

**FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES
MOROCCAN OFFICIAL**

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received here Nasser Bourita, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates. **>A2**



HM GREETES KING OF JORDAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq has sent a cable of greetings to King Abdullah II of Jordan on his birthday. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments to King Abdullah II, wishing him good health and a long life. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty for the return of this and similar occasions while the people of Jordan realise aspirations of further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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NEW JOB APPRAISAL SYSTEM TO BOOST PERFORMANCE, PRODUCTIVITY

The provisions of this system apply to all units of the state administrative apparatus

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour issued a decision to endorse a system for measuring the adequacy of job performance, which is based on a unified methodology for evaluating the performance of employees in units of the State's Administrative Appa-

ratus of the civil state and other public legal persons.

Mohammed Mubarak Al Kalbani, Assistant Director General for Legal Studies and Assistant Project Manager for the Ejada System, said that the system for measuring the adequacy of job performance will be effective from the day following its date of

publishing in the Official Gazette.

He told ONA that the provisions of this system apply to all employees of the units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other public legal persons who are in service for a period of more than 6 months.

He pointed out that the aim of applying the system is to govern the process of evaluating employees' performance according to a unified legislative framework for all employees of government units and other public legal persons.

Al Kalbani added that the assessment of the adequacy of job performance will be measured by evaluating the employee's perfor-

mance based on his/her career plan, which the employees prepare at the beginning of each performance cycle, in coordination with their immediate supervisor.

Regarding the difference between the job performance adequacy measurement system and the individual performance measurement system "Ejada", he explained that "Ejada" is a system for human capital governance in a bid to build a culture of proficiency in job performance, improve performance evaluation systems, and linking productivity with incentives.

As for the performance adequacy measurement system, it is the legislative framework for the

proper implementation of the system and ensuring the sustainability of its implementation to guarantee fair and equitable evaluation for all employees.

He pointed out that performance will be reviewed at the end of the year to ensure just and fair evaluation of the results of the performance adequacy assessment.

The system for measuring the adequacy of job performance includes 18 items distributed on a number of topics. The employee may file a grievance on the assessment of the adequacy of job performance according to the job systems applicable to the unit in which the employee works.

The adequacy of the employee's performance is estimated as per one of the specified ranks (excellent/efficient with a degree from 90 percent to 100 percent) or (very good/above average with a degree from 80 percent to less than 90 percent) or (good with a degree from 70 percent to less than 80 percent) or (fair/medium/satisfactory with a degree from 55 percent to less than 70 percent) or (weak/unsatisfactory with a degree of less than 55 percent).

Dr. Mahad bin Saeed Baawin, Minister of Labour, issued the Ministerial Resolution No. 36/2023 for measuring the adequacy of job performance. **With ONA inputs**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Surgeons remove bladder cancer

1 The surgeons of Genitourinary programme at SQCCRC performed a first-of-its-kind operation to remove bladder cancer using 3D laparoscopic method. **>A2**

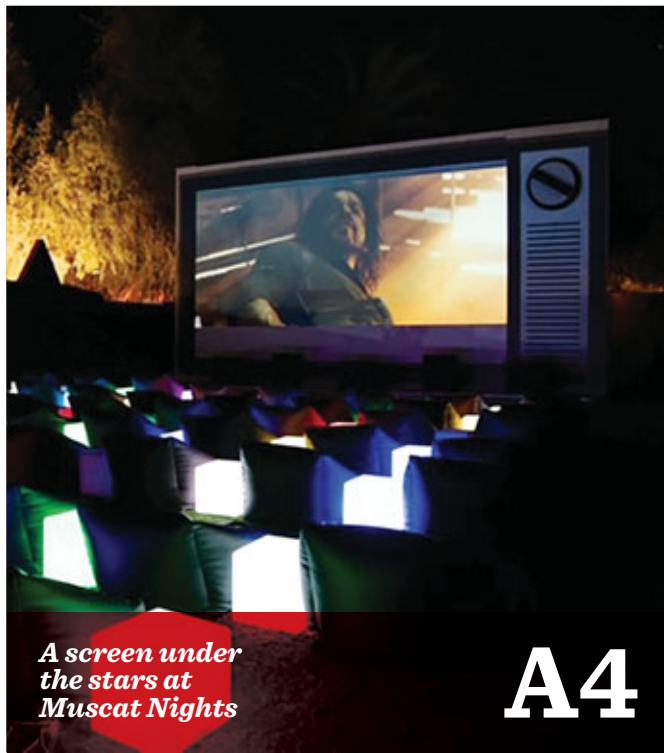


WORLD 41 dead in Pakistan bus accident

2 At least 41 people were killed after a passenger coach fell into a ravine in Pakistan's Balochistan on Sunday. Dawn reported citing officials. **>A6**

SPORTS Djokovic bags 10th Australian Open

3 Novak Djokovic put up a dominant show against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece to win the men's singles final match 6-3, 7-6(4), 7-6(5) at the Rod Laver Arena. **>A8**



10TH TERM

Shura Council to have 90 representatives

MUSCAT: There will be 90 representatives to the Shura Council in its 10th term, according to the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry of Interior issued a decision on the number of representatives in the wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman in the 10th term of the Shura Council.

Two representatives

The decision pointed out that the following wilayats will have two representatives in the Shura Council: Muttrah, Al Amerat, Bausher, Al Seeb, Qurayyat, Salalah, Al Buraimi, Nizwa, Bahla, Izki, Samail, Bidbid, Sohar, Shinas, Liwa, Saham, Al Khaboura, Al Suwaiq, Al Rustaq, Barka, Al Musan-

na, Sur, Jalan Bani Bu Hasan, Jalan Bani Bu Ali, Ibra, Al Mudhaibi and Ibra.

Meanwhile, as per the decision, the following wilayats will have one representative in the Shura Council: Muscat, Taqa, Mirbat, Rakhyut, Thumrait, Dhalkut, Al Mazyoonah, Maqshin, Shalim and Al Halaniyat Islands, Sadah, Khasab, Diba, Bukha, Madha, Mahdah, Al Sunaina, Manah, Al Hamra, Adam, Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Awabi, Nakhl, Wadi Al Maawil, Al Kamil Wa Al Wafi, Masirah, Bidiyah, Al Qabil, Wadi Bani Khalid, Dima Wa Al Tayyin, Sinaw, Yanqul, Dhank, Haima, Mahout, Duqm, and Al Jazir. **-ONA**



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INSPIRING STORY

A gallant effort of an Omani cuts distance between villages from 200km to 10km

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His efforts have a bit of resemblance with the work done by 'Mountain Man in India' on whom even a Bollywood movie 'Manjhi - The Mountain Man' has been released.

Saeed bin Salem, an Omani volunteer, has single-handedly supervised the construction of a road to connect two villages between two governorates in Oman.

The Mountain Man in India is a real-life incident of Late Dashrath Manji, a landless farmer, who

carved a path through a mountain on his own to help people of his village in the eastern state of Bihar. Manji worked on the Gehlour hills for 22 years and shortened the distance from 70kms to just 1km.

Salem brought an excavator and took upon himself to provide relief to people in the mountains by shortening the distance between two villages. He successfully constructed a link road that connected the village of Halut in the mountainous Niyabat Tiwi of South Al Sharqiyah Governorate to the village of Al Oud in Wilayat of Wadi



Bani Khalid in North Al Al Sharqiyah Governorate. Once the road was connected to the villages it shortened the travel time from 3.5 hours to just 30 minutes with the travel distance of 200kms reduced to only 10 kms.

Saeed purchased the excavator with the grant he had obtained from the Sultan Qaboos Award for Voluntary Work.

The efforts definitely make an inspiring story where the concept of volunteerism is gradually picking up among the citizens and residents.



Dhuhr.....	12:25pm
Asr.....	3:34pm
Maghrib.....	5:57pm
Isha.....	7:09pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:30am

Surgery for bladder cancer performed

Surgeons in Oman performed the laparoscopic surgery by making small incisions in the abdomen of a patient

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The surgeons of Genitourinary programme at Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre (SQCCC-CRC), succeeded in performing the first operation of its kind in Oman to remove bladder cancer using 3D laparoscopic method (laparoscopic 3D Radical Cystectomy).

The surgeons performed the laparoscopic surgery by making small incisions in the abdomen where high-quality medical cameras transmit three-dimensional images and precise surgical tools are inserted.

Speedy recovery

Dr. Hilal Al Rashidi, Consultant Uro-Oncologist, said: "Studies



showed that this method provides many advantages to patients, as it reduces blood loss and allows doctors to perform surgery through a small incision that speeds up recovery. It also reduces the use of anaesthesia and reduces pain after the operation, which shorten the hospitalisation period."

Dr. Mohammed Mutez, Senior Consultant Urologist Surgeon, mentioned that despite these advantages, this procedure is technically challenging as it requires a high level of laparoscopy skills

and has a longer learning path. However, many studies showed the success of using this method in specialised cancer centres.

Technically challenging

Dr. Mohammed Marzouq, senior consultant Urologist Surgeon, mentioned that despite these advantages, this procedure is technically challenging as it requires a high level of laparoscopy skills

and has a longer learning path. However, many studies showed the success of using this method in specialised cancer centres.

The Genitourinary programme team at SQCCCRC hopes that this advanced medical procedure will become a treatment option for all patients who have localized muscle-invasive bladder cancer. Noting that bladder cancer ranks fourth among all tumors in men, according to the Cancer Incident in Oman 2019.

MEETING



Oman, Morocco to boost cooperation

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Sunday Nasser Bourita, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Next session

They agreed to hold the next session of the joint Omani-Moroccan Committee in a bid to continue boosting cooperation programmes, explore partnerships

in economic and other fields and achieve mutual interests.

On the political spectrum, the two sides underscored the two countries' joint vision, which promotes dialogue and constructive cooperation in tackling issues and maintaining peace and stability among nations and peoples.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department, Tarek Lahssisne, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials from the Foreign Ministry. -ONA

OCEC

Public Prosecution to hold conference on Tuesday

MUSCAT: The Public Prosecution (PP) Department will hold its annual conference on Tuesday 31 January 2022 at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). This year's conference is themed "In

the name of society".

The event covers a spectrum of topics, namely reviewing indicators and statistics of cases in 2022, top goals that have been achieved and future plans.

The Public Prosecution De-

partment accords great importance to its annual conference, stemming from its belief in the principles of transparency, society's right to obtain information from official sources.

-ONA

COOPERATION

Undersecretary in foreign ministry meets US official

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs met at the general diwan of the ministry here on Sunday, Brian Nelson, US Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. The meeting discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries and underlined the two sides' keenness to continue promoting them in various fields.

It was attended by Sheikh Humaid Ali Al Ma'ani, Head of the Global Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Leslie M.Tsou, US Ambassador to Oman and a number of officials from both sides. -ONA



MEETING: The officials discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries and underlined the two sides' keenness to continue promoting them in various fields. -ONA

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WEATHER

Wilayat of Mahdah records highest amount of rain

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has published data of the rate of precipitation in a number of Wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman that were affected by an upper air trough from January 24-29.

The Wilayat of Mahdah recorded the highest rate of precipitation during the upper air trough.

Largest amount of rain
The wilayats of the governorates of Al Buraimi, Musandam and North Al Batinah received the largest amount of rain.

The data shows that the highest amount of rainfall 124mm was recorded in the Wilayat of Mahdah, followed by the Wilayat of Shinas 105 mm, the Wilayat of Liwa at 103 mm, then the Wilayat of Dibba at 90 mm.

The amount of rain that fell in the Wilayat of Madha was 75

mm, followed by the Wilayat of Ibri with 61mm and the Wilayat of Khasab with 53 mm. This was followed by the Wilayat of Barka (43 mm), the Wilayat of Sohar (37 mm), the Wilayat of Taqah (36 mm), the Wilayat of Quriyat (35 mm), and the Wilayat of Masirah (32 mm).

The data of the distribution of the rain also indicated that the lowest amounts of precipitation were recorded in the Wilayats of Muqshin and Rustaq at a rate of 2 mm, followed by the wilayats of Suwaiq, Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, Izki, Dama and Al-Tayin, Sumail at a rate of 3 mm.



COMMENTARY

When the King of the Desert visited Muscat



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

It is not always you see a camel racing in the streets of Muscat. It galloped past houses and brought cars at a complete halt. Everyone looked at it because we normally associate camels with the desert and not the paved streets.

It stopped under a tree and started feeding on leaves. There was a Land Cruiser next to the tree and for a minute, I tried to find something common between the vehicle and the animal.

I took out my mobile, got closer and tried to get a picture. The camel sensed my presence, turned its huge head and peered down at me. I hesitated and stepped back. It was the first time that I got within ten yards of a camel. I was nervous because I know its kick can kill a person instantly. But I had to take my picture and the camel challenged me by staring down at me. Then an old man with a bushy beard appeared from nowhere. He stopped and looked at me. It was an embarrassing moment. I knew the man owned the camel. For a few seconds, both man and beast backed it each other and their body language was saying, "what's your business here?"

I started to retreat towards my car. Then the man gestured me to come forward. He went to his camel and I watched him whispered something at the animal. Amazingly, the camel turned its head and concentrated on eating the



thorny leaves. The man then told me that I could take the photo. With a renewed confidence, I stepped closer and got my picture.

I was curious. I wanted to know what he 'told' the camel. He gave me a toothless smile and said, "I asked for its permission. Camels have feelings and pride, you know."

I thought he was trying to be dramatic. For all I knew, he calmed down its nerves so I could take the picture. Anyway, I was not going to challenge him but I thanked him and drove away. I felt a pang of guilt for 'accusing' the old gentleman of fraud. So, I made a U-turn and drove back. He and the Land Cruiser were not there but the camel was still feasting on the tree.

But there were other people mesmerized by its sheer beauty. The animal was really a welcomed visitor to the town. But it was not used to the crowd. It became agitated as the children talked noisily.

As the crowd grew larger, the camel suddenly bolted and ran to the direction of the highway. The barriers stopped it from entering the road but it just kept running parallel to it. I am sure its owner would not have been be pleased.

The funny thing is that camels have been roaming the desert for thousands of years before we built concrete houses on the sands. Now, they are barricaded within the confinement of villages restricting their natural instincts. There are on the decline though the situation is not yet alarming. With scientifically modified food they eat and water tainted with chemicals, is diminishing their ability to breed well. The camels are now only valued by their abilities to win races so they can be sold at premier prices. Breeders have stripped their tag as the 'Desert Ship' reducing its status to just beasts who become a nuisance when they wander into towns.

THE STAR OF AFRICA

ROHM to host concert of noted star Fatoumata

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) announced an exciting concert featuring a global phenomenon: Fatoumata Diawara, The Star of Africa, who will perform at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts on 9 and 10 February 2023.

Hailed as a visionary musician and voice for unity and hope, Fatoumata Diawara sings in her native Bambara. She dresses with magnificent originality, taking on the traditional elements of her heritage and bringing them to life

for her stage performances.

Grammy-nominated
A Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, guitarist, actress and activist, she embraces modernity as well as tradition.

Hugely charismatic, Diawara has played major festivals including Glastonbury (UK), worked with the likes of Gorillaz, Herbie Hancock and Cuban jazz pianist Roberto Fonseca and formed a super group of Malian artists.

- ONA



CHARISMATIC: Hailed as a visionary musician and voice for unity and hope, Diawara sings in her native Bambara. - ONA

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A SCREEN UNDER THE STARS

If you are a movie buff and you often visit the movie theatres, here's a golden chance for you to catch your favourite film, but this time in a different setting. How about watching a movie sitting under the stars?

The open-air cinemas at Qurum Natural Park and Naseem Garden are screening some of your favourite films as part of the Muscat Nights events. Fareed, Rahim and Junaid in their early twenties were munching on their favourite snack while waiting for the film to start at the entertainment area in Qurum Natural Park. "This is a very new experience for us as we are only used to watching movies in theatres. As the weather is good, rather chilly, we are enjoying it all the more as we snuggle on our seats," said Junaid while sharing about his open-air cinema experience.

"Sitting under the stars on a moon-lit evening is really a wonderful experience. And if we find the movie boring we can utilise the time by star gazing," Fareed added with a smile.

And if you aren't a movie connoisseur then head off to watch the Wave shows at Al Qurum Natural Park near the lake. The show

is truly creating waves amongst the visitors of Muscat Nights. Being held at three different times in the evenings, the first show starts at 4:40pm, the second at 5:30pm and the third at 6:30pm. Watching the dancing waves is an amazing experience for families.

If you aren't satiated yet watch the amazing fire shows, held daily at 6:30pm, 9:00pm and 10:00pm. Younis Mirza with his wife and three children were eagerly waiting for the show to begin at 9pm. "We wanted to see the 6:30pm show but could not make it on time as we got stuck in traffic. We are coming all the way from Mabala to see it," he said.

Children can't seem to hide their joy after seeing the many attractions that Muscat Nights is offering this year. Animated cartoon characters roaming around both the parks are one the key attractions for children as well as their parents.

The LED shows and the boat lake shows are also drawing visitors to the park. While the LED show is at 6:40pm, 7:45pm and 9:10pm every evening up to 4th February, the boat lake shows are from 7:25pm, 4:45pm and 10:25pm. The drone shows are held every Thursday and Friday at Qurum Natural Park.





VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING



Joint meeting discusses steps to implement GCC Common Market

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, took part in the 118th extraordinary meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee and the joint meeting with the Trade Cooperation Committee, held via video-conferencing.

The meeting discussed the remaining steps towards establishing the customs union in accordance with the set timeframe and implementing the steps needed for the GCC Common Market.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

During the meeting, the ministers and undersecretaries reviewed economic decisions issued by the GCC Supreme Council in its 43rd session.

Various topics covered

The meeting also covered various topics, recommendations and matters related to financial and economic joint cooperation.

Regarding the joint meeting

with the Trade Cooperation Committee, the ministers and under-secretaries touched on economic decisions issued by the ministerial council in its 154th session. It was attended by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

Moreover, the ministers and undersecretaries underscored the importance of integrative coordination and boosting the role of committees in implementing decisions. — **ONA**



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

A' Sharqiyah University (ASU) is a private higher education institution located in Ibra, North of A' Sharqiyah Governorate of the Sultanate of Oman, about 150 km from Muscat. It was established in 2009 by Ministerial Decision (78/2009) issued by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Tender details:

ASU's Tender Committee has the pleasure to invite the companies who are experienced in Design, Supply & Installation of 980 KWP Grid Connected Solar PV Project:

Tender No.	Description	Document Collection Deadline	Site Visit Date	Bids Submission Deadline	Document fees
ASU/05/2023	Design, Supply & Installation of 980KWp Grid Connected Solar PV Project at A'Sharqiyah University	05/02/2023	08/02/2023 11:00 am	23/02/2023	100 OMR

- The participated companies of this tender should have (DCRP License) of Grade 2 or 3.
 - The specialized companies of the above assignment can obtain the tender document from Procurement and Contracts Department at A'Sharqiyah University, Ibra, during the working days from 9:00 am to 03:00 pm.
 - Bids have to be submitted in closed sealed envelopes with red wax, addressed to (Tender Committee, A'Sharqiyah University - Ibra), bearing the tender subject with its reference number with no indication to the name of bidders.
 - The submitting of the main envelope should contain the following:
 - o Separate sealed envelope contains technical proposal (1 original copy + 2 copies).
 - o Separate sealed envelope contains commercial proposal (1 original copy + 2 copies).
 - o Separate sealed envelope contains tender bond.
 - ASU general terms and conditions of tenders shall apply on all submitted bids.
http://www.asu.edu.om/downloads/purchase_terms_conditions.pdf
 - ASU is not bound to accept the lowest bid.
 - **For more details, please don't hesitate to contact us on: (+968) 25401115/25401116.**
- 



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

THE TENDER COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Document Fees	Tender Bond	Closing Date
MJN-KWM-PM-TED-00022	Recruitment and Staffing Service	QMR 100/-	1% of Bid Value	26 th February 2023

CONDITIONS:

- The tender documents package can be obtained from the company's Finance Department on 29th January 2023 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable document fee to the following bank account and providing proof of deposit and signed authorization letter to collect tender documents with the company stamp.

- Payment should be processed by bank transfer or deposit to the following bank coordinates or by cash:

Account Name: **Karwa Motors**
Bank Name: **Meethaq Islamic Banking**
Bank Branch: **Al Khuwair Islamic Branch**
Account Number: **0625500193570001**
Swift Code: **BMIUSOMRXISL**

- **KEY DATES:**

- o Issue Tender Package - 29th January 2023 to 17th February 2023.
- o Last Date for Queries - 20th February 2023.
- o Last Date for Submission - 26th February 2023.

- Tenders should be submitted no later than 12.00 PM on the closing date and must be deposited at Karwa Motors Tendering Office located Office No 5-25, 02nd Floor, Finaa Al Fardan Building No.254, Way 4204, Plot No 836, North Al Ghubrah, Postal Code: 1115, Muscat, and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to The Tender Committee, Karwa Motors quoting the Tender No., and subject.

- Offers submitted after the closing date & time shall not be accepted.
- For queries, please e-mail: tendercommittee@karwamotors.com

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CHANGE TO THE BETTER



ASIA-PACIFIC TRIP

NATO chief Stoltenberg visits South Korea

SEOUL: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg landed in South Korea on Sunday, in a bid to boost the military alliance's relations with US partners in Asia. After arriving in South Korea, Stoltenberg paid his respects at the Seoul National Cemetery, where Korean veterans are buried. Stoltenberg met with top South Korean officials in the capital, in-

cluding Foreign Minister Park Jin. He will also meet Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup. Stoltenberg is also likely to hold a meeting with conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. During his meeting with the South Korean foreign minister, Stoltenberg addressed North Korea's "reckless" nuclear and missile programmes. He said Europe

and Asia are "interconnected," as Stoltenberg believes North Korea is helping Russia in its war on Ukraine. Stoltenberg has also pointed to the rising security threat from neighbour as a reason for his trip to the Asia-Pacific. Park vowed solidarity with NATO, emphasising "shared values" between NATO nations and South Korea.

"Given today's unprecedented global challenges, we believe that solidarity among countries that share values of freedom, democracy and rule of law is more important than ever," Park said. South Korea opened up a diplomatic mission to NATO in November, and pledged to strengthen coordination on issues such as non-proliferation and cyberterrorism. — DW



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41 people killed after bus falls into a ravine in Balochistan

The incident occurred in the Lasbela district of Balochistan and the vehicle was travelling from Quetta to Karachi

ISLAMABAD: At least 41 people were killed after a passenger coach fell into a ravine in Pakistan's Balochistan on Sunday, according to media report citing officials. The incident occurred in the Lasbela district of Balochistan. Lasbela Assistant Commissioner Hamza Anjum has confirmed the incident. Anjum stated that the vehicle carrying 48 passengers was travelling from Quetta to Karachi, as per the media report. He said that the vehicle crashed into the pillar of a bridge near Lasbela and subsequently fell into



a ravine and caught fire. Hamza Anjum feared that the number of casualties could rise to 48. "Due to speeding, the coach crashed into the pillar of a bridge while taking a U-turn near Lasbela. The vehicle subsequently careened into a ravine and then caught fire," the media report quoted Hamza Anjum as saying. According to Hamza Anjum, three people, including a child and

a woman have been rescued from the accident site, according to the media report. One of the injured persons succumbed to his injuries while being taken to hospital. He added that the bodies recovered from the wrecked bus were unidentifiable. Anjum said that DNA testing will be conducted to identify the deceased.



— ANI

Taliban orders ban on female students for university entrance exams

KABUL: In the latest decree, the Taliban has banned female students from sitting in university entrance exams which are slated to take place next month, the Afghan news agency TOLO news reported. The Taliban Ministry of Higher Education has sent a notice to the universities which state that the girls cannot apply for the exams until further notice. Apparently, they have banned girls from registering for the 1402 (solar year) university entrance exam.

Caretaker government The decision was followed by another decree from the caretaker government prohibiting women from working in non-governmental organisations, which sparked outrage on both the national and international levels. After the Taliban ordered an indefinite ban on university education for Afghan girls, several humanitarian organisations, including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a United Nations global, billion-dollar fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises called on the Taliban authorities in Kabul to revoke their decision to suspend the university education of Afghan women. — ANI

A SPECIAL OCCASION

Pope Francis travels to DR Congo with a pious wish for peace

KINHASA: They hardly let anyone through at Ndolo. At the barriers of the domestic airport, soldiers only wave through travellers with their suitcases, as well as a truck loaded with steel beams which will be used to build an open-air church on the site. On Wednesday, Pope Francis will hold celebrate Mass here for the people of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The 86-year-old pontiff had planned to visit last year, but needed to postpone his trip for six months due to health reasons. Yellow minibuses, motorcycle taxis, jeeps and vans rush past the entrance to the airport. At the next intersection, Jean Marie Yenga has lined up his handmade beds on the ground. The 35-year-old — who studied education but hasn't been able to find a teaching job — now stands here in his worn polo shirt, selling furniture. The visit of a pope is a special occasion for devout Catholics, he said. "I really want to see the pope myself and take part in the Mass. But I don't know yet whether admission will be free for all of us."



counted more than 120 rebel groups in eastern Congo. One of them, the M23, recently went on the offensive near Goma, reigniting a conflict with neighboring Rwanda. A December report from the UN Group of Experts found "substantial evidence" of the involvement of the Rwandan Defence Force in the conflict. The pope will travel to Congo with a message of peace, said Etторе Balestrero, the Vatican's ambassador, or nuncio, in the country, who resides in a stately mansion in the government quarter. "The pope wants to comfort the Congolese who have suffered so much in recent years," Balestrero told DW. "He wants to heal the open wounds of this violence." Just last week, UN peacekeepers discovered mass graves with more than 50 victims in Ituri Province. In October, attackers killed a nun and others, in a hospital. The pope wants to condemn such massacres, Balestrero said. "He wants to ask God for forgiveness for the blood that has been shed and will be shed."
Travel to conflict-torn east ruled out Congo is one of the world's most Catholic countries. Vatican statistics show more than 52 million — about half of the population — are adherents of the religion. The Catholic Church supports more than 13,100 elementary schools in the country and 40% of health care facilities, said Balestrero. — DW

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

‘India’s role as important international partner for Russia will further increase’

NEW DELHI: India and Russia have completed 30 years of signing the treaty of friendship and cooperation. In a statement released by Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov said that India's role as an important partner for Russia will further increase. "Certainly, in the current circumstances, India's role as an important international partner for Russia will further increase. Much has been done to strengthen our partnership, but more needs to be done to meet the demands of global change," Denis Alipov said in the statement released by Russian Embassy in India. He further stated, "Helping on this path is the wisdom of past generations, who for many years incorporated the foundation and principles of the relationship into the bilateral legal basis. Certainly, the solid foundation in this regard is the 1993 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, according to which Russia is building ties with India in the interests of the people of both the countries, global peace, security and sustainable development." Russian Envoy Denis Alipov said that the treaty signed on January 28, 1993, marked the beginning of a new phase in the development of India-Russia ties. He stressed that the principles embodied in the treaty are the basis of the traditionally close coop-



eration between the two nations. Alipov called it important for bilateral and international agenda and stressed that the two nations support the principle of mutual respect, the development of equal and mutually beneficial relations, and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations, living in accordance with its Charter and international law, according to the statement released by the Russian Embassy in India. According to Russian Envoy Denis Alipov, the 1993 treaty marks the beginning of a comprehensive bilateral legal basis, which now includes about 100 intergovernmental and around 60 interdepartmental documents, as per the news report. He said that these pacts do not include agreements made between the non-state and private sectors. A large number of these documents en-

rich the distinctive achievements of the past era. Alipov stressed that these documents include the India-Russia Strategic Partnership of 2000, he said is one of the first such documents in the world, according to the statement. Alipov in the statement said that India and Russia continue to hold talks at various levels, including the annual leaders meeting. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have held a series of telephonic conversations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Russian-Indian political relations in 2022. PM Modi and Putin held meeting on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Samarkand in September last year. He stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-Russia sanctions did not have a major impact on

trade between two nations. Denis Alipov stated that India and Russia witnessed a huge rise in mutual trade, which as per Indian statistics is over USD 30 billion. A 36-fold increase in the import of Russian oil helped in reaching these figures. The cooperation between India and Russia in the military-technical sector remains huge. The production of T-90 tanks, Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter jets, AK-203 assault rifles, and other weapons in India is in full compliance with the requirements of the government program "Make in India," according to the statement released by Russian Embassy in India. Russian Envoy stated that the joint project on the creation of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles can be called ideal. Russia and India continue to work on all previously concluded agreements, including the pact for the supply of S-400 missile systems. Space, scientific and technological cooperation continue to remain a priority of India and Russia. The two nations continue to hold cooperation in the fields of quantum and biotechnology, artificial intelligence, fundamental and applied physics and medical science. According to Alipov, a key part of the multilateral partnership between Russia and India is extensive human relations. — ANI

ELECTIONS

Maldives president to run again after winning primary elections

MALE: Maldivian President Ibrahim Solih won the presidential primary election of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) on Saturday, reported avas.mv. This is the first time in the Maldives' history that a sitting president has run in a re-election primary. President Solih faced off against the party's President and Parliament Speaker Mohamed Nasheed, and has received

19,096 votes so far, compared to Nasheed's 12,005 votes. President Solih received 61 per cent of the votes cast, according to avas.mv. During his campaign, President Solih stated that the MDP would have a future in Maldives politics by collaborating with other parties. He has repeatedly stated that he will form a coalition with other parties, which he refers to as the "winning formula," in order to

continue the MDP's rule. Despite several challenges, President Solih's clear victory in Saturday's election secures him the presidential ticket of the Maldives' largest political party. Solih, 60, who assumed the presidency in 2018 for a five-year term, is the 7th President of the Republic of Maldives. He will run for the post of President in the September election. — ANI



MASS SHOOTING IN US

3 dead, 4 wounded in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES: Three people were killed and four were injured in a mass shooting on Saturday morning in an upscale neighbourhood in the Benedict Canyon area in Los Angeles, a US-based local daily reported.

Quoting local sources, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that 3 people were killed in a vehicle on the side of the street and four were wounded outside. The perpetrators of the incident have still not been caught. The condition of the wounded in the incident is critical.

Los Angeles police were on the scene and the fire department responded to the call at 2.55 am on Ellison Drive when the incident took place north of Beverly Hills. This is not the first time that such an incident has happened in the Monterey Park area. Earlier, a gunman killed 7 people at two farms around Half Moon Bay.

Notably, this mass shooting happened after US President Joe Biden on January 24 called on Congress to “act quickly” over the “Assault Weapons Ban” as California witnessed two mass shootings within 48 hours. — **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/2023/004	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SALALAH WASTE WATER SYSTEM, TREATED EFFLUENT SUPPLY NETWORK & WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AT HAREET	13/02/2023	09/03/2023	RO. 1,575.000

- 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 “supplier 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**



Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C
P.O.Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number: +968 23232521 - Fax: 23201183
www.disc.nama.om



TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) Announce the following Tender:

Sr. No	Tender No.	Tender Name	Last date for documents collection	Bid Submission Date	Grade	Tender Document's Fees (Including VAT) (RO)
1	40/2022 (Re-floated)	Supply of Spare Relays for OETC grid Stations at Dhofar Region.	09/02/2023	07/03/2023	Local Companies with Experience in Same Field, Have A Valid Commercial Registration.	26/250

Participation: Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity Apply on E-tendering

Buying the Tender: By E-Tendering System.

Fees: Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document. (Payment Through Bank Transfer)

The deadline for clarification: Before (21) Days from closing date.

Submission: The submission of hard copy will be only for Bid Bond & other documents by E-Tendering

Terms and conditions:

- No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope.
- The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from closing date.
- The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from closing date, addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC).
- Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted.
- OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.

Offer: The bid bond should be submitted in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.

Company Address: Muscat - Al Mawaleh, Road No: 2153 – Building No. 4230 Block No: 321 – **Contact Details: 92217856**

Email Website: tenders@omangrid.com
www.omangrid.com / link of E-Tendering System
<https://www.omangrid.com/en/Pages/Services.aspx>



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OMRAN SIGNS PACT

Continuing its efforts to boost local tourism, Oman Tourism Development Company (Oman Group) signed an agreement with the Office of the Al Buraimi Governor to develop several tourism projects at prominent destinations across the governorate.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,762.85 points, up by 0.24 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.01 per cent at 484.31 points. Al Batinah Power, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser.

NCSI DATA

Oman's production of oil rises by 9.6% in December 2022



MUSCAT: Oman's production of oil recorded a rise of 9.6 per cent till the end of December 2022 to stand at 388,434,800 barrels, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Separately, crude oil production increased by 12.8 per cent, while condensates production declined by 1.4 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

The average price of Oman's crude oil surged by 48.4 per cent by the end of December 2022 to reach \$95.4 per barrel compared to \$64.3

per barrel by the corresponding period in 2021. The average daily oil production increased by 9.6 per cent

Oman's exports of oil to Japan grew by 179.3 per cent by the end of December 2022 to stand at 11,697,100 barrels. Oil exports rose by 92.8 per cent to South Korea, followed by 7.8 per cent to India and 7.6 per cent to China.

Gas production (including imports) in Oman registered a growth of 3.7 per cent till the end of December 2022 to stand at 52,061.9 million cubic metres compared to 50,190.6 million cubic metres during the cor-

responding period in 2021.

The production of associated gas went up by 9.3 per cent to reach 10,064 million cubic metres. Moreover, the production of non-associated gas and imports recorded a rise of 2.5 per cent to stand at 41,997.9 million cubic metres.

Consumption of natural gas increased by 12.6 per cent in industrial areas and 7.4 per cent in industrial projects. Meanwhile, natural gas consumption declined by 1.6 per cent in oil fields and 1.4 per cent in electricity power plants. -**ONA**

FUNDING

Inma funds 144 SME projects

MUSCAT: The total number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Sultanate of Oman which is funded by the Inma Fund in 2022 stood at 144 projects in various economic sectors, with a total value of OMR20 million.

At the forefront of those sectors is industry (20 per cent), followed by services (19 per cent), transport and logistics (16 per cent), infrastructure (15 per cent), trade (10 per cent), tourism (9 per cent) and the oil and gas sector (8 per cent).

The projects funded by Inma in Oman's various governorates managed to boost their production lines and provided a number of products and services to the local market, which contributed to revitalising the economic movement and increasing cash flow. The industry sector, which received the largest share of funding from the Inma Fund in 2022, is considered one of the vital sectors in Oman that contribute to boosting the GDP. -**ONA**

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OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY (SAOG)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

To our valued shareholders,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of my colleagues and the Board of Directors of Oman Cables Industry SAOG (the Company) to its 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM). The performance of the Company and its subsidiaries (the Group) is below.

Board of Directors

The following are the Board of Directors of the Company:

- Mr. Fabio Romeo
- Mr. Mohamed Al Lawali
- Mrs. Laura Figni
- Mrs. Manal Al Ghazali
- Mr. Christian Raskin
- Mr. Yasser Al Rashdi
- Mr. Fabrizio Rutschmann

The Board and its committees conducted various meetings and directed the company operations.

Operational Review

The recovery on business environment is visible in 2022 in comparison with 2021.

The company continues to enhance its leadership in the Sultanate and in the Region while building a sustainable growth.

The growth was certainly driven by the strong effort in term of geographical penetration and product differentiation through mix improvement and innovative products launch. Profitability was encouraged by dynamic pricing, to reflect raw material price increase, by a continuous cost improvement through design-to-cost, and also by a strong focus on fixed cost management.

Sales

Sales revenues of the Parent Company for 2022 are RO 186,412,130 as compared to RO 169,520,043 in 2021. The sales of the Group were RO 258,598,075 compared to RO 227,419,221 in 2021.

Profitability

The Net Profit of the Parent Company for the year 2022 was RO 8,596,789 as compared to RO 4,749,493 in 2021. The increase in profitability is mainly due to cost control plans, product development and differentiation efforts.

The Net Profit of the Group in 2022 was RO 11,173,165 compared to RO 5,973,028 in 2021.

Subsidiary: Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC, Oman

During 2022 the Company enlarged its market perimeter, diversify its customer clusters and improved product mix, thereby improving the overall profitability.

The Company continued to focus extensively on controlling costs, while improving productivity. Despite the challenging scenario due to higher LME & Cost of working capital, the cash flow improved through better receivables management, while finance cost was in control. The Company has also managed to successfully pass on the increase in raw material and freight costs to the market.

Subsidiary: Associated Cables Private Limited, India (ACPL) (100% subsidiary)

The company has adopted since July 2022 several measures to drive ACPL to the "growth on the way to profitability", with the main focus on market by penetrating more geographic areas and diversifying customer clusters, a big focus on profitability and on Production by improving operation practices and design to cost.

Human Resources

Human Resources play a strategic role in the continuous development of the Group.

As a response to changing market dynamics, the Group is continuously promoting and developing its employee strength performance and talent. Physman continued to support in this area by deploying highly experienced professionals to the Company.

Health Safety & Environment

The Group is continuously focusing and executing various plans aimed at protecting the health and safety of the employees and striving to improve safety awareness. All employees have been introduced to the Safety Awareness Program. The lost time injury frequency rate (LTIFR) continues to be actively monitored for the benefit of the employees and Company.

Corporate Governance

The Company continues to follow high standards in Corporate Governance. The Board has three committees: Audit Committee, Strategic Committee and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.

The Company has internal systems and manuals to assist the management in the day-to-day operations. These systems and manuals are reviewed and updated and are in line with statutory requirements while meeting the organizations goals that gives transparency to all transactions.

The Company shares the information with all stakeholders and public in general through regular publication of its quarterly and annual results in printed media, on the MSX website and on the Company's website.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Company believes that giving back to the community is extremely important. As the Company has grown, so has its commitment to the society through a dedicated structured CSR plan of activities.

Future Outlook

The Gulf region is gradually recovering mainly due to steady oil prices. The Group is maintaining the focus on existing markets and is streamlining its operations to continue to deliver value to its stakeholders.

The management continues to focus on the dynamic and competitive market for cables by enlarging the product portfolio with high value-added cables in order to differentiate its offering. The emphasis on operational excellence is an important factor to the success of the Group. The strong focus on Sustainability is a priority, to continue to link the sultanate and the region to a sustainable future, by enabling the transition to green energy.

Dividend

Considering the guidelines issued by the Capital Market Authority, the liquidity requirements for the operational needs and the uninterrupted record of declaration of dividend, the Board proposes distributing a cash dividend to the shareholders.

Taking into account the financial performance of the Group, the Board recommends to distribute dividend equal to 56 baiza per share amounting to RO 5,023,200 of the face value of RO 0.100, to the shareholders registered as on the date of Annual General Meeting.

Directors Remuneration

The Board of Directors recommends to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to approve the total Directors' remuneration of RO 200,000 to be paid to the Board of Directors, in recognition and appreciation of their efforts towards their responsibilities and for

their continuous inputs, guidance and support to the management.

It may be noted that non-independent board members, being Physman employees, have waived their portion of remuneration for 2022 and kept the money for the Company to use.

Conclusion:

Our special thanks go to all our employees and to the management for their consistent hard work and wholehearted commitment to the Company. We consider our employee's fundamental to our success.

We acknowledge with thanks to our local and global customers, business associates, the finance community, local communities and all other stakeholders for their continued support to the Company.

We wish the best for our beloved Oman to further develop under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur in good health and longevity.

Fabio Romeo

Chairman

Oman Cables Industry (SAOG)

Date: 25 January 2023

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Group 2022 RO	Parent Company 2022 RO	Group 2021 RO	Parent Company 2021 RO
Revenue	258,598,075	186,412,130	227,419,221	169,520,043
Cost of sales	(233,306,973)	(167,666,737)	(210,569,231)	(157,695,238)
Gross profit	25,291,102	18,745,393	16,849,990	11,824,805
Other income	740,017	666,534	582,346	510,892
General and administrative expense	(5,286,269)	(4,398,705)	(5,528,200)	(4,506,747)
Selling and distribution expenses	(6,328,836)	(4,001,732)	(5,021,751)	(2,827,300)
Profit (loss) from operating activities	14,416,014	11,011,490	6,882,385	5,001,650
Finance income	321,819	305,476	73,704	103,206
Finance costs	(980,180)	(636,583)	(467,387)	(145,550)
Net allowances for credit loss	(488,371)	(484,523)	567,673	567,673
Profit (loss) before income tax, continuing operations	13,269,282	10,195,860	7,056,375	5,526,979
Income tax expense, continuing operations	(2,096,117)	(1,599,071)	(1,083,347)	(777,486)
Profit for the year	11,173,165	8,596,789	5,973,028	4,749,493
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent company	0.125	0.096	0.067	0.053

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Group 2022 RO	Parent Company 2022 RO	Group 2021 RO	Parent Company 2021 RO
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period	11,173,165	8,596,789	5,973,028	4,749,493
Other comprehensive income				
Other comprehensive income (loss) to be reclassified to statement of income in subsequent periods, net of tax				
Changes in fair value of cash flow hedges	(759,496)	(1,141,512)	(404,293)	(119,576)
Foreign currency translation	22,044	-	(8,299)	-
Other comprehensive (loss) for the year	(737,452)	(1,141,512)	(412,592)	(119,576)
Total comprehensive income for the year	10,435,713	7,455,277	5,560,436	4,629,917

	Group 2022 RO	Parent Company 2022 RO	Group 2021 RO	Parent Company 2021 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	23,218,435	14,909,386	25,398,821	16,428,362
Intangible assets other than goodwill	381,288	381,288	435,758	435,758
Right-of-use assets	3,297,071	2,375,095	3,473,450	2,493,850
Investment in subsidiaries	-	7,789,908	-	6,387,547
Deferred tax assets	13,995	-	85,741	-
Non-current financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	235,388	235,388	243,771	243,771
Financial assets at amortized cost	1,001,275	1,000,000	1,010,294	1,000,000
Total non-current assets	28,147,452	26,691,065	30,647,835	26,989,288
Current assets				
Current inventories	22,723,655	20,292,629	26,925,144	22,214,302
Trade and other receivables	62,709,417	48,358,937	63,263,604	47,810,418
Current derivative financial assets	1,487,050	1,487,050	2,829,673	2,829,673
Cash and cash equivalents	44,038,987	42,980,248	27,259,695	27,180,714
Total current assets	130,959,109	113,118,864	120,278,116	100,035,107
Total assets	159,106,561	139,809,929	150,925,951	127,024,395
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Issued capital	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000
Share premium	977,500	977,500	977,500	977,500
Statutory reserve	4,445,333	2,990,000	4,445,333	2,990,000
Other reserves	16,912,809	16,192,080	16,790,582	16,473,913
Retained earnings (accumulated Losses)	85,664,248	80,169,599	77,772,662	74,854,389
Total equity	116,969,890	109,299,179	108,956,077	104,265,802
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Non-current provisions for employee benefits	1,481,240	1,294,158	1,421,657	1,258,760
Non-current lease liabilities	3,404,751	2,457,081	3,464,572	2,529,525
Deferred tax liability	281,142	104,617	896,672	581,999
Total non-current liabilities	5,167,133	3,855,856	5,782,901	4,370,284
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	32,561,670	24,514,774	28,894,421	17,299,415
Borrowings, current	1,500,000	-	5,196,942	-
Current lease liabilities	256,278	216,533	261,643	171,643
Current derivative financial liabilities	93,302	-	571,607	-
Current tax liabilities	2,558,288	1,923,587	1,262,360	917,251
Total current liabilities	36,969,538	26,654,894	36,186,973	18,388,309
Total liabilities	42,136,671	30,510,750	41,969,874	22,758,593
Total equity and liabilities	159,106,561	139,809,929	150,925,951	127,024,395
Net assets per share	1.304	1.218	1.215	1.162

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Al Batinah Power, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,762.85 points, up by 0.24 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.01 per cent at 484.31 points. Al Batinah Power, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Phoenix Power were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 410 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR0.88 million, with more than 9.7 million shares changing hands. Out of 34 traded securities, 14 advanced, 5 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR94,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR50,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR44,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,643.97 points, up 0.23 per cent.

Prices of Global Financial Investments, United Finance, National Finance, Sohar International Bank, and Bank Muscat were up by 3.57 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.36 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments and Ominvest were down by 4.00 per cent and 0.48 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,865.57 points, up 0.41 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement, National Aluminium and Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 4.00 per cent, 3.23 per cent and 1.17 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.94 per cent before closing at 1,692.81 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power, SMN Power Holding, and Al Maha Marketing were up by 10.00 per cent, 6.67 per cent, 5.26 per cent, 4.00 per cent, and 1.33 per cent respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah and Shell Oman Marketing were down by 1.27 per cent and 0.91 per cent respectively. — United Securities

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INDECIES							
Index.....	High.....	Low.....	Value.....	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX.....	4,762.85	4,749.75	4,762.85	4,751.49	11.36	0.24	
FINANCIAL INDEX.....	7,643.97	7,628.90	7,643.97	7,626.51	17.46	0.23	
Industry Index.....	5,866.28	5,841.88	5,865.57	5,841.88	23.69	0.41	
Services Index.....	1,692.81	1,675.11	1,692.81	1,676.99	15.82	0.94	
MSX Shariah Index.....	484.77	484.28	484.31	484.28	0.04	0.01	
MSX TR INDEX.....	6,013.91	5,997.37	6,013.91	5,999.56	14.34	0.24	
FINANCIAL TR IDX.....	7,998.56	7,982.79	7,998.56	7,980.29	18.27	0.23	
SERVICES TR IDX.....	1,795.84	1,777.07	1,795.84	1,779.06	16.78	0.94	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....	6,107.52	6,082.12	6,106.79	6,082.12	24.67	0.41	
Trading Summary							
Volume.....	Turnover.....	Trades.....	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
9,708,847.....	881,974.....	410.....	23,589,849,561.....	14.....	5.....	15.....	34.....

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PRN VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	688,198	40,364	30	0.057	0.060	0.057	0.058	0.056	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	11,600,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	46,143	42,046	9	0.900	0.912	0.900	0.912	0.900	0.012	1.333	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.100	62,928,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	20,000	6,920	2	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.342	0.004	1.170	0.346	0.308	0.346	0.100	76,120,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	100,000	10,270	4	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.102	0.104	0.100	472,776,416
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN	50,000	6,300	3	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.125	0.001	0.800	0.126	0.126	0.130	0.100	29,862,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	174,221	47,971	26	0.275	0.276	0.275	0.276	0.275	0.001	0.364	0.276	0.276	0.278	0.100	2,071,765,589
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	16,203	1,896	4	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.116	0.118	0.100	16,380,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	51,999	7,540	2	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.145	0.100	43,965,977
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	134,645	127,044	10	0.948	0.948	0.940	0.948	0.948	0.000	0.000	0.948	0.944	0.948	0.100	71,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	59,910	26,241	4	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.424	0.438	0.100	285,113,573
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	610	262	2	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.430	0.440	0.100	23,650,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	12,021	5,001	1	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.418	-0.002	-0.478	0.416	0.416	0.000	0.100	278,040,017
Total	12	1,333,950	321,856	97												

Parallel Market																
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	56,050	1,719	5	0.030	0.033	0.030	0.033	0.030	0.003	10.000	0.033	0.031	0.033	0.100	22,271,285
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	149,461	4,637	8	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	0.030	0.002	6.667	0.032	0.027	0.032	0.100	22,861,003
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	4,433,867	258,479	141	0.058	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.057	0.003	5.263	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	127,638	16,081	15	0.125	0.130	0.125	0.130	0.125	0.005	4.000	0.130	0.130	0.134	0.100	26,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	343,210	17,809	16	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.050	0.002	4.000	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.100	10,381,051
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,057,000	127,469	68	0.063	0.063	0.061	0.062	0.060	0.002	3.333	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	21,646,953
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	21,470	1,389	5	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.062	0.002	3.226	0.064	0.064	0.066	0.100	2,148,573
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	1,500	180	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.117	0.003	2.564	0.120	0.110	0.128	0.100	64,947,654
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	92,000	9,193	15	0.100	0.102	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	8,500,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,071	124	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100	18,428,780
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	7,395	547	2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.079	0.100	9,018,750
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	10,000	800	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.081	0.083	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	120,487	11,808	6	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	76,305	6,860	7	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,444	242	2	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.095	0.099	0.100	15,399,490
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	500,000	59,000	3	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.115	0.125	0.100	50,122,885
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	455	397	2	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.880	-0.008	-0.909	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.100	82,840,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	290,000	22,620	7	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.079	-0.001	-1.266	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	74,456,612
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	3,880	308	2	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.087	-0.007	-8.046	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	37,694,911
Total	19	8,295,233	539,662	308												

RBI DATA

India's forex reserves hit about six-month high of \$573.7 billion

NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by whopping \$1.727 billion to \$573.727 billion in the week ending on January 20, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest data.

The reserves hit about six-month highs with the latest two consecutive weeks' rise, the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement Bulletin said.

During the week that ended on January 13, the reserves rose by whopping \$10.417 billion to \$572.0 billion, earlier data showed.

According to RBI's latest data, India's foreign currency assets, the biggest component of the forex reserves, rose by \$839 million to \$506.358 billion.

Gold reserves rose by \$821 million to \$43.712 billion.

At the start of last year - 2022, the overall forex reserves were at about \$633 billion. —ANI

AWARENESS

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A forum on maximising awareness about cyber security was held by Oman Data Park and Cisco Ingram kicked off recently at Novotel Al Seeb Hotel, in the presence of a number of representatives of governmental entities, private sector companies, interested parties and guests.

The forum reviewed a number of working papers and discussions on opportunities to maximize cyber security. Maximizing cyber security through assumed breach assessments and through Cisco cloud security, Cisco App Dynamics to transform the applications and business with App Dynamic's real-time performance monitoring, as well as by using other leading applications in which Oman Data Park deals.

The organisation of this forum comes within the keenness of Oman Data Park in the field of



information technology, cloud services, hosting and virtual data centre services in the Sultanate of Oman, to continue its active role in contributing to the digital transformation process in the Sultanate of Oman.

Commenting on this event, Engineer Maqbool Al-Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Data Park said, "Our organising of such kind of events

contributes to the consolidation of Oman Data Park's rank as a leading company in cyber security services while it continues to provide pioneering and effective smart security solutions to limit the electronic hackings, while its capabilities are supported by a set of preventive and experiential smart cyber security services to protect its customers from electronic attacks."

Al-Wahaibi added: This focus of Oman Data Park on cyber security activities will also lead to an increase in awareness among public and private entities on the importance of hosting their data within the Sultanate of Oman to avoid the risks of hosting them outside the country, while Oman Data Park is proud of its capabilities and equipment that are able to repel more than (8000) daily electronic attacks on various institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

BOOSTING LOCAL TOURISM

Omran signs agreement to develop tourism projects in Al Buraimi

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing its efforts to boost local tourism, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) signed an agreement with the Office of the Al Buraimi Governor to develop several tourism projects at prominent destinations across the governorate.

The agreement was signed by Sayyid Dr Hamad bin Ahmed Al Busaidi, the Governor of Al Buraimi, and Eng Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi, Chairman of Omran Group Board of Directors, with senior officials from both parties in attendance. The agreement is part of Omran Group's efforts to enhance partnerships with various stakeholders and achieve its tourism development objectives in the Sultanate.

Under the agreement, Omran Group will provide technical support and oversee operations for the Al Buraimi Gate and Al Abila Park. The first project, Al Buraimi Gate, will serve as a platform for interaction between visitors and sub-activities through interactive digital panels and a display screen. The screen will display unique material and showcase the cultural history of the Governorate of Buraimi. Al Abila Park will cover an area of over 181,000 square metres.

The project aims to fulfil the desires of tourists, visitors, and residents of the Sultanate, showcase



ing the region's rich beauty and creating a fun and relaxing recreational area for the community.

Speaking on the agreement, Sayyid Dr Hamad bin Ahmed Al Busaidi said: "We are pleased to partner with Omran Group and establish significant projects that stimulate tourism growth in the governorate. These projects will enrich the tourism facilities and services for visitors. Recently, the Governorate of Buraimi implemented several development projects designed to attract visitors from across the Sultanate and advance economic growth in both the governorate and the Sultanate. These efforts will create many business opportunities for local companies

and SMEs in the governorate."

"Omran Group is continuously working to strengthen collaborations with stakeholders to achieve its comprehensive tourism development goals. The group is dedicated to developing the tourism sector in various governorates of the Sultanate by creating high-end tourism projects. By developing the tourism sector and collaborating with local entities, Omran Group aims to maximise the sector's contribution to the government's economic diversification plans," said Eng Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi.

It is worth mentioning that Omran Group is exploring additional tourism development opportuni-

ties in partnership with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and various stakeholders. This is part of the group's ongoing efforts to improve the tourism sector's competitiveness and create unique offerings in line with the National Tourism Strategy 2040.

Omran Group plans to organise tourism activities at various locations in collaboration with their respective governor's offices. These projects will be carried out to international standards to attract diverse groups and boost local tourism. Such initiatives align with the group's goals of promoting local tourism, maximising local value, and achieving social and economic benefits.

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Obesity is linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular illnesses and type 2 diabetes, it is a global public health concern. Around half of the adults in England are obese, and 63 per cent of those are regarded to be over a healthy weight. When they leave elementary school, one in three kids is obese



RESEARCH EXPLAINS WHY HIGH FAT DIET COULD REDUCE BRAIN'S ABILITY TO REGULATE FOOD INTAKE

The development of medicines for the condition may be aided by a better understanding of the brain's function and the intricate mechanisms that underlie overeating, a behaviour that can result in weight gain and obesity.

Because obesity is linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular illnesses and type 2 diabetes, it is a global public health concern. Around half of the adults in England are obese, and 63 per cent of those are regarded to be over a healthy weight. When they leave elementary school, one in three kids is obese.

Dr Kirsteen Browning, Penn State College of Medicine, US, said, "Calorie intake seems to be regulated in the short-term by astrocytes. We found that a brief exposure (three to five days) to a high fat/calorie diet has the greatest effect on astrocytes, triggering the normal signalling pathway to control the stomach. Over time, astrocytes seem to desensitise to high-fat food. Around 10-14 days of eating a high fat/calorie diet, astrocytes seem to fail to react and

the brain's ability to regulate calorie intake seems to be lost. This disrupts the signalling to the stomach and delays how it empties."

Astrocytes initially react when high-fat/calorie food is ingested. Their activation triggers the release of gliotransmitters, chemicals (including glutamate and ATP) that excite nerve cells and enable normal signalling pathways to stimulate neurons that control how the stomach works.

This ensures the stomach contracts correctly to fill and empty in response to food passing through the digestive system. When astrocytes are inhibited, the cascade is disrupted. The decrease in signalling chemicals leads to a delay in digestion because the stomach doesn't fill and empty appropriately.

The vigorous investigation used behavioural observation to monitor food intake in rats (N=205, 133 males, 72 females) which were fed a control or high fat/calorie diet for one, three, five or 14 days. This was combined with pharmacological and specialist genetic approaches (both in vivo

and in vitro) to target distinct neural circuits. Enabling the researchers to specifically inhibit astrocytes in a particular region of the brainstem (the posterior part of the brain that connects the brain to the spinal cord), so they could assess how individual neurons behaved to studying rats' behaviour when awake.

Human studies will need to be carried out to confirm if the same mechanism occurs in humans. If this is the case, further testing will be required to assess if the mechanism could be safely targeted without disrupting other neural pathways.

The researchers have plans to further explore the mechanism. Dr Kirsteen Browning said, "We have yet to find out whether the loss of astrocyte activity and the signalling mechanism is the cause of overeating or that it occurs in response to the overeating. We are eager to find out whether it is possible to reactivate the brain's apparent lost ability to regulate calorie intake. If this is the case, it could lead to interventions to help restore calorie regulation in humans."

“

Human studies will need to be carried out to confirm if the same mechanism occurs in humans. If this is the case, further testing will be required.

ROUND-UP

Cadillac’s CT5 line-up dazzles with its athletic styling, superior performance

The CT5 – the biggest of Cadillac’s sedans – owes its enduring appeal to its makeover as a luxurious American blend of design, performance and comfort, while incorporating the latest automotive technologies

MUSCAT: Combining luxury and sport, the Cadillac CT5 is a powerhouse of a sedan that takes performance to the next level. Its bold, expressive design, striking cabin and exceptional performance have earned it legions of devoted enthusiasts across the world, and in Oman as well – fans who see in the CT5 a reflection of their own persona as high-achievers.

The CT5 – the biggest of Cadillac’s sedans – owes its enduring appeal to its makeover as a luxurious American blend of design, performance and comfort, while incorporating the latest automotive technologies. The result is a luxury sedan that exudes athleticism, sophistication and confidence, while ensuring a distinctive driving experience.

Available in four trims – Luxury, Premium Luxury, Sport and V-Series – the CT5 is powered by a turbocharged propulsion portfolio that also leverages Cadillac’s award-winning rear wheel-drive (RWD) architecture.

The CT5’s athleticism, amplified by bold lines running along the length of the vehicles, is a dominant feature across the line-up. Unique fascias and grilles distinguish the Luxury and Premium Luxury models from the Sport and V-Series variants, which come with rocker extensions, rear spoiler and exclusive performance-design wheels. But standard across the trims are Cadillac’s signature vertical lights at all four corners.

Under the hood is a 2.0L Twin-Scroll Turbo engine standard



on Luxury, Premium Luxury and Sport, that is paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission system that generates 237 horsepower and 258 lb-feet of torque. Standard for the CT5-V but optional for the Premium Luxury trim is a 3.0-liter twin-turbo V6 that generates 335 horsepower in the Premium Luxury model and 360 horsepower in the CT5-V.

Equally striking is the interior

of the cabin as is evident from the craftsmanship and choice of premium materials used. Further, in keeping with the driver-centric design and layout of the cabin, all of the displays are thoughtfully laid out on the panels in front. Also, as one of the most spacious sedans on the road, the CT5 comes with 37.9 inches of legroom for rear passengers and 11.9 cubic feet of cargo space in the trunk.

hand, offers an elevated, more engaging driving experience that’s rooted in Cadillac’s 17-year legacy of V-Series performance. Highlights include: 10-speed automatic transmission, Electronic limited-slip rear differential, Standard RWD, Performance Traction Management and Customizable Driver Mode Selector, among other features.

As with all models from the Cadillac stable, the CT5 comes with a suite of safety and driver assistance features to ensure an unmatched degree of motoring confidence. Features range from Automatic Emergency Braking to Vehicle Diagnostics. High-end technology also ensures that the CT5 stays connected when on the road. This is enabled by a 10-inch diagonal HD color touchscreen display and Rotary Infotainment Controller with jog functionality, installed alongside a 12-inch diagonal HD instrument cluster that offers multiple configurations and display options to better suit the driver’s needs.

Cadillac premium care program includes 4 years/100,000 km warranty coverage, 5 years/100,000 km service and maintenance coverage and 4 years roadside assistance coverage. Cadillac CT5 models are now available at EMI starting from OMR209 onwards.

Leading automotive firm OTE Group is the exclusive distributor of Cadillac models in Oman.

PROMOTION

Buy Toyota Genuine Parts and get a chance to win exciting prizes



MUSCAT: Toyota Oman has recently launched a rewarding campaign for customers buying Toyota Genuine Parts across all branches of Saud Bahwan Automotive.

As per the campaign, customers who make purchases above OMR10 get a chance to scratch a coupon & win exciting prizes. The prizes include 3 iPhone 13 mobile phones, 4 Huawei Smart Watches, 3 HP Laptops and 8000 complimentary gifts.

The campaign will last until February 28 and is available at all Saud Bahwan Group retail outlets

across Oman. (Conditions apply).

Toyota Genuine Parts always offer Toyota customers complete assurance & a total peace of mind adding to making their journeys as well as vehicle ownership experiences an absolute delight. Toyota Genuine Parts are specifically designed to fit your Toyota vehicle. They are engineered to the same exacting standards as the original parts that were originally available with your brand new Toyota. Counterfeit parts, on the other hand, may not meet the same standards leading to poor

performance and possible safety hazards.

When you buy Toyota Genuine Parts you are sure of high quality products that are available with complete assurance of Saud Bahwan Group. The group has made investments in establishing a nationwide network of parts outlets, ensuring that no matter where a customer may be, he is always close to a Toyota parts outlet. Apart from this, a well-trained and customer-friendly staff, serve customers with a smile while ensuring customers always find the

right fit for their Toyota.

Saud Bahwan Group’s ultra-modern Toyota Parts Distribution Centre (PDC) equipped with the latest tools & equipment for optimum parts storage ensures up to 98 % parts availability for customers, anywhere in Oman.

At the core of Toyota parts operation is the customer focussed approach which is rated highly by Toyota Motor Corporation consistently over the years.

Customers in need of Toyota Genuine Parts can visit any Toyota Parts outlet anywhere in country today.

2023 MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE REVIEW AWARDS

Al Ahlia Insurance reigns supreme as 10-time Oman Insurer of Year

MUSCAT: Al Ahlia Insurance, one of the leading insurers in the Sultanate has landed its 10th award by winning the ‘Oman Insurer’ award at Mena Insurance Awards 2023. The ceremony was held in Dubai on January 25, marking its 6th consecutive win of the award since 2018.

Over the past 12 months, Al Ahlia has delivered a stand-out overall performance in Oman. Despite a challenging period of post-COVID adjustments, many innovative projects have been delivered to enhance the customer journey.

Some of these propositions were a chatbot that collects all the documents using automated responses, guided by artificial intelligence,

to assist customers in their policy purchase and claims registrations. Other propositions also included enhancements to the services available on the website, which include the ability to transfer your policy online and a ‘one step policy renewal’ portal.

These customer centric solutions have been a part of why the insurer has been constantly recognized at prestigious awards such as the International Business Magazine, where it won “Most Innovative Insurer – Oman”.

“We are honoured to have been selected as “Oman Insurer 2023”. Winning this prestigious award 10 times is testimony that we are consistently challenging ourselves



to enhance our customer experience and utilise the best talents and technologies to enable that goal. Of course, this would not have been possible without the dedication of

our employees and the loyalty and trust of our customers,” said Hanaa Al Hinai, CEO - Al Ahlia Insurance.

With over three decades of expertise, Al Ahlia insurance has

established itself as Oman’s trustworthy Insurer. It has launched several industry-first initiatives and is committed to improving the overall customer experience by tapping into insights and investing in technology to provide customers with unmatched service support.

The MENA Insurance Review Award winners are selected by an independent panel of regional industry experts. The panel works to independently review and reward insurers who showcase a strong business model, wide-reaching network and distribution, superior marketing initiatives, innovative product development, and exceptional customer service.

Established in 1985, Al Ahlia

Insurance Co. is one of Oman’s longest-serving non-life insurance companies. Al Ahlia offers a wide range of products and services in the retail sector including Motor, Travel, Personal Accident, and home products.

With over 20 broker & affinity partners, 17 own branches, 11 border offices, 37 agent offices, a dedicated call center, an inbound toll-free number, and a convenient online platform; the company provides its customers with unmatched sales and service support. It also offers a wide range of commercial insurance products including Property, Casualty, Motor, Construction, Marine, Specialty lines, and SME solutions.

PREMIUM FLEET



Audi heralds Sayarti, Kempinski into luxury of electric vehicle

MUSCAT: Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors has announced that Sayarti has become the first leasing and rental company to add an electric vehicle to its lineup in Oman.

Sayarti added Audi e-tron Sportback, first full-electric model from the brand to its premium fleet of rental cars. In addition, Kempinski Muscat became the first hotel in Oman to lease Audi e-tronSportback from Sayarti.

The fully electric Audi e-tron Sportback model equipped with an e-quattro all-wheel drive system, intelligent technology, and advanced charging capabilities will now be available to renters and leasers at Sayarti, ZubairGroup’s leasing and rental company.

Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors Oman, was present at a ceremony where representatives of Sayarti (ZubairGroup) handed over the key to Carsten Weigandt, general manager of Kempinski Hotel Muscat.

Christian Nehme said: “We are excited that Audi fans will now be able to rent or lease Audi e-tronSportback from Sayarti. The Audi e-tron Sportback is unmatched in combining all-electric performance and luxury. It is a great way to experience Audi’s electric future.

Syed Sohraab Hasnain, Head of operations of Sayarti said, “Adding Audi e-tronSportback to our fleet gives our clients a chance to taste of all-electric German luxury. We are thrilled to add a car which combines the space and comfort of a typical luxury class automobile with a range suitable for everyday use, catapulting the driver into a new era with the electric all-wheel drive.”

A spokesperson for Kempinski Hotel Muscat said, “We remain committed to promoting best practices in sustainability, from community engagement to environmental conservation. Leasing an electric vehicle is part of our efforts since they are a smart choice for the environment.”

ROUND-UP

Meethaq Islamic Banking unveils Ikram package for pensioners

It was introduced after studying and understanding the needs of retirees who were earlier working in government and private institutions

MUSCAT: In line with its strategies aimed at sustaining the country's progress, development and improving financial inclusion for

different segments of society, and offering the best Islamic banking services, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has launched the Ikram package for pensioners, which is a specialised package of Sharia-compliant financing products with attractive profit rates catering to Omani pensioners. Ikram package was introduced after studying and understanding the needs of retirees who were earlier working in government and private institutions. Committed to innovation in its services and products and offering the best services possible, Meethaq developed the Ikram pensioner package to offer a full package of Islamic financial services. It is designed to provide tailored financial facilities and services that meet its customers'

needs and aspirations. Meethaq's current and new customers will be able to benefit from the wide range of services this package offers, including exclusive offers related to but not limited to auto, goods, personal and home finance offers, credit card offers and discounts at selected outlets and personalised campaigns. Customers who wish to benefit from this package can apply by visiting their nearest Meethaq branch. Customers can get further details about the new package offers by contacting the call centre 24/7 at 24656666. Meethaq is continuously introducing new financial products and services targeting different sections of society in line with the changing needs of its customers and the nation's progress and development.

On this occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager, Retail Banking – Meethaq, said: "We are pleased to launch this package, focusing on providing specialised services for pensioners. The Ikram package has been developed after carefully studying and understanding Meethaq's customers' needs and listening to their comments and feedback on the type of services that best suit their needs and aspirations. Meethaq will continue developing its products and services to meet the needs of customers and help them achieve their financial goals. We take this opportunity to thank our valued customers for their trust in Meethaq products and services." With its innovative Sharia-based products, Meethaq's services witnessed a remarkable rise,

especially with the new offers and financial facilities which are designed to meet customers' aspirations. Meethaq Islamic Banking continued working on its strategy to launch innovative services and products to enhance customers' experience. It must be noted that every Meethaq product goes through the process of Shari'a compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman. Meethaq's adoption of AAOFI standards (Accounting & Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions) further distinguishes Meethaq Islamic banking practices in terms of the standardisation of its products and services complementing its world-class Islamic banking experience.



3-BEDROOM SKY GARDEN PENTHOUSES

Muscat Bay announces New Year offer for Sky Garden Penthouses

MUSCAT: Since its launch, the 3-bedroom Sky Garden Penthouses at Muscat Bay have garnered a tremendous amount of interest from local as well as international buyers. The penthouses are idyllically located within Muscat Bay, which is the Sultanate's first fully integrated tourism complex that offers an unparalleled lifestyle alongside a vibrant community of residents from different parts of the globe. In addition to the exceptional lifestyle, these properties now also offer a more convenient way to become a penthouse owner. Muscat Bay has now launched an exclusive New Year offer where you can move in by paying just 10% with a 3-year payment plan. Commenting on the offer, Vice President at Muscat Bay, Jawad Sajid said "Our 3-Bedroom Sky Garden Penthouses with floating private gardens & plunge pools are fully ready for customers to move in. The penthouses have been carefully designed for owners to have access to the best of everything that Muscat Bay has to offer as a lifestyle and luxury destination. This offer too is our way of reaching out to a wider customer base that aspires to be a part of the Muscat Bay community. In addition to the lifestyle experiences, customers have also admired its pristine location and the spectacular views. The properties are a great place to celebrate life and are also a lucrative long-term investment option for buyers who



choose to have fresh air, stunning nature and luxury amenities right on their doorstep." Muscat Bay's iconic skyline and lush greenery become your everyday view from the 3-Bedroom Sky Garden Penthouses. Bookings for these freehold properties are open to all nationalities and owners will be offered lifetime residency. This is in addition to an array of exclusive benefits like park view, waterfront view, a private pool and a garden, Residents Club ben-

efits, access to Jumeirah Muscat Bay Resort, absolute privacy and a friendly community. The penthouses are located close to the commercial area called the Village Square in a gated community that has 24/7 security, call center and helpdesk. Jumeirah Muscat Bay, the 5-star beach resort hotel that was recently inaugurated is easily accessible from the penthouses. The hotel promises breathtaking sea views from every room and villa,

along with signature wellness treatments, and exceptional dining experiences. Muscat Bay has expanded its offices to the Shatti Waterfront, Qurum, and Mall of Oman along with its head office at the Experience Center in Qantab. Idyllically placed between the mighty Al Hajar Mountains and the pristine beaches of the Gulf of Oman, Muscat Bay is a truly global community that brings together individuals and families from all parts of the world.

AUTOMOTIVE FASHION HOUSE

MHD ACERE brings Chelsea Truck Company to Oman

MUSCAT: MHD ACERE, one of the country's leading automotive distributors and among the leading business houses, brings another unique offering to Oman, by adding The Chelsea Truck Company services under its Auto Expert business vertical. The Chelsea Truck Company was founded in 2010 by Afzal Kahn, an acclaimed British designer and passionate car connoisseur. The bespoke vehicle manufacturer provides the most discerning motorists, who want something different, with the opportunity to design their vehicle from the ground up. They design and handcraft each vehicle, earning them a reputation for unrivalled quality and craftsmanship. The care and attention to detail far exceed anything mass-produced with each car designed to be an extension of the owner's personality. As the name suggests, The Chelsea Truck Company do not just deal with any cars; their expert craftsmen focus their efforts exclusively on three SUV models –Land Rover Defender, Mercedes G-Class and Jeep Wrangler. The decision to limit the company's scope allows them to concentrate on just three models thus making them the experts in their field. This has elevated them to becoming the firm of choice for those looking for a bespoke edition of these cars.



Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE said "Oman's automotive connoisseurs, who choose the services of The Chelsea Truck Company, won't just be driving a car, rather they will be driving an object of fashion. We don't see The Chelsea Truck Company, as just a designer of personalised cars, but as an automotive fashion house – one that will offer our discerning customers something very special and unique that has not been offered in Oman before." AutoExpert was launched to fulfil the desire of customers who wanted more from their vehicles. Their extensive range of products is designed to improve the look and performance and their offerings include Off-road accessories; performance enhancement products; car care; state-of-the-art workshops; window tinting and paint protection solutions. The addition of The Chelsea Truck Company will now make AutoExpert stand head and shoulders above the competition.

SEASON OF LOVE

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection



MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest global jewellery retailer with a strong retail network of over 300 outlets spread across 10 countries, has launched a special collection of diamond and 18K gold jewellery named 'Heart to Heart' to celebrate the

season of love. The 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection showcases exclusive heart-shaped jewellery that will cater to the increasing demand for such jewellery during this period. With over 150 designs symbolising love in various ways, this unique jewellery collection serves as a perfect gift to express love to dear ones. With prices starting from just OMR 100, there is something to fit everyone's budget. Apart from pendants in diamonds and 18k, customers can also choose heart-shaped, beautifully crafted bangles, bracelets and rings to gift their loved ones. Additionally, the brand has also launched heart-shaped solitaire

rings, which are available in different centre stone sizes and specifications. The diamond jewellery featured in the collection includes designs studded predominantly with red and multicoloured stones as well. This offer will be available across all outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds until February 14. Customers can also buy this unique collection online. 'It is the season of love and there is no gift more thoughtful than jewellery to be given to your loved ones as it is the most preferred gift by women and its charm lasts for a lifetime. Additionally, the special 'Heart to Heart' collection we have launched in diamond and 18k gold jewellery are classic designs that

can be used at any point in time, serving as an heirloom that can be passed onto generations and an ideal investment as well," said Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director – International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds. 'Love needs no reason' is the key message of the campaign, with all communication reflecting the concept that although there may be a million reasons to love someone, there needn't be any particular reason to make them feel special. Apart from these, Malabar Gold & Diamonds also showcases an incredible collection of unique designs in gold and diamond jewellery to suit the tastes and budgets of its different customers.



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ROUND-UP

Splash’s Basics collection takes you through fashion season

Elegant, experimental, pared-back yet elevated— the collection has all the mainstay items to take you through the fashion season

MUSCAT: How can you make your everyday style in 2023 truly timeless? The new Splash Basics collection is the answer to this million-dollar question on every fashionista’s mind. Elegant, experimental, pared-back yet elevated— the collection has all the mainstay items to take you through the fashion season. While the meticulously curated collection includes classics like the crisp white tee and nautical-inspired tops to lay the foundation of your wardrobe overhaul, it takes a daring turn with colours and silhouettes that are seldom seen in essential wear. Think boxy, breezy silhouettes and yellows and lilacs gracing your office looks.

These are clothes that transcend fickle trends and become investment pieces in building a solid rotation wardrobe that lasts you years. The best part? The collection is 100% sustainable and made with fabrics that speak volumes about comfort and elegance. The affordably priced collection includes key pieces like collared shirts, nautical tees, nightwear, co-ord sets, dresses, and trousers taking center stage in the women’s collection. The palette embraces fresh hues like sage, beige, fuchsia, white, lavender, and blue to make every day dressing a joyous affair. The men’s collection hits the fashion bullseye with smartly tailored fits in season-favorite colors like



yellow, beige, and soft blues. With tees, shirts, jackets, trousers, polos, and limited edition co-ord sets – the collection forays a sartorial shift in men’s dressing with a fresh take on masculine silhouettes. Discover the all-new and exciting Basics collection at Splash stores, Splash at Centrepoint, and online at [Splashfashions.com](https://www.splashfashions.com).

BRAND FROM ISTANBUL

FIRST EDITION

Atelier Rebul opens its first boutique store in Oman

MUSCAT: Award-winning brand from Istanbul, Atelier Rebul has opened its maiden store at the Mall of Oman in Baushar, marking the brand’s debut into the luxurious scent expertise in Oman. Inaugurated in the presence of Her Highness Sayyida Hujaija Jai-fer Saif Al Said, who attended the opening as the esteemed Guest of Honour, Atelier Rebul boutique will house over 220 products in their unique range of authentic collections. Established in 1895, the brand caters to a wide range of audience with fragrances, home scents, skin care products, home accessories and luxurious gift sets. The store is located at the L2 floor in the Mall of Oman. Atelier Rebul, which opened its doors over a century ago, commenced operations as a pharmacy in Pera, Istanbul by French pharmacist Jean Cesar Reboul, before



expanding into the scents and fragrances. The scent expert brand carries this deep-rooted brand tradition of selecting the finest quality ingredients in most sophisticated scientific formulas from Istanbul to the world. Rebul Pharmacy’s reputation

stands strong and reverberates into the core operating ethos of Atelier Rebul reinterpreted cosmetic atelier today – upholding quality standards and a blend of natural ingredients in its recipe. Customers in Oman – through the latest state-of-the-art Atelier

Rebul store – can experience a wide range of scents, all of which evoke timeless expertise, innovation, and sustainable production practices (including animal cruelty-free and vegan products). Atelier Rebul Co-CEO Nuket Filiba said: “Atelier Rebul is a fragrance expertise brand representing more than 125-year-old pharmaceutical heritage. Our essence is based on our founder Jean Cesar Reboul’s slogan “Quality and Trust Are the Most Significant Legacy of Rebul Family”. Therefore, we carry this deep-rooted brand tradition of selecting the finest quality ingredients in most sophisticated scientific formulas from Istanbul to the world. Currently operating in more than 50 exclusive stores globally, as Atelier Rebul, we are excited to expand our brand through our partnership with Action Trading Oman which is one of the leading players in the region.”

The Myriad Muscat’s Winter Souq tomorrow

MUSCAT: The Myriad Muscat is coming up with its first edition of Winter Souq on Tuesday, January 31 from 5pm to 10pm at The Myriad Muscat Boulevard in Al Khoud. The event is curated to provide a platform for our residents to be entrepreneurs. One can enjoy a dreamy winter evening while shopping from a range of winter pop-up stalls of accessories, fashion, face art, henna, and much more in this new chic location in Muscat. Along with this, visitors will get to enjoy some of the best food counters that will offer delicious snacks and mouth-watering local treats. Myriad Muscat welcomes guests to shop with friends and family in our cosy seating area and snow-themed outdoor area.



The Myriad Muscat is Oman’s first all-female living community. It strives to incorporate comfort and security into a modern living environment that is dedicated to women. We understand that living away from home can be challenging, which is why we take great care to provide female students, trainees, and working women with an environment that is safe, secure, clean, friendly, and inspiring.

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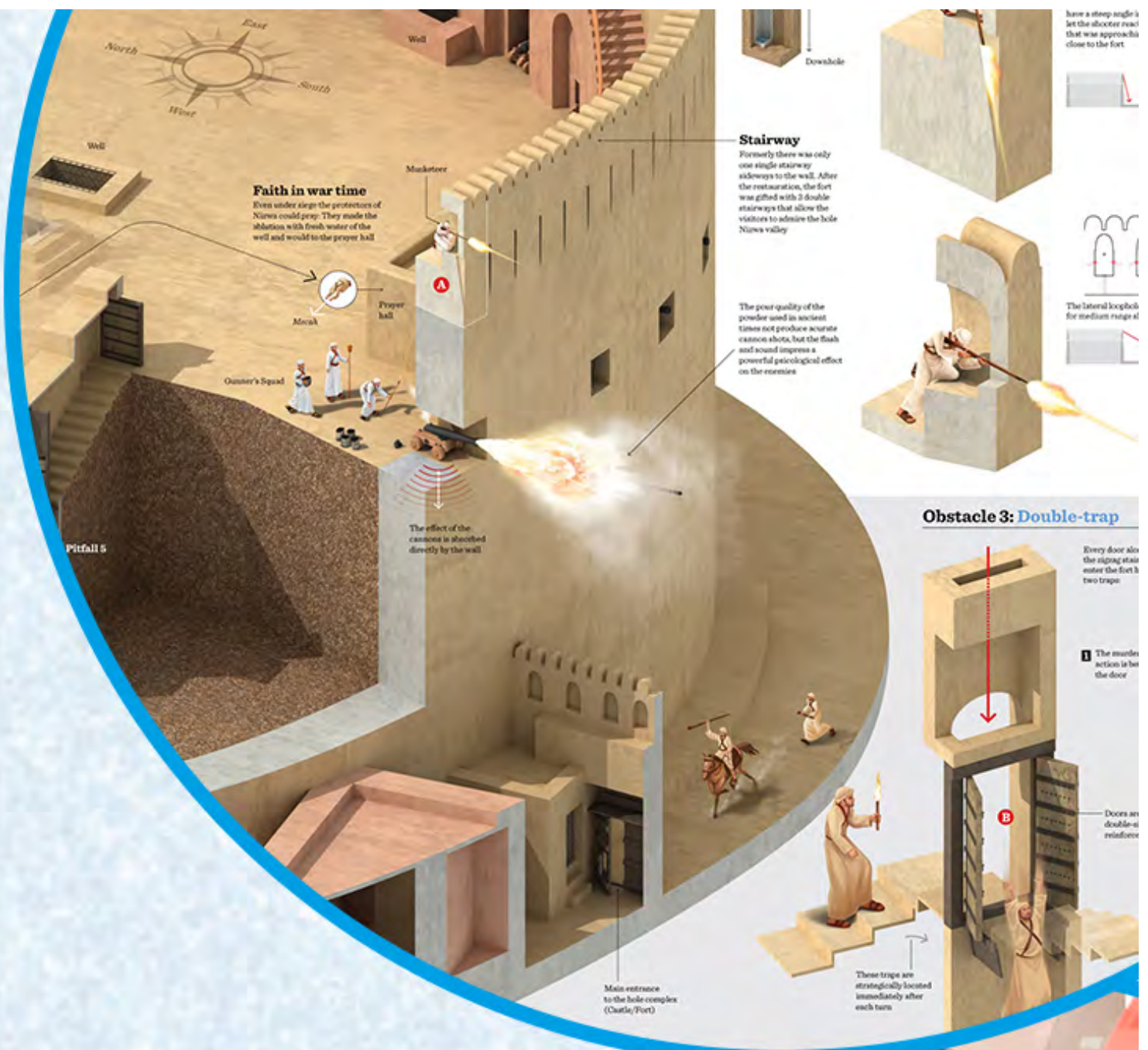
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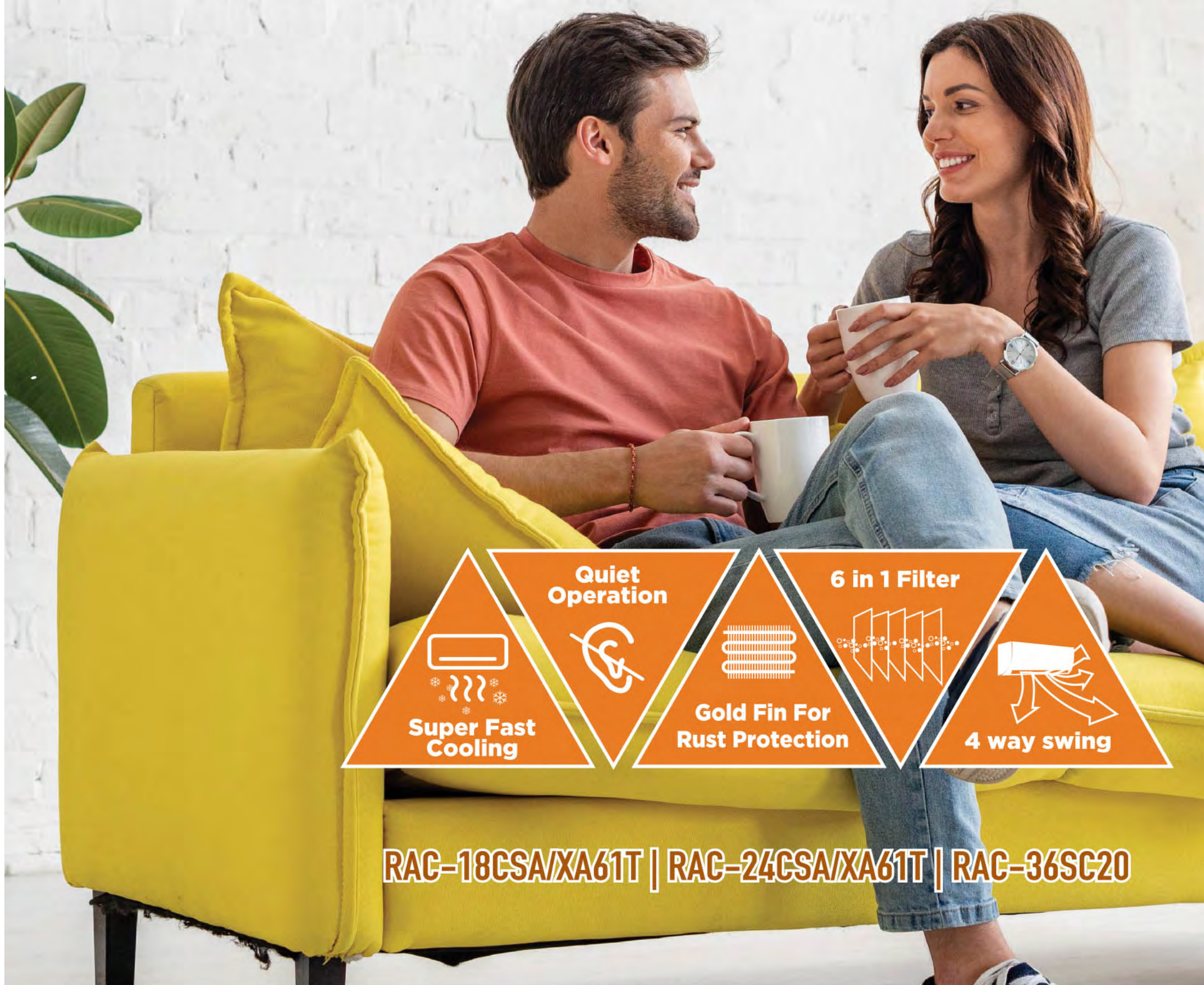


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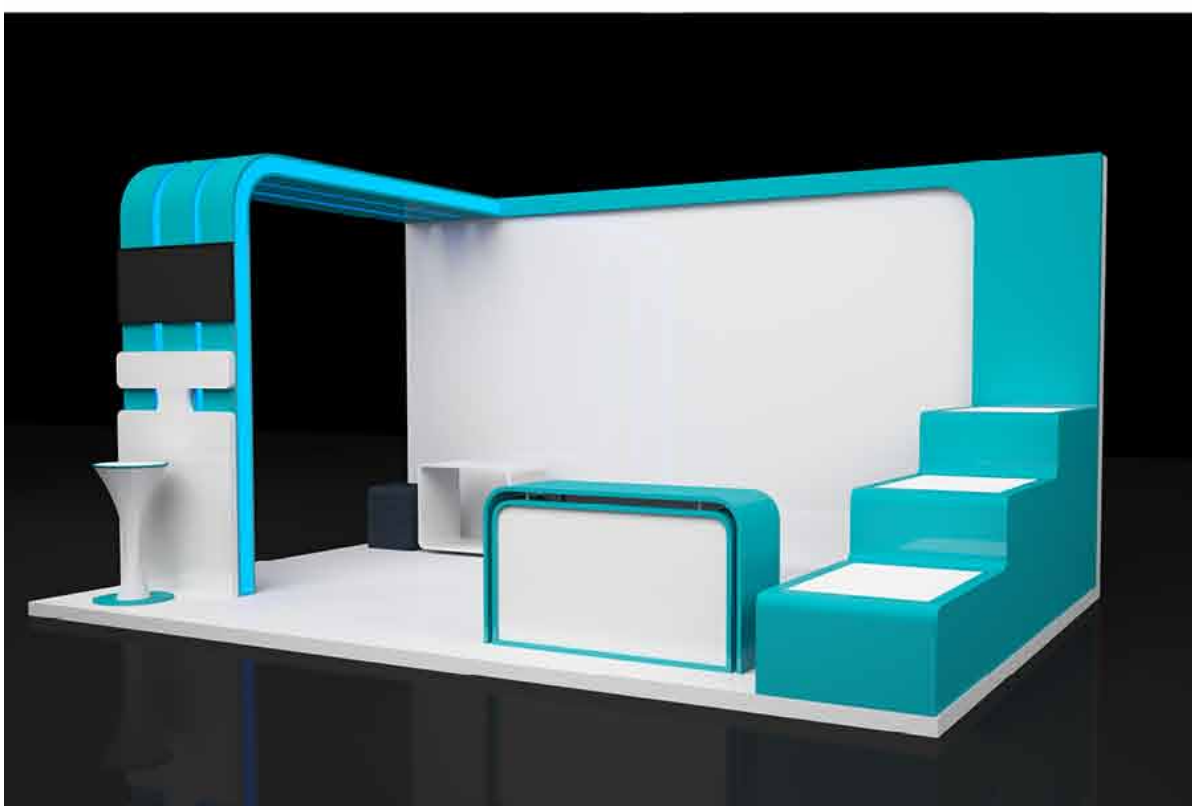
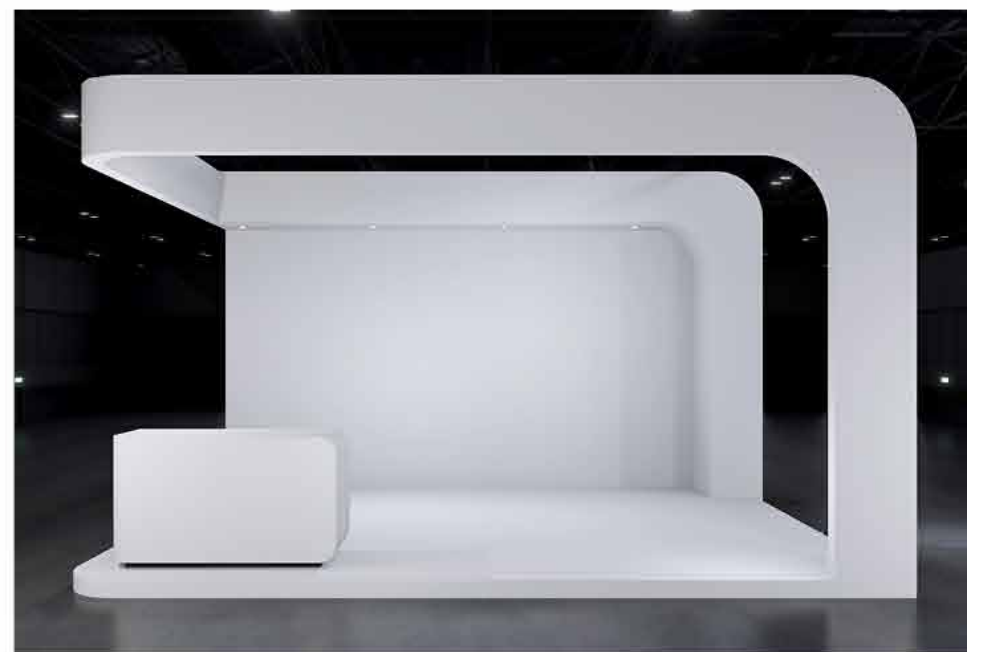
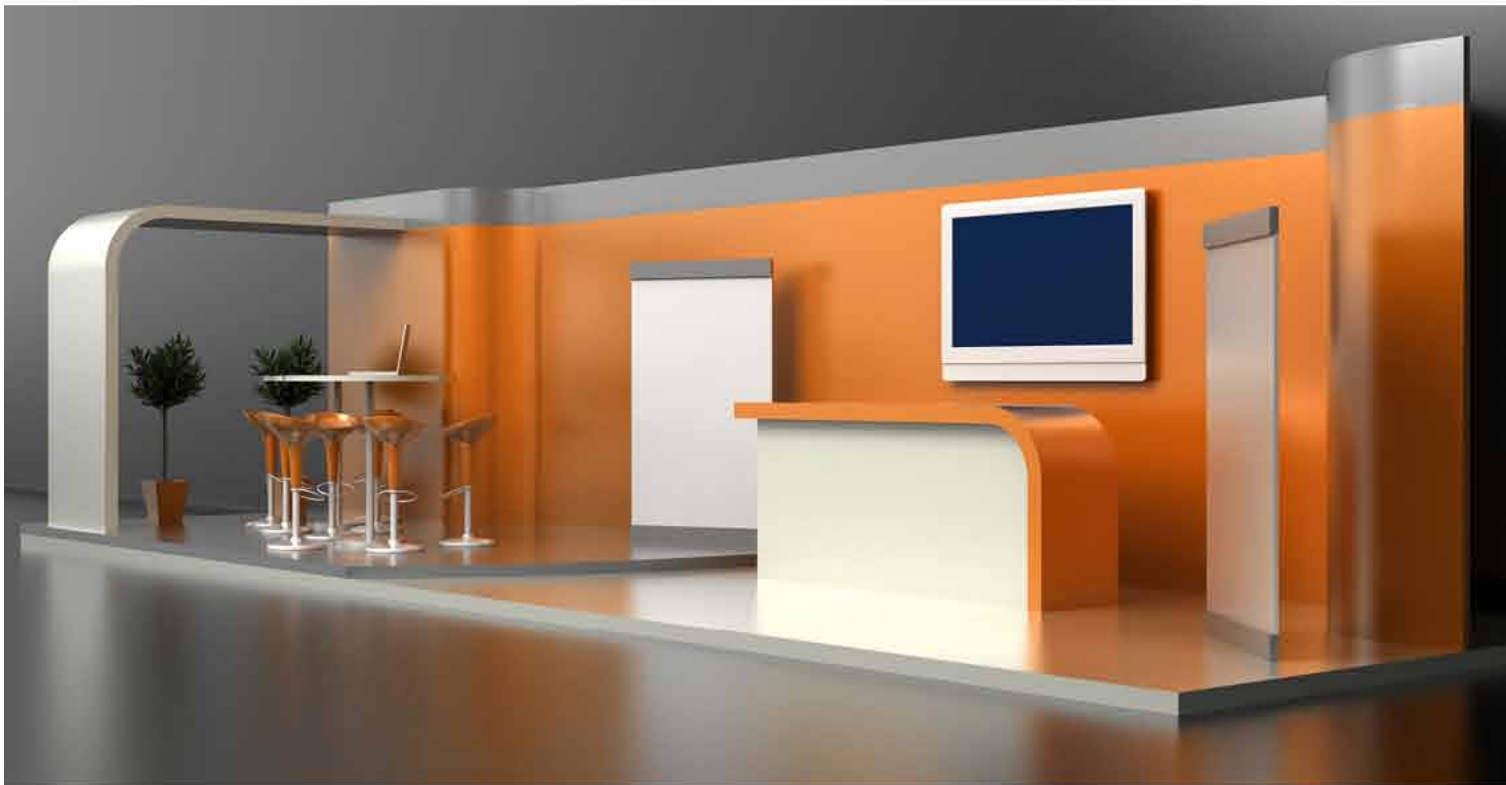


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