

GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT OMAN COMMENCES TODAY

The second edition of the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) Conference & Exhibition opens on 5 December 2022, under the auspices of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, at Oman Convention and Exhibition, Muscat. **>A2**



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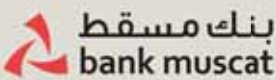
NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED

The Royal Academy of Management (RAM), acting in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, on Sunday launched the "National Initiative for the Development of Local Administration" (NIDLA). **>A4**



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INDUSTRY

Jindal Shadeed signs \$3bn pact to produce green steel at Duqm

MUSCAT: Jindal Shadeed Group has selected the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) in the Sultanate of Oman to establish a green steel manufacturing facility.

Slated to be the largest of its kind within the zone, the factory will also utilise renewable energy sources in its manufacturing operations.

This announcement was made at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and a land allocation agreement.

The event was held under the auspices of Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic



Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) in the presence of a number of high-ranking government and private sector officials as well as prominent local and international media.

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) is the largest economic zone in the region, with an

area of 2,000 square kilometres.

This strategic project is being built over an area estimated at approximately 2 square kilometres in the concession zone at the Port of Duqm with an investment value estimated at \$3 billion.

The MoU was signed by Eng.

Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, and Harsha Shetty, CEO of Jindal Shadeed Group. The land reservation agreement was signed by the Jindal Shadeed Group and Reggy Vermeulen, Chief Executive Officer of Port of Duqm.

In line with its development efforts, Jindal Shadeed Group also signed an MoU with the centralised utility provider, Marafiq, to provide the plant with the utilities necessary to operate the project such as water services, seawater for cooling purposes, and other

Marafiq services. The agreement was signed by Talal Al Lawati, Vice President of Commercial Operations, Marafiq.

Commenting on the series of agreements, Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb expressed his delight in partnering with steel production expert, Jindal Shadeed Group, to develop its manufacturing facility.

He reaffirmed that a project of this caliber would be an added value to the heavy industries cluster in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and would play a vital role in the development of Duqm as a key industrial hub. **>A4**

FACT SIGNED

Oman's digital economy in space sector set for big leap

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel and the international emerging technology company 'ETCO' are set to give a major boost to the digital economy of the Sultanate of Oman in the space sector.

Omantel, the leading provider of integrated communications and technology solutions in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the signing of a partnership agreement with 'ETCO' aimed at providing satellite image data analysis services for the Cube Satellite (Aman Sat).

The agreement was signed by Dr. Ghalibbin Saif Al Hosni, Chief People Officer at Omantel, and Eng. Abdul Aziz Jaafar, the Chief Executive Officer of ETCO.

Aman Mission

Based on the terms of the agreement, which was signed at the Cornwall Spaceport in UK, Omantel will contribute to this project with its technical expertise in information technology and digitalisation as a technology partner to Aman Mission.

Commenting on this event, Eng. Aladdin Baitfadhil, Chief Commercial Officer at Omantel, said, "This strategic partnership with ETCO will enable Omantel to expand its digital services and support pioneering investments in the satellite image data sector, especially as Omantel owns artificial intelligence solutions, Internet of Things and its relevant technologies." **>A4**

OMAN REAPS REWARD OF HIGH OIL PRICES WITH RATING BOOST

3.9%

THE RATING AGENCY EXPECTS THE ACTUAL GDP GROWTH IN 2022 AND 3 PERCENT IN 2023

Upgrade follows improvement in the state's financial performance and fall in public debt

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Standard & Poor's (S&P) has raised for the second time this year the Sultanate's credit rating to BB- with stable future outlook from BB- in April 2022 with stable future outlook.

The raising of the credit rating of Oman is due to the tangible improvement in the state's financial

performance coupled with the improvement in the balance of payments and the reduction in public debt against the gross domestic product (GDP).

This improvement was possible due to the implementation of actions taken to control the financial position and the increase

in oil prices. Standard & Poor's has also praised the government of Oman's efforts aimed to boost transparency and disclosure of the financial statements and the details related to GDP.

The rating agency expects the actual GDP growth at 3.9 percent in 2022 and 3 percent in 2023. The non-oil sector is expected to grow by 1.8 percent in 2022 and by 2.5 percent average rate from 2024 to 2025. The oil price is expected to reach an average of \$90 per barrel during 2023 and is expected to further decrease to \$80 a barrel during 2024.

Indication

Aseel Mohammed Ridha Al Lawati, Director of Public Debt Unit at the Ministry of Finance said the raising of Oman's credit rating is an indication of the improvement in the internal and external financial condition of

the Sultanate as a result of the increase in the improvement of the financial performance of the State in terms of achievement of a surplus in the general budget and in the balance of payments with the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) as a result of the increase in oil price and the increase in production.

Criteria

She also pointed to the decrease in the public debt due to the additional repayment of debts and employment of part of the surplus in the general budget of the state for this purpose. Referring to the criteria of Standard & Poor's in credit rating of countries, she said the analysts of the credit rating agencies do carry out analysis and review of the economic and financial data of the state which covers the main sectors and thereby arrive at decision taking. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ROHM brings back Kulthumiyat concert

1 The Royal Opera House Muscat has announced the return of the special Kulthumiyat concert, celebrating the legacy of Umm Kulthum. The concert for 2022 features two exceptional artists, Yosra Mahnouch and Mia Farouk, renowned singers of the Umm Kulthum repertoire. The concert will be accompanied by the Amir Abdul Majid Ensemble, conducted by Amir Abdul Majid. **>A3**

MARKET

M-E airlines witness 114.7% traffic surge

2 Middle Eastern airlines saw a 114.7 per cent traffic rise in October compared to October 2021, according to a new report. "Capacity increased 55.7 per cent against the year-ago period, and load factor climbed 21.8 percentage points to 79.5 per cent, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its monthly report. The report added that the recovery in air travel continued in October. **>B1**

WORLD

Russia rejects EU's oil price cap



3 Russia has refused to accept a price cap on its oil which European Union along with G7 and others have set a deal for a \$60 per barrel. According to TASS Russian News Agency, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, "We are assessing the situation. Certain preparations for such a cap were made. We won't accept the price cap and we will inform you how the work will be organised once the assessment is over." **>B5**



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QATAR 2022

Buy a FIFA World Cup final ticket for OMR3,000!

Times News Service

MUSCAT: If you are a hardcore football fan and keen to watch the final of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on December 18, get ready to make a big hole in your pocket.

Those lucky to have got the tickets for the final can look forward to an exciting and thrilling match after the group stage rounds produced some of the biggest upsets in the history of the FIFA World Cup.

The final is scheduled to be held at the Lusail Stadium, which boasts of a capacity of 88,000.

With a few tickets for the final available on the official FIFA platform in the resale category, various other travel websites are offering resale tickets and hospi-

talities packages.

A close look at a few prominent websites suggests that the prices of the tickets for the summit clash have skyrocketed in recent days.

With tickets selling fast, one of the popular websites, viagogo.com, is offering tickets for the December 18 final at Lusail Stadium ranging from OMR1,500-OMR 2,500.

Another ticket reselling website, ticombo, is offering tickets starting from OMR1,100 in category 2 while category 1 tickets starts from OMR3,000.

Hospitality packages offered on this website begin with a price of OMR4,500 and goes up to OMR12,000.

FIFA website is offering final round packages that would in-



clude the semifinals and the finals, starting from OMR3,500 and going up to OMR6,900.

FIFA aims to generate US\$500 million from hospitality rights and ticket sales from across the

eight stadiums in Qatar which are within a 30-mile radius of Doha.

One of the most expensive World Cups ever, Qatar's ticket prices are close to 40 per cent higher than the previous edition

of the tournament, which was hosted in Russia back in 2018.

The ticket prices in Qatar are the most expensive ever for World Cup games in the last 20 years, with those for the final 59% higher than four years ago, according to a study by Munich-based Keller Sports.

The World Cup in Qatar is already considered the most expensive World Cup ever. The construction of six new stadiums and the complete renovation of two other arenas in the country are said to have cost around \$3 billion.

FIFA had earlier said nearly three million tickets across the eight stadiums in Qatar had been sold ahead of the November 20 to December 18 World Cup, the first to be held in the Middle East.



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LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

Green Hydrogen Summit Oman commences today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The second edition of the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) Conference & Exhibition opens on 5 December 2022, under the auspices of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, at Oman Convention and Exhibition, Muscat.

Organised with the support of Birba Energy, the 3-day GHSO 2022 will serve to showcase Oman's newly unveiled green hydrogen strategy, which envisions investments totalling an estimated \$190 billion in a future low-carbon economy over the next three decades.

Additionally, the event will provide an important platform for various energy sectors stakeholders to outline their commitments to carbon neutrality in line with Oman's own Net Zero target set out recently by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Afi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, will deliver the keynote address at the formal opening of the Conference on 6 December 2022.

He will be joined at the opening by a number of Omani dignitaries, including Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Board of Directors - The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ). Also in attendance at the inauguration will be a distinguished line-up of officials from abroad, notably Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director - IEA; Hirohide Hirai, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan; and Joao Galamba, Secretary of State for Environment and Energy - Portugal. A number of Their Excellencies - ambassadors accredited to the Sultanate of Oman - will be present as well.

Salim Al Afi will also address an exclusive gathering of global energy sector executives taking place at the Kempinski Hotel



Muscat on 5th December 2022. This forum, titled 'Energy Executives Conclave (EEC)', will be attended by number of ministers representing leading energy producing and importing nations, policymakers, experts and CEOs from leading energy companies from Oman and around the world.

An estimated 1,000 delegates are expected to attend the 3-day GHSO Conference & Exhibition, underscoring its robust appeal to the local and international green energy industry.

Over the course of the forum, a total of 12 sessions will be held, focusing on nine strategic themes: Oman Green Hydrogen Economy and Strategy; Global Hydrogen Review; Oman as a Global Player in the Hydrogen Space; Oman as a Green Hydrogen Hub; Oman Green Hydrogen Infrastructure; Green Hydrogen Value Chain (In-Country Value); Partnership and Investment; Green Hydrogen Projects' Finance & Bankability; and Green Hydrogen Projects in Oman.

Additionally, a Technical Conference will take place in parallel with the main conference. International experts representing key segments of the hydrogen value chain will conduct a series of masterclasses during the Technical Conference.

Notable among the array of organisations supporting GHSO 2022 is Energy Development Oman (EDO), the state-owned holding company representing the government's stakes in Block

6, the largest oil concession in the Sultanate of Oman. EDO is also the parent company of Hydrom - the new state owned entity overseeing the development of Oman's green hydrogen sector.

"EDO is pleased to have played a leading role in shaping the programme agenda for this pivotal forum to ensure the outcomes are beneficial for the future green hydrogen industry in Oman and the region. Together with Hydrom, our subsidiary, and other key government and other stakeholders, we aim to position ourselves at the forefront of Oman's new mission to transition to a low carbon economy by accelerating relevant activities towards green energy resources," commented Mr. Mazin Al Lamki, CEO - EDO.

"With OQ as Co-Host of this key event happening in Oman, I am proud to be leading OQ Alternative Energy's presence at the summit as we continue to pursue our green energy journey into the future," said Najla Zuhair Al Jamali, OQ Alternative Energy Chief Executive. "OQ AE is currently collaborating with a number of key organisations, both from Oman and the rest of the world, as we plan our next steps towards a responsible hydrogen-centric economy. We are encouraged that so many other like-minded organisations and people are joining us on this mission at Green Hydrogen Summit Oman 2022."

As the signature green energy forum of Oman, GHSO 2022 has attracted a large roster of energy sector luminaries from Oman and abroad as speakers and presenters. The expansive speaker list also includes high-level government officials from Germany, Poland, Japan and Korea, as well as key executives representing IEA, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Oman Shell, TotalEnergies, OETC, Equinor, Fortescue Future Industries, and Air Products, among others.

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MONDAY COLUMN

Sailing on the academic boat



Saleh Al-Shaibany

I normally don't get to be driven to tears but the action in the group messages from one of my students did well-up my eyes.

She took the time to work out a problem for her fellow students and posted it in my class group to help them with their revisions for my exam scheduled for the next day. I stared at her message for several seconds until the writing went blurry.

I was at a coffee shop and the next thing I did was to get up and walk out of the place. I was compelled to just walk around but I was glad it was dark and the street lights were not bright enough to light up my face. I walked past a few people but no one was looking my way. I was in the privacy of

the darkness of the night.

I felt pretty stupid to be 'worked up' by a simple message. Anyway, I let the walk wear out the mood. By the time I got back to my table, I tried to work out why I was in that state. Students can be brutal to each other's feelings. The brighter ones usually bear the ridicules of the slow students. As a teacher, you usually see all that and you might want to do something about it.

This particular bright student, perhaps to hold a white flag of reconciliation, unselfishly reached to her fellow classmates to help them out. Did it work? I am not sure that it did. No one in the group said 'thank you' and it was left to me to reach out for her. On behalf of her fellow students, I did write some words of gratitude to make sure she would never abandon her unselfish ways even if no one appreciates her efforts.

Ten minutes later, I was still sitting at the same spot not really sure I used the right words to thank her. The words "you will never walk alone in this life" was my way to make her feel appreciated from the blunt silence of her classmates. I was having a second thought. My choice of words might have caused resentment. I felt, as a

teacher, perhaps I should not have taken sides.

There were over seventy of them in the group. Even with fewer number, it is always a challenge for a teacher to make sure they all get the same attention. It makes it worse when I consider of their young age and the fact that they look up to me as a father figure. Every time I walk out of the class, I wonder if I conducted myself in the right manner and dealt with their problems the right way.

I have this fear that if some of them end up in a place where they should not be in the future, I may question myself if I did what I was required to do as a teacher. For me, a teacher is not just there to deliver academic lectures. The mentoring and guidance play a pivotal role, too. We should be there if we spot an irrational behaviour and fix it.

It is like an injury, my old teacher used to tell us, if not treated early, then it might be incurable and spread. Anyway, it is worth considering all that before you take up the role of teaching. It is not just for the money because teachers never get paid well, anyway. It is the impression you are shaping up for youngsters who look up at you as a role model.

DECEMBER 9 AND 10

Yosra Mahnouch and Mia Farouk to perform at ROHM



SPECIAL CONCERT: The special Kulthumiyat concert, celebrating the legacy of Umm Kulthum, will feature two exceptional artists, Yosra Mahnouch and Mia Farouk.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat has announced the return of the special Kulthumiyat concert, celebrating the legacy of Umm Kulthum.

The concert for 2022 features two exceptional artists, Yosra Mahnouch and Mia Farouk, renowned singers of the Umm Kulthum repertoire.

The concert will be accompanied by the Amir Abdul Majid Ensemble, conducted by Amir Abdul Majid.

Umm Kulthum was an exceptional artist with a unique voice

who dedicated her life to art.

She was not only the most famous superstar in the Arab world for a period of more than sixty years but also possessed an incredible artistic presence that gripped audiences throughout the world.

Following a programme of Umm Kulthum's greatest songs, the artists will perform at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts on the Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December at 7pm.

For more information or to book tickets please use the ROHM app, website or visit the Box Office.

who dedicated her life to art.

ROP ANNOUNCEMENT

Missing citizen found in Dhofar

Times News service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police announced that it was able to find a citizen, who had been missing and that he is in stable health.

The Royal Oman Police announced that, with reference to a report of a missing citizen in the

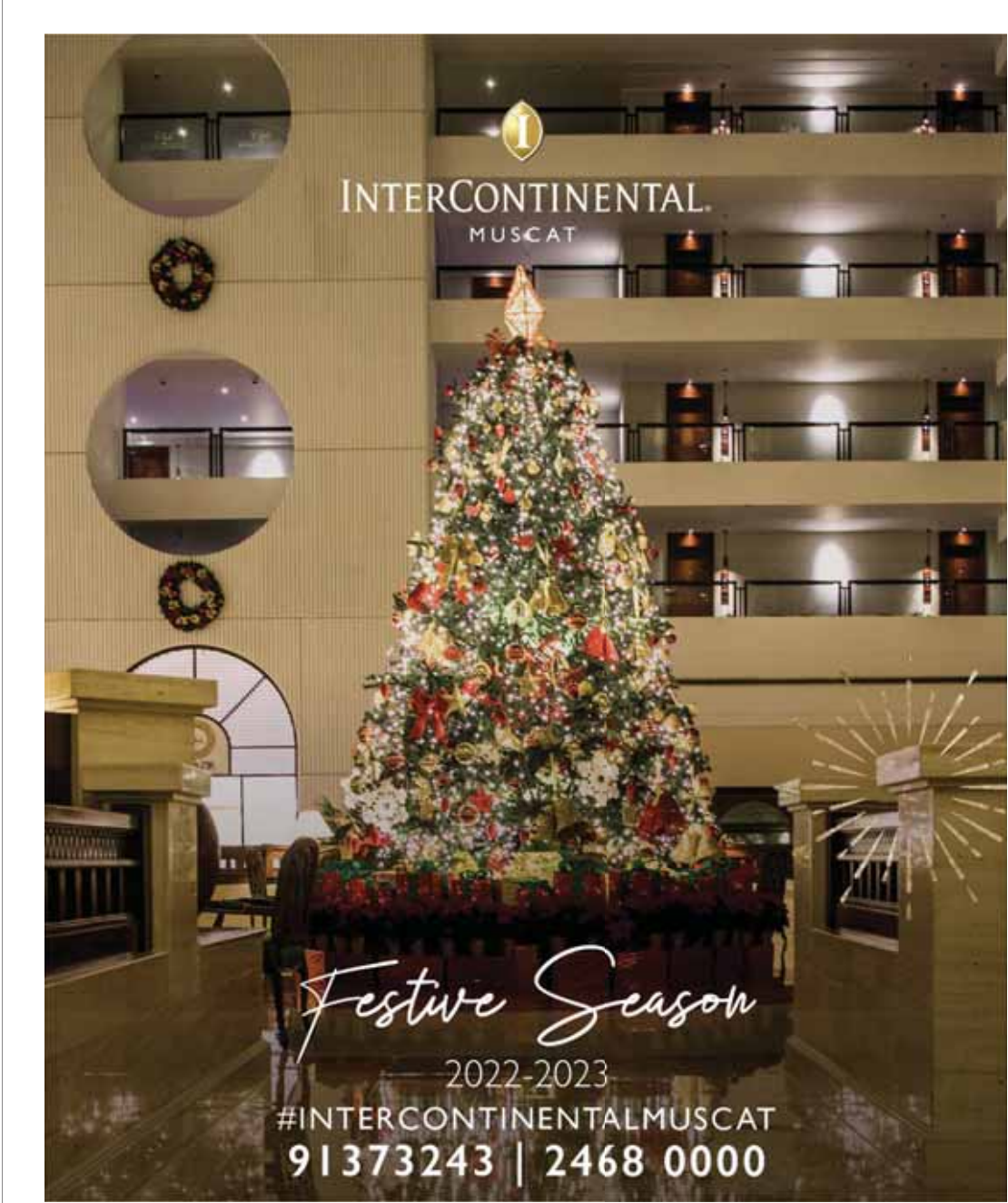
Dhofar Governorate, field teams launched a search and investigation operations to locate him.

The search efforts, in cooperation with his family members, culminated in finding him in an unconscious state inside his house in the Awqad area.

He was transported by ambulance of the Civil Defence and Am-

balance Authority to the hospital to examine his health condition, and he is in reported to be in a stable condition.

On Friday Royal Oman Police had announced that citizen Muhammad Al-Haf left his home in the Awqad area in the Wilayat of Salalah on Monday, November 28, 2022, and did not return.



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National initiative for local administration launched

The initiative seeks to consolidate capacities in areas of governance, administrative and economic decentralisation



FUNCTION: The initiative was launched under the patronage of Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior.

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM), acting in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, on Sunday launched the “National Initiative for the Development of Local Administration” (NIDLA).

The initiative seeks to consolidate capacities in areas of governance, administrative and economic decentralisation. It introduces the best practices in local administration, with the aim of developing the governorates and enhancing competitiveness.

Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, who presided over the ceremony, said

that the initiative targets harnessing the capabilities necessary for improving the functions of the State’s Administrative Apparatus in line with the requirements of the next phase of development in Oman.

The minister spoke about measures to restructure the State’s Administrative Apparatus and related Royal decrees and directives that outlined prospects for the future vision of the Renewed Renaissance process. The overall objective, he observed, is to enable Omani governorates to manage and invest their potentials and train local human resources, being the basic pillars shouldering the

government’s responsibilities in the development march.

Dr. Ali Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, pointed out that the NIDLA constitutes an important milestone in the path of the RAM, which, he said, specializes in grooming local leaders and promoting economic decentralization.

The NIDLA comprises three components: “Executive Programmes”, “Quality indicators for services in governorates” and related “Studies”.

The “Executive programmes” will be implemented in partnership with major local, regional and international establishments.

These include the “Governors Programme”, which seeks to develop the capabilities of local leaderships, and the “Field Interviews Programme” that explores the expertise and experiences of specialized local and international leaderships.

The “Quality indicators for services in governorates” component aims to set up a quantifying measurement system to help monitor and develop the level of services rendered to beneficiaries in governorates in a manner that enhances competitiveness and gauges customer satisfaction in each governorate.

The “Studies” component focuses on studies of relevance to the future of local administration, with a view to supporting general policy drafting. This segment specializes in conducting studies about the future of local administration and the development of governorates. It involves local thinktanks and the business community.

The ceremony included the inauguration of the NIDLA launch platform and two specialized sessions, the first titled “Royal directives and visions for the development of governorates” and the second “Governance in local administration in accordance with Oman Vision 2040 and the Governorates System”. -ONA

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SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AT DUQM < FROM A1 Mega steel project

He added, “The signing of the MoU and agreement is a testament to the importance of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and further reinstates its position as a leading and attractive destination for large strategic projects that will benefit from renewable energy and green hydrogen. The availability of solar energy and wind resources throughout the year will encourage more investments in green industries and renewable energy projects in the Sultanate of Oman in general, and Duqm in particular. The Sultanate of Oman is making commendable efforts toward using cleaner sources of energy to meet industrial requirements. The efforts are in line with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040 to use alternative energy and sus-

tainable natural resources. The project also serves the comprehensive national strategy which focuses on reducing emissions and achieving carbon neutrality.”

Adding to this, Harssha Shetty said, “Jindal Shadeed Group is investing more than \$3 billion to develop this mega steel project in Duqm, and we have already obtained the necessary approvals to secure the land for our Green Hydrogen ready steel project. Our goal is to produce 5 million metric tonnes of green steel on an annual basis that will create over \$800 million per annum in country value addition. The plant will supply high quality steel products to automobile, wind energy and consumer durables sector amongst others.”

- ONA

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AMAN MISSION < FROM A1 Satellite image analysis services

“Thus, satellite image analysis services come to complement these solutions and will provide a qualitative addition to the digital services we provide, especially those related to the space field, which allows data analysis and supports scientific research projects in space sciences and much more. We, at Omantel, always support national institutions and vital projects for the benefit of the national economy and society”, Baitfadhil added.

In turn, Eng. Abdul Aziz Jaafar, the Chief Executive Officer of ETCO, said, “We are pleased to sign this agreement with Omantel to complete its technical partnership in Aman mission and to expand our commercial operations in the space sector so as to provide satellite image data to customers in the Sultanate of Oman and the region.”

Therefore, we seek from this partnership to transfer knowledge, technologies and involve

national competencies by engaging in space-related industries and technologies. It is worthy stating that we have started our projects in the space sector with a number of global partners, and today we are proud of this national partnership with Omantel as it is a cornerstone for achieving the national goals of the Sultanate of Oman to create an interactive digital economy with the latest developments in the advanced technology sector,” he added.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES

LOCAL ONLINE TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tenders shown in the following table:

Tender No.	Tender subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
40/2022	Providing Omani Mussar for the students of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences for the academic year 2022/2023	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the (Excellent, First, and Second) Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	08/12/2022 at 14:30 pm	19/12/2022 at 10:00 am
41/2022	Providing clothes for the male graduates of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences for the academic year 2022/2023	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the (Excellent, First, and Second) Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	08/12/2022 at 14:30 pm	19/12/2022 at 10:00 am
42/2022	Providing clothes for the female graduates of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences for the academic year 2022/2023	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the (Excellent, First, and Second) Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	08/12/2022 at 14:30 pm	19/12/2022 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Wednesday 30/11/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

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New batch of citizens joins Royal Army of Oman

MUSCAT: A new batch of citizens joined the Royal Army of Oman units for military training in coordination with the Ministry of Labour.

This comes as a continuation of the efforts made by the Sultan's Armed Forces to absorb citizens looking for work.

The trainees will undergo the basic military training programme as new soldiers join their peers in the Royal Oman Army, after passing the stages of acceptance, evaluation, medical and physical tests and examinations that were previously conducted for them.

The Royal Oman Army has harnessed all its expertise and capabilities in terms of specialised



manpower, administrative and health requirements, and means of transportation, in order to provide appropriate environment to quickly implement the procedures for joining military service.

This is a part of the relentless efforts of the Sultan's Armed Forces to accommodate citizens of the country in accordance with the plans and programmes set for recruiting national cadres. — **ONA**



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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLIED

Oman's GDP growth for 2022 projected at 3.9%

< FROM A1 Credit rating agencies also review the diversification of sources of income, financial and liquidity performance among other aspects, she added.

The improvement in the Sultanate's financial performance has been achieved through many factors including the increase in oil price and implementation of the government actions, she said, pointing to the Mid-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for improvement of the financial performance.

She said the increase in oil price has led to the achievement of a surplus and the increase in payments. The surplus is used in reduction of the public debt as one of the priorities of the government, she added, pointing that the net debt has been reduced by OMR2.60 billion at the end of September 2022.

She said the improvement of the Sultanate's credit rating



would reflect on the confidence of investors in the local economy which will in turn attract investments to the Sultanate and would increase the number of investors and finance providers.

Speaking on future expectations, she said the expectations include reduction of the debt against the GDP to reach 40 percent at the end of the current year compared to 60 percent in 2021.

Besides, the GDP growth is expected to be 3.9 percent during the current year, she added.



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TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO. 009/11/2022-2023

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Suppliers for the following:-

1. Air Conditioners
 - a. Split A/C 2 Ton – 20 Nos (Panasonic Malaysian Make Model - 2022)
 - b. Cassette A/C 2 Ton – 3 Nos. (Daikin, Voltas, Panasonic Malaysian Make - Model 2022)
 - c. Copper Pipe Full set – 10 Rolls
 - d. Rapping Tape – 10 Piece.
 - e. 4mm 4core insulation wire – 1 Roll.
 - f. Outdoor AC Stand – 20 Nos.
 - g. Installation of All ACs.

Interested parties shall remit the tender fee of OMR 10/- at the School fee counter (main building) and can collect the tender document between 9.00 am to 3.30 pm (Sunday to Thursday) from 04/12/2022 to 14/12/2022.

Indian School Salalah reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

LAST DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION
15/12/2022 on or before 3.30 pm at School Fee counter



Sultan Qaboos University

TENDERS NOTICE

The Investment & Revenue Department at Sultan Qaboos University would like to invite companies to submit their quotations for:

S/N	Type of Business	Location	Date of site visit	Class	Tender #
1	Rent and operate Coffee Shop	Female complex No. (2)	12/12/2022 9:00 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD. 1822
2	Rent and operate Coffee Shop	Female complex No. (3)	12/12/2022 9:30 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD. 1922
3	Rent and operate a sweet corn and ice cream kiosk	Female complex No.(3)	12/12/2022 10:00 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD. 2022
4	Rent and operate a sweet corn and ice cream kiosk	Female complex No.(5)	12/12/2022 10:30 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD. 2122
5	Rental and operate a mobile cafe site	Administration Building Extension	13/12/2022 9:30 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD.2222
6	Construction & rental & operation Outlet for stationery, office supplies, copying and printing services	Independent Learning Center	14/12/2022 10:00 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD.2322
7	Electric Scooter Service	Various locations at Sultan Qaboos University	15/12/2022 10:00 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD.2422
8	Rent and operate Coffee Shop	Family and Community Health Clinic	19/12/2022 10:00 Am	All classes	SQU.IRD.2522

- The priority will be for the Small and Medium Establishments (SME), which fulfils the quality requirements.
- Tenderers who wish to participate in this Tender may collect Tender Documents from The Section of Revenue and Expenditures at the Investment & Revenue Department, Sultan Qaboos University, during the working hours for an amount of OR.25 for each tender document (non-refundable). The last date for Collecting the Document is 27/12/2022.
- The Site Visit for the selected shop is necessary. It will be on the above-mentioned date and the assembly point will be at the Investment & Revenue Department.
- The last date for submission of the quotations: 31/12/2023. The quotations should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Director of The Investment & Revenue Department, located on the first floor of the commercial building at Sultan Qaboos University and deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Department, before 10:00 a.m.
- The exterior of the envelope should be marked with the name and number of the Tender being presented and should bear no identification or mark of the Tenderer.
- The Tenderer should submit (enclose) with his tender a Bank Guarantee Document for sum of 1% of the total Duration of contract rental value quoted by the Tenderer and valid for 90 (ninety) days from the date specified for submission of Tender. Tenders submitted after the deadline or without a Bank Guarantee will be excluded.
- The Tenderer should prepare the Site in accordance with the health requirements of Muscat Municipality and the requirements of civil defense in cooperation with the concerned authorities.
- Sultan Qaboos University reserves the right to reject any quotation not fulfilling the requirements and does not bid itself to accept the highest rent or any other quotations.

Investment & Revenue Department
P.O BOX 50, P.C. 123, ALKHOD, SULTANATE OF OMAN
Tel: 24142691 – 24142682- 24142685- 24142684
E- mail: investment@squ.edu.om



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

FRENCH FINESSE





Ruthless Giroud and Mbappe send France into the quarter-finals with a 3-1 win over Poland

DOHA: Olivier Giroud and Kylian Mbappe displayed some ruthless finishing to haul France into the quarter-finals of the World Cup despite an underwhelming performance against Poland on Sunday. France will play either England or Senegal in the last eight. Poland played the better football in the first half but could not take their chances and Giroud gave France the lead against the run of the play right before the break at Al Thumama Stadium, becoming his country's all-time top scorer in the process on 52 goals. Poland kept fighting in the second half but were caught out on the counterat-

tack as they committed numbers forward in pursuit of an equaliser. Mbappe sealed the holders' passage to the quarter-finals with a clinical finish from just outside the area. Mbappe has scored nine World Cup goals in only nine starts. The 23-year-old striker adorned the French victory by scoring a sensational second goal in added time but Robert Lewandowski managed to get a consolation strike for Poland from the penalty spot, converting his second attempt after spurning his first before a re-take was ordered.

Key moment
France were the favourites heading into the match and had benefited from giving many of their players a rest in their final group game. Poland, however, took them by surprise and dominated the first half, pegging Didier Deschamps' side into their own half while Robert Lewandowski spurned a clear chance from inside the area. But France pulled ahead with their first chance of the game when Mbappe took advantage of Poland's defence pushing up and slotted a pass into strike partner Giroud. The veteran took one touch to bring the ball under control before slotting it into the bottom corner of the net and surpassing Thierry Henry as France's highest ever goal-scorer. More importantly, the goal gave Les Bleus control of the game which had threatened to slip from their grasp. - FIFA

BY THE NUMBERS

2 MILLION

Hayya applications received by Qatar with the most coming from Saudi Arabia followed by India, USA, Great Britain and Mexico. Hayya Card is needed to enter Qatar for the FIFA World Cup 2022

TODAY'S MATCHES

ROUND OF 16



7pm (Oman time)
JAPAN VS CROATIA
Al Janoub Stadium

11 pm
BRAZIL VS SOUTH KOREA
Stadium 974



SOUTH AMERICAN RIVALRY

Expectations rising for potential Brazil-Argentina semi-final

DOHA: "Brazilian, Brazilian, how bitter you are. Each time we are closer to meeting again!" The stands don't lie. Immediately after Argentina's 2-1 victory over Australia in the Round of 16 on Saturday, Argentina fans were already thinking about a possible meeting with Brazil in the semi-final, a classic rivalry that has been waiting to be renewed on the biggest stage for 32 years by both sides. For that to happen, the Argentinians need to beat the Netherlands in the quarter-finals and count on the Seleção's triumphs against South Korea and the opponent that comes next. Brazil and Argentina have not met in a World Cup since 1990. This could be one of the biggest games in World Cup history and the biggest Brazil-Argentina match-up football has ever seen. Brazil and Argentina have met four times in the history of the World Cup. The record is fairly balanced, with two wins for Brazil, one for Argentina and a draw. The four games took place in a span of five World Cups, between 1974 and 1990. In 1974 and 1978, the rivals met within groups that defined the qualifiers for the final. In the first meeting, Brazil beat Argentina, but finished second in the group, which was won by the Netherlands. Four years later, a 0-0 draw helped Argentina qualify from a group that also included Peru and Poland. In 1982, Brazil and Argentina met again in the



same phase. The Seleção defeated their rivals 3-1, in one of the great games of the mythical team that included Zico and Socrates. But the defeat to Italy ended up eliminating Brazil. The last confrontation was in 1990, already in the current format. In the Round of 16, Brazil played a game of great possession and scoring chances, but Diego Maradona unbalanced the rhythm with a brilliant individual play before Claudio Caniggia's goal. After so many clashes, the rivalry has been looking forward to a reunion ever since. It has been 32 years and counting, which may come to an end in a few days in Qatar. Ahead of the World Cup, Messi and Neymar spoke a few times that this could be their last World Cup. In search of an unprecedented title, the PSG duo represents the greatest hope of each of their countries. A confrontation between the two friends, even before the ball starts rolling, would already go down in World Cup history, honouring a legacy worthy of the clash between Zico and Maradona in 1982. - FIFA





FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022



ARGENTINIANS BOOK DATE WITH THE DUTCH

Albiceleste beat Australia 2-1 at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium on Saturday night in a last-16 tie

DOHA: Experience and youth combined to earn Argentina a 2-1 win over Australia on Saturday and a quarter-final date with the Netherlands at Qatar 2022.

Lionel Messi cannily broke the deadlock and Julian Alvarez double the lead before the hour in a round of 16 match at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium.

Argentina changed their strategy immediately after the break, switching to a three-man defence after taking a one-goal lead in the first half.

They scored their second goal after Australian goalkeeper Matt Ryan made an error with Alvarez exploiting it.

The Argentine became the third player to score a goal in consecutive World Cup matches for Argentina in the 21st century.

The Socceroos nonetheless gripped on to their towel. From one assault on the Albiceleste goal, Craig Goodwin's fierce hit took a huge deflection off Enzo Fernandez and halved the deficit in the 77th minute.

From another, Aziz Behich threatened to score a goal of the

tournament contender.

That proved the Aussies' last shot. They return Down Under having done themselves proud.

Also, Messi, the genius attacker, moved ahead of Diego Maradona in Argentina's World Cup scoring chart with strike in the win.

Key moment

Australia were defending infallibly. Argentina hadn't created anything.

Then Messi decided enough was enough. He was involved in the build-up before collecting Nicolas Otamendi's lay-off and squeezing the ball into the bottom corner.

Messi, at 35 years and 162 days, became Argentina's oldest marksman in the World Cup.

It was also Messi's ninth goal in the competition, taking him past Diego Maradona and Guillermo Stabile among Argentines, shy only of 10-goal Gabriel Batistuta.

Following Messi's magic in the 35th minute, Alvarez increased the tally with a strike in the 57th minute. - **FIFA+**

Messi thanks Argentina fans for their support

DOHA: Lionel Messi defined Argentina's relationship with their fans as something beautiful and thanked them for their unwavering support when receiving his player of the match award after the team's 2-1 win against Australia on Saturday.

Messi scored the first goal for Argentina in the round of 16 clash against Australia. It was also the Argentine's first goal in the knockout stage.

While receiving the award he mentioned how all of Argentina would want to be here to witness the team play and labelled the relationship with the fans as beautiful.

"The whole of Argentina would like to be here, but it's not possible.

"I think there's this bond

that we have, this union, which is something beautiful. These are amazing feelings. I'm really happy to share this beautiful moment, these happy moments with them all," described Messi as quoted by *Sky Sports*.

The Argentina star lauded the fans who are flocking to the stadium to support the team while also mentioning the football fanatics who are enjoying the games back at home.

"The effort they are making to be here with us in every single match. I know how much they enjoy it back in Argentina.

"It's unbelievable what they transmit, the passion, their energy, their joy and we're very thankful. It's unbelievable," said the talismanic forward. - **ANI**



ROUND OF 16

Socceroos hope World Cup feats can prove catalyst

DOHA: The Sydney Opera House was lit up in green and gold on Saturday. In Melbourne, 30,000 supporters filled AAMI Park, home of Melbourne City, at 6am to watch the match on big screens. Australia's FIFA World Cup adventure is over but the excitement generated back at home by their last-16 date with Argentina should augur well for the future of football in the country.

This was the message from midfielder Jackson Irvine, speaking to *FIFA+* at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in the wake of the Socceroos' narrow 2-1 loss to Argentina. "It is difficult to put into words," he said.

"Seeing some scenes from back home - 6am, stadiums full of people watching the game - I think when the dust settles on the disappointment of actually losing the game, we'll be able to process what we've done, in terms of the magnitude for Australian football, and we can be so very proud of that."

"The biggest hope is we inspire the next young footballers, young boys and girls, to do even better than what we've been able to achieve," added substitute Craig Goodwin whose deflected shot - officially given as an Enzo Fernandez own goal - raised Aussie hopes of a comeback in the 77th minute.

Those watching from Down Under - as well as the small band of Australians in the stadium - saw an effort to be proud of as Graham Arnold's men contained Argentina until a piece of Lionel Messi magic brought the breakthrough.

Irvine said of the performance: "Tactically we were spot-on, we were compact, and we were hard to beat. We pressed well, we made it difficult for them. Maybe at the end when we had to open up to get back in the game, we gave up some chances but, overall, we managed the game really well and we got the goal to give ourselves a chance. At the end it comes down to a world-class save to stop it going to extra time."

Irvine, who plays for St Pauli in Germany, said that Australia's belief had been key to rising to the challenge of facing Messi and Co. "[It was] surreal for players like myself who've never played at the highest level domestically, but you come in here and this environment is so unique, the environment we've created as a team is so unique, that we came in here fully believing that we could win this game and progress.

"That's the positive mindset that we've had in this tournament and it has allowed us to put in the performances we

have done. Obviously surreal and it's a moment to reflect on being on the pitch with arguably the greatest to ever do it."

The team that Arnold brought to Qatar had none of the star quality of the previous Australia team to reach the last 16 of the World Cup in 2006. Harry Kewell was a Champions League winner; Tim Cahill, Mark Viduka, Lucas Neill and Mark Schwarzer were established Premier League footballers.

Of the XI that started against Argentina only Ryan and Aaron Mooy had experience of one of Europe's top five leagues. Four play their football in the Scottish Premier League, two in the English Championship, albeit Arnold has already publicly called on Premier League sides to sign Harry Souttar, the towering Stoke City centre-back, who had a fantastic tournament.

The current bunch will head for home having made history by becoming the first Australia side to win two matches at a World Cup - vindication for Arnold who had received much criticism before these finals and is now expected to leave his role.

"Everyone said we were the worst Socceroo team to qualify for the World Cup and the worst Socceroo team ever," said Arnold. "That's gone now. We're the only Socceroo team to win two games at a World Cup. I hope Australia is really, really proud."

"The mix of young and senior boys has worked well," reflected Arnold, who sent on Kuol in the second half to become the youngest player to appear in the World Cup knockout rounds since Pele in 1958. At the age of 18 years and 79 days, Kuol nearly produced a fairy-tale twist with a late chance. But it wasn't to be.

And Arnold's hope is that the excitement generated by this team's feats will help Soccer Australia gain funding to build a base for the national teams on a site already earmarked in Sydney. - **FIFA+**





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FDO ATTENDS WAS EXPO

Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) attended the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) annual conference and exhibition, which is an important event that discusses the various blue economy industries.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,622.13 points, up by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.17 per cent at 466.57 points. Oman Flour Mills, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 8.82 per cent, was the top loser.

Mideast airlines see 114.7% traffic surge in October

Total traffic in October 2022 rose 44.6 per cent compared to October 2021



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern airlines saw a 114.7 per cent traffic rise in October compared to October 2021, according to a new report.

"Capacity increased 55.7 per cent against the year-ago period, and load factor climbed 21.8 percentage points to 79.5 per cent, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its monthly report.

The report added that the recovery in air travel continued in October. Total traffic in October 2022 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) rose 44.6 per cent compared to October 2021. Globally, traffic is now at 74.2 per cent of October 2019 levels.

Domestic traffic for October 2022 slipped 0.8 per cent compared to the year-ago period as stringent COVID-related travel restrictions in China dampened global figures. Total October 2022 domestic traffic was at 77.9 per cent of the October 2019 level. Domestic forward bookings remain at around 70 per cent of the pre-pandemic level.

International traffic climbed 102.4 per cent versus October 2021. October 2022 international RPKs reached 72.1 per cent of October 2019 levels with all markets recording strong growth, led by Asia-Pacific. Forward bookings for international travel increased to around 75 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, following the reopenings announced by multiple Asian economies.

"Traditionally, by October we are into the slower autumn travel season in the Northern Hemisphere, so it is highly reassuring to see demand and forward bookings continuing to be so strong. It bodes well for the coming winter season and the ongoing recovery," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

"People are enjoying the freedom to travel, and businesses recognise the importance of air transport to their success. A re-

Regional carriers witness 15% decrease in cargo volumes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 15.0 per cent year-on-year decrease in cargo volumes in October 2022. This was a marginal improvement to the previous month (-15.8 per cent). Stagnant cargo volumes to/from Europe impacted the region's performance. Capacity increased by 1.0 per cent compared to October 2021.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for October 2022 global air cargo markets showing that headwinds continue to affect air cargo demand.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres, fell 13.6 per cent compared to October 2021 (-13.5 per cent for international operations).

Capacity was 0.6 per cent below October 2021. This was the first year-on-year contraction since April 2022, however, month-on-month capacity increased by 2.4 per cent in preparation for the year-end peak season. International cargo capacity

grew 2.4 per cent compared to October 2021.

Several factors in the operating environment should be noted:

New export orders, a leading indicator of cargo demand, are shrinking in all markets except China and South Korea, which registered slightly higher new export orders in October.

Latest global goods trade figures showed a 5.6 per cent expansion in September, a positive sign for the global economy. This is expected to primarily benefit maritime cargo, with a slight boost to air cargo as well.

The US dollar has seen a sharp appreciation, with the broad real effective exchange rate in September 2022 reaching the highest level since 1986. A strong dollar affects air cargo. As many costs are denominated in dollars, the currency's appreciation adds another layer of cost on top of high inflation and high jet fuel prices.

The Consumer Price Index increased slightly in G7 countries in October.

cent survey of European business leaders doing business across borders showed that 84 per cent could not imagine doing so without access to air transport networks and 89 per cent believed being close to an airport with global connections gave them a competitive advantage," Walsh said.

"Governments need to pay at-

tention to the message that air travel is fundamental to how we live and work. That reality should drive policies to enable aviation to operate as efficiently as possible while supporting the industry's 2050 Net Zero emission goals with meaningful incentives to encourage the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuels," he further added.

GREEN DATA CITY

Ministry to attract local and international firms for investing in data hosting and processing

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology will attract local and international investor consortiums in the area of data hosting and processing in the governorate of Dhofar.

Green Data City is establishing a large-scale data centre for hosting, processing and mining data for various applications, such as distributed ledger technologies, blockchain, and Fintech, as a result of a partnership between local and international digital innovation companies.

The ministry's mandate is to attract digital investments to the country in advanced technologies including data hosting and data



processing. The ministry hopes through this investment opportunity to accelerate the adoption of distributed ledger technologies, blockchains, and fintech. MTCIT believe that such advanced technologies have a promising future globally henceforth endeavouring to localise technology and create

job opportunities for young Omani IT specialists.

The investment opportunity totals more than OMR150 million in the full-fledged setup of the facility and will assist in providing more than 150 job opportunities during the construction and operations of the centre.

National Day Hot Offers from FRiENDi mobile

FRiENDi mobile launched new promotional plans that are a combination of data and local calling minutes at affordable prices. A key strategy at FRiENDi is the focus on its customer's needs and this helps build products that allow customers to choose what suits them best. The vision at FRiENDi mobile is to keep their customers connected to their loved ones, locally and globally.

With one of the new plans, FRiENDi mobile customers pay just OMR 5 to enjoy 6 GB for a period of 30 days along with a bonus of 100 local minutes. In another attractive offer, customers can get 8 GB for 7 days along with a bonus of 50 local minutes for OMR 5. These limited time "Hot Offers" will give

customers the option to choose the amount of data they would like to use, and the time period that they would need it for, both at the same price. Additionally, all FRiENDi mobile customers always get to enjoy Unlimited Validity Plans, exclusive offers, FRiENDi Rewards and free data by simply downloading the FRiENDi mobile app.

In the efforts to make their products easily available, FRiENDi mobile has ongoing promotional activities that offer new customers a FREE SIM at Lulu Hypermarkets, Mars, KM Trading, Al Meera and Nesto. A recharge of just OMR 1 allows customers to enjoy 5 hours of free calls to FRiENDi numbers as well as 200 MB free WhatsApp.

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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Role of incubators in addressing challenges highlighted

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion started to implement incubators for resolving challenges facing the converting industries sector. The five-day programme is undertaken through cooperation with Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit and the Industrial Innovation Academy.

The incubators deal with three main themes: 'Infrastructure and Public Services', 'Laws and Legislation' and 'Investment and Financing'. More than 60 people representing various government and private establishments are taking part in the tasks of the programme.

Eng. Sami Al Sahib, Director General of Industry at the ministry, stressed the role of incubators in addressing challenges related to projects of the converting industries sector since government and private establishments concerned are fully represented in the programme and are capable of forging solutions. -ONA

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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Oman Flour Mills, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 8.82 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,622.13 points, up by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.17 per cent at 466.57 points. Oman Flour Mills, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 8.82 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 264 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.05 million, with more than 5.99 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded securities, 11 advanced, 13 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR481,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR388,000, followed by

foreign investors for OMR92,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,543.88 points, up 0.72 per cent. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, Global Financial Investments, Ahli Bank, United Finance, and Al Madina Takaful were up by 8.97 per cent, 5.77 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.56 per cent and 1.21 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment and Al Anwar Investment were down by 9.80 per cent and 1.32 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,115.33 points, up 1.41 per cent. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, and Oman Fisheries were up by 9.80 per cent, 8.25 per cent, 5.17 per cent, 4.00 per cent and 1.02 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.66 per cent before closing at 1,540.89 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,631.38	4,613.41	4,622.13	4,613.72	8.41	0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,555.86	7,488.01	7,543.88	7,489.97	53.91	0.72
Industry Index	6,125.70	5,999.07	6,115.33	6,030.04	85.29	1.41
Services Index	1,547.69	1,540.89	1,540.89	1,551.10	-10.22	-0.66
MSX Shariah Index	468.30	465.32	466.57	465.80	0.77	0.17
MSX TR INDEX	5,845.64	5,822.96	5,833.97	5,821.05	12.92	0.22
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,906.36	7,835.37	7,893.83	7,837.42	56.41	0.72
SERVICES TR IDX	1,630.93	1,623.76	1,623.76	1,621.57	2.19	0.14
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,377.61	6,245.78	6,366.81	6,278.01	88.80	1.41

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,992,956	1,051,278	264	23,494,043,947	11	13	18	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST HD	LAST OFFR	PRN VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	326	219	1	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.612	0.060	9.804	0.672	0.000	0.672	0.100...105,840,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	50,000	7,482	6	0.145	0.158	0.145	0.158	0.145	0.013	8.968	0.158	0.149	0.150	0.100...47,907,754
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	38,199	1,811	2	0.080	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.082	0.003	5.769	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100...11,000,000
OM0000003200	AHLI BANK	758,303	118,296	10	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.153	0.003	1.961	0.156	0.150	0.100	304,146,565
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	39,469	4,266	2	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.105	0.108	0.100	15,120,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN	100,000	13,000	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.100...30,810,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	510	200	1	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.000	0.000	0.392	0.382	0.398	0.100...261,998,247
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	2,135	3,373	1	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	0.000	0.000	1.580	1.590	1.640	0.100...141,726,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	5,000	1,075	2	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.215	0.215	0.225	0.100...13,158,919
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,319,959	369,474	64	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.279	0.279	0.252	0.100...2,101,791,177
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,594,408	167,414	4	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.095	0.107	0.100...481,956,540
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	900	38	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.040	0.045	0.100...9,334,080
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	210	94	2	0.450	0.450	0.448	0.448	0.450	-0.002	-0.444	0.448	0.000	0.448	0.100...24,640,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	135,000	59,002	9	0.438	0.438	0.436	0.436	0.438	-0.002	-0.457	0.436	0.430	0.436	0.100...103,074,760
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	34,744	30,281	6	0.872	0.872	0.868	0.868	0.872	-0.004	-0.459	0.868	0.868	0.788	0.100...601,000,000
Total	IS	4,077,193	776,025	112											

Parallel Market

OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	100	11	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.097	0.008	8.247	0.105	0.088	0.105	0.100...8,547,289
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	62,000	11,229	16	0.180	0.183	0.179	0.183	0.174	0.009	5.172	0.183	0.179	0.182	0.100...37,146,520
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	550	127	2	0.230	0.234	0.230	0.234	0.225	0.009	4.000	0.234	0.203	0.234	0.100...9,735,633
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	15,405	570	15	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.026	0.001	2.778	0.027	0.026	0.027	0.100...7,384,517
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	287,000	18,655	6	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.001	1.563	0.065	0.060	0.065	0.100...22,694,387
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	122,000	10,163	10	0.082	0.087	0.082	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.100...14,700,000
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	3,000	297	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100...18,025,762
OM0000001030	OMAN CHROMITE	500	1,100	1	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200	0.000	0.000	2.200	2.000	1.000	1.000...6,600,000
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	250,000	40,000	3	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.156	0.165	0.100...320,050,046
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,000	60	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.057	0.060	0.100...18,428,780
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	32,200	4,961	2	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.144	0.160	0.100...464,434,473
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,235	2,255	3	1.010	1.010	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.100...61,273,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	7,500	1,998	2	0.279	0.279	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.234	0.270	0.100...31,200,000
OM0000003265	NAT DETERGENT	370	199	1	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.000	0.000	0.538	0.000	0.538	0.100...10,760,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	89,620	8,512	15	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100...212,510,338
OM0000004447	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	38,598	3,146	5	0.081	0.084	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100...38,169,097
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,000	575	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.116	-0.001	-0.862	0.115	0.115	0.119	0.100...48,848,574
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	235	23	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.098	-0.001	-1.020	0.097	0.094	0.097	0.100...19,400,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	19,500	1,463	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.318	0.075	0.074	0.076	0.100...15,000,000
OM0000001100	NATIONAL GAS	53,000	5,314	15	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100...5,500,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT-CHEMI	25,900	1,972	3	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.079	-0.003	-3.797	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100...1,596,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	635,502	66,976	38	0.103	0.112	0.103	0.109	0.114	-0.005	-4.386	0.109	0.109	0.114	0.100...21,800,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	5,806	403	3	0.070	0.070	0.066	0.066	0.072	-0.006	-8.333	0.066	0.068	0.078	0.100...8,043,750
OM0000004925	ALBATTAIN POWER	99,691	3,090	5	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.034	-0.003	-8.824	0.031	0.031	0.034	0.100...20,921,510
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	41,691	1,292	4	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.034	-0.003	-8.824	0.031	0.037	0.034	0.100...22,146,597
Total	IS	1,798,401	184,421	143											

THOUGHT-PROVOKING SESSION

Tejarah Talks tackles next marketing frontiers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Taking a fresh look at new trends, customer behaviour and technologies that are transforming the marketing industry at top speed, the final Tejarah Talks of 2022 has been designed specifically to provide CMOs and other senior marketing leaders with the insights they need to build strate-

gies, grow revenue and drive customer engagement.

'Marketing in the New World', 7:30pm Wednesday December 14, Zain Auditorium, Omantel's headquarters in Airports Heights, will bring together a carefully curated group of thought-provoking leaders from Oman's marketing, media and advertising community to share experiences and perspec-

tives on the issues shaping the future of marketing.

The panel includes Luma Al Saleh, Partner & Chief Transformation Officer, Identity; Paul Ross, Senior Consultant, former CMO, Mindberry; Maria Saif, Head of Marketing & Digital, Wealth & Personal Banking, HSBC; and Ahmed Sharkawy, Marketing Manager, Diamond Developers.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT OMAN

FDO attends WAS forum to woo investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) attended the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) annual conference and exhibition, which is an important event that discusses the various blue economy industries.

It was organised in Singapore from November 30 to December 2 by Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and attended by Asia, the Pacific and other countries from all over the world.

The FDO participation aimed to introduce the fisheries in Oman and their competitive advantage in the international markets and the encouragement of investments in associated industries. Such exhibitions and conferences constitute the appropriate venue for exchanging international experiences and experiments and getting updated with the most important scientific developments and the latest technologies. The conference brings together international institutions and organi-



sations specialised in fisheries under one roof to discuss challenges and solutions to the international issues of the aquaculture industries.

On the sidelines of the conference, a number of workshops and seminars hosted experts and scientists from all over the world,

covering all aquaculture topics including dryland aquaculture, environment, biodiversity, climate change as well as aquaculture technology and discussing aquaculture sustainable development and other issues related to sustainable development and blue economy.



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Offer valid from 1st October to 31st December 2022. Raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Azaba with a total of 3 raffle draws. Dates: 3rd November, 5th December 2022 and 4th January 2023. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Promotion at Lulu, Nesto, Carrefour, Makkah Hypermarkets & The Sultan Center.

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RBI DATA

India's forex reserves rise

NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves during the week that ended on November 25 rose by \$2.89 billion to \$550.14 billion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. This is the third consecutive week of rising reserves. During the week that ended on November 18, the country's forex reserves were at \$547.25 billion, data showed.

According to RBI's latest data, India's foreign currency assets, which are the biggest component of the forex reserves, rose by \$3.0 billion to \$487.28 billion. However, gold reserves during the week declined by \$73 million to \$39.93 billion.

Barring the past three weeks, the forex reserves have been falling for months now because of RBI's intervention in the market to defend the depreciating rupee against a surging US dollar. Also, rising costs of imported items also necessitated the higher requirement of reserves for trade settlement.

Typically, the RBI intervenes in the market through liquidity management, including through the selling of dollars, with a view to preventing a steep depreciation in the rupee.

Overall, India's forex reserves had declined sharply ever since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February when imports of energy and other commodities got costlier globally. — **ANI**



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Russia refuses to accept EU’s price cap on oil

On Friday, European Union countries agreed to cap the price of Russian seaborne oil at USD 60 a barrel

MOSCOW: Russia refused to accept a price cap on Russian oil which European Union along with G7 and others have set a deal for a \$60 per barrel, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

According to TASS Russian News Agency, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, “We are assessing the situation. Certain preparations for such a cap were made. We won’t accept the price cap and we will inform you how the work will be organized once the assessment is over.” On Friday, European Union countries agreed to cap the price of Russian seaborne oil at USD 60 a barrel.



Taking to Twitter, the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen said, “The EU agreement on an oil price cap, coordinated with G7 and others, will reduce Russia’s revenues significantly. It will help us stabilise global energy prices, benefitting emerging economies around the world.”

Leyen also shared the video on her Twitter account in which she said, “As you know the EU and other major G7 partners will have a full import ban on Russian

seaborne oil as of December 5. But we need to ensure that emerging and developing countries continue to have access to some Russian crude oil at limited prices and thus, today the EU the G7 and other global partners have agreed to introduce a global price cap on seaborne oil from Russia.”

Talking about the objectives, the European Commission president said that firstly, it will strengthen the effect of our sanctions, secondly, it will diminish

Russia’s revenues and thirdly, at the same time, it will stabilise global energy markets because it will allow some Russian seaborne oil to be traded, brokered, transported by EU operators to third countries, as long as it is solid below the cap.

“So this price cap will benefit directly emerging and developing economies, and it will be adjustable over time so that we can react to market developments. Together with our partners, we stand united and firm in our opposition to Russia’s atrocious war,” she added.

According to CNN, the West’s biggest economies agreed earlier this year to establish a price cap after lobbying by the United States and vowed to hash out the details by early December. But setting a number had proved difficult.

Capping the price of Russian oil between USD 65 and USD 70 a barrel, a range previously under discussion, wouldn’t have caused much pain for the Kremlin. Urals crude, Russia’s benchmark, has already been trading within or close to that range. EU countries such as Poland and Estonia had pushed for the cap to be lower. **ANI**

Historic crown gets modifications for King Charles III

LONDON: The St. Edward’s Crown has been moved to an undisclosed location for modification in preparation for the coronation of King Charles III next year, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday.

The 17th-century crown is the centerpiece of the Crown Jewels, displayed at the Tower of London and annually visited by more than a million visitors.

The crown has a purple velvet cap with an ermine band and is encrusted with rubies, amethysts, sapphires, garnet, topazes and tourmalines. It is just over 30 cm (12 inches) long and has a 2.23-kilogram (4.9-pound) solid gold frame.



Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953. It will now be worn by King Charles III at his coronation on May 6. He will only wear it at the moment he is crowned.

After the coronation, Charles will wear the Imperial State Crown, created in 1937 for the coronation of King George VI.

The coronation takes place a few months after the ascension of a new sovereign, after a period of mourning and preparations.

Charles became the reigning monarch after his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, passed away on September 8. She reigned for 70 years.

Charles also became head of state of 14 Commonwealth countries, such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. He has reportedly requested a less lavish ceremony due to concerns about public perception. **DW**

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Around 28 million Afghans will need humanitarian assistance in 2023: UN



KABUL: The UN agency for the coordination of humanitarian affairs stated that Afghanistan continues to face one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, with 28.3 million people expected to require aid in the upcoming year, TOLONews reported.

“Afghanistan faces its third consecutive year of drought-like conditions and the second year of debilitating economic collapse,” TOLONews reported citing the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. “It is estimated that a record 28.3 million people will need humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023, up from 24.4 million in 2022,” the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs added.

In the meantime, the UN requested USD 51 billion on Thursday for those in need in 70 different nations in 2023.

According to UN emergency assistance coordinator Martin Griffiths, the humanitarian needs of some countries are ‘alarmingly great’.

“Five countries are experiencing what we call a famine condition and we can confidently and unhappily say that people are dying,” Griffiths added.

Meanwhile, UNICEF said that the lives of over 8,000 children in Afghanistan are at risk due to food insecurity.

Children in Afghanistan require more humanitarian aid than in the past and hangers are a daily occurrence, TOLONews reported citing Ezatullah Akbari, head of Human Rights Watch’s media department.

Afghanistan is grappling with a serious humanitarian crisis as according to international assessments, the country now has the highest number of people in

emergency food insecurity in the world, with more than 23 million in need of aid and approximately, 95 per cent of the population having insufficient food.

Moreover, the situation of human rights in Afghanistan has worsened since the collapse of the Afghan government and the Taliban’s return to power in August last year.

The Ukraine crisis has also had a significant impact on the rise in food prices, making it unaffordable for many Afghans.

Even as the war has ended in the nation, grave human rights violations--particularly against women and minorities--remain unabated. The fundamental rights to non-discrimination, education, employment, public engagement, and health are being denied to women and girls in Afghanistan, reported Khaama Press. **ANI**

ROLL-OUT SOLAR ARRAY

NASA astronauts successfully install new roll-out solar array on space station

NEW DELHI: NASA astronauts Josh Cassada and Frank Rubio have successfully installed Roll-Out Solar Array on the starboard truss structure of the space station on Sunday.

NASA uploaded the video on Twitter and wrote, “Can we fix it? Yes, we can. Astronauts Josh Cassada and Frank Rubio have successfully installed Roll-Out Solar Array on the starboard truss structure of the @Space_Station. They have also disconnected a cable allowing restoring a power channel to 75% of its operating capacity.” Astronauts ended their spacewalk around 12:51 am today after successfully installing a new roll-out solar array on the station.

Astronauts ended their spacewalk at 2:21pm ET today after successfully installing a new roll-out solar array on the station.

You can watch the Spacewalk process on the NASA app, the space station blog and the agency’s website.

In the process crew members of Expedition 68 are seen preparing to exit the International Space Station’s Quest airlock for a spacewalk that began about 7:25 a.m. EST and last approximately seven hours.

In addition to installing an iROSA, the spacewalkers will disconnect a cable to allow the 1B power channel to be reactivated after it was shut down due



to a power trip in its electrical system. The disconnection of the cable will isolate the affected portion of the array and restore the channel to 75% of its normal operating capacity, NASA reported in their space station blog.

Cassada will serve as extravehicular crew member 1 (EV 1) and will wear a suit with red stripes. Rubio will serve as extravehicular crew member 2 (EV 2) and will wear the unmarked suit. The spacewalk will be the second for both Cassada and Rubio.

Earlier, NASA tweeted, “Spacewalk in progress. Watch astronauts @Astro.Josh (suit with red stripes) and Frank Rubio (unmarked suit) install new @Space_Station rollout solar arrays. The spacewalk is expected to last seven hours.” **ANI**

CHRISTMAS TIME

White House unveils the Bidens’ holiday decorations on theme ‘We the People’

WASHINGTON: The White House is decorated on the theme ‘We the People’ for this holiday season, drawing inspiration from the US Constitution.

Earlier, US First lady Jill Biden joined by a group of volunteers and National Guard leaders and families from across the country revealed the theme in the statement released by the White House on November 28. “The soul of our nation is, and always has been, ‘We the People,’” the first lady will say in prepared remarks.

“And that is what inspired this year’s White House holiday decoration.”

Jill Biden, in the statement, said, “The values that unite us can be found all around you: a belief in possibility and optimism and unity. Room by room, we represent what brings us together during



the holidays and throughout the year.”

The Gold Star trees honour and remember those who laid down their lives for our country and the families who carry on their legacies.

Talking about all the rooms in the White House, US first lady said that in the library, stories and history are celebrated while in Vermeil Room, kindness is appreciated and in the China room, family

members sit at the dinner tables.

“In the East Room, where we are right now, we highlight the national treasures that belong to all of us: the National Parks and the communion we find in nature. So you can see them in all the mirrors if you look around you. All the National Parks are celebrated,” Jill Biden said. The Blue Room will feature the centerpiece of the decorations -- an 18-and-a-half-foot fir tree brought to the nation’s capital from Auburn, Pa.

It will be decorated with hand-made renderings of the official birds of all 57 states, territories and the District of Columbia. The State Dining Room will carry the theme of “We the Children.”

US first lady thanked the volunteers and said that the holiday celebrations won’t be possible without their hard work. **ANI**

VOLCANO ERUPTION

Indonesia issues alert after Semeru volcano eruption

JAKARTA: Mount Semeru volcano on Indonesia’s main island of Java erupted on Sunday, spewing a plume of ash high into the air and unleashing rivers of lava down the side of the mountain.

Authorities issued a volcano alert to the highest level, meaning the settlements are threatened and volcanic activity can be expected to increase, Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Center (PVMBG) spokesperson Hendra Gunawan told broadcaster Kompas TV.

What emergency measures are being taken?

No casualties have yet been reported. Several nearby villages were blanketed with ash and residents have been evacuated to temporary shelters, Indonesia’s disaster mitigation agency, BNPB, said in a statement.

Joko Sambang, head of the disaster

management agency in Lumajang, located near the volcano, said that several hundred people have been evacuated, mostly women, children and the elderly.

Mount Semeru is located on the eastern part of Java island, around 640 kilometres (400 miles) from capital city Jakarta.

The eruption was unleashed after monsoon rains eroded and finally collapsed the lava dome atop the 3,876 meter (12,060 foot) volcano, said BNPB spokesperson Abdul Muhari.

“Most of the road accesses have been closed since this morning. Now it’s raining volcanic ash and it has covered the view of the mountain,” Bayu Deny Alfianto, a local volunteer told Reuters news agency.

Several nearby villages were blanketed with ash, which has been mixing with monsoon rainfall. **DW**

Bangladesh edge India in a thrilling one-dayer

Last-wicket pair of Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mustafizur Rahman guide the hosts to 1-wicket win

DHAKA: India lost a nail-bitter match in the first ODI of the three-match series against Bangladesh by one wicket that was played at Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Sunday.

India lost their first ODI against Bangladesh after seven years which came in the year 2015. Defending a modest 187-run target, India need early wickets and Deepak Chahar did exactly that dismissing opener Najmul Hossain Shanto in the very first ball of the match.

Chahar alongwith other pacers bowled a tight line and that did not allow Bangladesh batters to score runs freely and which resulted in Anamul Haque's wicket who became Mohammed Siraj's victim.

They desperately needed a partnership and captain Litton Das and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan did exactly that. The duo took Bangladesh's team total beyond the 50-run mark in 14.5 overs.

Washington Sundar then broke the 48-run partnership between the two dismissing skipper Litton



Das for 41 off 63 balls. Next Shakib Al Hasan became his victim as he dismissed him for 29 leaving Bangladesh in a spot of bother at 95/4.

Wicket-keeper batter Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah then somehow took Bangladesh's total to the triple-figure mark.

The 33-run partnership between the two was broken by Shardul Thakur who dismissed Mahmudullah's leg-before wicket for 14. In the very next ball of the next over Rahim was dismissed by Siraj for 18 to leave Bangladesh tottering at 128/6.

Debutant Kuldeep Sen who was expensive in his first spell got his first ODI scalp in the form of Afif Hossain for 6. Three balls later Sen struck again dismissing Ebadot Hossain for a duck as he was out and hit a wicket to leave Bangladesh in trouble for 135/8.

In the next over Siraj struck for the third time dismissing Hasan Mahmud for a duck to make the

matters worse for the host at 136/9. The moment it seemed that India will run away with the match the turnaround happened.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz along with Mustafizur Rahman batted cautiously to take the team's total beyond the 150-run mark in 40.4 overs.

After that Miraz took control and started hitting boundaries and sixes to take Bangladesh to an improbable win and in the process struck an unbeaten 51-run partnership. Miraz played a brilliant knock of 38 off 39 balls remaining not out right till the end hitting four boundaries and two sixes while Mustafizur Rahman remained unbeaten on 10.

Earlier in the day put to bat first by Bangladesh, spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz gave the hosts their first breakthrough by dismissing opener Shikhar Dhawan for just 7 off 17 balls. In an attempt to reverse sweep the ball, Dhawan's wrist was hit by the ball and it

ricocheted into the stumps. India was 23/1.

Skipper Rohit Sharma looked in good touch and was joined by Virat Kohli. The duo were playing their first ODI since July. At the end of 10 overs, India was at 48/1, with Rohit (27*) and Virat (9*).

In the next over, however, all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan swung things in favour of the hosts, casting Rohit for 27 off 31 balls and sending back Virat for just nine off 15 balls, with skipper Litton Das taking a stunner of a catch at extra cover. At 49/3, Men in Blue were in a spot of bother.

The fresh pair of Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul took the innings forward. The duo was careful in their approach, relying mainly on strike rotation. Medium pacer Ebadot Hossain broke the stand at 43 runs, dismissing KL Rahul continued going, with all-rounder Washington Sundar at the other end. India reached the 100-run mark in 22.5 overs. in-form Iyer for 24 off 39 balls.

KL relieved some pressure from batters, smashing Miraz for four and six in the 30th over, bringing up a 50-run stand in 60 balls.

Rahul brought up his 11th ODI fifty in 49 balls with a stylish drive past point.

Shakib continued his golden run in the match, dismissing Sundar (19), Shardul Thakur (2) and Deepak Chahar (0) in quick succession to complete his five-wicket haul. Ebadot got Shabbaz Ahmed for zero.

India sunk to 156/8 in 34.4 overs. Ebadot got his third wicket of the match and he ended Rahul's resistance at the crease. -ANI

Pakistan need 263 runs for Test victory against England



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan were pressing for victory in the first Test in Rawalpindi when they reached 80 for two after being set a 343-run target on the fourth day on Sunday.

Pakistan lost Abdullah Shafique (six) and skipper Babar Azam (four) in their second innings as they slipped to 25 for two before Imam-ul-Haq (43) and Saud Shakeel (24) switched an unbroken 55-run partnership for the third wicket to keep Pakistan's spirits high. When play will resume on Monday, Pakistan will require 263 to go one-up, while England will hunt for the remaining eight Pakistan wickets.

Ollie Robinson bounced out Abdullah and two balls later, forced Azhar Ali to retire hurt after the former Pakistan captain was hit on the right index finger off a sharp and rising delivery. Azhar is expected to bat on Monday, if required.

Next over, sixth of Pakistan's innings, Ben Stokes got the prized wicket of Pakistan skipper Azam by forcing an edge off a rising delivery that landed safely in keeper Ollie Pope's hands - shocking the

holiday crowd of 14,200.

But Imam - who also scored a century in the first innings - steadied the ship with Shakeel with a 55-run third-wicket stand.

Earlier, Harry Brook struck a fiery 87 as England batted aggressively in their second innings before declaring at 264 for seven. Brook smashed 11 boundaries and three sixes in a swashbuckling knock, coming after his 153 in England's first innings.

Root also played a part in a 96-run partnership with Brook, scoring his 55th Test half-century.

Leg-spinner Zahid Mehmood dismissed Root and Stokes (nought) in the same over to finish with figures of 2-84, while Naseem took 2-66 and Mohammad Ali 2-64.

In the morning session, debutant Jacks took all three wickets to fall after Pakistan resumed at 499 for seven - but not before the host's tail-enders scored freely on a much-maligned flat Rawalpindi Stadium pitch.

Salman Ali Agha (53) and Mehmood (17) frustrated England for 50 minutes during their stubborn eighth-wicket stand of 57. -PCB

BATTLING CANCER

I feel strong, says football legend Pele

SAO PAULO: Brazil football legend Pele said that he feels "strong" and has "a lot of hope" as he receives hospital treatment in his battle with colon cancer.

The Brazil icon is reacting well, and his health has not deteriorated in the last 24 hours, according to the Albert Einstein hospital in Sao Paulo on Saturday, as Skysports.com reported.

As Skysports reported quoting reports from the Brazilian daily newspaper *Folha de S.Paulo* that said "Pele had been moved to palliative care and was only being treated for symptoms such as pain and shortness of breath."

In September 2021, Pele received a bowel cancer diagnosis. He had a respiratory infection, which led to his hospitalization on Tuesday where his cancer therapy was reviewed. He has been in the hospital since Tuesday for a "reassessment of chemotherapy therapy" of his colon tumour.

"He is still having treatment and remains stable," the hospital was quoted as saying by Skysports.

"I want to keep everyone calm and positive. I'm strong, with a lot of hope and I follow my treatment as usual. I want to thank the entire medical and nursing team for all the care I have received. I have a lot



of faith in God and every message of love I receive from you all over the world keeps me full of energy. And watch Brazil in the World Cup, too," the statement was posted on Pele's official Instagram alongside a message which said.

Following the assessment, it was determined to transition Pele to palliative or end-of-life care. Palliative care entails offering medical support and physical comfort to people with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. Pele is 82 years old and his condition is said to be stable. -ANI

OMAN CRICKET

Oman Stallions trounce AER Bin Ali, Yalla Shabab beat Muscat CT

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Stallions beat AER Bin Ali by 5 wickets while Yalla Shabab defeated Muscat CT by 6 wickets in the Premier Division games of the Oman Cricket League Season 2022-23, powered by Muscat Pharmacy, this week.

In the match played on Friday, Oman Stallions called right at the toss and put AER Bin Ali to bat first. AER started at a good pace with both openers Zeeshan Siddiqui and Azam Ali looking in good shape and tandem. Oman Stallions' pacer Hemal Tandel picked the 1st wicket getting Azam Ali trapped in front of the wickets in his 5th over. Off with a reasonable powerplay, AER Bin Ali were looking to set a big total but the Oman Stallions' turners had bigger plans.

Jay Odedra and Mohit Patel operated in partnership claiming wickets in quick succession with both bagging 3 wickets respectively leaving AER bundled down for just 144. In return,

AER started on a high with Muzahir Raza claiming wickets of both openers in his 1st and 3rd over. Although being 3 down in the powerplay, skipper Karan Sonavale and Rafiullah ensured



Oman Stallions recovered well and were on for the chase with Vinayak Shukla coming in and notching some quick runs to get the Stallions past AER.

Brief scores: AER Bin Ali 144/10 in 26.2 overs (Zeeshan Siddiqui 32 (41) 6x4; Mohit Patel 17/3, Jay Odedra 33/3) lost to Oman Stallions 147/5 in 26.2 overs (Rafiullah 34 (28) 5x4,1x6; Muzahir Raza 29/2, Sean Nowak 38/2) by 5 wickets.

In the match played on Saturday, Yalla Shabab won the toss and elected to bowl first. Muscat CT started off scoring 28 in the



powerplay losing Kashyap Prajapati to Mehran Khan. Skipper Jatinder Singh held the Muscat CT batting line-up by scoring a sublime half-century and holding one end but none of his counterparts could go long. Off-spinner Nester Dhamba playing his 1st match of the Premier Division this season claiming 4 wickets in his spell of 10 overs well supported by Mohammed Zahid claiming 2 wickets.

Muscat CT could pile up just 169 with a closing contribution by Samay Shrivastav remaining not out scoring 19 off 25 balls. In

return, Yalla Shabab went all guns blazing at the Muscat CT armers with only Ayaan Khan being able to cause interruptions to their plans. Hannan Rizwan's and Mohammed Nadeem's sublime half centuries ensure Yalla Shabab got over the line to claim its 2nd win of the season.

Brief scores: Muscat CT 169/10 in 48 overs (Jatinder Singh 64 (105) 5x4; Nester Dhamba 29/4) lost to Yalla Shabab 170/4 in 38.3 overs (Hannan Rizwan 80(83) 8x4, 2x6, Mohammed Nadeem 51(85) 3x4; Ayaan Khan 26/4) by 6 wickets.

AUSTRALIA VS WEST INDIES

Labuschagne, Lyon star as Australia crush West Indies by 164 runs

PERTH: Marnus Labuschagne's combo of the double century and century and spinner Nathan Lyon's magic with the ball helped Australia clinch a 164-run win over West Indies in the first Test of two-match series in Perth on Sunday.

With this win, Australia has taken a 1-0 lead in the series. Chasing a target of 498, the West Indies resumed the final day of the match at 192/3, with Kraigg Brathwaite 101* and Kyle Mayers 0* at the crease.

Spinner Nathan Lyon got the first wicket of the day, five overs into the day, dismissing Kyle Mayers for 10 runs.

West Indies was 207/4. Centurion Brathwaite was the next one to go soon, with Lyon getting his wicket for 110. Half of the West Indies side was gone for 212 runs. Travis Head and Josh Hazlewood took two more scalps, dismissing



Jason Holder (3) and Joshua de Silva (12). WI was 233/7.

Roston Chase and Alzarri Joseph stitched an 82-run stand,

which helped the Windies cross the 300-run mark. Head dismissed Joseph for 43 off 72 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes.

Chase brought up his half-century, his 10th in the format. However, Lyon dismissed both Chase (55) and Kemar Roach (0) to bun-

dle out West Indies for 333 runs, winning the match by 164 runs.

Lyon (6/128) was the pick of the bowlers for the Aussies. Head took two wickets, Hazlewood and Starc took a wicket each.

Earlier, Australia declared their second innings at 182/2 in 37 overs. This gave Australia a 498-run lead in the match. Labuschagne (104*) scored a masterful century after a double ton in the previous innings. David Warner scored 48, Steve Smith was unbeaten at 20*.

Roach and Chase took a wicket each. In their first innings, West Indies was bundled out for 283 in response to 598/4 declared by Australia in the first innings. WI was trailing by 315 runs at the end of their first innings. Openers Brathwaite (64) and Tagenarine Chanderpaul (51) scored half-centuries.

Pacers Pat Cummins (3/34) and Mitchell Starc (3/51) impressed

for Australia. Lyon got two scalps and Hazlewood and Cameron Green took a wicket each.

Australia declared their first innings at 598/4. Labuschagne (204) and Smith (200) scored incredible double tons. Labuschagne and Smith also had a 251-run partnership for the third wicket. Usman Khawaja scored a half-century, ending with 65 runs in his kitty.

Braithwaite (2/65) was the pick of the bowlers for the Windies. Jayden Seales and Kyle Mayers took a wicket each.

Labuschagne was given the 'Man of the Match' award for his knocks of 204 and 104.

Brief scores: Australia: 598/4 declared and 182/2 (Marnus Labuschagne 104*, David Warner 48, Kemar Roach 1/30) defeated West Indies: 283 and 333 (Kraig Brathwaite 110, Roston Chase 55, Nathan Lyon 6/128) by 164 runs. -ANI



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ROUND-UP

ahli islamic receives award for Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking



In recognition of the bank’s continued efforts, ahli islamic was recently conferred the prestigious title of Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking at the recently held Alam Al-Iktisaad Wa Al Ama’al Islamic Banking and Finance Awards 2022

MUSCAT: With a keen focus on promoting ethical banking practices, and financial inclusivity, ahli islamic has been at the forefront of setting new benchmarks in the Islamic banking industry in Oman. In recognition of the bank’s continued efforts, ahli islamic was recently conferred the prestigious title of Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking at the recently held

Alam Al-Iktisaad Wa Al Ama’al Islamic Banking and Finance Awards 2022. The award ceremony was co-located at the Alam Al-Iktisaad Wa Al Ama’al Islamic Banking and Finance Summit, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The event was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Fahr bin Fatik Al Said as

its chief guest, and was attended by Tahir Al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman as a keynote speaker sharing his invaluable industry insights, and Malik Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, Adviser to the Executive President Office, Central Bank of Oman, as the summit’s Guest of Honour. The summit, which felicitated select banks and FinTech companies for their exceptional performance and achievements during the year, was attended by a cross-section of experts from the Islamic banking and finance industry, top officials from different sectors, and key delegates from various government bodies. Commenting on the award, Noora Sabah Sultan, AGM – Head of Retail Banking ahli islamic added, “At ahli islamic, we are driven by our relentless pursuit of excellence to provide a comprehensive suite of Sharia-compliant solutions to our customers which deliver a superior banking experience.

We are indeed pleased to have received this award which is a testament to our innate zeal that inspires us to go the extra mile and our steadfast commitment to achieving outstanding results in every area of operation.” “ahli islamic will continue to spearhead innovation, uphold industry best practices, and remain at the forefront of advocating the benefits of modern Sharia-compliant banking solutions in the country. This will go beyond strengthening our brand in the industry – it will also cement the Sultanate’s position and increase its contribution to the Islamic economy. As the Associate Partner at the event, ahli islamic also played a proactive role in the panel discussions that highlighted the strong growth of Islamic finance in the country, its impact on sustainable progress to meet Oman vision 2040, and the potential opportunities that are expected to arise in the future.

5-STAR BEACH RESORT HOTEL

Muscat Bay marks the official grand opening of Jumeriah Muscat Bay Jumeirah Group’s first luxury resort in the Sultanate

MUSCAT: On the occasion of the Sultanate’s celebrations of 52 glorious National Day and under the patronage of HE Salim Bin Mohammad Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Oman, Muscat Bay officially inaugurated the opening of its 5-star beach resort hotel, Jumeirah Muscat Bay. The inaugural event was attended by key government officials and senior leaders from the sector. The resort set a benchmark for tourism development in Muscat Governorate and offers local tourism a new concept of hospitality to support the government’s effort towards making the Sultanate a remarkable tourism destination. As another step towards Oman vision 2040 and the efforts into achieving the objectives of tourism, Muscat Bay marks another milestone with its official opening of the luxury hotel. Built with an investment of OMR60 million and built up area of 32,000 square meters, Jumeirah Muscat Bay is a unique tourism destination that provides more than 206 rooms with breathtaking views and an extraordinary offering with its hospitality and extensive range of hotel facilities including 3 swimming pools, kids club, spas and sports facilities. Located within the general plan of Muscat Bay’s fully integrated resort, this project resonates with the strategic partnership between Oman Tourism Development Company (Oman Group) and Saraya Oman Holding Company and it considers as Jumeirah group’s first luxury resort in the Sultanate. It will continue to expand its rich portfolio of hospitality assets and facilities and provide guests with a new experience of leisure and relaxation. In addition to attracting an increasing number of global visitors and investors who can consider the Sultanate of Oman a magnificent tourist destination. Commenting on the inauguration of the hotel opening, HE Salim Bin Mohammad Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Oman, said: “The opening of Jumeirah Muscat Bay is a culmination of the efforts exerted by all stakeholders to enhance the tourism sector with various products



that delivers unique aesthetics of this scenic area, which contributes to developing and growing the industry, boosting the efficiency of tourism sector in line with the National Tourism Strategy and to enhance its role in achieving the goals of economic diversification. Salim Al Mahrouqi also indicated his aspiration to positively complete the phases in order to achieve an integrated model for numerous projects that has been mutually agreed to from years and hasn’t been implemented. It includes exceptional components of leisure and entertainment that will generate thriving opportunities for the workforce, wishing success and progress to the hotel into delivering distinguished unique offers that combines an amalgamation of beauty, heritage and nature. Sheikh Hamood bin Sultan Al Hosni, CEO of Muscat Bay, the company that owns Jumeriah Muscat Bay hotel added “I would like to give my special thanks to our Board for their continuing leadership and assistance, as well as the Ministry of Heritage & Tourism and Ministry of Housing & Urban Planning for their consistent support to develop and flourish Oman’s tourism sector which in recent years, has grown by leaps and bounds. It is during this exciting time that we open the doors of Jumeirah Muscat Bay resort which plays a key role towards Muscat Bay journey and the tourism sector in general. It is certainly another milestone to the achievements of tourism sector. The hotel will provide exceptional concepts, service and experiences

to visitors and residents. Through launching this resort, together we aim to attract a growing number of global visitors and investors who can consider Oman as a luxury tourism destination.” Thomas B. Meier, Chief Operating Officer and Interim CEO of Jumeirah Group commented: “We as “Jumeriah Group”, are delighted and honored to officially mark the opening of Jumeirah Muscat Bay in the presence of His Excellency Salim Bin Mohammad Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism. Jumeirah Muscat Bay is a resort that captures the very best of Oman’s distinctive heritage and natural beauty and its recent accolade of ‘The World’s Leading New Resort’ at the World Travel Awards this year, reflects the uniqueness of our resort experience. We have an exceptional team here with a strong representation from Oman itself, so guests staying with us can expect a truly authentic experience, with real Omani hospitality combined with ‘Jumeriah’ brand standards.” Aligning itself with Oman Vision 2040 and national tourism strategy to support the national economy, Muscat Bay resonates with developing the domestic tourism sector through the creation of sustainable tourism projects. Muscat Bay has contributed since the start of the first phase by providing thousands of direct and indirect jobs. It has provided tourism, residential, commercial and recreational facilities on total area of about 300 thousand square meter and total building area of about

140 thousand square meter at a total cost of OR185 million. The second phase which Muscat Bay intend to start developing next year, will contain tourist and residential facilities of modern nature that are compatible with the requirements of the current phase. It will be spread over an area of 150,000 square meters and a total building area estimated at 100,000 square meters. The total cost is expected to be around 65 million Omani rials. This phase will continue to provide an additional number of direct and indirect jobs through contractors, service providers and hotel operators. In line with its effort to boost small and medium enterprises by providing job opportunities that contribute to the In-country value, Muscat Bay signed a number of collaboration agreements with SMEs. Under the first agreement, Muscat Bay will join hands with Q Tours Company to open its branch at Muscat Bay commercial area and provide the residents of Muscat Bay and Hotel’s guests with trips and activities including scuba diving, water sports, private sea tours and corporate adventure day. The second agreement with UVL robotics to launch the first drone delivery services. As per the agreement, the company will provide the first food drone delivery to Muscat Bay residents and visitors. Moreover, it will develop the services to add more vendors and includes other products as well. In addition, Muscat Bay has signed an agreement with Sandiane International LLC to open Sandiane Pharmacy at the village square in the heart of Muscat Bay. This is going to be the first commercial pharmacy in Muscat Governorate. A serene retreat set between the dramatic Al Hajar mountains and the sparkling Arabian Sea nestled within the secluded Bandar Al Jissah beach - located 15 minutes from Muscat - Jumeirah Muscat Bay combines sublime restaurants, stunning views, magnificent pools and Oman’s finest beaches to deliver the ultimate adventurous wellbeing escape for tourists as well as residents looking to get away from it all.

HEALTHCARE



NMC launches hearing awareness initiative and launch of cochlear implant programme

MUSCAT: NMC’s hearing awareness initiative has been launched with the cochlear implant surgery performed on a four-year-old, making it the first time surgery is being conducted in private sector health care in the Sultanate of Oman. The ceremony was held under the auspices of Her Highness Sayyida Meyyan bint Shihab Al Said and the guest of honour was Dr Hilal al Sabti, Minister of Health, at W Hotel, Muscat. The event had the gracious presence of Her Highness Sayyida Dr Mona bint Fahd Al Said and Her Highness Sayyida Hujaija bint Jaffer Al Said. According to the WHO, by 2050 about 2.5 billion people are expected to suffer from hearing loss. Early detection of hearing impediments and early intervention can create a better life for individuals. Timely access and improvement in quality of life lead to a productive life contributing to society. An effective intervention for hearing loss is systematic screening. This is yet another feather in the cap of NMC, the largest private healthcare company in the UAE and third largest in Oman, it began its journey of quality healthcare in Oman five years ago. “NMC Hospitals are pioneers in patient education initiatives and hearing awareness is one such initiative which is very important for the community. Hearing disabilities can be caused by genetic factors, malnutrition during motherhood, recurrent ear infections, lack of immunisation and continuous exposure to high noise,” said Dr Deep Makkar, General Manager and Country head of NMC Healthcare in Oman. “It is our prime duty as a healthcare provider to spread awareness on the causes and prevention of diseases. Prevention of hearing loss can be done through strategies to avoid causative factors, however, rehabilitation is equally important who are already suffering from hearing loss. Assistive technologies like hearing aids can help people with mild to moderate hearing loss, whereas Cochlear Implants are the best options for profound hearing loss in children as well as adults. We are glad to give people access to cochlear implant program in the private sector for people in need who requires timely intervention. Unaddressed hearing loss is expensive to communities and

governments and can cost up to \$980 billion annually worldwide. So, we must work together in spreading awareness on hearing loss and make the community a better place for everyone to live happily,” he pointed out. The benefits are many and after the surgery, the children are given speech therapy for one to two years. Four-year-old Affan has already started the process. His father said he hoped his son will begin to speak in six months. “Cochlear is a market leader in implantable hearing solutions; we are driven by our mission to help people hear and be heard. Hearing loss is a global challenge that remains prevalent and undertreated. We are appreciative of the esteemed NMC Healthcare for organising this awareness day and are excited, with our distributor Taiba Medserv, to be part of this event. It is through such collaborations with the healthcare community and all influential stakeholders that we raise awareness, particularly around early detection, and intervention. We aim to build customer confidence and offer more patients in Oman, hearing solutions best suited to their individual needs,” noted Alain Yazbeck, Cochlear’s Middle East and Africa Regional Director. Cochlear implants are not just for children but for adults as well, pointed out Ayat Adam, Cochlear’s Middle East and Africa Consumer engagement Professional with more than five years experience in working with hearing impaired individuals and Hearing Care Professionals and is passionate about helping people hear and be heard spoken at the event. She explained her difficult journey after her hearing deteriorated when she turned 15 years of age. She was given hearing aids that were too loud damaging her ears further so a correct diagnosis is as important as the right treatment. She then underwent a cochlear implant and her life started coming to normal. She went on to finish her Master’s degree. Dr Benaifer Billimoria, Specialist ENT surgeon at NMC, who assisted the surgery with principal surgeon Dr Khalil al Macki, said, “We never knew the gift of hearing can be so precious. Affan and Ayat lives have been changed with the restoration of hearing so we can imagine how our society would change and be productive and happy once everyone would be able to hear.”

INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

ISD initiates Comprehensive Learning Programme for faculty

MUSCAT: Indian School Darsait (ISD) aims to continuously empower its faculty through continuous Professional Development Programmes as mandated in National Education Policy 2020. As an initiative by the School Management Committee, an expert panel has been hired to provide training to the teachers to align them with the requirements of constant upgradation to guide 21st-century learners to become global citizens. The Comprehensive Learning Programme (CLP) is tailor-made to equip teachers to build on their inherent strengths while working

on opportunities for improvement. Providing teachers with hands-on experience on topics like Self Awareness & Reflection, instilling a Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking & Conflict Resolution, Techniques of Mind Mapping & Brainstorming, Innovation in Teaching, Group Dynamism, building a Positive Outlook, Team Management and Stress Management will help them to culminate theory with practice in a very comprehensive way. Teachers will attend the Comprehensive Learning Programme session in two batches and each session is laced with elements

like self-discovery exercises, discussions, presentations, simulations, models and skills, conflict style assessments, case studies, tools and action plans etc. It is a year-long continuous monitoring process where three-hour sessions are conducted every Saturday and each teacher gets an opportunity to attend 13 sessions. The first session of the Comprehensive Learning Programme on self-awareness & self-reflection was conducted on November 19 in the senior school auditorium by the resource person Annie Melinda, Co-Founder, The Crossroads International.

The session was well appreciated by all Shanthi Praveen from the Department of Science said, “It was a well-organised session with many activities which helped the participants to stay connected. Another teacher Sameena Khan from the Department of Hindi remarked, “It was an excellent session that kept the participants engaged throughout and the games and interactive sessions made it more useful.” The CLP is mapped to the performance appraisal and the process is assessed scientifically with case studies and surveys.



ROUND-UP



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More style, tech and comfort: MG’S popular RX5 SUV is reborn

Incorporating 22 stylish design enhancements, eight performance upgrades and 25 configuration upgrades, the all-new 2023 MG RX5 is designed to provide a healthy and comfortable, safe and efficient, intelligent and connected travel experience

MUSCAT: A new, second generation of MG Motor’s popular MG RX5 SUV has now arrived in Oman. Launched with much fanfare by MHD ACERE the MG RX5 will be available in three trims. It will strengthen the British-born brand’s increasingly popular model portfolio, offering customers even more style, technology and travelling comfort at great value prices. Incorporating 22 stylish design enhancements, eight performance upgrades and 25 configuration upgrades, the all-new 2023 MG RX5 is designed to provide a healthy and comfortable, safe and efficient, intelligent and connected travel experience. The arrival of the MG’s newest SUV is set to help the brand reinforce its position in the top six of Middle East car makers. The all-new 2023 MG RX5 harnesses the latest technology with the introduction of a second-generation Net Blue petrol engine, offering more power and greater efficiency. This 1.5T high-pressure direct injection turbocharged unit delivers 171hp and max. torque of 275Nm – a significant 10 percent higher than its predecessor - powering the new model to a top speed of 190 km/h, while its fuel economy figure is 6.8 l/100km. All models are equipped with an innovative 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission for smoother, more efficient gear changes and optimum reliability. A new digital computing design method was adopted for the all-new 2023 MG RX5 in order to develop its youthful, dynamic looks. This is most noticeable at the front, where the new, eye-catching and wide three-dimensional geometric grille is flanked by sleek, full crystal LED headlamps with C-shaped daytime running lights. The rear echoes the front, with a solid and stable stance. The new designed LED taillights inspired by High-speed Quantum Energy Block brings an impressive visual effect when illuminated and the “Twin-Aero” rear spoiler enhances the sporty image of the vehicle. Designers of MG’s newest SUV were inspired by the intelligence and originality of home design to



create a truly natural and comfortable cabin space. The aesthetically-designed cabin is padded with soft materials to ensure total comfort for occupants during their journey. The central control panel integrates a stylish, hi-tech 14.1” HD vertical touchscreen, that floats up and over the redesigned dashboard. The ergonomic gear lever wouldn’t look out of place in a spacecraft, while positioning the central armrest level with the door armrests ensures an ergonomic design more akin to that of a comfy sofa. There are plenty of storage spaces and even a wireless mobile phone charger on top-of-the-range models. MG’s designers placed a firm emphasis on using technology to make the 2023 MG RX5’s cabin a healthy place to be. In a world first, a UVC deep ultraviolet opti-

cal antivirus system completely sterilizes the flow of air into the car through the air conditioning. This is complemented by an ultra-efficient filter element; special nano fabric roof lining has both anti-bacterial and odour-reducing properties. The impressive specification levels include the availability of leather seats, a 12.3” virtual cluster panel with trip computer, a 6-way electric driver seat with lumbar support, 4-way electric passenger seats, a panoramic sunroof, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, GPS navigation, as well as front, side and curtain airbags. Cruise control, push-button ignition, keyless entry and a rear view camera are all fitted as standard, with a 360-degree parking view camera on full option models,

to give the driver full control and peace of mind on their journey. MG cars are renowned for featuring the latest safety technology and the all-new 2023 MG RX5 is no different. Occupant safety is prioritized by the installation of a body structure that comprises over 65% high strength steel to minimise the impact of any collision by absorbing the energy. The all-new MG RX5 has undergone many rigorous quality tests to ensure it meets the highest safety and durability expectations. These include a five million kilometre road evaluation test, 500,000 hours of laboratory bench tests, light toggle durability tests incorporating 200,000 repetitions and testing the doors by opening and closing them 120,000 times. The standard Electronic Stabil-

ity Program includes eight safety functions, with ABS, EBD, EBA, ARP, CBC HDC, TCS and BDW enhancing driving stability in extreme road conditions or in situations involving aggressive driving to ensure driving safety. The all-new 2023 MG RX5 offers a greatly enhanced travelling experience for all occupants. The chassis features multiple improvements, including an upgraded shock absorber system, to deliver a more stable and comfortable ride, further helped by the low noise Michelin PS4 Tyres and a double-layer laminated soundproof windscreen. Tom Lee, Managing Director of MG Motor’s Middle East operations, commented: “MG’s popularity in the region has been greatly driven by the demand for our great value SUVs, and we expect the all-new 2023 MG RX5 to enhance this demand. It will offer that extremely appealing combination of competitive pricing, fantastic equipment levels and eye-catching styling, for which new MG models are renowned and appreciated by car buyers across the Middle East.” MHD ACERE’s CEO, Mohsin Hani Al-Bahrani affirms, “The timing of the MG RX5 launch is perfect for us – coming on the back of a hugely successful year for MG Motors Oman. We see the New RX5 as being a fantastic product offering great value to prospective customers. We believe it has tremendous potential and can be a key future growth driver for the MG brand in Oman.” All-new 2023 MG RX5 models will benefit from the brand’s acclaimed 10-years unlimited km warranty, for ultimate peace of mind.

IN-HOUSE BADMINTON TOURNAMENT



Assalah Badminton League held on November 18, 19

MUSCAT: Assalah Badminton League – an in-house badminton tournament for the residents & ex-residents of Assalah Towers Al Ghubra has come back for its season 5 in 2022, having completed 4 successful seasons of ABL in a row and after a break of 2 years due to the pandemic. Season 5 of this ABL edition was held on November 18 and 19 at the Royal Hospital Health Club Sports Hall. The event featured 100+ competitors in men’s, women’s, mixed & grey beard categories, as well as boys and girls junior singles under 11/ under 13/under 15/under 17 categories. The participants came with a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that is as strong as ever this year with a legacy already set in place. The battles for the victory were hard and long. Cheers of joy were heard throughout the

hall along with a smile of defeat as a gesture of hope for the next time. Ultimately the game and the spirit prevailed. During the event’s valedictory ceremony, trophies and presents were given to the winners and runners. During the ceremony of thanks, the diligent organisers expressed their sincere gratitude to the volunteers, and attendees. Private sponsors such as Marmul Tower International, Mazoon Dairy etc who contributed to the success of the tournament were also thanked by the organisers. Apollo Hospitals organised a basic vitals check-up during the event for the interested attendees. Not to mention, the enthusiastic cheers from the crowds throughout the competition acted as the unsung heroes without whom this event would not have been possible.

BANK MUSCAT

High Potential Graduate Development programme continues to enrich Omani human resources

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, continues to provide comprehensive learning and development programmes for its employees in line with its pioneering role in the development of Omani human resources. The bank announced recently that several batches of its flagship High Potential Graduate Development programme, continue to be conducted in 2022, with a view to chalk out a clear career growth path for the large pool of talented youth working at Bank Muscat. Explaining the bank’s strategy to further develop the competencies of the national cadre, Said Salim Al Aufi, General Manager - Human Resources & Administration, Bank Muscat, stated: “Bank Muscat, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year, has always played a key role in the training and development of Omani human resources as part of its overall strategy. The bank firmly believes that its diligent and highly-competent employees are the main reason for its sustained growth and position as the leading financial services provider in Oman. Hence, we ensure a world-class working environment for our employees, which automatically make Bank Muscat a dream employer for Omani youth looking for career opportunities in the financial services sector.” In particular the High Potential Graduate Development programme has become the premier graduate development programme in the country as it develops the capabilities to have sound know-how of the banking business and self-leadership skills.



This programme ensures a steady flow of talented Omanis to the bank’s leadership pipeline. It enables growing and nurturing of internal talent to take up additional responsibilities in preparation for managerial roles in the future. The programme emphasises on gaining critical knowledge and skills such as corporate credit, investment banking, corporate finance, treasury and capital markets, retail banking, Islamic Banking, finance, human resources management, and assurance functions. The two-year programme comprises vast range of online modules that are blended 10 workshops with case studies, simulations and technical and leadership assessments. Graduates who are able to apply the newfound knowledge to bet-

ter their “on the job performance” can look forward to growing in their careers with the support of other programmes like the Jadara First Time Line Manager programme and the Branch Manager Development programme. Other Jadara programmes include the Middle Management Development Programme, which ensures a steady flow of talented, well-developed managers to senior and middle-management roles. Bank Muscat also assigns resources to provide continuous development opportunities to its top management team through regular speeches on current trends and leadership by global leadership thinkers, executive coaching opportunities, participation in self-learning programmes and nominations to general and ad-

vanced management programmes at leading business schools. As one of the top employers in the Sultanate of Oman, Bank Muscat provides over 15,000 learning opportunities to over 3,800 employees across various functional and knowledge areas every year. In 2022, the bank provided 13 external scholarships and 68 internal scholarships to its best talents as part of the efforts to contribute to the overall growth and development of a knowledge-based economy in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. It is a matter of great pride that most of Bank Muscat’s senior and middle management have reached their current positions rising within the bank’s ranks over the years after being provided ample learning and development opportunities.



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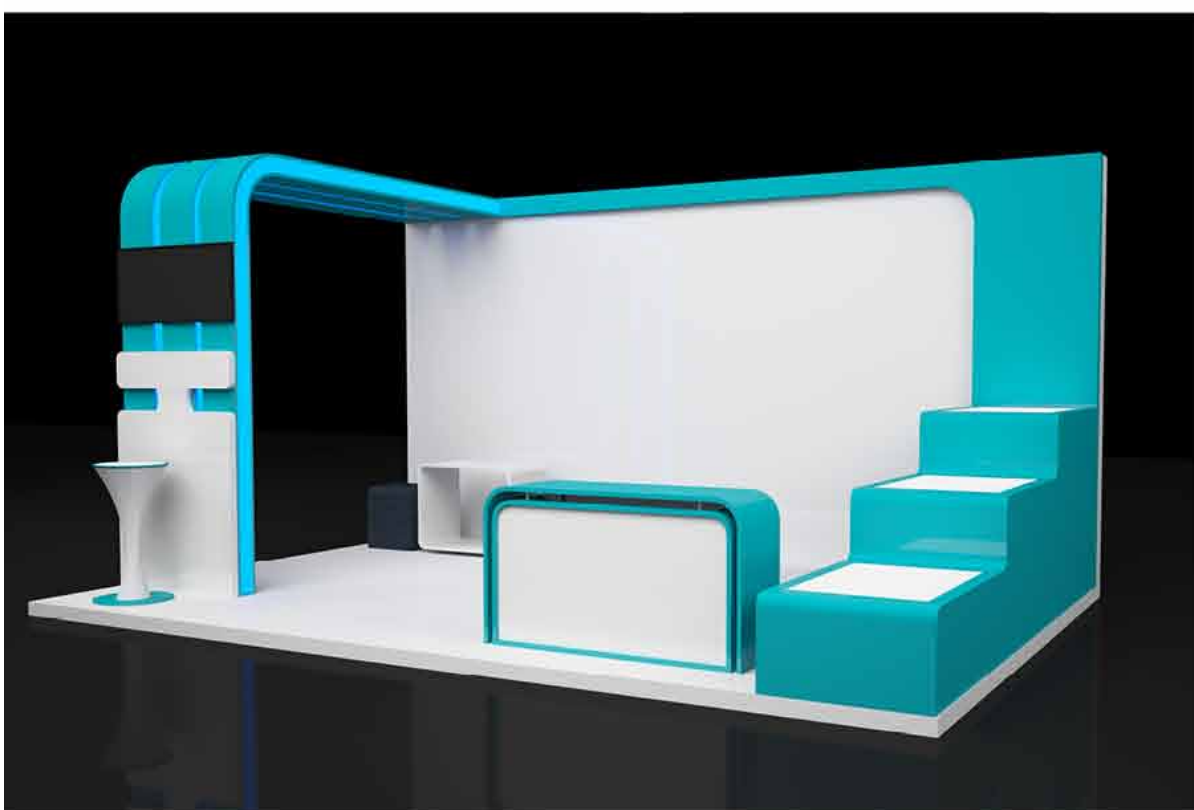
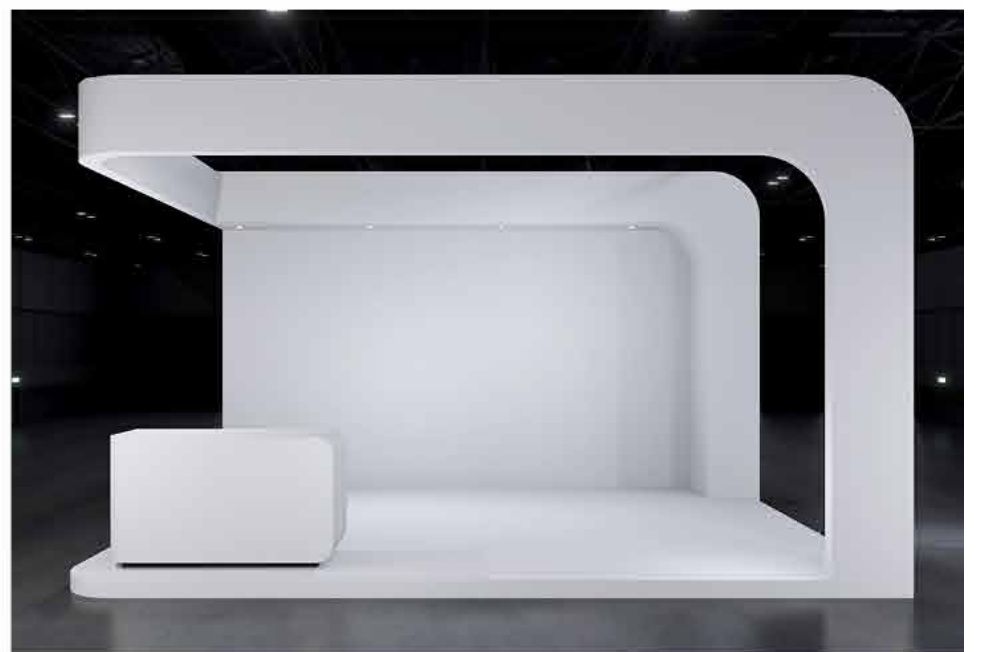
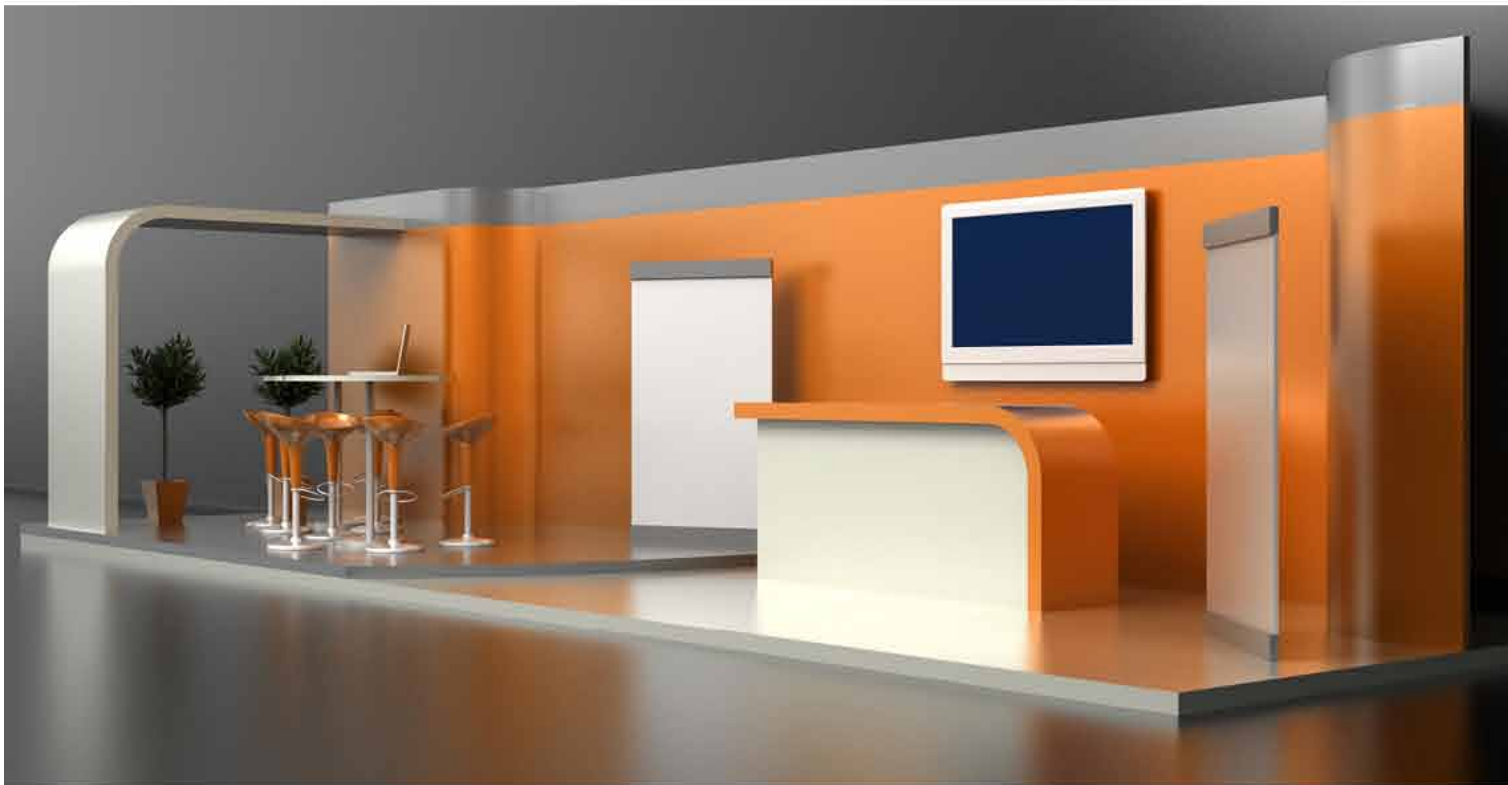
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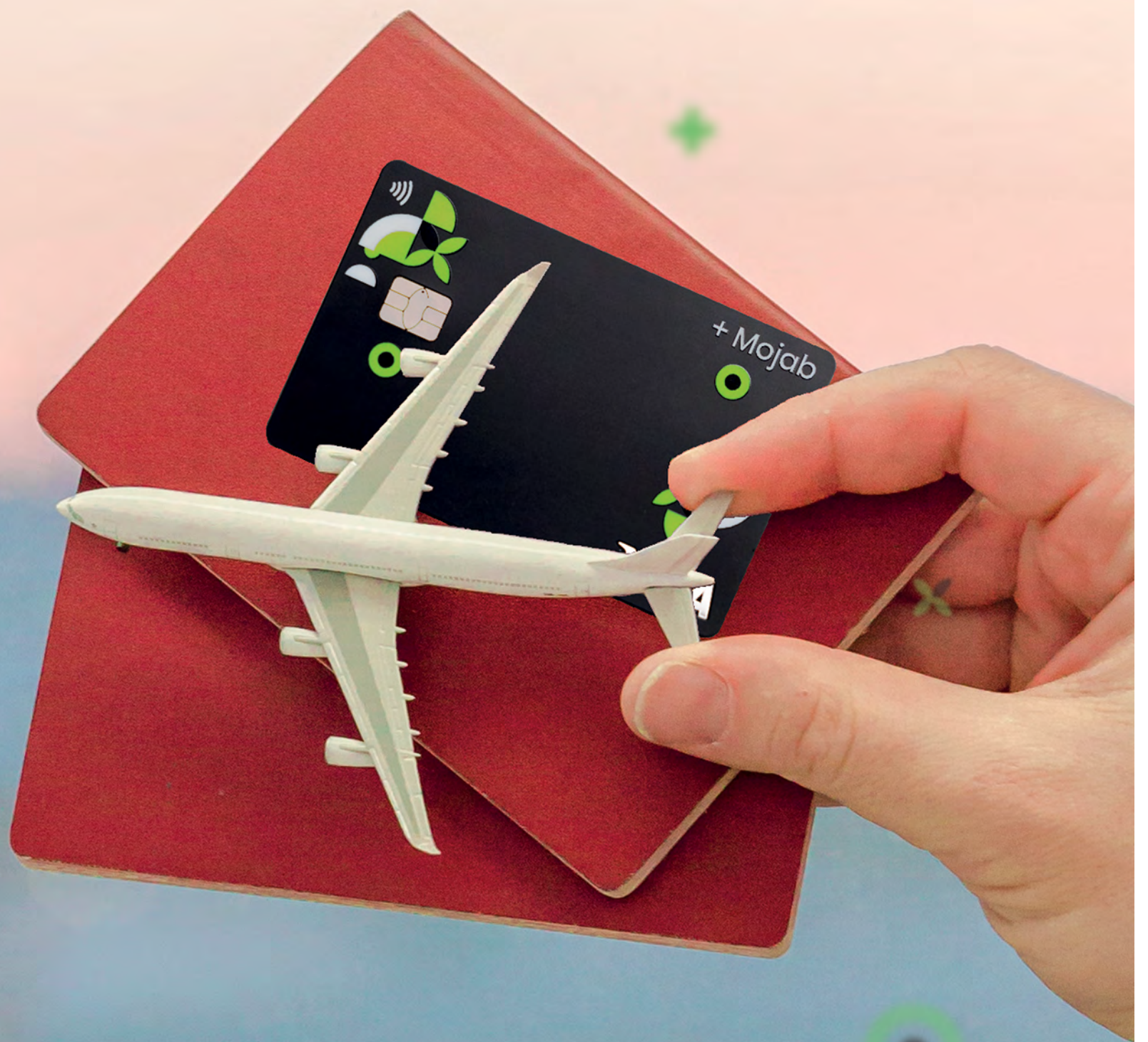


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