

A woman wearing a light pink hijab and a dark blue apron over a white long-sleeved shirt is smiling and holding a coffee cup. She is standing in a modern, brightly lit interior space. To her left is a large QR code. Below the QR code is a red button with the text "Scan the code". Below that, it says "or Call 24790000". To the right of the woman, the text "'Someday' is today!" is written in large, bold, black font. Below this, in red font, it says "Grow your business with Najahi Business Banking from Bank Muscat." In the top right corner, there is a red circular logo with a white stylized arrow. Below the logo, the text "Bank Muscat. Better Everyday." is written in a small, black font.

WORLD COMMENDS OMAN'S EFFORTS IN COMBATING COVID



Oman's cooperation has been sought to eliminate the disease and limit its impact

Times News Service

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman government's efforts in controlling the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been praised by Ted Chaiban, Global Lead Coordinator for COVID-19 Vaccine Country-Readiness and Delivery.

Chaiban also lauded Oman's ability to recover from the pan-

demic at various levels and sectors.

He expressed the international community's aspiration to get Oman's cooperation in the fight to eliminate the disease and limit its impacts in all countries.

Chaiban conveyed the commendation to Dr. Mohammed Awadh Al Hassan, the Sultanate of Oman's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, when

Al Hassan received him on Sunday. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments related to the COVID-19. Chai-ban pointed out that the world learned a lot from COVID-19 and has become more prepared to address the pandemic and other diseases.

He underscored the significance of countries' cooperating with each other and helping less developed, more impacted countries facing serious challenges, like Yemen and other countries in the Middle East.

Oman recorded around 399,449 confirmed cases and around 4,500 deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

- With inputs from ONA

MEETING

Sayyid Shihab receives Tanzanian Chief of Defence Forces, reviews ties

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received General Jacob Mkunda, Chief of Defence Forces in the United Republic of Tanzania and his accompanying delegation, in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Sunday.

The meeting reviewed the advanced relations between the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on a spectrum of topics of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces and the Tanzanian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Military exercise



1 Activities of the joint Oman-Britain military exercise codenamed “Magic Carpet 2023” began at the drill zone in the Governorate of Dhofar on Sunday. **>A2**

WORLD

Iran President's visit

2 President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran will meet with President Xi Jinping during his three-day trip to China starting from Tuesday. **>A7**

SPORTS

Real bag fifth title

3 Two goals each from Vinicius Junior and Federico Valverde helped Real Madrid clinch their fifth FIFA Club World Cup title. **>A8**

Al Isra'a Wal Miraj holiday

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour announced that 28 Rajab 1444 AH corresponding to 19 February will be an official holiday for staff of units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, other legal entities, as well as establishments of the private sector on the occasion of the anniversary of Al Isra'a Wal Miraj. The Ministry said that employers may agree on terms to engage employees on the said holiday—if deemed necessary due to the nature of their work—provided they compensate the staff for the holiday. **-ONA**

The logo for GS1 Oman is located in the top left corner, featuring a blue circular icon with white concentric lines and the text 'GS1' in white, with 'Oman' in orange below it. To the right, the words 'GET NOW' are written in large, bold, orange capital letters, enclosed within a blue L-shaped bracket.

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OMAN

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TIMINGS



Dhuhr 12:26pm
Asr 3:41pm
Maghrib 6:06pm
Isha 7:17pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 5:25am

JOINT TRAINING

Oman and Britain start joint military drill 'Magic Carpet'

MUSCAT: Activities of the joint Oman-Britain military exercise codenamed "Magic Carpet 2023" began at the drill zone in the Governorate of Dhofar on Sunday.

The drill is run by the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) and the British Royal Air Force, with support from the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and the Sultan's Special Force (SSF).

The drill, which continues till 23 February 2023, includes executing joint training air operations within the framework of joint cooperation and sharing military expertise between



the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom according to the training programme adopted by

RAFO Command to exchange experience with sisterly and friendly countries. -ONA

IMPORTANT PROJECT

Water project worth OMR41mn opened at Al Jabal Al Akhdar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC) opened a water supply project for the Wilayat of Al Jabal Akhdar. The event, which was held at Al Jabal Al Akhdar, was presided over by Khalfan bin Saeed Al Shueili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, in the presence of a number of excellencies, dignitaries and invitees.

Ahmed bin Nasser Al Abri, Acting General Manager for Plants and Transmissions Project at OWWSC stated: "The total cost of the project is OMR41 million. It will provide 1,760 million gallons of water per day to the wilayat. The new distribution networks were operated successively. The company has completed all works whether regarding the readiness of the pumping stations or relating to the completion of the main line of the pipeline supply project."

The project is considered one of the most important projects



that the company is implementing because it is involved rugged terrains such as high mountains and steep slopes.

The project consists of six pumping stations aiming to strengthen the water pumping. Also, it includes four main water reservoirs and their capacity ranging from 1,800 cubic metres to 5,000 cubic metres. In addition, it contains 23 sites for installing pressure equalization devices to ensure the stability of the operational pressure of the water dis-

tribution networks around the clock.

The project also has water transmission pipelines with a length of 36 km branching from the main from the desalination plant to Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, in addition to water supply networks with a length of 248 km to serve all villages, communities and modern plans. The project also includes an integrated administrative building and advanced systems for water sterilization and quality control.

COMMENTARY

The fraternity of men against women professionals



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY



When a conversation came up that women are not given equal employment opportunities, I knew we were going to discuss a sensitive issue that many countries around the world go through.

Someone said maybe women should try harder. Men would always protect their jobs and men would always favour themselves when it comes to job posting. It is the fraternity of men versus women in a professional world. That would not change, not even in a million years, because nature dictates so. The nation that coined the phrase being 'political correct' has never had a woman president in its history though Hillary Clinton came close.

Women always come close to "snatch men's jobs" but they never seem to do it. In a recent Women Business Forum at Muscat, men were barred from attending the conference. Hence, it received only a limited coverage in the local media. There are preciously few women reporters in Oman and the absurdity is that they are no television camerawomen. Yet, they still insisted on barring men from attending the conference. If it was not self-

defeating then I would like to ask women how that forum helped their cause.

The forum has started awards for women CEOs and business executives, among other categories. This is another absurdity. Why should women single themselves out from the general world of competitiveness and compound their isolation? A Best Woman Entrepreneur would not automatically win contracts for her business. I don't think a top company would take seriously the application of woman who won the Best Woman Executive of the Year award. Why? Because the majority of the executives, are men. Women are perhaps just 20 percent of all executives.

Women might as well go into social isolation further by establishing Women-Only-Zones since they are determined to isolate themselves. The forum said that the awards would give women better opportunities to try to send a signal to men not to discriminate the opposite sex. I don't think the organizers were thinking straight when they introduced the honours. How could women be considered in the equal opportunity scheme if they put up barriers for themselves? If there are going to be more women CEOs, cabinet ministers and even

managers, then the ladies must rate themselves higher.

They also must align themselves in direct career collision with their male counterparts not work parallel to them. Men now have the excuse to further obstruct the career progress of women. Men would be happy to see women executives in businesses like fashion and beauty shops but not in financial and engineering sectors. It is the message these women forums send out to men. As it is, the Fraternity of Men Club has an unwritten code that says women take too many days off from work.

In a nutshell, if women want to continue to go up the ladder of success, they must be prepared to compete with men in a more challenging way instead of using their gender as an excuse. This way, they may find the road towards acceptance in the executive world not so bumpy with the right attitude. I personally think women would serve better than men as top executives or senior government officials. Women are more compassion, considerate and are less prone to make irrational decisions than men.

But they must rate themselves higher in the professional world if they want to occupy top management positions.

ASIAN TOUR

Japanese player bags title of International Series Oman

MUSCAT: Japanese player Takumi secured the title of the opening round of the Asian Tour's International Series Oman 2023.

A total of 132 players participated in the Golf Tournament hosted by the Sultanate represented in association with Oman Golf Association (OGA). The championship continued for four days.

The conclusion ceremony was organised under the patronage of His Highness Azzan bin Qais Al Said, in the presence of president of the Asian Golf Industry Federation and Munther bin Salim Al Barwani chairman of Oman Golf Association.

Nasser bin Masaud Al Shibani, Chief Executive Officer of Al Mouj Muscat expressed his pride over the Sultanate's hosting the opening round of Asian Tour's International Series Oman 2023 in the presence of best international golf players.

"We have acquainted and showcased the Al Mouj Golf facilities, classified as one of the best 100 golf courses, he added.

The Asian Golf Championship is one of the international championships for professionals, in which international golf players participate and compete on prizes worth \$2 million.

- ONA



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FIGHTING CORRUPTION

SAI seeks report on financial irregularities



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The State Audit Institution (SAI) has invited people to provide information about any financial and administrative irregularities that they might be aware of.

“In order to protect public money and preserve the nation’s capabilities and achievements, the institution calls upon everyone to report any financial and administrative irregularities if they come across,” the SAI said in a statement on Sunday.

In the statement, SAI said that the reports about violations can be submitted through several methods, including the website www.sai.gov.om, or visiting the headquarters of the institution in Muscat, or reporting it to the SAI branches in the governorates of the Sultanate.

The institution also welcomes receiving inquiries and suggestions by calling (80000008) or via Facebook (StateAuditOman) or via the YouTube, Twitter and Instagram applications (StateAudit_Oman) or via the State Audit Oman website.

The State Audit Institution confirmed that it will deal with these reports and information with confidentiality and high professionalism.

It is worth noting that the Sultanate’s ranking according to the Corruption Perceptions Index issued by Transparency Interna-

tional for the year 2021 is 56 globally, and in the latest evaluation issued by the organisation for the year 2022, it has fallen to 69, a difference of 14 places.

In 2019, the Sultanate of Oman was ranked 56th in the ranking of the Corruption Index. Its performance improved to 49 when His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik came to power in 2020. His Majesty the Sultan took several decisions and issued decrees to fight corruption, minimised expenditure and rejigged some ministries.

His Majesty also cancelled a number of privileges of employees and government officials.

But the Sultanate’s ranking according to the Corruption Perceptions Index issued by Transparency International for the year 2021, again fell back to 56 in 2021.

Mohammad Al-Wardi, an academic and economic analyst, spoke to Times of Oman about the Corruption Perceptions Index in the Sultanate of Oman, saying: “The government is making appreciable efforts to combat corruption with His Majesty’ emphasis on the principles of accounting and accountability. However, the decline in the Sultanate’s ranking internationally in the Corruption Perceptions Index is not due to the increase in corruption, but rather to the improvement in the ranking of other countries.”

COOPERATION

Oman, Tanzania discuss bilateral ties

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Sunday General Jacob Mkunda, Chief of Defence Forces in the United Republic of Tanzania and his accompanying delegation.

Gen. Sultan welcomed the guest who expressed his thanks to the Sultanate of Oman for enhancing means of cooperation to achieve

the joint interest between Oman and Tanzania. Cordial conversations were exchanged and matters of common interest were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Ra’eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) and Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Tanzania’s Ambassador to Oman. -ONA



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Sharqiyah Desalination Company SAOG (the "Company"), I am pleased to present the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the period ended 31st December 2022.

Operational Highlights

The Sur Independent Water Plant ("the Plant") has produced volumes of water amounting to 39,760,573 m3 compared to 41,195,065 m3 last year, which is a reduction of 3.5%.

The average scheduled plant availability for the year reached 98%. This consistently high availability is the result of a strict maintenance program followed and implemented by the operation & maintenance team, as well as improved coordination with OWWSC. The Company continues to maintain its excellent reputation as a provider of potable water to the Sharqiyah region.

On March 15, 2022, the Plant successfully completed the Annual Performance Test for the contractual year 12 (CY13). The demonstrated water capacity during the test was equal to 5493.225 m3/h (100% of the Guaranteed Water Capacity).

The Company has signed an agreement with Total Energies, to start the construction of a 17 megawatt-peak (MWp) solar project to be installed at the Plant which will be the first of its kind to be installed in the Sultanate and one of the largest solar photovoltaic (PV) systems providing power for a desalination plant in the region. Starting from the beginning of 2023, the plant will produce annually over 30,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of green electricity. Which is enough to cover more than 33% of the plant's daily consumption and will avoid some 280 000 tons of CO2 emissions. It also contributes to Oman's National Energy Strategy to convert 30% of its electricity use to renewable sources by 2030.

Business Continuity

As the COVID-19 threat unfolded in 2021 and well-into 2022, it has created a challenge for the company to overcome. While the global crisis caused a status of emergency, the company continued to find solutions to this new unforeseen obstacle and ensured the safety of its employees as well as the smooth operation of the plant, and subsequently, the continuous supply of desalinated water to the region as it always has.

Financial information

Revenue has decreased by 2.0% as compared to the same period of previous year (RO 275K). This is mainly due to the yearly increase in the amortisation as a direct result to the decrease in the finance income (P&L impact only), which is linked to the reduction of the outstanding finance lease balance as per the finance lease model

The cost of sales has increased by 0.9% as compared to the same period of previous year (RO 90K) mainly due to additional works requested to compensate for the drop of production of beach wells.

Finance expenses have decreased by 4.0% as compared to the same period of previous year (RO 108K). This is mainly due to the impact of the decrease in outstanding loans payable to lenders.

Current period profit before tax decreased by 48k compared to last year as explained above and represents 7.5 % of the revenue.

Based on the financial results, the board proposes to the AGM to consider and approve a distribution of cash dividends of 15% of the share capital.

Internal Control and Corporate Governance

The Management of the Company believes in a strong internal control system, overseen by our Internal Auditor in compliance with regulations prescribed by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and The International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF).

The Company has in place high standards of corporate governance, which are compliant with the Code of Corporate Governance promulgated by the Capital Market Authority.

Acknowledgements

As Chairman of the Board, I would like to thank our shareholders, not only for their confidence, but also for their continued support and for the expertise they bring to the Company.

The Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to OPWP, OWWSC, the Authority for Public Services Regulation, Muscat Clearing and Depository, the Capital Market Authority and the Government of Oman for their tremendous support in regulating and developing the water sector, and for their assistance, which comforts the smooth functioning of our operations.

Finally, we would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour for his wise leadership; we pray to Almighty to shower him with blessings keep him in good health and give him a long life.

Thank you and kind regards,

Dr. Suhaib Abudayyeh

Vice Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 RO	2021 RO
ASSETS		
Property and equipment	509,331	439,756
Finance lease receivable	55,397,968	58,932,127
Right-of-use assets	96,864	137,550
Total non-current assets	56,004,163	59,509,433
Trade and other receivables	1,507,347	1,659,727
Amount due from related parties	187,852	73,750
Finance lease receivable	3,556,639	3,266,199
Cash and cash equivalents	1,988,530	2,113,649
Total current assets	7,240,368	7,113,325
TOTAL ASSETS	63,244,531	66,622,758
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	9,780,216	9,780,216
Legal reserve	2,607,174	2,516,882
Retained earnings	5,064,853	5,718,283
Cumulative changes in fair values	(488,253)	(3,712,334)
Total equity	16,963,990	14,303,046
Liabilities		
Derivative financial instruments	496,964	3,893,164
Long term loan	36,605,585	39,691,997
Deferred tax liability	3,344,517	2,661,846
Deferred revenue	274,027	284,650
Employees' end of service benefit	103,088	102,329
Lease liabilities	35,450	81,418
Total non-current liabilities	40,859,631	46,715,404
Derivative financial instruments	77,448	474,286
Trade and other payables	1,146,047	917,620
Long term loan	3,171,443	3,145,763
Amount due to related parties	953,649	999,678
Lease liabilities	61,700	57,238
Deferred revenue	10,623	9,722
Total current liabilities	5,420,910	5,604,307
Total liabilities	46,280,541	52,319,711
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	63,244,531	66,622,758
Net asset value per share	0.173	0.146

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 RO	2021 RO
Revenue	13,501,109	13,776,377
Cost of sales	(9,229,301)	(9,139,057)
GROSS PROFIT	4,271,808	4,637,320
Administrative and general expenses	(715,452)	(776,768)
Finance expenses	(2,563,148)	(2,571,668)
Reversal of expected credit loss	23,423	38,008
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	1,016,631	1,226,892
Taxation	(113,715)	(275,544)
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	902,916	951,348
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (EXPENSE), NET OF TAX		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:		
Fair value adjustment on derivatives	3,793,038	3,045,150
Deferred tax on fair value adjustment	(568,956)	(456,773)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR, NET OF TAX	3,224,082	2,588,377
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	4,126,998	3,539,725
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	0.009	0.010

OMAN



MUSCAT: A ferocious attack in the final metres on the ascent to Quriyat got Jesus Herrada (Cofidis) the prizes he was aiming for: the win in stage 2 of the Tour of Oman 2023 and the overall lead.

The 32-year-old Spanish puncheur made the most of his skills and his knowledge of this specific terrain to pounce at the perfect moment and get the best of Maxim Van Gils (Lotto Dstny) and Diego Ulissi (UAE Team Emirates).

Already a podium finisher in the Tour of Oman (third in 2019, a year that saw him finish 2nd in Quriyat), Herrada says he wants to keep the red jersey all the way to Jabal Akhdar the final summit of this 12th edition, on Wednesday.

Herrada said, "It was a great vic-

tory for me and for the team. It was a very hard stage and we are very happy. I know this final part of the race from two years ago, and we managed to win this time. We go day by day and the team are doing well. We will try to secure more victories throughout the week."

Stage 2 proved a tough test of endurance for the riders, especially the sprint specialists who struggled in the heat. Starting from Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, the 174km stage took the pack through Al Amerat and Al Fleijto the foothills of the Al Hajar Mountains before finishing in Qurayyat.

Herrada also claimed best Individual Time and Points to go with his win while 23-year-old Belgian rider Maxim Van Gils earned the

'Best Young Rider' award for Stage 2 after his impressive second place finish. Dutchman Jeroen Meijers (Terengganu Polygon Cycling Team) won his second consecutive 'Most Active Rider' award.

Maxim Van Gils added, "This was a very nice stage to ride; a hard start and you can feel it in the legs, especially with the wind today. I did really well today, finished second, but was not quite strong enough to push for first. Earning the Best Young Rider award is very good, and tomorrow I will aim for first. We were fighting for position in the last 20km, and on the climb where you really have to spin. Every day the riders become more tired, but we have to go faster, so I have to prepare for tomorrow's

race and do my best."

Stage 3 on Monday 13 February is set further inland, beginning at Al Hamra and passing through Birkat Al Mouz towards Samail and the finishing line at Al Khobar. A total of 151.8km.

Franck Perque, Director of Cycling with Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO), organisers of the Tour of Oman 2023, said, "The riders are delighted to come here because it is the beginning of the season. It is a perfect place to start, in terms of weather, and the route offers sprints on perfect roads, small climbs and tougher climbs like Jabal Akhdar. It is very important for the riders, and we can design the route to include these challenges. This also means

the winner of the Stages can change every day."

Fans from all around the world can follow the action and enjoy the best images of the Tour of Oman. All the action and the best images will also be available on social media with live coverage on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and updates on Daily Motion.

Footage of the races is also available in 190 territories through 50 TV/Digital broadcasters with daily highlights and full race highlights.

The Tour of Oman 2023 is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Muscat Municipality and the Oman Cycling Association, and supported by JETOUR, Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC, and Badr Al Samaa Hospital.

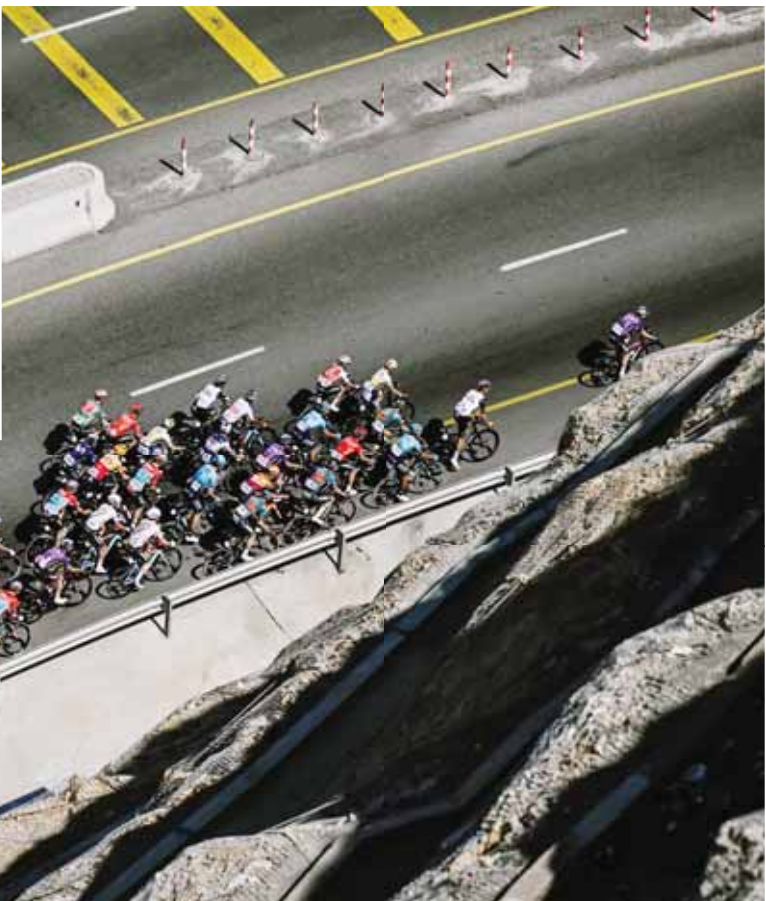
For more information about the 2023 Muscat Classic and Tour of Oman, please visit the official website.

STAGE CLASSIFICATION

1. Jesus Herrada (Cofidis) 04h21'07"
2. Maxim Van Gils (Lotto Dstny) +00"
3. Diego Ulissi (UAE Team Emirates) +00"

GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

1. Jesus Herrada (Cofidis) 7h51'57"
2. Maxim Van Gils (Lotto Dstny) +04"
3. Diego Ulissi (UAE Team Emirates) +06"





Sultan Qaboos University

ANNOUNCEMENT

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

College of Arts and Social Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University announces the start of registration for Arabic for Non-Native Speakers Program for the academic year 2023/2024. To register, please send your CV, a copy of the General Education Diploma and the passport to the email: arabic.dept@squ.edu.om

Admission requirements:

1. The applicant must be a non-Arabic speaker.
2. The applicant must obtain a score of 60% or higher in the placement test.
3. The applicant must have a General Education Diploma (General Secondary Education) or its equivalent.

Deadline for registration: April 31, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE



Oman reaffirms unwavering support for Palestinian cause

CAIRO: Through its participation in a high-level conference hosted by the Arab League in Cairo to support the City of Al Quds, the Sultanate of Oman has reiterated its firm position supporting the Palestinian cause.

Oman also voiced its strong backing to the “Land-for-Peace Principle” espoused under the “Arab Peace Initiative”, considering it as a permanent, fair and final solution to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a speech delivered on Sunday by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Oman underlined “the significance of maintaining constant support to sustainable development projects in Al Quds.

Oman also stressed that the



steadfastness of the people of Al Quds and the sacrifices made by the city’s residents constitute a legitimate right that is consistent with the rules of the International Law, as well as international legitimacy resolutions and the principles of justice, legal rights and fairness.

At the conclusion of his speech,

Sayyid Badr said, “I convey a message and a signal to the whole world that we are an Arab nation that continues to extend a hand for peace. We seek to establish and consolidate this approach for peace by advocating the establishment of an independent, fully sovereign Palestinian state, with East Al Quds as its capital—so that the peoples of the entire region can enjoy coexistence in safety, stability and prosperity.”

The conference, which stems from the recommendations of the recent Algiers Summit, aims to enhance the steadfastness of the people of Al Quds and to highlight the issue of Al Quds on world public opinion. It also underscores the economic and investment dimensions of the issue alongside the legal aspect. — **ONA**

UNIFIED FRAMEWORK

Ministerial Decision

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion issued Ministerial Decision No. 62/2023 regulating the licensing of the national product’s identity. The decision seeks to establish a unified national framework for Omani products. Besides unifying the products’ marketing identity, the decision is aimed at augmenting competitiveness, enhancing ICV and raising local and foreign consumers’ awareness about Omani products.

Article (2) of the decision states that all establishments and companies must harmonise their status accordingly, within 180 days from the date the decision came into effect. — **ONA**



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Ministry of Defence
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	TENDER DOCUMENT PRICE PER COPY RO.
SUPPLY OF DIETITIAN ITEMS FOR AFH ALKHOUDH – AFH SALALAH MAM HOSPITAL	01/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	135 RO

2. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

3. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.

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WORLD

HAJJ 2023

Online applications close on March 10

MUMBAI: The last date for submission of online applications for Hajj 2023 is March 10, according to the Ministry of Minority Affairs notice.

The submission of online applications along with documents started from February 10, 2023. The interested can submit their applications on hajcommittee.gov.in/haf23.

Notably, the Ministry of Minority Affairs on February 6, announced a new Hajj policy under which the application forms have been made available for free and the package cost per pilgrim has been reduced by Rs 50,000.

While sharing the new Hajj Policy, the Ministry said, "Wide choice of embarkation points & special arrangements are made for ladies, infants, divyangjan and elderly."

Hajj is a mandatory religious duty for all adult Muslims physically and financially capable of doing so. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia in January announced that there will be no limit on the number of pilgrims for this year's Hajj, reported Arab News citing the country's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq Al-Rabiah. — **ANI**

NEW ZEALAND'S NORTH ISLAND

Cyclone Gabrielle brings strong winds, heavy rains

WELLINGTON: Cyclone Gabrielle is bringing strong winds and heavy rains to parts of New Zealand's North Island, Radio New Zealand (RNZ) reported on Sunday.

Most of the North Island is covered by some kind of Severe Weather Watch or Warning either for wind, rain or both, according to RNZ. Heavy rain warnings have been issued for Northland, Auckland, the Coromandel and the northern parts of Gisborne Tairāwhiti.

Red strong wind warnings have been issued for Northland, Auckland and the Coromandel.

Thousands of people in the region are without power while some people in Coromandel and Gisborne are already starting to evacuate. Auckland Council is closing all non-essential services for Monday and Tuesday.

According to power company Vector, there were widespread power outages, especially in exposed areas across north Auckland.

It said about 15,000 customers were without power at 7 pm.

"This number will change constantly as we restore homes and businesses but, with the weather due to worsen, we expect further outages overnight and tomorrow," the company said in a statement.

Due to the cyclone, schools across Auckland will remain closed from Monday.

According to CNN, over 36 schools and universities will shut their doors despite no formal order from the Ministry of Education. The InterCity bus network will also reduce its services. — **ANI**



Tender Announcement

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites the specialize companies to participate and submit their best offer for the below said tender in Dhofar Governorate.

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2023/022	Construction of New 11kV Feeder from Jujool PSS to Harweeb - DISC-DN-R-ZC-2022-11k VLR-27820	27/02/2023	07/03/2023	RO. 525.000
DISC/2023/023	Construction of New 11kV Feeder from Tousinat PSS to Andat- DISC-DN-R-ZC-2022-11k VLR-27808	27/02/2023	07/03/2023	RO. 525.000

- To view the tender details, you can visit www.disc.nama.om / scan the QR code
- The deposit at the last day of purchasing should be before 3.00pm.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.
- For any clarifications contact us on:
- Tel No. 23232554**
- email: purchase@disc.nama.om**



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P.O.Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number: +968 23232523 - Fax: 23201183
www.disc.nama.om





SULTANATE OF OMAN

TENDER NOTICE

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tender:

Tender no.	Description	Tender documents price (R.O)	Class	Last date for collection of documents	Last date for Submission of documents
80/2022/MAFWR/HQ-10	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR COMPLEMENTARY WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEEB FISH MARKET AT SEEB FISHERY HARBOUR – MUSCAT GOVERNORATE	25/-	First	Sunday 12/2/2023	Tuesday 21/2/2023

- Interested Companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board (in the above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- The Tenderer should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender), and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources. And the bidders can contact the Esnad technical support team at the number listed below to find out how to request electronic guarantees from local banks.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **+968 24402200** or etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om.
- Note: Bid Submission will be online only. Scan Copy of Tender Bond needs to be attached in system.

TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

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UN fears Türkiye, Syria earthquakes toll could double

With a death toll of at least 24,517 in Türkiye, the disaster is already in the list of the top 10 deadliest earthquakes ever. More than 3,500 have died in Syria, where death tolls have not been updated since Friday

ANKARA: Rescuers in Türkiye have pulled more people from the rubble of Monday's earthquakes, but hopes were fading in Türkiye and Syria that many more survivors would be found. UN relief chief Martin Griffiths has said he expects the death toll to at least double, after he arrived in southern Türkiye on Saturday to assess the quake's damage. With a death toll of at least 24,517 in Türkiye, the disaster is already in the list of the top 10 deadliest earthquakes ever. More than 3,500 have died in Syria, where death tolls have not been updated since Friday. Between Monday and Saturday, the area experienced more than 2,000 aftershocks, according to Türkiye's AFAD disaster authority. Greece's foreign minister, Nikos Dendias, his visiting quake-hit areas neighbouring Türkiye in a show of support. He was met at the airport by his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu before they flew to Antakya, where Greek rescuers are helping with search and rescue operations. Despite a history of rivalry with Türkiye, Greece was among the first European countries to send

India sends 7th flight to earthquake-hit Syria

DAMASCUS: The seventh Operation Dost flight reached earthquake-hit Syria on Sunday with over 23 tons of relief material which was received by Deputy Minister of Local Administration & Environment Moutaz Douaji at Damascus airport. "7th #OperationDost flight reached Syria with over 23 tonnes of relief material, including gensets, solar lamps, emergency & critical care medicines, & disaster relief consumables. Received at Damascus airport by Deputy Minister of Local Administration and Environment Moutaz Douaji," tweeted Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. The seventh Operation Dost flight on Saturday departed for earthquake-hit Syria and Türkiye. The Indian Air Force C17 carrying relief material, medical aid, emergency and critical care medicines, medical equipment and consumables took off from Hindon Airbase in

Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad. The IAF aircraft with relief materials, medical aid, and emergency and critical care medicines will first land in Syria and unload materials and then head to Türkiye. EAM S Jaishankar also took to his Twitter handle to talk about the flight departing from Ghaziabad. He tweeted, "The 7th #OperationDost flight departs for Syria and Türkiye. Flight is carrying relief material, medical aid, emergency & critical care medicines, medical equipment & consumables." The Indian Army also tweeted, "An #IAF C-17 aircraft got airborne last night for #Syria and #Türkiye, bearing relief material and emergency equipment." The Ministry of External Affairs said that the earthquake relief material and equipment were sent to Syria and Türkiye. The flight is headed to Damascus and after offloading relief material there, it will head to Adana. — ANI

rescue workers and humanitarian aid a few hours after the disaster. The Greek government has sent 80 tonnes of medical and first aid equipment. According to the foreign ministry, Dendias and Cavusoglu will discuss ways Greece can further assist Türkiye. **German rescue worker warns of disease** A German expert and relief worker has warned that the danger of disease is growing in quake-struck areas. "In regions where people have no access to clean drinking water, there is a risk of epidemics at

some point," said Thomas Geiner, a doctor with earthquake experience who is part of a rescue team from Germany's NAVIS aid organisation said. Bodies trapped under rubble could contaminate the water supply, he warned. The lack of toilets was also a concern. A Turkish rescuer, who did not provide her full name, described the situation in Antakya as desperate. "The bodies are all over the roads, with only blankets on them," she said. People in the town were wearing masks to cover the smell of death. — dw

THREE-DAY TRIP

Iranian President to visit China, will seek to further boost ties

BEIJING: President Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran will meet with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China during his three-day trip in China starting from Tuesday, as the two sides seek further cooperation. China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying made the announcement today, saying President Raisi's visit was at President Xi's invitation. President Raisi will meet with President Xi and their delegations will sign cooperation documents, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA. The Iranian President's visit is expected to deepen ties between



the two political and economic partners. China is a major buyer of Iranian oil and an important source of investment in the Mideast country. In 2021, Iran and China signed a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement that covered major economic activities from oil and mining to industry, transportation and agriculture. — ONA

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FROM UNITED STATES

Jair Bolsonaro considering return to Brazil

FLORIDA: Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has said that he plans to return to Brazil "in the coming weeks," after being in the United States for over a month. The far-right politician had flown to Florida two days before incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was sworn in as Brazil's new president on January 1. "There is no place like home ... We know Brazil is a fantastic country," Bolsonaro said at a gathering of Brazilians in Boca Raton, a video posted online by broadcaster CNN. "I also want to return to Brazil. I intend to return to Brazil in the coming weeks." Back home in Brazil, Bolsonaro is the subject of several probes into possible wrongdoing. He is accused of inciting anti-democratic protests that resulted in the storming of government buildings in the capital, Brasilia. — dw

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SPORTS

FIFA Club World Cup: Real Madrid down Al-Hilal, capture fifth crown

Real Madrid began the match with one of the best attacking performances in recent times

RABAT: Two goals each from Vinicius Junior and Fede Valverde helped Real Madrid clinch their fifth FIFA Club World Cup title as they defeated Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal by 5-3 in an intense summit clash at Rabat, Morocco on Saturday.

Madrid turned up to the match with one of their best attacking performances of the season, putting five goals past Al-Hilal's defence to win their 100th official trophy in club history. Vinicius opened the scoring early for Madrid, with a brilliant side-footed finish that gave the side a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute of the match. Five minutes late, Fede added the second goal to the tally for the Spanish giants.

Al-Hilal pulled themselves back into the match after a strike from Moussa Marega, who breezed past the Madrid's defences and sent the

ball past the goalkeeper Andriy Lunin in the 26th minute. In the first 30 minutes of the match, the scoreline already had three goals, with Madrid leading 2-1.

The Spanish club did enough to maintain this lead at half-time.

Karim Benzema dispelled fears of any possible comeback from the Saudi club, with a strike in the 54th minute.

Fede latched on Dani Carvajal's through ball and chipped the keeper to put Madrid out of the reach in the 58th minute and the scoreline read 4-1.

Luciano Vietto kept hopes alive for Al-Hilal with a goal in the 63rd minute, but Vinicius completed his brace in 69th minute to double the lead. Vietto scored another in the 79th minute. The scoreline read 5-3 and stayed that way till the full-time whistle sounded.

-ANI



INTERNATIONAL SERIES



Jeev Milkha thanks golf course maintenance staff at Al Mouj Golf

MUSCAT: On the sidelines of the International Series - Oman, Jeev Milkha Singh, Indian golf legend visited the Golf Course Maintenance staff at Al Mouj Golf to thank them for all their hard work in preparing for this week's

Asian Tour event. Jeev said to the GCM Team, "Congratulations to all of you."

The golf course has been set-up exceptionally and you must take credit along with Golf Course Superintendent Steve Johnson.

It is my first visit to Al Mouj and to Oman and I have been hugely impressed with everything, especially the golf course. You should be very proud. I look forward to returning here to Al Mouj in the future with the Asian Tour."

GUNNERS

English Premier League leaders Arsenal slip again against Brentford

LONDON: Mikel Arteta's Arsenal now haven't won any of their last three games across all competitions, and the Gunners' lead at the top of the English Premier League (EPL) table could be cut to three points by the end of the weekend. They stumbled to a 1-1 draw at home to Brentford.

Now they await Manchester City's game against Aston Villa tonight to see how their lead will look, though the weekend will end with Arsenal having a game in hand over the reigning champions. Although City are facing their share of off-field issues, things are starting to look a bit better for them in this season's title race as Arsenal are going through their toughest patch of form so far this season.

January signing Leandro Trossard's first goal for the Gunners looked to be a hugely important one as he put them ahead shortly after the hour mark, showing why Arsenal signed him from Brighton in the winter transfer window. The lead, though, couldn't be



held and the side from the south coast fought back to level.

It was Ivan Toney who levelled for the Bees just eight minutes after Trossard had opened the scoring, again showing just how much of a threat Brentford can be to the EPL bigger teams either at home or away.

Arteta now faces a real test of his leadership as the Gunners are clearly enduring a tough time.

They've now lost to both Everton and Man City, as well as drawing with Brentford, since their dramatic win over Manchester United on 22 January 2023.

They have no time to recover with Man City visiting the Emirates Stadium on 15 February in what promises to be a thrilling battle between England's top two sides this season. -UNA

27TH EDITION

Nasser Yaqoob of Bahrain emerges champion at Assarain Golf Classic

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nasser Yaqoob of Bahrain overcame a stiff competition from a strong field to emerge champion at the Assarain Golf Classic.

The 27th edition of the Assarain Golf Classic was held at the Ghala Golf Club on 3 and 4 February with the participation of over 130 golfers.

A delighted Nasser said: "The Assarain Golf Classic is a fantastic tournament and it feels great to win a competition of this stature. I would like to thank my playing partners over the last few days. It was a pleasure to be in this event and again I would like to thank the sponsor Assarain Group of Companies."

Oversubscribed

Khalil Al Wahaibi, General Manager of Ghala Golf Club, who managed the event, said: "The atmosphere was electric from the first day. I was truly amazed by the participation and overall feel of the 2023 Assarain Golf Classic. We were oversubscribed and had to have a cut off for players as we unfortunately could not fit all of them in, but overall, it was a tremendous occasion."

"OGC Chairman, Mundhir Al Barwani was the guest of honour on the final day that was graced by a host of dignitaries."

The Assarain Classic ended



The 27th edition of the Assarain Golf Classic was held at the Ghala Golf Club on 3 and 4 February with the participation of over 130 golfers

with its tradition of raffling off a Hublot watch which was won by Ahmed Al Balushi.

Commenting upon the success of the event, Ibrahim Al Wahaibi, Director of Assarain

Group of Companies, said: "I would like to congratulate all the winners in the respective categories and would like to thank all the participants."

"With the success of the 2023 event, we are committed to making the Assarain Golf Classic Tournament bigger and better in the coming years while maintaining our strong professional standards of hosting one of the oldest golf tournaments in the Sultanate."

BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

Warner's position in doubt as Australia consider three spinners for second Test

NEW DELHI:: After facing a big defeat against India in the first Test, Australia may replace struggling opener David Warner with off-spin all-rounder Travis Head to make adjustments at the top of the order in the second Test of the Border-Gavaskar trophy in New Delhi, as reported by Sydney Morning Herald.

Australia reacted swiftly to their disappointing loss to India in the first Test in Nagpur by flying spinner Matt Kuhnemann out to join the squad for the remainder of the tour. Kuhnemann will come under consideration for a Test debut when the second Test commences in Delhi on Friday, with the left-arm spinner will join the squad to replace leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson.

However, according to reports in Australian media, the team management may cut experienced opener David Warner, who scored a total of 11 runs during the first Test, to make room for Head.

A veteran of 102 Test matches, Warner has 8143 runs at a 45.74 batting average, including 25 centuries. His performance in India, however, is quite ordinary; he managed 399 runs from 9 matches at a strike rate of 22.16, with a best score of 71.

The fact that both Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja finished the first Test with 15 of the 20 wickets each speaks volumes about the kind of bowling that India currently has at its disposal.



Mark Taylor, a former Australian captain, thought Warner's dismissal should be postponed and that the starter should be given at least one more game.

"David's been around long enough, and I know he's had plenty of opportunities [but] I think you've got to give him at least the next Test match to get it right," Sydney Morning Herald quoted Taylor as saying.

"As Warner and Usman Khawaja found out today, they bat at the top of the order and faced Ravi Ashwin with the new ball, and then four overs later got Ravi Jadeja. So, it doesn't really matter where you bat; you're going to face the same stuff. So, I would be sticking with the top two at the moment," he added.

This was India's third-biggest win over Australia when with regards to victories by an innings. The second Test begins on 17 February in Delhi. -ANI



The MSX index closed at 4,757.26 points, down by 0.24 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.27 per cent at 492.12 points. Shell Oman Marketing, up 6.34 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 6.25 per cent, was the top loser.

The project, which constitutes an architectural model for integrated tourism complexes, comprises a 150-room 5-star hotel and 156 residential units, in addition to recreational facilities and gardens



Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Sayyid Mohammed Abdulhameed Al Busaidi and Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al Khalifa, members of the Board of Directors of Eagle Hills Real Estate Company. -ONA

TELECOM SERVICES QUALITY ASSESSMENT



Muttrah posts highest 4G service coverage rate in 2022: TRA

The survey covered 11 wilay-

Key indicators covered the level of coverage, the speed of downloading data and the percentage of successful calls, it added. **-ONA**

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Times News Service

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RBI DATA

During the week that ended on January 27, the reserves rose by \$3.03 billion to \$576.761.

Much of the decline can be attributed to RBI's intervention

Typically, the Reserve Bank of India, from time to time, intervenes in the market through liquidity management, including through the selling of dollars, with a view to preventing a steep depreciation in the rupee. -ANI

CRYPTOCURRENCY

How has El Salvador embraced Bitcoin?

President Nayib Bukele, reputed to be a tech enthusiast, is attempting to get more of the country's residents to use traceable ways



The Reuters news agency has calculated nearly 2,470 coins were acquired by the government for about \$106.4 million (€99.4 million) since the announcement. The Salvadoran government doesn't officially disclose

At the same time, IMF officials warned that Salvadoran exports and remittances could be affected by a pronounced slowdown in the US. -DWW

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MSX index ends lower



Shell Oman Marketing, up 6.34 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 6.25 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,757.26 points, down by 0.24 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.27 per cent at 492.12 points. Shell Oman Marketing, up 6.34 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 6.25 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 194 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2 million, with more than 5.05 million shares changing hands. Out of 32 traded securities, 6 advanced, 9 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR69,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR34,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR34,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,614.51 points, down 0.17 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful, and Bank Nizwa were down by 2.30 per cent, 1.10 per cent and 0.99 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,992.07 points, down 0.27 per cent. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Oman Chromite and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 2.30 per cent, 2.27 per cent and 0.87 per cent respectively.

Prices of National Aluminium and Galfar Engineering were down by 6.25 per cent and 2.91 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.43 per cent before closing at 1,688.50 points. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Sharqiyah Desalination, Renaissance Services, Al Batinah Hotels, and Al Batinah Power were up by 6.34 per cent, 0.72 per cent and 0.44 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Muscat Gases and Ooredoo were down by 3.77 per cent, 2.78 per cent and 1.83 per cent respectively. — United Securities

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INDECIES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,769.00	4,752.55	4,757.26	4,768.67	-11.41	-0.24	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,630.33	7,599.33	7,614.51	7,627.60	-13.09	-0.17	
Industry Index	6,013.36	5,979.24	5,992.07	6,008.57	-16.51	-0.27	
Services Index	1,691.44	1,678.34	1,688.50	1,681.28	7.22	0.43	
MSX Shariah Index	494.30	489.30	492.12	490.78	1.34	0.27	
MSX TR INDEX	6,021.66	6,000.90	6,006.84	6,021.25	-14.40	-0.24	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,984.29	7,951.85	7,967.73	7,981.43	-13.70	-0.17	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,794.40	1,780.50	1,791.28	1,783.62	7.66	0.43	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,260.66	6,225.12	6,238.48	6,255.67	-17.18	-0.27	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,057,099	1,999,345	194	23,609,255,181	6	9	17	32

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFR	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
	OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD	109,057	25,395	15	0.232	0.238	0.232	0.232	0.230	0.002	0.870	0.232	0.233	0.240	0.100	28,976,327
	OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER	450,000	206,100	5	0.458	0.458	0.458	0.458	0.456	0.002	0.439	0.458	0.444	0.458	0.100	108,275,780
	OM0000001152 OMAN NAT. ENG.	6,460	782	1	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.118	0.122	0.100	16,940,000
	OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	220	142	1	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.000	0.000	0.644	0.000	0.644	0.100	101,430,000
	OM0000002077 AL OMANIYA FINS.	200,000	38,000	9	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.134	0.150	0.100	42,449,909
	OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	1,386,775	396,854	26	0.287	0.287	0.286	0.287	0.287	0.000	0.000	0.287	0.280	0.287	0.100	2,154,335,957
	OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	1,064,230	1,028,173	14	0.968	0.968	0.964	0.968	0.968	0.000	0.000	0.968	0.964	0.968	0.100	726,000,000
	OM0000003968 OOREDOO	199,600	86,071	10	0.438	0.438	0.430	0.430	0.438	-0.008	-1.826	0.430	0.420	0.430	0.100	279,906,019
Total	8	3,416,342	1,771,517	81												
Parallel Market																
	OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MRK	300	262	1	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.820	0.052	6.341	0.872	0.808	0.872	0.100	82,840,000
	OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	200	18	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.087	0.002	2.299	0.089	0.085	0.095	0.100	16,204,978
	OM0000001020 OMAN CHROMITE	1,079	2,909	2	2.640	2.700	2.640	2.700	2.640	0.060	2.273	2.700	2.640	2.700	1.000	8,100,000
	OM0000004669 SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	205,797	28,812	21	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.001	0.719	0.140	0.126	0.140	0.100	13,692,302
	OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	25,268	2,577	2	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.099	0.102	0.100	8,670,000
	OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	8,000	1,016	3	0.130	0.134	0.126	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.130	0.134	0.100	26,800,000
	OM0000001509 DHOFAR INT.	71,882	10,782	4	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.000	0.160	0.100	61,386,947
	OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	228,500	13,849	14	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.100	21,297,809
	OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	679	24	1	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.032	0.035	0.100	23,621,060
	OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	1,003	35	2	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.000	0.035	0.100	25,004,222
	OM0000002680 OMAN ARAB BANK	155,626	18,364	4	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.115	0.118	0.100	196,960,380
	OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	8,750	473	2	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.055	0.100	80,443,080
	OM0000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,500	245	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.094	0.098	0.100	19,600,000
	OM0000008710 BARKA DESALINATION	55,767	7,807	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	10,573,080
	OM0000008868 THE PEARL REIF	41,700	4,879	3	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.119	0.100	49,698,115
	OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	325,840	32,584	11	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
	OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	6,230	567	2	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	15,750,000
	OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,040	164	2	0.080	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.081	0.084	0.100	17,000,000
	OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	13,470	1,421	5	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.108	-0.003	-2.778	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	3,150,000
	OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEER	217,740	43,538	13	0.200	0.205	0.198	0.200	0.206	-0.006	-2.913	0.200	0.198	0.200	0.100	40,597,289
	OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	107,550	5,494	6	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.053	-0.002	-3.774	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	10,181,416
	OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	113,000	6,780	5	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.064	-0.004	-6.250	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	2,014,287
Total	22	1,592,921	182,598	106												

CARRIER-NEUTRAL DATA CENTRE

Datamount appoints Abdulmonem Al Futaisi as its chief executive officer

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Jebel Akhdar Data Centre (Datamount), a leading carrier-neutral data centre and provider of cloud technologies, colocation and data centre management services, announced the appointment of Abdulmonem Mohammed Al Futaisi as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective January 10, 2023.

Abdulmonem Al Futaisi comes with more than 18 years of experience in the field of telecommunications and information technology, where he has held senior leadership positions.

Abdulmonem's main mission would be to drive growth by capitalising on the exciting opportunities present in the market nationally and internationally.

"It was the board's keenness to select a young Omani with the requisite competencies to lead the growth and expansion of Datamount, especially when the new Data Center in Muscat is reaching its final stages of completion," said Dr Tahir Al Kindi, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Datamount.



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tors of Datamount.

Dr Tahir further stated that the board looks forward to working with Abdulmonem and is confident that he will accelerate the growth of the company.

"I am delighted to take on the role of CEO and look forward to developing the company further by supporting the government's digital transformation plans and Oman Vision 2040.

"Datamount will cater to the increasing needs of the business sector in the Sultanate by continually expanding its portfolio of products and services in addition to providing cloud services and managed services such as managing clients' mains systems and operating systems, database management, network management, and business continuity services such as disaster recovery backup and high-security data protection," said Abdulmonem.

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GERMAN CARMAKER



Volkswagen plans more investment in digital services and e-vehicles

WOLFSBURG: German carmaker Volkswagen is planning to expand digital services and electromobility, the supervisory board said as it weighed investments for the next five years after the discussions were delayed due to IT development problems.

The board plans a "clear roadmap for software and platforms" to expand digitisation and electromobility, the board said, without releasing the final details, dpa reports.

The board also wants to improve profitability, with plans to ensure activities are focused "on the most attractive profit pools."

Trouble with software development led chief executive Oliver Blume to postpone these planning discussions, usually held in November.

He plans to revamp the strategy of his predecessor Herbert Diess and set out more binding targets.

The delays at VW were partly due to IT subsidiary Cariad, which is to develop its own automotive software, had been subject to expensive delays.

Opposition also came from influential subsidiaries Audi and Porsche concerning the approach in the past.

VW is now set to present its investment and model plans along with its 2022 annual figures on March 14, the carmaker said.

All eyes are on the most important project in the medium term, the fully digital Trinity model.

The board members also nominated a new member, Gunter Horvath. He is to take over the position of Louise Kiesling, who died in December.

The niece of former VW patriarch Ferdinand Piëch was seen as a mediator between the Porsche and Piëch families, who are majority shareholders in the group via the Porsche holding company. -BNA

FINANCE

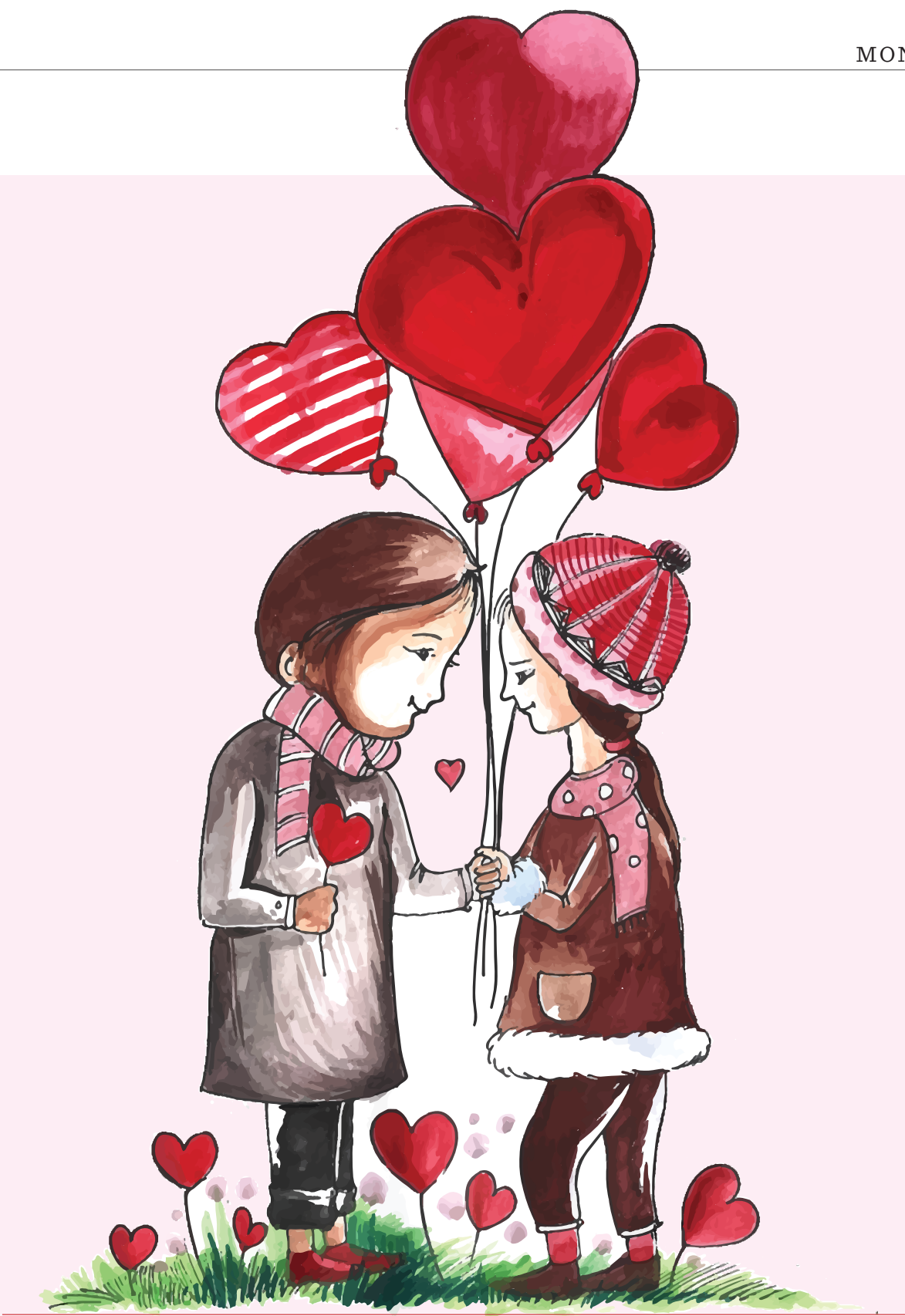
Opec Fund supports critical infrastructure in Africa with \$50 million loan

VIENNA: The Opec Fund for International Development (the Opec Fund) and Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) have signed a \$50 million loan agreement to finance the development of infrastructure critical to economic growth and job creation across the continent.

The proceeds of the 10-year loan will be used to improve connectivity, transport, logistics, trade and to boost access to energy across the African continent. The loan doubles the Opec Fund's commitment to AFC following an initial \$50 million 10-year loan provided in January 2021, and builds on collaboration initiated through a cooperation agreement in 2017.

The loan is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 - Innovation and infrastructure, and SDG 17 - Partnerships.

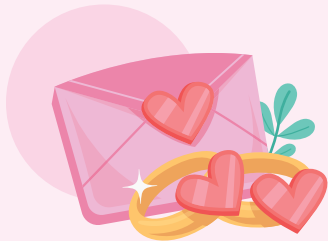
"Africa continues to be a key region for the Opec Fund, with more than 45 per cent of our aggregate financing dedicated to the continent. Sustainable infrastructure development is key to unlock Africa's vast potential and enable it to fully utilise its resources, said Opec Fund Director-General Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa. -WAM



NO MATTER WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO DO, REMEMBER THAT VALENTINE'S DAY ISN'T JUST ABOUT ROMANCE. YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE LOVES OF YOUR LIFE, TOO.

CELEBRATING LOVE

Valentine's Day is all about celebrating love. While the focus may naturally shift to romantic partners, it's also the perfect time to honour your closest friends and family. Whether you're going full-on Galentine's Day— celebrating Valentine's with your gal pals — or you simply want to send a smile and show you care for your best friends near and far, here are few ideas for making loved ones feel special and appreciated.



Put feelings into words

Don't assume your loved ones know how you feel. Put those thoughts down in words and share them on Valentine's Day. You don't have to be a writer to express how much you appreciate friends and family. Whether a special email, thoughtful social post or traditional hand-written letter, open your heart and share how much they mean to you.

Not sure where to start? Think about all the reasons they make you smile and share the list. Say you're grateful for your relationship, and provide a few reasons why. Spend some time reminiscing and then share a heartfelt story or two that has stuck with you over time. There's no specific formula as long as you speak from the heart.

Go better than bouquets

Bouquets of flowers in various hues are a traditional gift on Valentine's Day. The problem is, even if you tend to them properly and keep the water in the vase fresh, cut flowers will wilt and die. Alternatively, consider potted plants that will live on, the ideal symbol of your lasting love.

Some options: A potted flower adds a fresh scent and pop of colour indoors or out. Some potted plants — like a snake plant or a money plant — are great indoors for improving air quality. Potted herb plants put fresh flavour within reach in the kitchen. Air plants are especially good for people without a green thumb because they require minimal care.



Create a sumptuous meal

Food is a love language all its own, so consider making a luxurious homemade meal for your favourite friends and family. Whether you invite over one person or a group, this is your opportunity to show you care by filling their bellies and hearts with goodness. Perhaps you're known for a certain dish and can make that? Maybe you want to try that new cooking trend and create some unique dishes to nosh on? Is now the time to try that fine cuisine you've been hearing all about? No matter what you choose, don't forget wine pairings for an extra special touch.

Consider acts of kindness

Everyone has to-do lists longer than there are hours in the day. If you want to lighten a loved one's load, take the time to help them on Valentine's Day. Not only will this show them you care, it will relieve some stress so they can feel extra loved on this special day.

For example, offer to run a nagging errand or come over to their house to do their least-favourite chore. Say you'll watch their kids or pet sit so they can get away without worries. Come over to help them fix something they've put off for a while — whether computer problem or leaky sink. You offering to help and following through will definitely make an impact.



SPORTS



FIRST MIDDLE-EAST DRIFTER TO EARN PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY OF OIDC

Times News Service

MUSCAT: This round of battles showcased some spectacular skills from the drivers, with the competition rising at every turn, in the new challenging track layout.

A total of 44 drivers competed in the qualifiers on 9th of February, with a selection of the top 32 taking part in finals the next day at the Muscat Drift Arena.

First place winner in the International and MENA category, Ali Makhseed said: "I feel great. I feel relieved. Like a huge weight has been lifted off of my shoulders."

The winners for Round 3 of the Oman International Drift Championship are the following:

INTERNATIONAL

First place: Ali Makhseed
Second place: Naser Al Harbaly
Third place: Ahmed Al Amri

MENA

First place: Ali Makhseed
Second place: Ahmed Al Amri
Third place: Ahmed Daham

NATIONAL

First place: Ahmed Al Amri
Second place: Refaat Al Yahyaie
Third place: Tariq Al Shalhani

When asked about the struggles he faced, Ali Makhseed said: "OIDC is always a struggle with the competition being really high and the tracks always technical, so it's just not easy to get the top spot here. For me to be in this position is a great achievement and we made history today as I'm the first middle-eastern participant to get first place in the international category in the OIDC. That's always been a target and we

finally achieved that goal and it puts us in a really good spot in the overall championship fight and hopefully next round we can seal the deal and win the championship."

"The track is the most technical layout ever designed in OIDC, which was really fun for us drivers and the teams as well, to adapt to and get the right driving style. So the best team, the best driver and the best car won today and I'm thankful for that."

Each Heat displayed a great number of battles with judges deciding on a 'One More Time' play in a couple of occasions when the points were too close.

Naser Al Harbaly, who earned second place said: "I'm feeling great. This has been a dream for me now for the past several months and it's all I think about. So, I finally made it."

"This was by far the most technical track I have ever drifted in. I joined the OIDC last year, which was my first time competing in general and so this is my second time here."

"Being an international championship, you see a lot of people coming from different countries, so there are a lot of different power levels. The main challenge is finding the strategy that would work so you can battle them and be in level with the competition."

The drivers are already geared up for the fourth and final round, pushing themselves for the last opportunity of the season to win the overall championship cup.

Ahmed Al Amri said: "I am disappointed that I couldn't get first place but am grateful for being in the Top 3 again. I will prepare myself for next weekend and hope to finally bring home the winning cup in the international category."

The reception at OAA is open every day for inquiries and issuing international licences. Karting facilities at Muscat Speedway are open from 9AM to 11PM, from Monday to Saturday.



ROUND-UP

Discover ultimate driving experience with elegant Mazda 6 in Oman

With its elegant design, advanced technology, and powerful performance, this car is packed with features and performance capabilities that make it a true standout in its class



MUSCAT: Mazda has long been known for producing cars that deliver a thrilling driving experience, and the Mazda 6 is no exception. With its elegant design, advanced technology, and powerful performance, this car is packed with features and performance capabilities that make it a true standout in its class. The Mazda 6 is the perfect choice for premium car enthusiasts in Oman who want

a car that not only looks great but also drives great.

Design and style
From the moment you first lay your eyes on the Mazda 6, you'll know that this is a car that's been designed with style and elegance in mind. The sleek, aerodynamic Mazda 6 exterior is sure to turn heads, while the spacious and well-appointed interior provides the perfect blend of comfort and

luxury. The Mazda 6 technology features are also top-notch, every aspect of the Mazda 6 has been designed to deliver a driving experience that's second to none. The Mazda 6 exterior design is simply stunning. With a sleek and streamlined body, an eye-catching front grille, and distinctive LED headlights, this car is sure to turn heads wherever it goes. The Mazda 6 interior is equally impressive, with spacious and up-

scale cabin, high-quality materials and finishes, advanced technology and infotainment features that make every journey a pleasure.

Infotainment system
The infotainment system in the Mazda 6 is one of its most impressive features. The system is designed to be user-friendly and intuitive, making it easy for drivers / passengers to access all the information and entertainment they

need while driving on the road. It features a large touchscreen display that is easy to read and navigate. You can access a range of features, including navigation, music streaming, phone connectivity, and climate control, with just a few taps. Plus, with built-in voice control, you can keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel while controlling your infotainment system. You can easily pair your phone with the car's system, allowing you to make hands-free calls, send texts, and access your music and other apps. The infotainment system in Mazda 6 also supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, which will give you even more options for staying connected.

Performance and efficiency
Under the hood, the Mazda 6 is powered by a highly efficient engine that provides plenty of power when you need it. With its impressive fuel economy, you'll be able to enjoy the drive without worrying about the cost of fuel. The car's handling and safety features are also prime, which will ensure that you always feel in control and confident behind the wheel. Whether you're taking a leisurely drive through the city or hitting the open road for an adventure, the Mazda 6 delivers a driving experience that's both exhilarating and efficient.

Active safety technologies
One of the standout features of the Mazda 6 is its innovative safety and technology offerings. The car is equipped with a suite of active safety technologies, most notably Mazda 6 blind spot monitoring system that is designed to help you stay safe on the road. Henceforth, the Mazda 6 is the perfect car for those who want a driving experience that's both thrilling and efficient. With its elegant design, advanced technology, and powerful performance, the Mazda 6 is a must-have for anyone who wants the ultimate driving machine. So, what are you waiting for? Book a test drive today. In Oman, Towell Auto Centre (TAC) is recognised as a trusted name in customer service and a pioneer in the automobile business since 1972. A group company of the W J Towell Group, TAC takes off from the principle of its parent company. It ensures the easy availability of high-quality motor products coupled with the highest standard of service to its esteemed customers. Mazda has brought quality to the roads of Oman, and TAC has made owning a Mazda an absolute joy, thanks to their excellent after-sales service, availability of genuine parts for all Mazda models, their efficient staff, and innovative solutions for a better customer experience.

PROMOTION

Exclusive Toyota 'Muscat Nights' benefits ending soon

MUSCAT: Own any of your favourite Toyota now and don't miss the chance to make the most of Muscat Nights benefits. The benefits include service from 2 Years/20,000km up to 4 years / 40,000km (whichever is earlier) and insurance 1 year or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR125 to OMR300. The campaign is valid until February 16. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Toyota showroom for details.)



Fans of Toyota can choose of their favourite vehicle from the exciting range that includes sedans, SUVs, Pick-ups, MPVs and more. The popular and legendary Land Cruiser is the perfect companion on any terrain. Boasting inspiring strength, durability and reliability the Land Cruiser delivers high-end performance and advanced off-roading capabilities and safety features. It is equipped with a choice of two powertrain options. The V6 twin-turbo 3.5-liter petrol engine achieves class-leading performance that surpasses that of a conventional V8, producing 409 hp and up to 650 nm. This is paired to a 10-speed automatic transmission. Also available is a naturally aspirated 4.0-liter V6 petrol engine that produces 271 hp and up to 385 nm paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission. The sleek and capable Toyota Fortuner offers some of the most exciting drives with a choice of petrol engines that include a 2.7 Litre Four Cylinder Engine producing 164 HP & 25.0 Kg-m of Torque. For even more exciting ex-

periences, the 4.0 Litre V6 Engine churns-out 235 HP along with 38.3 Kg-m of Torque. The 6-speed Automatic Transmission, available as a standard option, provides thrilling acceleration. The Toyota RAV4 is steadily making a fine impression with its combination of style, power and capability. One of the two major additions to the RAV4 is the hybrid electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and an electric motor. The second addition to the RAV4 is the Adventure model, which was established as a symbolic model to appeal to active users through enhanced Waku Doki – the equivalent of "heart-pumping excitement" in Japanese – and a more powerful image. The RAV4's 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg.m. of torque and is mated to a an eight-speed automatic transmission (8AT), resulting in a quicker and smoother acceleration. On the other hand, a hybrid system combines two power

sources consisting of a petrol engine and electric motor producing a combined power of 219 hp. It is also paired to a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) that provides the lowest fuel consumption value of 22.2km/L (fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions. while delivering a new level of driving pleasure. The Toyota Raize is compact yet powerful. A perfect companion to navigate the busy city streets, the Raize is available with a 1-liter turbocharged engine providing smooth and responsive acceleration and producing 96.5 hp and 14.28 Kg.m. of torque. Paired with Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT), which simulates a seven-speed sequential shift transmission to deliver powerful, smooth acceleration from start-off and at low speeds, and quiet and efficient transmission at higher speeds. A newly developed lightweight, highly rigid body and suspension contribute to outstanding handling, stability, and ride comfort.

Al Mouj Golf wins International Environmental Golf Club Award

Muscat: Al Mouj Golf is celebrating having won the International Environmental Golf Club Award for 2023 at the Golf Environment Awards, a UK-based programme that recognises excellence in environmentally sustainable practices within the sport. Located at the ocean's edge within premium lifestyle destination Al Mouj Muscat, Al Mouj Golf is a World 100 course and the awards, organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), reward outstanding clubs for how they protect and preserve their natural surroundings.



Since 1995 they have shone a spotlight on eco-conscious matters within golf, attracting hundreds of entries from clubs throughout the world with the winners recently announced at a glittering awards ceremony at the annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, England. Al Mouj Golf has a long-term commitment to driving sports tourism and to preserving nature and is both a haven for wildlife and a model for sustainability, and it is one of only 20 clubs worldwide to be certified by both Audubon International and Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) for environmental excellence. This latest accolade recognises how brilliantly it demonstrates efficient management across the areas of Nature Conservation Management, Turfgrass Management, Waste and Water Management. Adding to Al Mouj Golf's impressive credentials is its status this month (February) as the first club in the Middle East to host the International Series, an elevated series of events featuring top level pro

players competing on the Asia tour, once more highlighting the club's significance on the world stage. Al Mouj Muscat CEO Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, commented, "It has been a great month for Al Mouj Golf and extremely gratifying to earn global recognition once again. As leaders in sustainability, we are seeing tangible results from introducing environmental initiatives and practices, achieving an increase in habitat varieties whilst at the same time improving playing experiences for golfers and providing a positive contribution to wildlife. Ten years ago, our Greg Norman designed course opened its doors as the first ever links course in the Sultanate and since then it has had a significant impact on sports and leisure tourism in Oman." Al Mouj Golf preserves its five fresh water ponds which are habitats for 173 different bird species, and its partnership with Haya Water allows for the collection and composting of grass, plants and

tree cuttings. In addition, treated wastewater is used for irrigation and the club retains and rejuvenates the natural Khor as part of its picturesque environment. Al Mouj Golf is a lush green 72-par course set along 2km of pristine coastline and this latest award win takes its tally of titles up to 23 including being voted in the Top Two in the GCC by Today's Golfer magazine. It is a three times host of the Oman Open, part of the European Tour and has a resort-like feel owing to additional facilities and services including a teaching academy and floodlit driving range, a fully equipped Pro-shop and a restaurant. Al Mouj Golf has now received 23 International Awards and has welcomed 16,000 golfers in addition to hosting 35,000 guests with many more expected as part of this latest competition. The course is a key asset of Al Mouj Muscat, the Sultanate's leading leisure and lifestyle destination, and a joint venture between Majid Al Futtaim Properties, Omran, and Tanmia.

FOR JUNIOR STUDENTS

Oman Shell's training expertise shines with launch of NXplorers programme

MUSCAT: Shell NXplorers, Shell's innovative educational programme that was launched in 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), has now expanded to cover junior students from grades 5 to 8, in addition to the existing senior students from grades 9 to 12. Now in its fourth year, Shell NXplorers continues to successfully build awareness, provide thinking tools and develop the creative and complex problem-solving skills of students in schools across Oman. Since its launch in 2018, the Shell NXplorers programme has benefited more than 1964 students, and has equipped over 190 teachers with key skills to mentor and nurture Omani youth in

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The programme saw the participation of over 500 students and 66 teachers from 22 schools across the Sultanate of Oman in 2021 alone and is well on its way to adding to those numbers in the coming year. Introducing the Shell NXplorers Junior this year, the programme has trained 44 science and maths teachers from different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. The training sessions have seen teachers develop essential skills needed to play mentorship roles through both, hands-on activities and regular training materials. With some teachers joining for the first time, the Shell NXplorers programme has also witnessed the



return of teachers that have been with the course since its inception in 2018. As part of the programme's ex-

pansion plan, Oman Shell is collaborating with Kidsity, an Omani educational company which will help deliver the programme effi-

ciently and innovatively for STEM teachers and students in schools across Oman. Commenting on the impact Shell NXplorers has had on Oman's youth, Malak Al Shaibani, General Manager- Corporate Relations and In-Country Value at Oman Shell stated, "Shell is committed to supporting the Sultanate of Oman through sustainable social investment programmes like Shell NXplorers, and seeks to inspire Omani youth by instilling an innovative mindset and a strong interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related fields of study at an early age. "Initiatives like the NXplorers programme are an essential part

of Oman Shell's commitment towards supporting the Sultanate's energy transition and national economic diversification goals outlined in Oman Vision 2040." "We have already seen the successful implementation of the course in the first phase of the programme, with senior school students from our solar schools in the 22 governorates launching pioneering and innovative projects that helped create a positive change within their communities," she added. Shell NXplorers uniquely contributes to the implementation of Oman Vision 2040, as it creates relevant and purposeful ways to give young people the tools they need to shape and create positive change.

ROUND-UP

Light-duty Fuso Canter truck celebrates 60th anniversary

Throughout its 60-year history, the Canter has delivered every aspect required of a light-duty truck at a high level

MUSCAT: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation (MFTBC), represented in Oman by the General Automotive Company (GAC), announced that 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the light-duty Canter truck.

The first generation Canter entered the light-duty truck segment for the first time in March 1963 as the T720 cab-over type model boasting a design providing a wide field of view and easy operability.



Named the Canter to conjure the image of a sturdy but nimble horse, it was highly acclaimed as the best in its class for its excellent driving performance and economy.

Since the launch of the first generation model, the Canter has evolved alongside Japanese society through many eras. Its history dates back to the postwar recon-

struction period, through the rapid economic growth that brought long-distance and high-speed transportation to the changes of the 21st century that pushed ecological issues and carbon-neutral transportation to the forefront.

Throughout its 60-year history, the Canter has delivered every aspect required of a light-

duty truck at a high level.

On top of consistent performance and driver comfort, the Canter has achieved ever higher levels of fuel efficiency and environmental friendliness over the decades with continuous engine improvements and hybrid technology. Through the development of advanced safety technologies,

MFTBC has sought to make the Canter a safe and reliable truck for drivers and others on the road. The design of the Canter has also evolved to match the needs of drivers and the shifting zeitgeist. Over the years, the Canter has established an immovable identity within the industry: a safe, comfortable, and environmentally friendly companion to drivers and businesses everywhere.

Since the 1960s, the Canter has expanded its sales worldwide and led the light-duty truck segment in the global market. Currently, knock-down production is carried out in 12 overseas markets. Furthermore, sales of the Canter have long since expanded into Africa, Central and South America, and the Middle East, with built-up vehicles being exported to over 60 countries around the world. Combining knock-down production locations and export markets, the Canter is now sold in over 70 countries worldwide.

In Oman, right from the moment it was introduced over five decades

ago under the watchful eye of GAC, the truck has maintained the top market share in the light-duty segment and continues to be the light-duty truck of choice for most businesses across the country.

Throughout the truck's long history, the Canter has represented the Fuso brand and MFTBC's dedication to standing as a pioneering presence for customers, societies, and the transportation industry. Carrying on the legacy of the past decades, MFTBC launched Japan's first series-produced electric light-duty truck, the eCanter, in the light-duty truck segment in 2017. With the fully remodelled next-generation model of the all-electric truck to be introduced to markets in 2023, MFTBC and the Fuso Canter will continue running on a path of innovation.

In Oman, GAC is the official distributor of the Fuso range of commercial vehicles. They are available at the Fuso Truck Centre in Azaiba, Muscat, with Branches in Sohar, Nizwa, Ibri, Barka, Sur, JaalanBani Bu Ali, and Salalah.

DOMESTIC CRICKET GETS A BOOST

Credit Oman named sponsors of three Oman Cricket leagues

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket (OC) has been keen to rope in corporate support for the development of the game in the Sultanate of Oman. The untiring efforts of OC has met with success and the latest partnership agreement between the cricket governing body of Oman and Credit Oman will give further boost to the domestic league.

OC recently unveiled Credit Oman as the sponsors of the C, D and E Division leagues for the 2022-23 season.

Credit Oman is a Muscat-based three-decade old company and over the years has shaped domestic trade and catalysed exports from Oman to regional and international markets as a leading credit insurer, fully owned by the government.

Welcoming on board Credit Oman, Alkesh Joshi, OC's treasurer, said: "We are delighted to have Credit Oman join the Oman Cricket family as our title sponsors for the C, D, E divisions. These



divisions serve as a refinery to produce the talent pool of cricketers in Oman. I am looking forward to the talented players to represent the country. We certainly feel overwhelmed when corporates like Credit Oman come on board to develop the game as part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) programme."

Duleep Mendis, OC's chief development officer, said: "I would like to extend my thanks to Credit Oman in supporting domestic cricket in the Sultanate of Oman. This backing will enable us to facilitate and enhance the quality of cricket at grassroots level.

"We are looking forward to fructify this association in its best way

in the coming future."

Mohammed Hilal al Jabri, Credit Oman director of sales, said: "We are delighted to be associated with the second most popular sport across the globe through Oman Cricket. The partnership serves as our means to contribute towards sports and youth in Oman. We are basically trying to focus at the grassroots level in the domestic cricket. We are grateful to Oman Cricket for giving us an opportunity to be part of cricket fraternity in the Sultanate of Oman. The sponsorship will also allow Credit Oman to extend their CSR programme by investing in sports and youth in Oman."

The official signing ceremony was held recently at the Oman Cricket Academy with Joshi, representing Oman Cricket, and Jabri, representing Credit Oman, inking the agreement in the presence of Mendis, Vaishali Jesrani, advisor to OC, and other officials.

ROMANTIC DAY

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Radisson Hotel Group

MUSCAT: Valentine's Day is right around the corner and Radisson Hotel Group, Oman, is the perfect setting for you to celebrate the day of love. From Muscat to Duqm, Radisson Hotels invite guests to enjoy the most romantic day of the year with exclusive dining offers.

A spectacular multi-course meal is the perfect backdrop to spark conversation, enjoy the warmth of romance and create memorable moments to cherish for years to come. Plan an indulgent culinary surprise for your loved one at one of Radisson's properties across Oman; an endless variety of amazing Valentine's dinner offerings await you!

A very special Valentine's at Radisson Collection Muscat

Fall in love in the breathtaking setting overlooking the waterside at OMNY with a specially crafted set menu dinner and a selected drink. A romantic evening to remember awaits you!

Experience an exclusive evening of sweet love and delicious



dining at Qureshi Bab-Al-Hind with an impeccable four course dinner curated specially by the Qureshi brothers - Chefs Ashfaq and Irfan Qureshi. With the dynamic duo whipping up a storm in town, it's bound to be a Valentine's treat.

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Park Inn by Radisson, Muscat

Treat your loved one to a romantic four course meal at RBG Grill with a selected drink.

Love al fresco at Park Inn by Radisson Duqm

Wish for a beachfront romantic dinner with views of beautiful Duqm? RBG Grill is just the place. Celebrate love under the stars with a special four course set menu inclusive of a selected drink.

10TH EDITION

Al Naba Cricket Tournament 2023 held

MUSCAT: The 10th edition of Al Naba Cricket Tournament 2023 was held in Misfah.

A total of 16 teams from Al Naba including teams from Salalah participated in the knockout tournament. This unique tournament saw riveting cricketing action, with junior staff showcasing impressive skills with the bat and ball. They also showcased high-level sportsmanship and camaraderie and gave the spectators a chance to come together and enjoy the sporting entertainment during their weekend. This grandiose event successfully gained popularity since its inception 10 years ago. In what it took breathtaking finals, Royal Brothers Barka emerged as the champions of the 2023 edition of the Al Naba Cricket Tournament.

The guest of honour Praveen Kumar, Second Secretary (Economics & Commerce) & Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Muscat witnessed



and encouraged the employees who played in the finals and said that he was happy and delighted to see an event being conducted by the company for its employees, and it is one of the best examples of humanity, care and affection. He specially thanked Sayyid Khalid bin Hamed bin Saif Al Busaidy, the Chairman of Al Naba Group for the wonderful support and

care he has shown over these years towards all his employees.

Al Naba Sports Organising committee headed by Rajesh Gonsalves thanked Bank Muscat for sponsoring the winners, runners' trophies, and special prizes for all the games, also Ooredoo and Friendi mobile for their extended support.

Reiterating Al Naba's commit-

ment, all the employees who participated said that they were happy to be part of such a wonderful organisation that promotes diversity and inclusion and said they are waiting for the next events like football, volleyball, badminton, bowling and snooker which is part of outdoor and indoor games very eagerly.

NABIL PICKS MEGA PRIZE WINNER OF 'BUY & WIN' PROMO

National Biscuit Industries Ltd, manufacturers of the brand 'Nabil' with the extensive range of biscuits, cream wafers and snacks announced the winner of the final round of 'Nabil Buy & Win' promotion raffle draw. The winner of MG RX5 is Mohammed Humayun Rashid. The winners of 4g gold coin are: Ibrahim Abdallah Al Darmaki, Mohammad Saif, Al Salt bin Ahmed Al Amni, Shiju Kumar, Clevan, Hamdan Aljabri, Khamis bin Muhammed Al Kindi, Abdallah Hamoud Almitlik, Manoop V S and Khalfan. — Supplied picture





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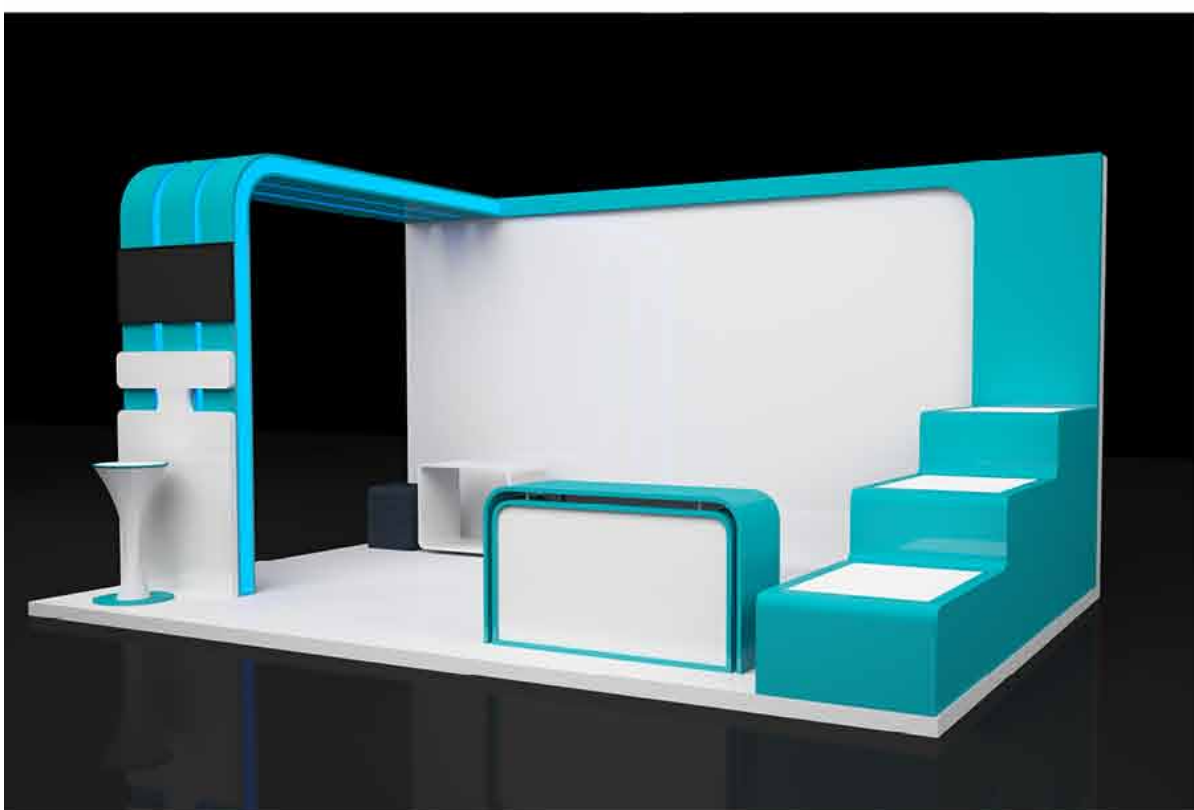
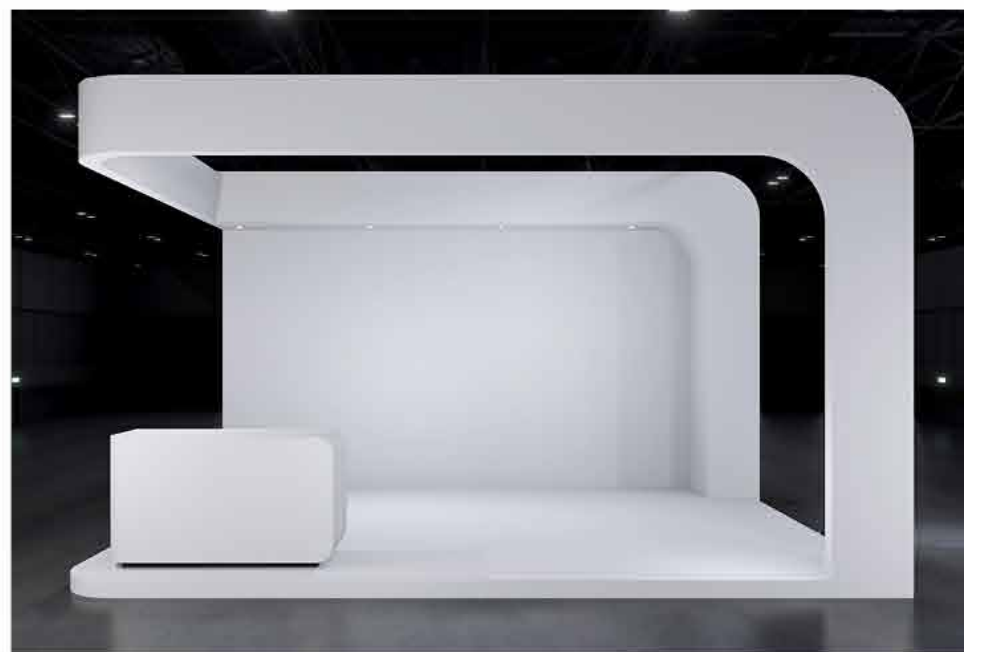
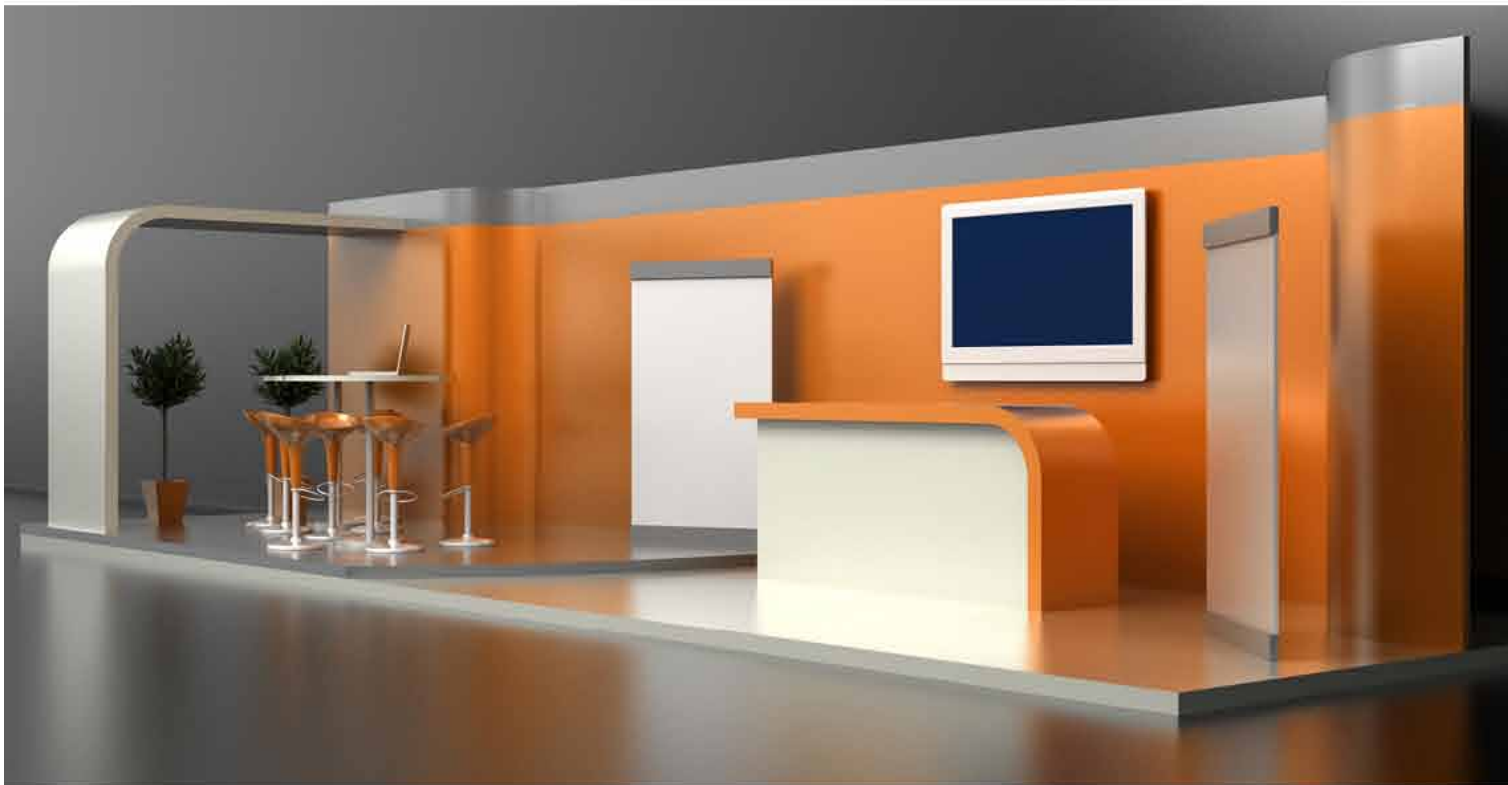
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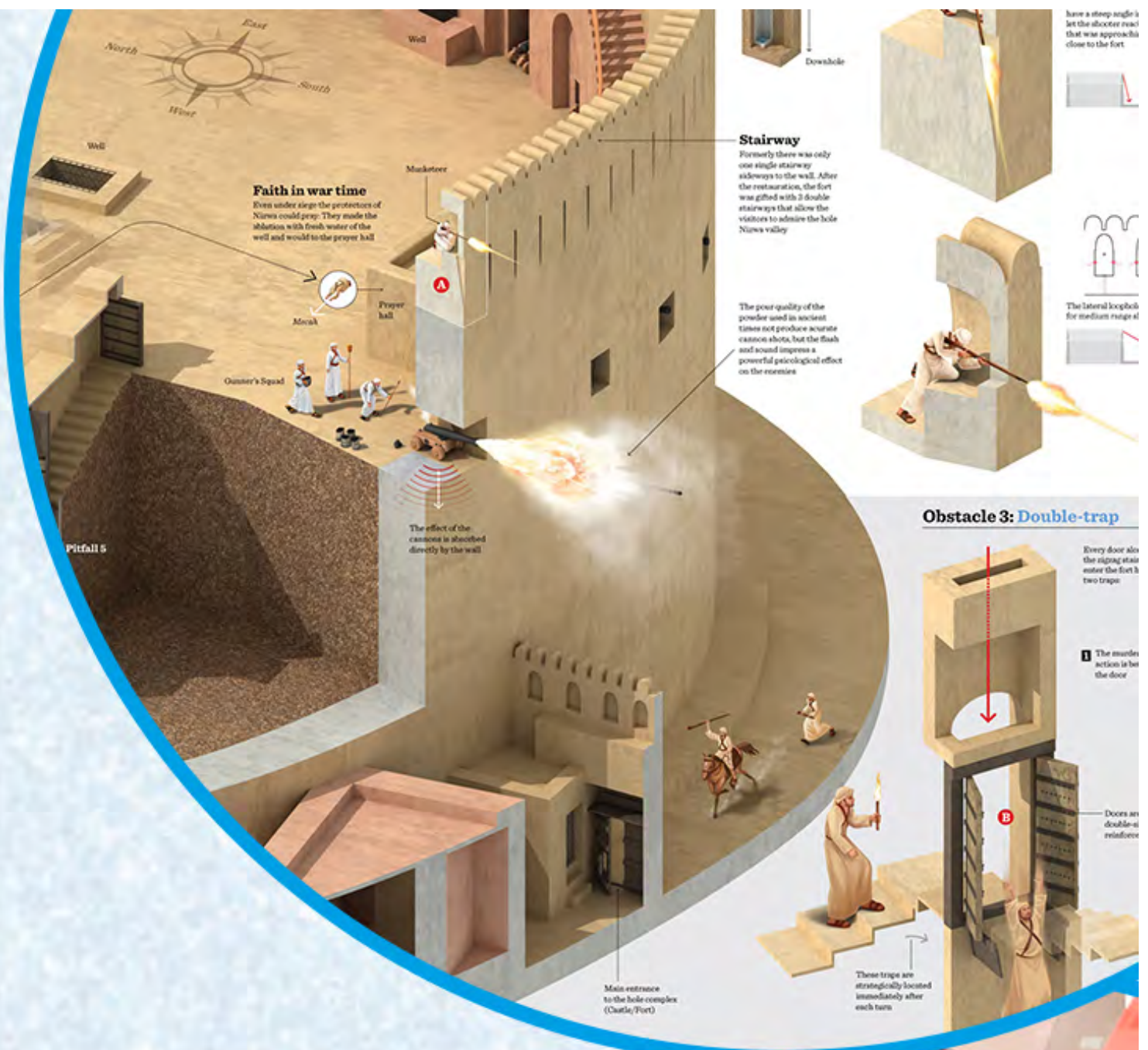


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