe; the financial analysis tool which



enables understanding project profitability, payback period and other significant financial ratios and metrics.

Following Oman's Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP) endorsed by the Council of Ministers and approved by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in 2021, Sharakah developed its five-year strategy (2021-2025) to meet the existing market circumstances and to be more aligned with Oman's Vision 2040. Sharakah now focuses on the sectors of transformative industries such as agriculture, fisheries, mining, mineral, cultural, logistics, educational, tourism, technology, innovation and other complementary sectors. Sharakah extended the sectors of its support that were previously limited to manufacturing, services and trading to help open up a wider field for the economy in general and for the SMEs, in particular, to boost their services and increase the percentage of their contribution to the country's GDP. Sharakah also cooperates with organisations regionally and internationally to achieve its objectives.

Since its establishment, Sharakah has supported several SMEs all over Oman and in different sectors and backed them to ensure business sustainability and create employment opportunities.

New Rusayl Heights (ELMRR) One of Sharakah's biggest 'continuous support' success stories is the New Rusayl Heights (ELMRR), a leading Omani SME specialising in manufacturing construction chemicals and coating products. The SME was granted financial and advisory support by Sharakah as a startup in 2011. ELMRR has benefited and grown with numerous financial assistance and con-



tinued handholding. Sharakah's main aim of continuous support contributes positively to the national economy by supporting an SME like ELMRR to stabilise and enhance its performance with financial and consultancy services.

ELMRR, established in Muscat in 2011 by Huda Al Saadi, produces a variety of products with high quality to fulfil the local market demands in the construction and building industry. Each product manufactured by ELMRR is a result of research and development with contractors, manufacturers and consumers to ensure the product complements the requirements of the market. The products include high-quality precision grouts, concrete admixtures, Industrial floorings and coatings, technically advanced joint sealants, adhesives, bonding agents, waterproofing and damp proofing products, water stops, self-adhesive membranes, protective coatings and concrete repair and protection systems among others.

The business stood against the stiff competition from big players in the market and has grown over the

years. Now operating from Samail Industrial Area and it aims to increase production capacity and add new products to cater to the market demands. Sharakah is proud of the determined and hard-working Huda Al Saadi's growth story.

Gulf Nails Another industrial SME supported by Sharakah, Gulf Nails is into manufacturing quality coated and bulk nails which are mostly exported to the USA. Established in 2020, Gulf Nails have gained recognition in the field of trading a highly reliable range of nails. The products are widely acknowledged for their high strength, durability, and sturdy design. With the support of Sharakah, the company was able to obtain the latest technology in nail manufacturing.

The team at Gulf Nails is well equipped with the latest technology, know-how and skilled artisans who devote their time and energy to manufacturing the product as per the latest market requirements and customer needs.

Every product that comes out from the factory has a guarantee



of quality and it is more than just adhering to specifications.

Oman Flanges Oman Flanges is specialised in manufacturing flanges and is identified in the list of In-Country-Value (ICV) by the Omani oil and gas companies. Sharakah was truly excited to support this project in 2014 for its objective of ultimately maximising Oman ICV. It is now a leading medium-sized manufacturer of various types of steel flanges for pipe and fittings.

It supplies products to cover huge local demand from oil and gas fields, petrochemical, fertilisers, power, and desalination plants in addition to other chemical industries. Its technical staff has in-depth knowledge and experience spanning over years in this field, involving precise machining with high-quality productivity plus time delivery commitment. The company aims to bridge all supply gaps by establishing a high-end manufacturing foundation in Oman with the ability to supply its products to different industries along with creating new opportu-

nities and business development.

Galfar Gases A gas manufacturing plant located in Dhofar, Galfar Gases was established in 2013. They manufacture different kinds of gases like Oxygen, Acetylene and Nitrogen. The business has gone through many challenges including competition and with their dedication and commitment they managed, survived, and grown. They have a great story of supplying Oxygen to the community in Dhofar during COVID-19. Sharakah is proud to be part of their success journey.

Ali bin Ahmed Muqabail, CEO, Sharakah says, "On Oman industry day we are proud to mark the success stories of entrepreneurs who grew with the support of Sharakah. We are always pleased to extend our expertise to aspiring entrepreneurs and help them take the first steps to ensure the sustainable success of their businesses. We will help them gain business skills, build relationships, get funded and grow successful businesses. We will continue to ensure the sustainability of the businesses we support."

Zuwaina Al Badaai, SME Development Manager, Sharakah said, "We are happy to play a role in enhancing the development and entrepreneurial competitiveness of SMEs. We strive to accelerate the successful growth of SMEs through an array of business support resources and services. Going by the success stories we have witnessed so far, we are pleased to have created value by integrating the entrepreneurial drive of startups with the resources that we have made available. This is beneficial to the country's growth trajectory and a step towards fulfilling Omani Vision 2040 objective."

ROUND-UP

U18 national golfer Ayman Al Busaidi all set to tee off at Asian Tour 2023

The 16-year-old has been a member of the U18 Oman national golf team for seven years and has represented the country in golf championships across the GCC, as well as in prestigious international tournaments

MUSCAT: ABA student Ayman Al Busaidi, U-18 Omani national golfer, is set to tee off at the Asian Tour's 2023 International Series premiering in Muscat tomorrow at Al Mouj Golf.

The 16-year-old has been a member of the U18 Oman national golf team for seven years and has represented the country in golf championships across the GCC, as well as in prestigious international tournaments.

World-renowned golfers including major winners Bruce Koepke, Sergio Garcia and Louis Oosthuizen are among the 132-strong line-up of top-level pros set to play over four days at the challenging 18-hole championship golf course at Al Mouj Golf, the first links-style golf course to be created in Oman.

Ayman, a Grade 11 student at ABA Oman International School, has supported many charities in the country with his passion for golf. Ayman was recently invited by UNICEF Oman to participate in a panel discussion with Basil bin Ahmed Al-Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, where he shared his vision for the future of golf in Oman and the benefits to the country's economy and youth.

Ayman who has his hopes pinned on the win stated, "I am delighted to be playing in the In-

ternational series alongside the greats. Through golf, and the opportunities that come with it, I hope to raise awareness for significant causes that need local, regional and global support. It is incredible that the Oman Golf Association has launched this new event in such an important golfing region, in association with Al Mouj Golf. I'm truly grateful for all the support and hope to make my country proud."

Simon Walker, Assistant Head of School and High School Principal, ABA Oman International School, an avid golfer himself said, "It is a pleasure to welcome so many major golf winners to the Sultanate of Oman, and a privilege as High School Principal to be cad-dying for one of our ABA students. Ayman is a fantastic young man and a great ambassador for ABA, and golf in Oman. If you have the opportunity, do come to the course and cheer for Ayman."

Oman's championship golf course - Al Mouj Golf, is the first golf course in the Middle East to host the season opener of 2023's International Series, the elevated series of tournaments on the Asian Tour. It is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia and will see some of the world's best players compete for a prize fund of \$2 million.



34TH ANNUAL DAY



Indian School Sur celebrates Annual Day

MUSCAT: Indian School Sur celebrated its 34th Annual Day on February 4. Indian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Amit Narang, was the chief guest of the day. Ashwani Sawarikar, Finance Director, Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman and Director in charge of Indian School Sur, was the guest of honour.

The occasion was attended by the presence of dignitaries Khalid Juma Al Arami, Head of Innovation and Scientific Olympiad Department MoE, Mohammed Ali Musallam Al Alawi, Section Head of the Department of Land MoE, Mohammed Ameen, President of School Management Committee, Convenor Jami Srinivas Rao, Treasurer Adv. Saeed T P, and Member Pradeep Kumar AV.

Rajesh Kumar Chowhan, principal of Indian School Muscat, Prabhakaran, Principal of ISAM, and Baby Sheeja, Indian School Jalan, attended the function.

Addressing the audience, Amit

Narang said that education is a continuous process and that education earns wisdom only if academics are not taken as the end but as a means to progress.

The CBSE Class X and XII toppers, subject toppers, class toppers, Science Olympiad awards, ISFF, Exhibition winners and overall house champion trophies were bestowed to the students.

The Annual Day was based on the theme "Confluence". The students performed an array of mesmerising cultural events displaying perfect synchronisation of music and dance in the form of a medley of world and Indian Dances, thought-provoking skits based on the social issue and an incredible presentation by a group of students in the programme "Defying Gravity" challenging the very existence of natural law of gravitation. The timely gap-fillers were equally entertaining, which confined the audience throughout the programme.

THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MUSCAT

TAISM to host South Asian Inter-Scholastic Association Regional Girls Soccer Tournament

MUSCAT: The American International School of Muscat (TAISM) will host the South Asian Inter-Scholastic Association (SAISA) Regional Girls Soccer Tournament this weekend at its campus in Ghala, February 9-11.

The event is one of three SAISA sports events happening during the same weekend in schools throughout the region, with teams representing schools from Nepal, India, Jordan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Through TAISM's participation in the SAISA League, Middle and High School students have the opportunity throughout the school year to travel internationally and participate in events such as swimming, volleyball, basketball, soccer, track and field, tennis, badminton, art and music.

While it's fun to compete and aim to bring home a trophy, the SAISA organising committee has a higher-level mission in mind for all participating student athletes: "As educators committed to the ideal of realising the full potential of each student, we believe the fundamental aim of SAISA is to promote the values of collaboration, creativity, sportsmanship, and fair and ethical competition."

The mission and vision continues, "While acknowledging the notion of 'winning' in sporting events and other competitions, a recognition more important is that students come together to participate in various activities in



the truest spirit of cooperation and competition, and develop physically, emotionally, creatively and intellectually through the sporting, academic and artistic experiences themselves."

From the smallest students aged just 3-4 years old, to the graduating seniors, everyone in the TAISM community gets involved in the sporting event. Younger students are assigned a team to cheer for, making sure that it's not just the home team receiving all the support. Each class creates banners and roots for other students who are far from home (as well as the TAISM Eagles!).

Maya Sultan, a Grade 9 student and Girls Football Team member

at TAISM shared, "I love how we come from many different friend groups, schools, communities and countries yet when we play football, we all have something in common: our love of the game."

"It's opportunities like this weekend's tournament that our students remember long after graduation," explains Kevin Schafer, Director at TAISM. "Our basketball players are in Bombay, and Track and Field flew out to Chennai, while the rest of our students are cheering on athletes from all over the region as they play their best. Meeting new friends and competing at this level through SAISA events is truly one of the great benefits of being an international school."

"We are thrilled to be hosting the SAISA Girls Soccer tournament this weekend," says Kelly Lang, Athletics Director at TAISM. "It's been three long years since we were able to bring the 10 schools together for this particular event. It will be fun to watch these student-athletes realise their full potential after working hard the past 9 weeks preparing for the competition."

The American International School of Muscat (TAISM) pursues academic excellence for students in the international community through an American-based education that develops ethical, responsible, and globally conscious life-long learners.



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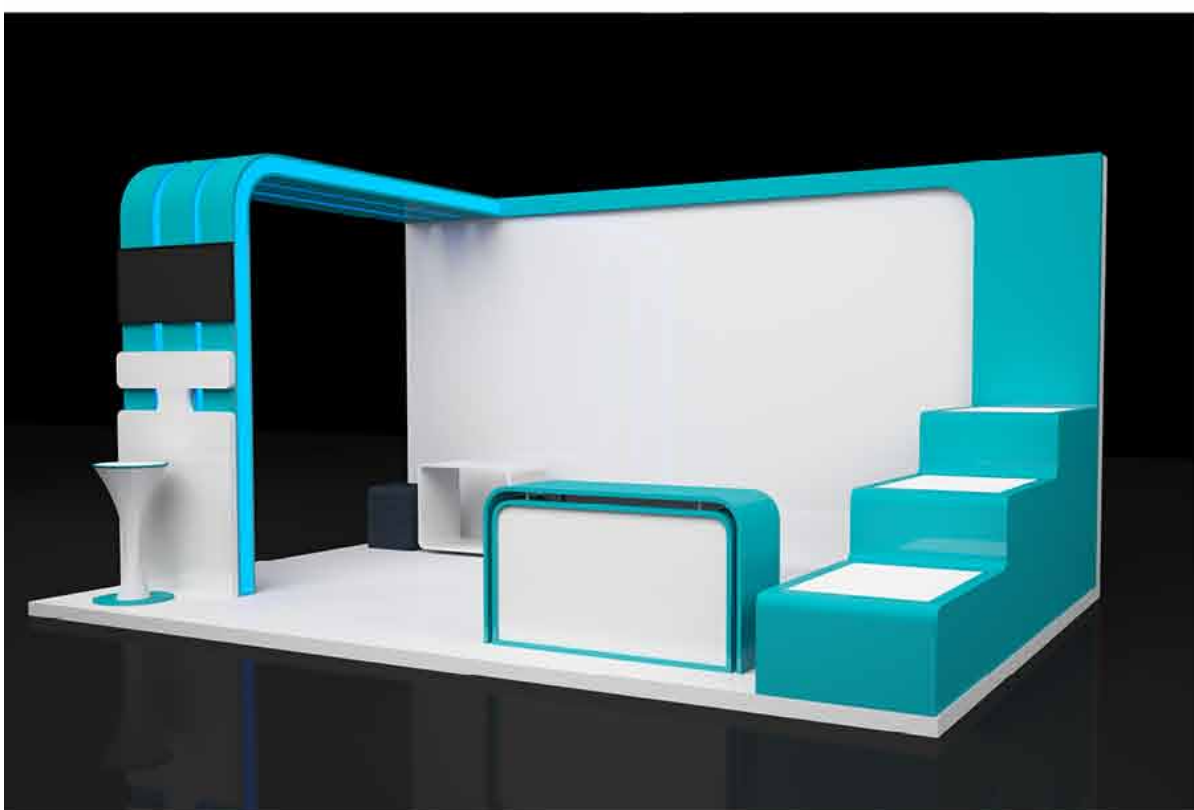
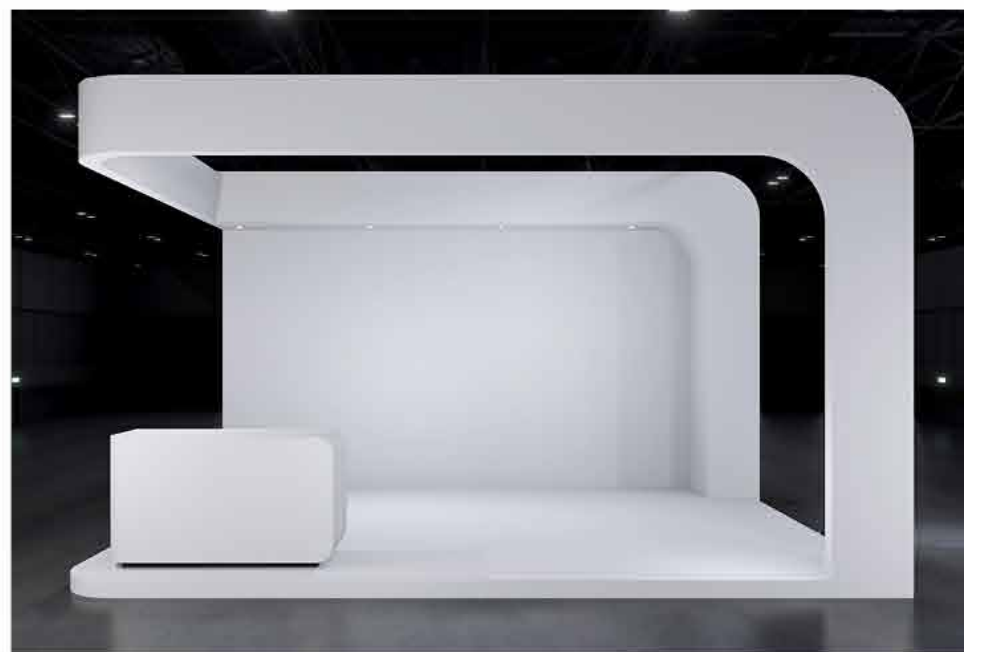
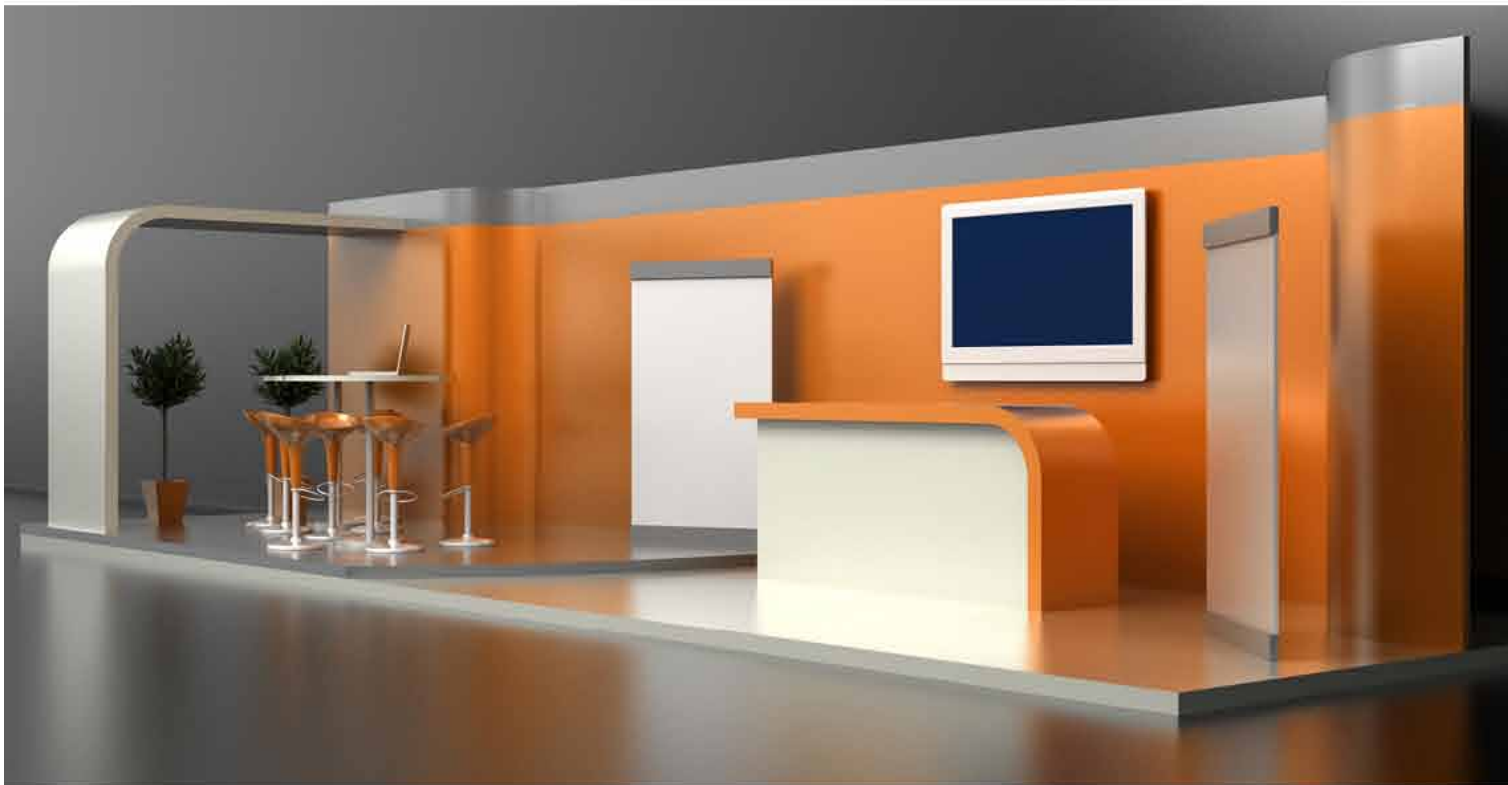
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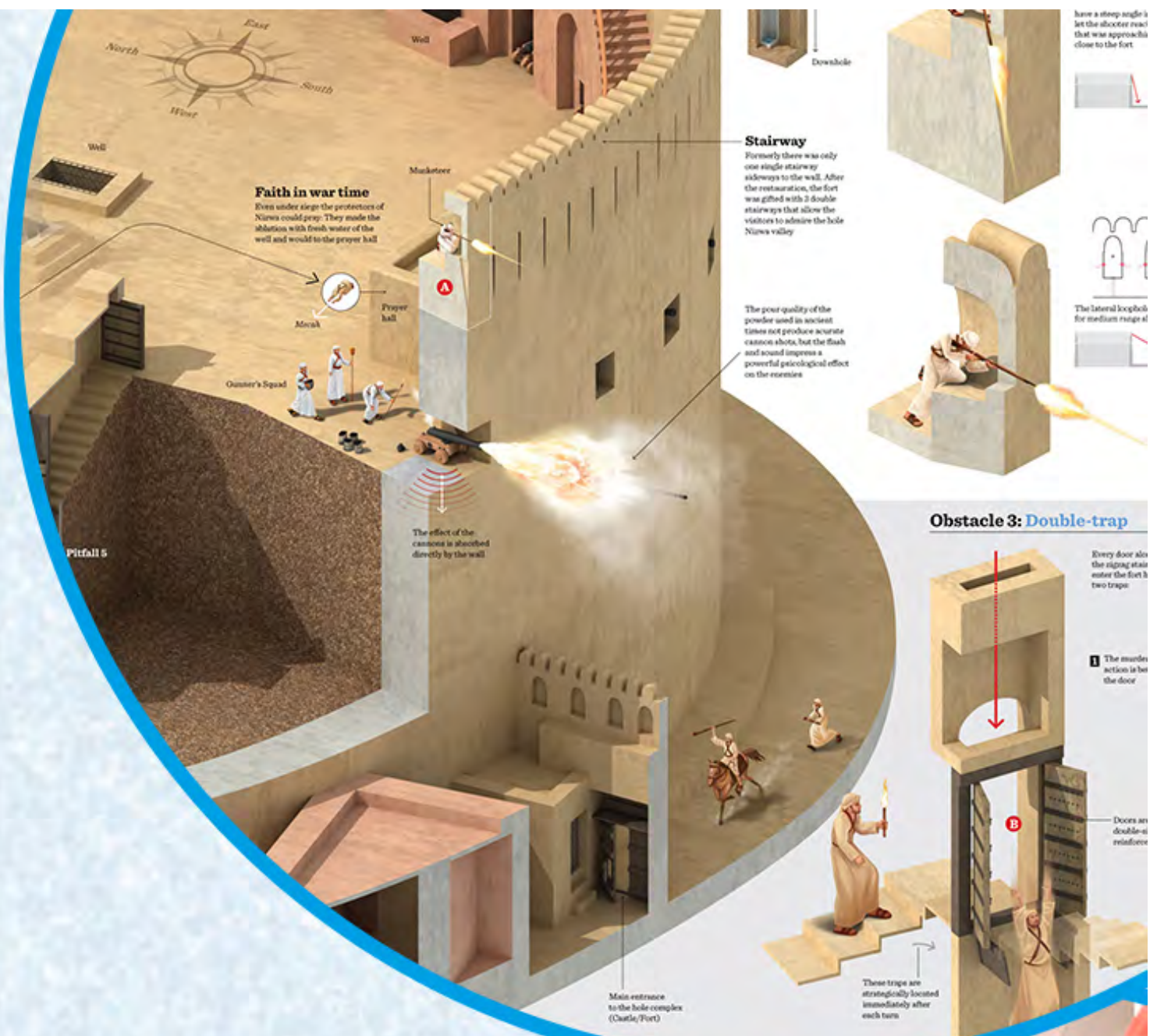
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