

**ROP HOLDS MEETING WITH
KSA MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) held a joint meeting in the Governorate of Muscat yesterday with the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The meeting aims at facilitating the exchange of traffic information through the direct electronic linkage between the two sides. -**ONA**



**HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES PHONE
CALL FROM US PRESIDENT**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received a phone call yesterday evening from US President Joe Biden. During the call, the two leaders reviewed the advanced relations between Oman and the US, and means of promoting them in various spheres. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern.



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A2

REVIEW MEETING

Sayyid Asa'ad receives Director General of WIPO

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, received in his office yesterday Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged cordial conversations and reviewed aspects of the existing cooperation between Oman and the WIPO and means of promoting them.

The meeting was attended by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and the two advisors at the Office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. - **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman participates in UN meetings

1 The Sultanate of Oman is joining the international community at the meetings of the 67th annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The session is taking place at the UN headquarters in New York. **>A5**

WORLD 1 in 4 children at risk of poverty in Europe

2 Almost 20 million children in EU countries are living in poverty, according to the aid organisation Save the Children. In 2021, the number of children at risk of poverty increased by 200,000 to 19.6mn million. **>A7**

MARKET Islamic banking market share to rise

3 Oman's Islamic banking sector's market share is expected to rise steadily in 2023-2024 after reaching 16.4 per cent of total sector assets at end-2022 (end-2021: 15.2 per cent), according to a new report by Fitch Ratings. **> B1**

OMAN EMERGES AS A LEADING DESTINATION FOR UK INVESTORS

Data shows that British companies' investment in Oman touched \$23.5 billion in 2022, up by 9.3% compared to the figures of 2021

MUSCAT: Oman is a leading destination for British investors and this is further expected to get a big boost with a delegation touring the Invest Oman hall on Tuesday. British companies' investment in Oman touched \$23.5 billion in 2022, up by 9.3 percent, compared to the figures of 2021, Ahmed Salim Al Rasbi, Director General of the Investment Services Centre at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said. "The volume of trade exchange between Oman and the United Kingdom grew to about \$362.3



million by October 2022, which was 20.3 percent higher than the figures of the corresponding period in 2021," he added.

British delegation
The delegation of British investors represented a group of companies operating in the sectors of mining, technology, agriculture, services and logistics were briefed about various incentives offered to them, investment mechanisms and related procedures. They toured several sections

of Invest Oman where they were updated about the most important services provided to investors wishing to do business in Oman, the departments offering the services, enabling factors, relevant information and opportunities available in different economic sectors.

Incentives highlighted
A visual display that was presented to the delegation demonstrated investment advantages, the Investor Residency Programme,

incentives and facilities available at special economic zones and free zones. This visit was organised by the Sultanate of Oman's embassy in the United Kingdom, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP). It reflects the concept of promoting and attracting foreign investments to the Sultanate and presenting the incentives and facilities offered to investors. Al Rasbi said that the British

delegation was briefed about salient features of the investment climate in Oman, the role of the hall and the services it provides to investors within the context of a clear mechanism and basic tools to streamline an investor's business. The British delegation will also meet a number of Omani entrepreneurs to discuss investment partnership opportunities and the possibility of opening branches for British companies' products in Oman. - **ONA**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

'Omani women are just as capable as their male counterparts'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani women have taken giant strides in different spheres of life over the years and the strong support from the Sultanate of Oman government has been one of the key factors in enhancing the profile of women, according to senior women professionals in Oman.

Times of Oman spoke to a few leading professionals ahead of International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, a global day of celebration to recognise the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and to promote gender equality.

The 2023 campaign theme of International Women's Day 2023 is #EmbraceEquity where the focus is on gender equity that needs to be part of every society's DNA.



The aim of the IWD 2023 #EmbraceEquity campaign theme is to get the world talking about 'Why equal opportunities aren't enough'. Rumaitha Al Busaidi, marine scientist and well-known climate activist, said: "This year's Interna-

tional Women's Day theme is quite befitting; embracing equity. Equity is a favourite word of mine because the claim that we all need equal opportunities is personally not enough. We all start from different places, and different positions. As

such, true inclusion and belonging require equitable action. It is also extremely crucial to not paint equality and equity as one of the same things when in fact it is not." She added, "Critics may claim that we don't need a day to celebrate women and to uphold their achievements. But the main purpose of having such a day goes far beyond that. This day is to recognise challenges, to acknowledge that our mothers, sisters, and daughters have persevered and continue to thrive in a world that needs greater attention on equity."

Gender gap
"According to the World Economic Forum, we would need over 100 years to close the gender gap, which means that no matter how old you are today, we will not be able to close that gap in your life-

time. I think this thought should make us take a pause, ponder, and acknowledge that we have a long way to go. Yes, there is progress which is changing the lives of so many and this is why it is so important to appreciate how far we have come while keeping the gender equity goal alive in our hearts and minds. Let this be a day where we reflect on our trials and tribulations but also our victories while we continue to champion one another; one woman at a time! Let's #EmbraceEquity!" Shatha Al Maskiry, Managing Director, Protiviti Oman, said: "Women are increasingly excelling in the digital world, and their innate skills are essential for success such as strong emotional intelligence, ethics, critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills." **>A4**



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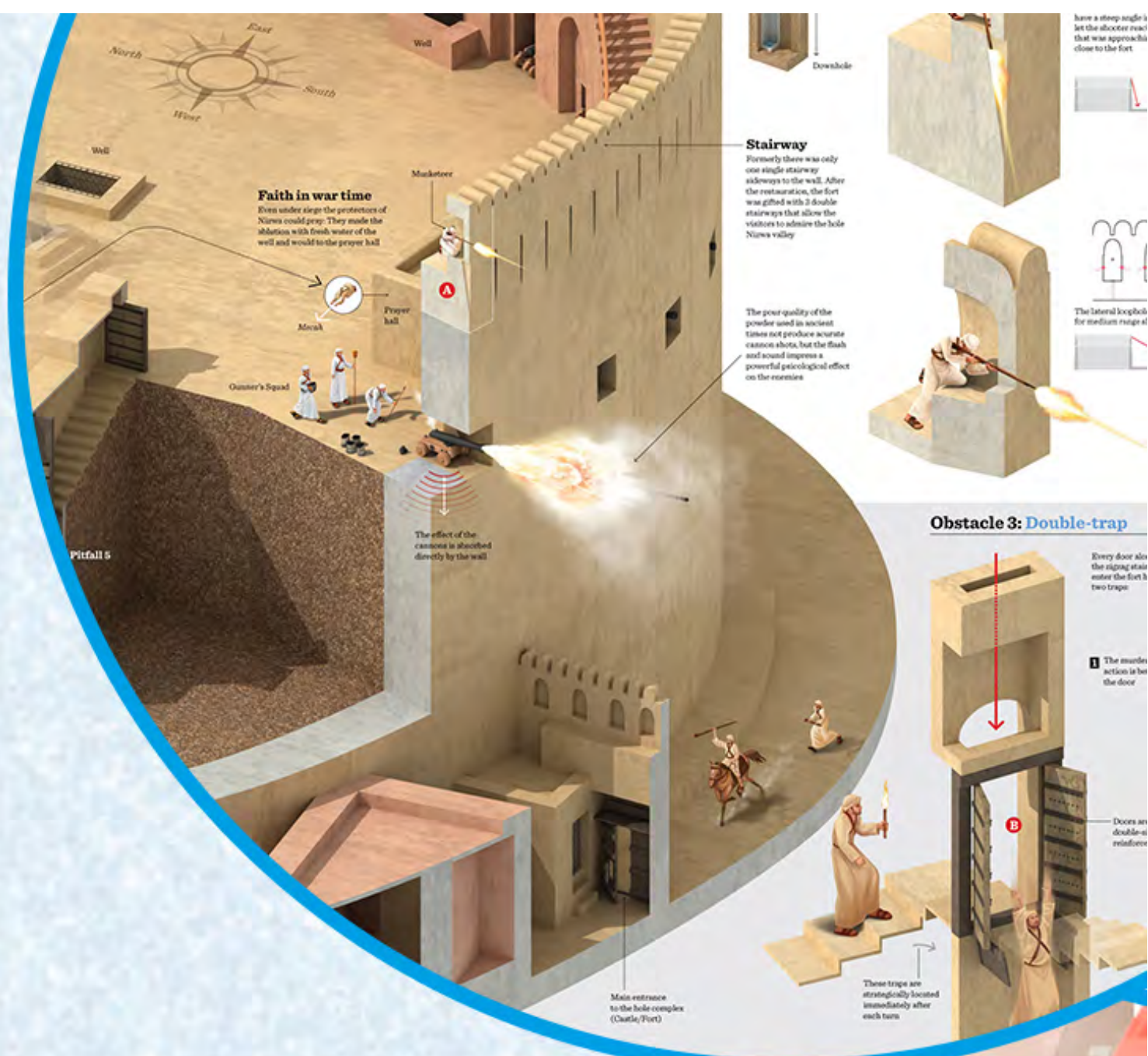


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OMAN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

'The day highlights the importance of casting a spotlight on gender parity'

<FROM A1 "They are creative at developing new solutions and innovative digital experiences. They are also empowered with data at the tip of their fingers to make more informed decisions. It's wonderful to see Omani women proving themselves to be just as capable as their male counterparts. So increasing the number of women in technology would help bridge the gender gap and create a more inclusive and equitable digital world, where everyone can feel confident and secure in their online activities."

March 8 is an important opportunity for companies to celebrate women's achievements and talents, and to act on the issue of gender equality.

Leen Al Atassi, head of corporate communications, Oman Arab Bank, said: "International Women's Day is a moment for us to honour the achievements of women. It is also a day where we can raise awareness on the opportunities available for women and the role organisations can play to unlock their full potential.

"In the banking sector, gender diversity and inclusion are critical for success in today's global economy. We know that women bring unique perspectives, skills, and ideas to the table, which can help financial institutions better serve their customers and communities.



Leen Al Atassi



Sarah Khaled



Shatha Al Maskiry



Rumaitha Al Busaidi



Sobhi Ann John

Over the last 50 years, there has been great emphasis on the role of women in shaping the banking sector and more specifically the future of the bank itself"

Leen added: At our bank, our main focus has been to establish a workplace environment that fosters leadership development and provides equal training opportunities. This has enabled our female staff to take up senior positions, leading to the intentional creation of a gender-balanced leadership team. Today, approximately 40 percent of our branches are led by our female Omani talent. We know that the banking sector can play a key role in creating a more pros-

perous and inclusive society."

Few women professionals said that companies have an obligation to do more for gender equality because it is not only a moral imperative, but it also makes good business sense.

Sarah Khaled, Director of Marketing, Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel, said: "International Women's Day is a special celebration for all of us.

"This day highlights the importance of casting a spotlight on gender parity and that we can all #EmbraceEquity. To achieve true gender equality, we need to continue to focus on inclusivity, visibility, and empowerment of

women every day."

She added: "The piece of advice that has stayed with me is to always challenge yourself and never let your work and ambition compete with your personal life. Your professional and personal lives are layers on top of each other with rotating levels of emphasis. Celebrate this overlap rather than trying to force them apart. Success starts by believing in an idea, doing what it takes to make it happen, going out there to achieve it and doing what you love every day."

Sobhi Ann John, chief marketing coordinator, Al Hayat International Hospital, said: "On the occa-

sion of International Women's Day and beyond, let's all fully Embrace Equity and focus on women becoming financially independent. Equity isn't just a nice-to-have, it's a must-have. Let us focus on becoming independent, I would say financially independent. We can be anyone's daughter, sister or wife that does not matter. As women we should focus on becoming financially independent because the future is always uncertain.

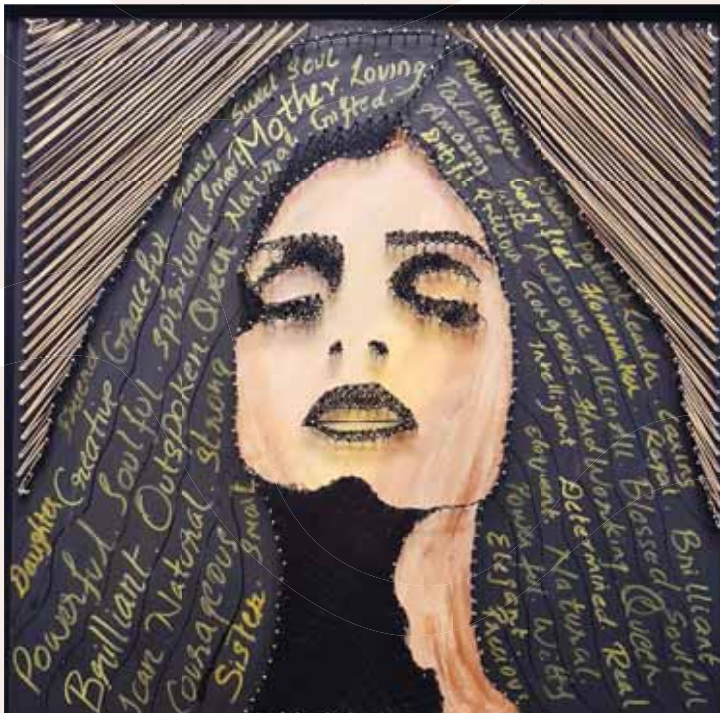
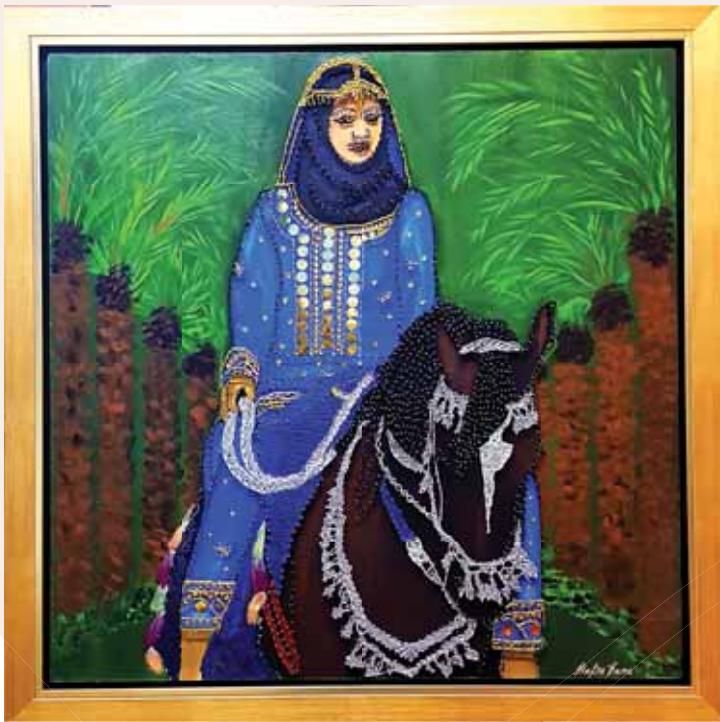
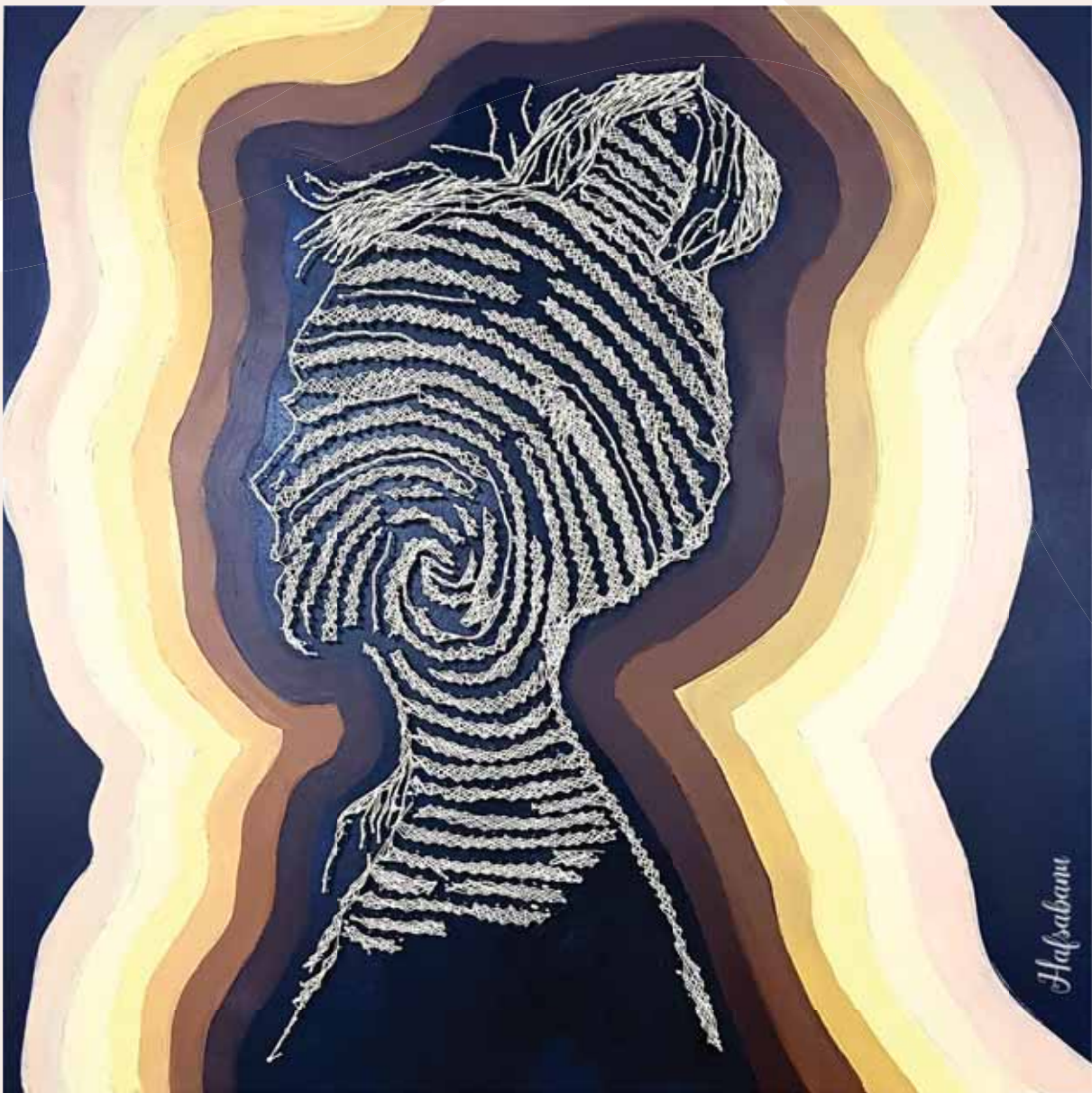
It's not just something we say. It's not just something we write about. It's something we need to think about, know, value and embrace. It's what we believe in, unconditionally. Equity and financial

independence means creating an inclusive world."

Sobhi Ann John added: Each one of us can actively support and embrace equity and financial independence within our own sphere of influence.

"We can all challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias, and seek out inclusion. Everyone, everywhere can play a part. When we embrace equity and financial independence, we embrace diversity, and we embrace inclusion. We embrace equity and financial independence to forge harmony and unity, and to help drive success for all."

SHOWCASING
THE POWER
OF WOMEN
WITH A UNIQUE
ARTWORK



DR. HAFSA BANU, a dentist and an artist in Oman, dedicates her unique artwork made of nails and strings to commemorate International Women's Day. This year's theme is Embrace Equity and her artwork is crafted around a woman with tones of different skin colour on her face to reflect equality irrespective of race or ethnicity.

The background of the artwork shapes around the woman in descriptive words of what a woman is. According to Dr Hafsa the words expressed in this work are quite less compared to the numerous character, roles and power the women encompass in this world. The other part of the work is the linear lines of threads shaping around the woman which contains different colours of threads again denoting different ethnicities.

Dr. Hafsa uses her main genre of nails and strings for this work showing the rigidity and strength of nails and strings for being synonymous to the power of women. Equality means each individual given the same resources or opportunities whereas equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and given the same resources and opportunities can reach an equal outcome.





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67TH ANNUAL SESSION

Oman participates in UN meetings

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman is joining the international community at the meetings of the 67th annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The session takes place at the UN headquarters in New York, from 6 to 17 March.

Oman is represented at the meeting by Dr. Mohammed Awadh Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations in New York, and officials from the Ministry of Social Development.

The current session reviews the progress made by member states in enhancing the status of women, innovation, technological transition, education in the digital age and the best practices for bridging the digital gender gap. It focuses on empowering women in all aspects of life. Members of the Omani delegation will take part in some activities held on the sidelines of the session. The gathering at the UN session will listen to a recorded speech by Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, Oman. The speech will outline the efforts made by the government of Oman on enhancing the status of women and ensuring their access to all rights cited in the laws approved by the government. -ONA



MEETING

Sheikh Khalifa holds talks with Japan official on Yemen

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, received in his office yesterday Katsuyoshi Hayashi, Japan's Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for Yemen.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the efforts exerted to support the Yemeni parties in reaching a political solution that achieves security and stability for Yemen and the countries of the region.

The meeting was attended by several officials at the Foreign Ministry. -ONA



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Oman Vision 2040 Follow-up Unit meets WIPO Director General



MUSCAT: Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit met at his office yesterday Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides explored means of cooperation. They also exchanged opinion on future visions as intellectual property rights are considered catalyst for economic growth, as well as an important component within priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

A visual presentation was delivered highlighting Oman Vision 2040 and the Unit's efforts in following up implementation of projects.

The meeting was attended by Sayyid Dr. Munthir Hilal Al Bussaidi, Deputy Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit and officials from both sides. -ONA

NENA REGION

Plan for sustainable management of soil resources

MUSCAT: The Regional Conference towards Healthy Soils for the Near East and North Africa kicked off here on Tuesday.

The two-day event addresses the Global Soil Partnership Programme and the significance of soil health in the context of water scarcity and climate change in the NENA.

Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Agriculture, said in a statement that the workshop is organised by the Ministry in cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

He added that the workshop is a step forward in a project to build capacities for the sustainable management of soil resources, analyse and evaluate laboratories used in the fields of soil, assess the efforts made in maintaining soil quality and the probable impact of climate change on soil.

Eng. Hasna Mohammed Al Harthi, FAO Assistant Representative in Oman, said that the



workshop explores partnership and cooperation between countries and stakeholders in the NENA region.

She added that the workshop also looks into ways of rallying efforts to generate financial resources for supporting the sustainable management of soil and water.

Eng. Hasna pointed out that the workshop offers a unique opportunity to discuss the future of soil health in the NENA region and agree on joint strategies to avoid the duplication of efforts in this regard. -ONA



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IN JAPAN

New H3 rocket fails minutes after launch

TOKYO: Japan's attempt to launch its next-generation H3 rocket failed on Tuesday after the launcher's engine did not ignite in space.

The country's space agency, JAXA, aimed to compete in a market dominated by Elon Musk's SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

The H3 rocket's launch was delayed by several years. Last month,

an attempt for the launcher's lift-off failed when its boosters did not ignite. The second attempt launch from the Tanegashima Space Centre on Tuesday seemed to be a success when the rocket lifted off at 10:37 a.m. (0137 GMT).

However, issues started to appear when the rocket was around 300 kilometres above ground. The rocket's second-stage en-

gine failed to ignite upon reaching space.

"The destruct command has been transmitted to H3 because there was no possibility of achieving the mission," the command center said during the live broadcast.

JAXA commentators said that the agency would investigate the reasons for the failure. — **dw**



IN DOHA



Oman underlines need to honour commitments to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman has underscored the significance of adhering to international cooperation towards meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as all pledges made to maintain balanced growth within the context of social, economic and environmental development.

During its speech at the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), held in Doha, Oman affirmed that it incorporated all three dimensions of sustainable development into Oman Vision 2040 and its long-term sectoral strategies. The speech was delivered by Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

Oman pointed out that its participation in this conference stems from a deep conviction in

the importance of partnership and cooperation to achieve the requirements of sustainable development, mainly out of respect for commitment to international agreements and covenants.

The conference offers an opportunity for countries to work side by side to exchange experiences and discuss solutions for common problems, said Oman, noting that the event consolidates global efforts to provide the best means of support to the least developed countries.

The overall aim is to open wider scopes for those countries to eradicate poverty, boost their role in international trade and regional integration, and utilize their resources to realize comprehensive development and ensure sustainable development for all, Oman stressed in the speech.

Oman urged all countries to maximise efforts to help needy countries terminate acts of conflict and violence and concentrate, instead, on combating poverty. Oman also encourages developed countries and international financial institutions, like the International Monetary Fund, to undertake initiatives to finance development and reconstruction plans in least developed countries. The measures envisaged by Oman in this context include debt repayment and debt restructuring.

Oman expressed its appreciation and thanks for all parties that contributed to the conference which, it hoped, would forge greater international collaboration to achieve sustainable development in least developed countries. — **ONA**



NOTICE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG (the Company) invites shareholders to attend the annual ordinary general meeting (**AGM**) to be held on Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 5:00 pm, via electronic means for holding AGM's, which can be accessed from the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not present to convene the AGM, another meeting will be held on Sunday, 26 March 2023 at 3:00 pm, via the aforementioned electronic platform, to discuss the following agenda:

AGM Agenda

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report on the Company's activities and its financial status during the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report on the organization and management of the Company (Corporate Governance Report) during the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To consider the Auditor's report and approve the financial statements (Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account) for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To disclose the distribution of dividends of 10 baiza per share to the shareholders registered with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC as at the date of the AGM, for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To ratify the sitting fees payable to the Board of Directors for attending Board meetings and subcommittee meetings for the 2022 financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the 2023 financial year (as per attachment).
- To consider and approve the proposed distribution of RO 150,000 being remuneration for the directors for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To disclose the transactions that the Company entered into with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2022 (as per attachment).
- To disclose voluntary contributions which have been made to support community services during the financial year ended 31 December 2022 (as per Attachment).
- To consider and approve setting aside RO 100,000 in support of community services during the financial year ending 31 December 2023.
- To consider and approve the Board's Performance Report for the financial year ended on 31 December 2022 (as per the attachment)
- To appoint the auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2023 and determine their fees.
- To elect two members of the Board of Directors of the Company to fill in the vacant seats (either a shareholder or non-shareholders).

Any person who wishes to be nominated shall complete the director's nomination form and submit it to the Company at least five days prior to the date of the meeting, i.e. no later than close of business on Thursday, 16th March 2023. The candidate must ensure compliance with the established criteria for membership to the Board of Directors.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association and the rules for convening general meetings via electronic means issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- A legal (juristic) person, exclusively, shall have the right to appoint a natural person, as proxy, to attend the general meeting, and vote on decisions taken on his behalf using electronic means. Such natural person must have an investor number registered with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.
- Shareholders will be able to vote for the items set out in the agenda starting from 3 days prior to the meeting date up until the end of the voting process for that particular item presented in the agenda on the day of the meeting. If a shareholder acquires or disposes of shares before the date of the meeting, any votes it has already cast will be void and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the general meeting.

All invitees are requested to attend the meeting at least half an hour before the stated time.
For any queries relating to the above agenda, please contact Mrs. Eman Al Shahry (+968-224090890/ 99281812 or at info@salalahport.com).

Chairman **Auditors** **Legal Advisor**



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NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of MUSCAT GASES(the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting , which will be held on Thursday at 03:00 PM on 23/03/2023, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) and will be held in this location (Online). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting shall be held on Wednesday at 03:00 PM on 29/03/2023, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) and will be held in this location (Online) to discuss the following agenda:

Annual Ordinary General Meeting Agendas :

- To consider and approve the Board of Director's Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2022
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To consider and approve the Board of Directors performance report for the financial year ended 31/12/2022.
- To consider the Auditor's Report and to approve the Financial Statements of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
- To approve sitting fees of the Board and Committee meetings paid to the Board Members for the previous financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the upcoming financial year (as per the annexure).
- To consider the related parties transaction the company entered into in the financial year ended 31 December 2022. (as per the annexure)
- To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the company's social responsibilities for the year ended on 31/12/2022 (as per the Annexure).
- To discuss and approve the proposed allocation of RO 3000 to fulfill the Company's Corporate Social responsibilities for the year ending on 31 December 2023
- To elect a new Board of Directors for the Company from amongst Shareholders or non-shareholders. Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director's Nomination Form. Such a form can be obtained from the Company. The completed Form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company (no later than the end of the business hours on Thursday, 16 March 2023). The candidate must satisfy the company's board membership requirements
- To appoint Auditors of the Company for the financial year ending on 31 December 2023 and to approve their fees.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority , we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
- Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 91239958 or email: Salim.d@muscatgas.com

Chairman **Legal Advisor** **External Auditor**
Engr. Omar Ahmed Salem Qatan Rajab AlKathiri & Associates Abu Timam Grant Thornton

SPORTS



FRENCH LIGUE 1

PSG’s Neymar set to miss rest of season

PARIS: Paris St-Germain striker Neymar is set to miss the rest of the season as he needs surgery on an ankle injury.

Neymar went over badly on his right ankle five minutes into the second half during PSG’s 4-3 home win over Lille on 19 February and was carried off on a stretcher in obvious pain.

PSG said the 31-year-old has suffered several “instances of instability in his right ankle” over recent years and surgery is needed to “avoid a major risk of recurrence”.

They added it will be three to four months before he can resume training. Neymar has suffered a number of injury problems with his right foot over the past few years.

He missed two of Brazil’s matches at the 2022 World Cup after being injured in their opening group match against Serbia.

The former Barcelona player also missed the 2019 Copa America after suffering torn ligaments in his right ankle and was out for several weeks in 2021 with a similar injury.

He has scored 13 Ligue 1 goals and contributed another 10 assists for PSG this season.

Christophe Galtier’s side are eight points clear at the top of the



table as they seek an 11th French top-flight title.

They take on German side Bayern Munich in the Champions League round of 16 second leg on Wednesday looking to overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first fixture.

Their final league match of the season is against Clermont on 3 June with the Champions League final scheduled to take place on 10 June.

Pankaj Khimji roped in ICC committees

Besides his appointment in the committees, the Oman Cricket boss has also been included in the ICC Governance Working Group

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket (OC) Chairman Pankaj Khimji’s stature as one of the leading cricket administrators continues to grow at the global level.

Less than a year since he became the first Omani to be elected as Associate Member Director of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the world cricket governing body, Khimji has now been named in two ICC committees and one ICC working group.

The appointment in three ICC panels underlines Khimji’s growing influence at the world stage, and the Omani cricket boss is humbled by the recognition.

“I am extremely honoured by the appointments made by the ICC, and I hope to serve the different committees to the best of my abilities,” said Khimji.

Khimji, who is also the vice-chairman of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), has been named as a member of the ICC Development Committee. The committee is chaired by Imran Khwaja of Singapore and comprises 12 members.

The Omani cricket administrator, who serves as advisor for foreign trade and international cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP), has also been appointed to the eight-member HR and Remuneration Committee of the ICC. This committee is chaired by West Indies’ Richard Skerrett.

Besides the two ICC committees, Khimji has also been named as a member of the ICC Governance Working Group, the third ICC panel in which he has been entrusted to play a key role.



Khimji said: “I am overwhelmed by the trust and belief of the ICC.

“I hope my 30-40 years of corporate experience will help me in contributing positively to the ICC. There will be useful experiences in the time to come for me. Working with people who have some fantastic understanding of these committees will be a good learning

experience for me initially.”

Khimji, who is also director of Muscat-based business conglomerate Khimji Ramdas Group, added: “At some point of time I am confident that I will be able to contribute positively to the various committees and I am looking forward to sharing my experience with the ICC.”

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Brentford edge Fulham in west London derby

LONDON: Brentford’s English Premier League season’s good run continued as they overcame west London derby rivals Fulham 3-2 at the Gtech Community Stadium to keep their hopes of European football very much alive on Monday.

Bees’ striker Ivan Toney was the talisman once more, making 22 successes out of 22 from the penalty spot for Brentford as they closed to within three points of

sixth-placed Newcastle United.

Thomas Frank’s side made a lightning start and could have scored three times even before Ethan Pinnock’s shot deflected off Tim Ream to put Brentford ahead after only six minutes.

Fulham drew level six minutes before the break when Israel forward Manor Solomon headed in the rebound after Andreas Pereira’s free-kick struck the post.

Brentford regained the momentum, with both Bryan Mbeumo and Toney hitting the woodwork with free-kicks, and were awarded a 53rd-minute penalty when Issa Diop fouled Christian Norgaard.

Mathias Jensen sealed the win from close range five minutes from time following good work by Kevin Schade with Carlos Vinicius’ stoppage-time goal for Fulham nothing more than a consolation.

Fulham still have European aspirations of their own as they have been a revelation under the guidance of Marco Silva in the Premier League, but they ended well beaten by their London rivals. Fulham remain in seventh place despite this setback and must now regroup as they face Premier League leaders Arsenal at Craven Cottage on Sunday before an FA Cup quarter-final at Manchester United.

RECOGNITION



OOC honours boxers

MUSCAT: The Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) felicitated Omani boxers, Fares bin Ahmed Al Muqbali and Firas bin Fida al Balushi, who won a gold and a silver medal respectively at the fifth Katara Open Boxing Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Taha bin Sulaiman Al Kishry, the OOC Secretary General congratulated the boxers for their accomplishments and wished

them good luck for future events.

Al Muqbali won a gold in the 92kg category while Al Balushi won a silver in the 56kg class, which was held last month.

The meeting was attended by the Olympic boxing trainer Afaf Al Qarniyeh, the first Qatari female boxer, Nasser bin Ali Al Eisari, President of the Master Academy for Martial Arts, and the academy players and administrators.

KARATE

Omani referees take part in UAE championship



MUSCAT: Ten Omani international referees officiated the recently-concluded UAE Open Karate Championship at the Sharjah Sports Club in the United Arab Emirates.

Held under the auspices of the UAE Karate Federation and the Sharjah Sports Club, the event witnessed the participation of 624 men and women players, representing 19 countries: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Italy,

Uzbekistan, America, the Philippines, Nepal, India, Pakistan.

The ten Omani officials who took part were Ahmed Al Zakwani, Suleiman Al Hina, Youssef Al Siyabi, Salem Al Qutaiti, Salem Al Masrouri, Hilal Al Abdali, Muhammad Al Hina, Adel Al Hina, Hisham-BaniToroof and MohieLutfi.

Russia finished the event with 53 medals, including 22 gold, while the hosts UAE came second with 104 medals, including 21 gold. Azerbaijan were third with 12 medals, including 5 gold.



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2023 reaching \$84.66, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 55 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$84.11. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,843.38 points, up by 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.21 per cent at 490.30 points. Al Batinah Development Company, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while HSBC Bank Oman, down 6.06 per cent, was the top loser.

SUPPLYING BIODIESEL FUEL

ARA Petroleum signs agreement with Wakud International

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ARA Petroleum E&P (ARA), a Zubair Corporation company specialised in the discovery and production of hydrocarbons in Oman and internationally, signed a collaboration agreement with Wakud International which will supply biodiesel fuel for ARA's operations in Oman.

The agreement was signed by Dr Omar bin Salim Al Jaaidi, General Manager of ARA and Maher bin Mohammed Al Habsi, Chief Executive Officer of Wakud International.

Based on the newly signed agreement, Wakud International will deliver biodiesel fuel which will power ARA's Electrical Submersible Pumps (ESPs) based in their water supply wells.

This collaboration demonstrates ARA's commitment to deploying locally manufactured biodiesel fuel for its operations which reinforces ARA's dedication

towards environmentally friendly practices and net zero operations.

Speaking on the agreement, Sharifa Al Ruheili, Director of New Technologies at ARA said, "We are delighted to sign this agreement with Wakud International. Through this collaboration, we aim to promote sustainability and reduce carbon activities in our operations by implementing the best international standards and eco-friendly practices. Our objectives support the Oman Vision 2040 which aims to create a more sustainable environment for infrastructure projects in line with achieving net zero emissions."

Maher Al Habsi, Chief Executive Officer of Wakud International added, "We are delighted to collaborate with ARA and provide our services to them."

"We seek to harness our experience in this field and support the Sultanate's objectives toward achieving environmental sustain-

ability and net zero emissions. Through this agreement, we aspire to support our customers in meeting their objectives to reduce carbon emissions and preserve the environment most practically and cost-effectively.

"We will continue our efforts towards maximising our expertise and strengthening our position in the sector as a leading Omani company in the field of biofuels."

ARA Petroleum was formed in 2014 and owns several companies, such as ARA Petroleum Exploration and Production, ARA Petroleum B-44, ARA Petroleum B-31 and ARA Petroleum Tanzania.

Wakud is an Omani SME based in the Khazaen Economic City in Barka where it operates its biodiesel facility. The facility recycles used cooking oil, after collecting it from hotels, restaurants, and catering companies in Oman, and converts it into biodiesel which is a direct alternative to diesel fuel.



Islamic banking market share to rise steadily in Oman: Report

Growth will be driven by sizeable public demand for Islamic products, supportive regulations and a push from conventional banks' Islamic windows

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Islamic banking sector's market share is expected to rise steadily in 2023-2024 after reaching 16.4 per cent of total sector assets at end-2022 (end-2021: 15.2 per cent), according to a new report

"Growth will be driven by sizeable public demand for Islamic products, supportive regulations, a growing branch network, and a push from conventional banks' Islamic windows," Fitch Ratings



said in a statement.

"There was a structural improvement in 2022 after the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) introduced an Islamic liquidity management instrument (ILMI) in the form of a wakala money market instrument," it added.

The wakala money market instrument allows Islamic banks and windows to place remunerative deposits with the CBO for a minimum duration of one day to a maximum of three months. The lack of ILMI has been a long-standing challenge for the Islamic banking sector. At present, there are no Islamic repos and short-term government sukuk in Oman for Islamic banks to invest their excess liquidity or Islamic alternatives to treasury bills.

Regulations prevent Islamic

banking entities from placing funds with conventional banks, which limits counterparty choice. The CBO plans to introduce more ILMI in phases, both for providing liquidity support to Islamic banking entities and for absorbing excess liquidity.

Omani Islamic banks' (including windows) total assets reached OMR6.4 billion in 2022. The financing growth of Islamic banks was 12.2 per cent year-on-year, exceeding conventional banks' 3.4 per cent growth. Islamic banks' deposit growth of 10.9 per cent also outpaced conventional banks', which fell by 0.9 per cent. The Islamic banking market share, based on both financing and deposits, crossed 18.5 per cent in 2022, Fitch Ratings said.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR12 million issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR12 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR3 million, for a maturity period of 28 days.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.650 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.650 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.56250 per cent and 4.57852 per cent, respectively.

Whereas the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR9 million for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.775 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR89.770 per OMR100.

The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.91346 per cent and 4.97440 per cent, respectively. -OMA



JOB VACANCIES

We are pleased to announce that Oman Investment Authority (OIA) is currently looking for a potential talent to fill the following positions:

Position	Directorate
Expert - Debt Management	Investment Operations
Senior Legal Advisor - Corporate & Transaction Management	General Counsel
Senior Associate - Governance	Governance, Risk & Compliance
Senior Associate - Treasury Management	Investment Operations
Auditor - National Investment	Internal Audit
Senior Analyst - Investment MIS	MIS & Transaction Support

How to Apply ?

To apply and view the detailed job description, please visit the OIA's page on [LinkedIn](#)

The Last date for receiving the applications will be:
22 March 2023

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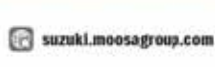
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ("AGM") AGENDA

The Board of Directors of Areej Vegetable oils & Derivatives SAOC (Company) is pleased to invite the shareholders to attend the company's annual ordinary general meeting (AGM), which is scheduled to be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, 26th March 2023, via the electronic platform to hold general meetings which can be accessed through the website of the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) if the quorum of the meeting is not completed, a second annual ordinary general meeting will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, 30th March 2023 to discuss the following agenda:

- 1. To consider and approve the report of the Board of Directors on the activity of the company and its financial position during the financial year ended 31/12/2022.
- 2. To consider the auditors' report and to approve the balance sheet and profit & loss account for the financial year ended 31/12/2022.
- 3. To consider and approve the distribution of cash dividend to the shareholders as per the AGM date an amount of (300 Baiza for each share), for the financial year ended on 31/12/2022.
- 4. To approve sitting fees of the Board meetings paid to the Board Members for the previous financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the upcoming financial year ending on 31/12/2023.
- 5. To consider and approve the transactions entered into by the Company with related parties during the fiscal year ended 31/12/2022.
- 6. To consider and approve the transactions which the Company will enter into with related parties during the fiscal year ending 31/12/2023.
- 7. To appoint the Company auditors for the financial year ending on 31/12/2023 and to determine their fees.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls of holding General Meetings using electronic platform issued by the Ministry Of Commerce and Industry, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- a. Juristic persons only, have the right to appoint a natural person as a proxy to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCD.
- b. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information, please contact Mr. Mohammed Yaqoob As-Sarriri on Telephone Number 24448013.

Important Notice: Joint stock companies shall deposit amounts due to investors which have not been claimed by the investors after the expiry of six months of the due date with the Investors Trust Fund. Therefore, each shareholder is kindly requested to check with Muscat Depository and Securities Registration Company situated within the Muscat Securities building in order to enquire about any amounts which may be due to him.

Chairperson Auditor Legal Advisor

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MSX index ends marginally higher

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,843.38 points, up by 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.21 per cent at 490.30 points. Al Batinah Development Company, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while HSBC Bank Oman, down 6.06 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Phoenix Power were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 281 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.47 million, with more than 10.06 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 14 advanced, 14 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net buyers for OMR554,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR545,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR9,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,804.46 points, down 0.31 per cent. Industrial Index closed at 6,073.85 points, up 0 per cent. United Securities

IN SOHAR FREE ZONE

Opaz launches automatic licences service on Invest Easy portal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) in Sohar Free Zone has launched the service of issuing automatic licenses for economic activities through the Invest Easy portal in the zone.

The service was launched in a workshop held with the participation of several Opaz employees and representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Sohar Free Zone.

Launching this service comes as part of Opaz's efforts to harmonise and integrate special, free and industrial zones and central national systems and solutions, to develop sustainable action plans within the authority's continuous plans to develop investment through digital transformation.

Investors now can obtain a license to start their activities and the environmental permit automatically within only 5 minutes, post digitally signing the terms and controls specified for each type of business. Besides, Opaz's plan aims to unify the procedures for obtaining the services provided by the special economic zones and free zones.



Muscat Gases Company SAOG

PO Box 11, PC 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: 22526900 Email: info@muscatgas.com

COMPANY REPORT

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Respected Shareholders,		Parent Company		Group	
		31 Dec. 2022 RO	31 Dec. 2021 RO	31 Dec. 2022 RO	31 Dec. 2021 RO
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of my colleagues and the Board of Directors of Muscat Gases Company SAOG to the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company.					
A summary of the results of the company performance for the year ending 31st December 2022 is presented below.					
Operating Performance:					
Revenue:					
Total revenue for the year ended 31st December 2022 in the parent Company was OMR 19,568,390 and the total revenue in the group Companies was RO 19,913,402 compared with total revenue of OMR 16,511,264 in the parent Company and the total revenue of OMR 17,563,964 in the group Companies for the year ended 31st December 2021.					
Net Profit:					
Net Loss after tax for year ended 31st December 2022 in the parent Company was OMR (237,518) and OMR (230,710) in the group Companies, compared with Net Profit after tax figure of OMR 63,681 in the parent Company and OMR 133,097 in the group Companies for the year ended 31st Dec 2021.					
Earnings per Share (EPS) in the parent Company is OMR (0.008) and OMR (0.008) in the group Companies, for the year ended 31st December 2022 compared with is OMR 0.002 in the parent Company and OMR 0.004 in the group Companies for the year ended 31st December 2021.					
The board also reviewed the related party transactions as mentioned in note-26 which are within the normal business relationship.					
Investment in Subsidiary Companies:					
Muscat Gases Company holds 100% shares in the subsidiary Company called Al Aman Industrial and House Gas LLC, holds 99.99% shares in the subsidiary Company called Muscat Power Pioneer LLC and 99% shares in the subsidiary Company called United Marketing Solutions.					
Market Share:					
Muscat Gases is the biggest player in the LPG market in Oman offering a wide range of products (Cylinder Bottling, Bulk Gas Delivery, MGAP [Deodorized Gas], and export). MGC is planning a steady growth by increasing its products and service portfolio and opening new sales channels. MGC has been and shall be fully committed to play its national role in serving the customers with the necessary LPG needs. MGC continues focus on customer service and operational efficiencies.					
Human Resources					
Human Resources plays an important strategic role in the continuous development of MGC and employees are our key assets in this journey to success.					
Omanization					
Omanization and continuous development of National workforce has been given top priority. Majority of the functions and divisions are being headed by Omanis. Company achieved 48.7 % Omanization as on 31st December 2022 and we believe that the Omanization will be adding more value to the Company.					
Health Safety & Environment					
Muscat Gases Company is committed to high HSE standards and promote HSE culture among its employees and distributors.					
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):					
As part of its ongoing commitment to support the society and environment, Muscat Gases has embarked on number of CSR initiatives and programs related to its mandate and operating field as part of its commitment to protect the safety					
and foster convenience of customers. During the year 2022, the Company spent 500 OMR for the CSR Programme.					
Future Outlook:					
LPG: The Company formulated a 5 years growth strategy in different areas to increase the Company's performance in coming years. The Management's total focus on the LPG business has started yielding better results and the Company is committed to put all its efforts to maximize the shareholders return.					
Thanks, and Appreciation.					
On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the staff, we are honored to express our gratitude to His Majesty Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimoor Al Said for His visionary leadership. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him all the health & blessings to continue to lead the country on the path of sustainable development. We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our shareholder & customers for their continued support that enabled us to achieve the results. With their support, we are confident that Muscat Gases will continue its performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence.					
Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan Chairman					
SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022		Parent Company		Group	
		Year ended 31 Dec. 2022 RO	Year ended 31 Dec. 2021 RO	Year ended 31 Dec. 2022 RO	Year ended 31 Dec. 2021 RO
Revenue		19,568,390	16,511,264	19,913,402	17,563,964
Cost of revenue		(19,045,979)	(15,840,998)	(19,313,733)	(16,716,898)
Gross profit		522,411	670,266	599,669	847,066
Other income		165,722	264,217	134,264	206,938
Allowance for expected credit losses		(113,453)	(2,317)	(113,453)	(2,317)
Administrative and general expenses		(782,851)	(758,715)	(822,944)	(795,952)
Loss / (profit) from operations		(208,171)	173,451	(202,464)	255,735
Finance charges		(71,442)	(81,972)	(72,004)	(82,309)
(Loss) / profit for the year before taxation		(279,613)	91,479	(274,468)	173,426
Tax credit / (expense)		42,095	(27,798)	43,758	(40,329)
(Loss) / profit for the year		(237,518)	63,681	(230,710)	133,097
Other comprehensive income					
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:					
Revaluation of land		90,000	-	90,000	-
Related deferred tax		(36,221)	-	(36,221)	-
Total other comprehensive income for the year		53,779	-	53,779	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year		(183,739)	63,681	(176,931)	133,097
(Loss) / earnings per share		(0.008)	0.002	(0.008)	0.004
ASSETS					
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment		2,991,712	2,622,800	3,198,791	3,078,475
Goodwill		-	-	996,800	996,800
Investment in subsidiaries		1,901,475	1,901,475	-	-
Right-of-use assets		241,551	211,285	241,551	211,285
Long term trade receivables		281,151	406,107	281,151	406,107
Total non-current assets		5,415,889	5,141,667	4,718,293	4,692,667
Current assets					
Inventories		1,495,440	1,127,349	1,596,924	1,155,131
Trade and other receivables		3,619,731	3,034,588	3,242,302	2,957,102
Cash and bank balances		2,235,750	2,419,246	2,249,085	2,459,438
Total current assets		7,350,921	6,581,183	7,088,311	6,571,671
Total assets		12,766,810	11,722,850	11,806,604	11,264,338
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
Equity					
Share capital		3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,009,975	1,009,975
Special reserve		1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Revaluation reserve		807,666	753,887	807,666	753,887
(Accumulated losses) / retained earnings		(172,109)	65,409	(105,860)	124,850
Total equity		6,092,624	6,276,363	6,168,848	6,345,779
Liabilities					
Non-current liabilities					
Term loans		168,270	348,279	168,270	348,279
Lease liabilities		244,983	199,797	244,983	199,797
Employees' end of service benefits		79,605	69,868	82,119	70,845
Deferred tax liabilities - net		147,149	153,225	144,695	154,740
Total non-current liabilities		640,007	771,169	640,067	773,661
Current liabilities					
Current portion of term loans		184,118	227,700	184,118	227,700
Bank overdraft		337,342	438,827	337,342	438,827
Current portion of lease liabilities		28,143	26,051	28,143	26,051
Trade and other payables		5,464,358	3,952,608	4,425,562	3,411,172
Income tax payable		20,218	30,132	22,524	41,148
Total current liabilities		6,034,179	4,675,318	4,997,689	4,144,898
Total liabilities		6,674,186	5,446,487	5,637,756	4,918,559
Total equity and liabilities		12,766,810	11,722,850	11,806,604	11,264,338
Net assets per share		0.203	0.209	0.206	0.212
Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.					



An insight into the lives of trailing expat wives



Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities. Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances, and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome. Within this context, let's delve into the lives of a group of people who form an important part of the expat community in Oman – the trailing expat wives. The term trailing spouse has its origins in 1981 in the Wall Street Journal. It refers to the partner, typically a wife, of a person who moves overseas for work. While there are trailing husbands as well, for a large part, in the GCC, it is the wife who trails the husband as they move for his job. When an expat family moves to a new country, they are leaving behind everything that they are familiar with, in the pursuit of better career prospects, money and comforts for the family. As the husband is busy settling into a new job, in a new country – the wife often finds herself on an island of her own.

World view
For the world outside, it looks like trailing expat wives are at an enviable position. They can rest easy, spending their days at brunches and salons, while their husbands are hard at work. Where's the need for equity, when they already have so much privilege? But

there are always two sides to any story.

Loss of identity
“When we decided to move to Oman, I was so excited... my husband had a great opportunity, we would lead a luxurious life, in a beautiful and peaceful country,” says an expat wife, who did not wish to be named. “I was initially happy to take a break from work, and focus on setting up our home. But after a few months it wasn't enough. I realised that a large part of my identity and self-worth was linked to my career, and without that I felt lost. Although my husband never made me feel inadequate, I personally felt bad being economically dependent on him. I felt so much envy towards expat women who seemed to have it all together – friends, kids, careers and live-in household help.”

New friendships
Another young expat, Annette Thomas, who moved to Oman in 2020 says, “When we moved here, my son was a 6 months old. And then the pandemic hit. My husband didn't have the option to work from home, so it was just me and my son alone at home. I almost forgot what it felt like to have meaningful conversations. So when the lockdowns began lifting, I did my best to socialise and make new friends. I hosted brunches for my neighbours, Christmas parties and playdates.”

Balancing act
Neha Gattani, an Indian expat says, “I appreciate the safety and beauty of Oman. The pristine beaches, the golden deserts and the hiking trails – there's so much to explore here. I am

also happy to say that I have a terrific set of friends here. I do wish there were more career opportunities for expat women in engineering and technical professions. We do understand the constraints of Omanisation, but I hope that soon there's an economic boom which expands the job markets much further.”

So, where does #embracingequity fit into all of this?
There are thousands of smart, driven and productive expat wives who would love to just step out of their homes and be part of a community. Equity means giving them the platform for their abilities, without affecting local employment or making policy changes.

- Employers who bring expats into the country can help facilitate social gatherings for their employees' families.
- Schools can offer forums where mothers can participate in improving educational policies.
- A great idea for a start-up would be an aggregator for volunteers, where expat wives can register themselves for volunteer work in different areas.
- Support groups with weekly meet-ups for expat women can help them talk through their anxieties.

So on this International Women's Day, let us go beyond high-achievers and acknowledge all kinds of women who make up the world.

ROUND-UP

Bank Nizwa marks a decade of exceptional growth, innovation

The celebration to mark Bank Nizwa's 10th anniversary highlighted the bank's achievements, growth strategy and future

MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa, the fastest-growing Islamic bank in Oman, celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of exceptional growth and performance in the Islamic banking sector. The event was held under the



auspices of Sultan bin Salem Al Habsi, Minister of Finance and Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of Bank Nizwa. The gala celebration was hosted on 6 March in the Majan Ballroom of the Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz Carlton Hotel. The event highlighted the bank's achievements, growth

strategy and future. "As we mark this momentous occasion, we are grateful for the unwavering support of our shareholders, customers and employees who have played a pivotal role in our journey towards becoming Oman's fastest-growing Islamic bank. Over the past decade, we

have successfully executed our strategy of delivering innovative Sharia-compliant banking solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers. As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing exceptional banking services that are grounded in Islamic principles and are aligned with the aspirations of Oman's Vision 2040. We are confident that Bank Nizwa will continue to play a leading role in driving the growth of the Islamic banking sector in Oman and contributing to the development of the national economy," said Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of Bank Nizwa. Bank Nizwa, as a pioneer of Islamic banking in the country, is committed to expanding its reach throughout the Sultanate and increasing its branch network to serve all governorates and regions. The bank strives to provide financial

services to the maximum number of customers and cater to their needs, no matter where they are located. Bank Nizwa's unwavering commitment to its goals reflects its determination to strengthen its position as a leading financial institution in the Sultanate. The bank strives to meet the aspirations of its customers and the entire community, as it continues to enhance its services and expand its network. Bank Nizwa's financial performance stands as a testament to its progress, as evidenced by a 20 per cent increase in net profit. Furthermore, the bank's total assets grew by 6 per cent, from OMR1,405 million in December 2021 to OMR1,486 billion in December 2022. The gross financing portfolio also experienced a 10 per cent improvement to reach OMR1,242 million, while the total customer deposit portfolio increased by 7 per cent to OMR1,189 million. In

addition, the bank's operating income grew by 18 per cent. In the ever-evolving landscape of the Islamic banking sector, Bank Nizwa has consistently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence. With an acute understanding of the unique needs of its customers, the bank has emerged as a trailblazer in the industry, setting new standards for ethical and transparent banking practices. It prides itself on offering a range of cutting-edge financial products and services that are fully aligned with Islamic values and principles, catering to the diverse financial needs of its clients. With a team of experienced and knowledgeable professionals, Bank Nizwa is dedicated to providing efficient solutions that exceed customer expectations, ensuring that they receive the highest level of service and support.

POWERFUL SUV

2023 Nissan Patrol NISMO launched in Oman

MUSCAT: Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) has rolled out 2023 model of its most powerful SUV, the Patrol NISMO, in Oman. The model builds on its heritage as a motorsports brand and caters to the country's desire for high-performance vehicles. A senior official from SBA says, "You can say the much loved Patrol NISMO is created exclusively for customers in Oman. Its bold design, race-proven engineering and advanced aerodynamics sets the high-performance, premium SUV apart. It combines the refinement of a luxury SUV with the thrill of a sports car and is admired by automotive and driving enthusiasts in the Sultanate of Oman. The SBA official also elucidated that the 2023 Nissan Patrol NISMO builds on the success of its predecessors and continues to be the ultimate mark of performance, luxury, and respect. As a tangible symbol of Nissan's continuous innovation and thrilling driving experiences, the Patrol NISMO defies ordinary and accelerates the Patrol experience to an entirely new level. Launched for the first time in 2015, the Patrol NISMO reinforces the build of the Patrol V8 model



and is aligned with Nissan's design philosophy of being bold, energizing, human and alive. Exuding a sense of thrill and excitement, the 2023 Patrol NISMO features a carefully tuned engine by Nissan's Takumi master craftsmen, as well as NISMO-branded side fender vents, and red accents on the interior and exterior denoting its sporting pedigree. The distinctive design of the Patrol NISMO exudes sportiness with aerodynamic inserts and a variety of NISMO badges, heightened by the signature NISMO red line wrap around the SUV's base. The honeycomb three-dimensional mesh emphasizes the signature V-motion

grille, flanked by LED headlights to create an imposing presence on the road. In the back, dark chrome inserts and wraparound taillights make a striking impression, while the LED rear fog light - inspired by Formula One - emits the same brightness as the car's brake lights in adverse conditions. The interiors of the 2023 Patrol NISMO dial up luxurious comfort while underlining NISMO's racing heritage. Premium quality seats with crafted quilting, together with a black Alcantara steering wheel and red center stripe, allow drivers to feel the thrill while cruising the streets. Red stitching and carbon fiber inserts run along the

center console and sit fittingly in the Patrol NISMO for a sporty and dynamic feel. Made of the highest strength and resistance, it is the optimal material for the ultimate car. This striking centre console, features a 12.3-inch infotainment screen with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, as well as an ergonomically designed Intelligent Driving dial. Adding to the overall experience is a 13-speaker Bose Premium Sound System with perfectly placed speakers to offer a premium audio experience for all onboard. Improved noise reduction also enables drivers to have a more luxurious experience inside the Patrol NISMO. Under the hood, the Patrol NISMO's V8 engine is tuned by Nissan's Takumi craftsmen, a group of five master engine builders who hand-build Nissan GT-R engines - resulting in a concentrated 428hp and peak torque of 560Nm. Bilstein-tuned suspension and shock absorbers, which come in a prominent yellow color, allow for better handling while a side duct in the front bumper, roof spoiler, and lighter 22-inch two-tone aluminum wheels refine aerodynamics to achieve zero lift force.

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

New Mitsubishi L200 GLS launched in Oman

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has announced the launch of the luxurious new L200 GLS model. The new flagship version of the L200 model range, the L200 GLS model, boasts a range of exclusive features that set it apart from the crowd. These include stylish new 18-inch alloy wheels, larger brakes, automatic climate control with an independent rear-seat air circulator, A/T with electronically controlled 4WD gear selector, tilt and telescopic steering and much more. "We are excited to launch the L200 GLS model in Oman, a pickup truck that seamlessly combines a tough and rugged disposition with total comfort and an enjoyable driving experience. With a host of luxury features, the L200 GLS is firmly positioned as a lifestyle and leisure pickup. We are confident that it will appeal to our customers who prefer adventuring in comfort," said Manoj Ranade, General



Manager of General Automotive Company. The current generation L200 has been developed to embody the 'Engineered Beyond Tough' key phrase, incorporating the latest iteration of the Dynamic Shield front design concept, newly sculpted body curves with contrasting sharp lines, extended wheel flares, and bright accents,

further embodying the strength of a Mitsubishi Motors pickup truck and adding modernity. The L200 GLS takes this further with stylish new 18-inch alloy wheels and removes the outer hooks for a sleeker, more elegant look. The L200 also makes significant advances in terms of its pickup capability, thanks in part to the 2.4l powerplant under the hood.

On the inside, the newly redesigned crystal clear dash offers a car-like driving position, taking in vehicle info and enjoying the comfort of automatic climate control. The comfortable seating, ample space, and independent air circulator for rear seat passengers ensure that every ride is comfortable. In Oman, the L200 is offered with a choice of petrol or diesel engines, each delivering lower emissions and improved fuel efficiency resulting in significant fuel savings in the real world. The L200 GLS features Mitsubishi's electronically controlled Easy Select 4WD system. "The Mitsubishi L200 GLS is now available for sale at our showrooms across Oman, and we are thrilled to bring this new lifestyle and leisure pickup to our customers in Oman. We encourage everyone to come and visit us for a test drive and experience the comfort, performance, and off-road capability of the L200 GLS first-hand," concluded Manoj Ranade.

FINANCING SOLUTIONS

Bank Muscat provides corporate finance and advisory services for marquee deals entailing aggregate fundraising of over OMR800mn

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat continues its successful track record of providing innovative and customised financing solutions to suit the unique requirements of its customers. The bank had another successful year in 2022, providing corporate finance and advisory services for several prestigious clients including government-related entities as well as large corporate entities. Bank Muscat successfully advised on multiple transactions spanning various sectors including telecom, financial services, gas networks,

utilities and supplier financing, which resulted in fundraising of over OMR800 million in 2022. Khalifa Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager - Investment Banking and Capital Markets, Bank Muscat, said, "The bank is synonymous with innovation, customer-centricity, agility and trustworthiness and always aims to deliver reliable, dynamic and customised solutions, which suit the unique requirements of our customers. We are pleased to continue delivering on these prin-

ciples consistently. Bank Muscat prides itself in its intricate understanding of diverse business requirements of its clients, offering unmatched financial expertise and guidance, innovative funding solutions and a wide array of services for various customer needs." In 2022, Bank Muscat's investment banking team engaged with the Ministry of Finance to achieve a unique financing solution to offer an alternative solution to meet working capital requirements for various suppliers and service

providers to various ministries of Oman. It also advised and raised funds for Helios Towers' acquisition of Omantel's telecom towers and related assets, which is the first of its kind acquisition in Oman by a UK-listed entity. Bank Muscat led the successful Initial Public Offering of Barka Desalination Company. On the Mergers & Acquisitions side, the team acted as the sole advisor on the merger of Oman Qatar Insurance Company with Vision Insurance Company, both listed on the MSX.

HEALTHCARE

Apollo Hospital gynaecologist urges women to prioritise their health

MUSCAT: Dr Mahalakshmi Bhaskar - Obstetrician & Gynecologist at Apollo Hospitals, Sultanate of Oman, shares her views on pregnancy and infertility for women and urges every woman to prioritise their health and make meaningful changes in their life. Can I exercise when pregnant? Yes, you can! Staying active is good for you and your baby. It can help you control weight gain, improve fitness, reduce high blood pressure, improve sleep, and improve your mood. All good! Unless you are advised by your doctor to take rest under special conditions.



What can I do if my back or hips are sore? A. As your baby grows inside you, it puts a little bit more strain on your body, and that can lead to a sore back and hips in the final months of pregnancy. Doctors advise, that moving around as much as possible helps and, if you can, a bit of swimming and stretches (like yoga) can also help relieve aches and pains. But if you get sore, speak with your midwife, as there might be extra support available to you.

Is bleeding during pregnancy normal? One of the scariest things that can happen during pregnancy is spotting or bleeding. Many women worry that this may be a sign of miscarriage. However, it is important to keep in mind that some amount of spotting or bleeding is quite common during early pregnancy. About 1 in every 4 pregnant women experience this symptom, especially in the first trimester. Nonetheless, it is always best to err on the side of caution and consult with your doctor or midwife if you experience any bleeding during pregnancy, even if it is light. This is to rule out any potential complications such as an ectopic pregnancy.

How often should I get prenatal checkups? A. Prenatal checkups are important appointments that you should not miss. They allow your healthcare professional to monitor your health, the development of your baby, and the potential for any complications. You will need to see your doctor or midwife once a month for the first 28 weeks of pregnancy. From week twenty-eight to week forty, you will need to go for checkups every two weeks. After week forty, you will need to go for checkups every week until you give birth. This is to ensure that both you and your baby are healthy and to catch any potential problems early on.

How much weight gain is acceptable during pregnancy? Every woman will gain weight differently during pregnancy. As one of the first pregnancy symptoms, weight gain can get out of control rather quickly. It's important to work with the gynaecologists and obstetricians at your OB-GYN office to effectively manage your weight and keep

it under control. Walking and swimming are ideal exercises for managing your weight. Your accepted / healthy weight gain in pregnancy depends on your pre-pregnancy weight.

What is the best way to reduce your baby's risk of birth defects? A. Folic acid is a vital nutrient that is necessary for the health and well-being of the newborn. It is also essential for proper development. It's important to choose a prenatal vitamin with the necessary folic acid and other essential nutrients. The best way to keep your baby's risk to a minimum is to attend all of your routinely scheduled prenatal appointments. This gives your obstetrician a chance to closely monitor your pregnancy and help maintain your and your baby's good health. Monthly visits allow your obstetrician to pay close attention to any changes or abnormalities you may experience during your pregnancy. While taking supplements can be beneficial, some may not be good for your baby. Follow your doctor's orders and only take the supplements and medications they recommend. If you are on medication for a specific health condition, you will want to discuss your options with your doctor before ceasing the medication. Certain types of medication are associated with both birth defects and an increased risk of a baby being stillborn.

How long can I work when I'm pregnant? Depending on the nature of your work, you can likely keep at it until you deliver — though if you have a particularly physically strenuous job or pregnancy complications, your practitioner may recommend some restrictions for your safety and your baby's. It's also important to discuss any emotional stressors you experience at work with your doctor, who can help you determine if you should avoid them or find other ways to cope.

CHANGAN'S UNI-K 4WD COMES EQUIPPED WITH EXCEPTIONAL FEATURES



Changan's ultra-luxurious crossover UNI-K 4WD delivers a plush blend of posh and spacious interior, rewarding ride and handling and powerful engine performance

MUSCAT: With the perfect combination of stunning design, technology and driving dynamics, Changan's ultra-luxurious crossover UNI-K 4WD comes equipped with exceptional features that have proven its versatility in all forms.

It delivers a plush blend of posh and spacious interior, rewarding ride and handling and powerful engine performance. Its stunning appearance, smart technology, and definite safety underline the cores that define a good crossover SUV.

Changan UNI-K Ramadan offer: Together, let's celebrate the season of generosity: Free Service 5 years/105,000km (PMS), free Insurance-1st year, Free Registration- 1st year, Free Window Tinting & Ceramic Coating, 6 years/Unlimited Mileage Manufacturer's Warranty.

UNI Series: (Luxury models of Changan Auto)
Changan Auto's UNI Series range (UNI-K, UNI-T and UNI-V) are positioned as futuristic and fashionable segment, the entire UNI series range offers progressive design and smart technologies features which are only in luxury brands. Changan UNI range of automobiles is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors. For a luxury model to be 'sporty at a glance', the UNI range adopts a short overhang and long axle design, adding a sporty feeling to a luxury range.

This improves the overall handling of the UNI range having high agility and high-speed stability when driving. The UNI range has adopted pure, precise and agile exterior design elements. The hid-



Lane Change Assist



360° Camera



21" Alloy Wheels

den door handle design blends in with the body, making it simple and sophisticated. The UNI family's classic borderless grille design is combined with the narrow, sharp headlamps on both sides for an intense look. The aerodynamic airship-shape spoiler improves driving stability and is fashionable in aesthetics. The space battleship gear shift knob has a sporty design, giving the user a sense of exploration in every trip.

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

The UNI range adopts a simplistic yet avant-garde interior design. It uses an asymmetrical design in the instrumentation and centre console as well as bright colours that create technically dynamic interiors. It adopts the Intelligent Cockpit Interaction System which appears to be two screens staggered on the surface, but internally

they are connected as one have a high-resolution display and adaptive backlight control to protect the eyes from fatigue to the max while reading and driving.

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

A spokesperson for AGAE said, "A premium, spacious cabin and a blissful ride puts the UNI-K right among the top of the luxury compact SUV class. It is a great choice for anyone interested in an impressively styled luxury crossover. Changan SUV UNI-K offers more space, a more premium interior, and more technology. It is also loaded with technology with multiple displays, voice control, and advanced driver assistance systems."

UNI-K 4WD: (UNI-K 4wd comes in 2 variants Royal and Platinum)

Under the hood, the premium UNI-K Royal carries a 233 horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged engine,

paired with 8 speed Auto Transmission which makes the UNI-K as thrilling to drive as it is to look at. It has exterior features that distinguish it to be a futuristic SUV including 21-inch alloy wheels, panoramic sunroof, split and auto LED headlamps, Trident DRLs, ORVM – Electrically Folding.

The Changan UNI-K Royal is equipped with innovative features not previously available in this segment of cars like the 8-way Electrically Adjustable Driver Seat with Electric Lumbar Support, 4-way Electrically Adjustable Co-driver Seat and a premium quality audio system with 12 speakers. It has unique features like streaming inside rear view mirror, remote Engine Start/ Stop, driver seat headrest with speakers and triple HD screen with 12.3" Infotainment system. The rear seats can be almost fully flattened creating a superior large space. The trunk volume is 518 litres and can be extended to 1,412 litres when rear seats are folded down.

It has a comprehensive set of safety features such as Front Airbags, Side Airbags, Curtain Airbags, ABS



Wireless Charging



Driver's Headrest Speakers (Sony)

+EBD+ BA+TCS+HHC+HDC+DBF, Auto Hold Function, Front & Rear Parking Sensors, 360° Panoramic View, Adaptive Cruise Control and Automatic Emergency Brake.

When making a turn or approaching an intersection, the system is designed to detect forward or laterally approaching oncoming vehicles and provides audio/visual alerts and automatic braking in certain conditions. Lane Change Assist is designed to notify the driver via audible and visual alerts and slight steering force if it senses the vehicle is leaving the lane without engaging a turn signal. Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) for added peace of mind by helping to detect vehicles approaching from either side while backing out and alerting you with a visual and audible warning.

The 4WD drive type Changan luxury UNI-K has several exterior specifications, most notably the body's exterior dimensions with a length of 4865 mm, width of 1948 mm, height of 1695mm and wheel-base length of 2,890 mm. The trunk volume is 518 litres and can be extended to 1,412 litres when

rear seats are folded down.

Now in 2023, UNI K 4WD also available in Platinum variant which is equipped with 20" Alloy wheels, Panoramic Sunroof, Hidden Door Handles, LED Headlamps and Taillamps, Leather seats with 6-way electrically adjustable driver seat and 4-way electrically adjustable co-driver seat, Electric Lumbar support, front, side and curtain airbags are standard Plus has 360° Panoramic view camera, adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, Automatic emergency brake, front and rear parking sensor, Bluetooth, wireless charger and voice control function, Sony audio system with 7 speakers, Push start button and independent AC for rear with separate control panel.

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



LED Taillamps



Hidden Door Handles



Heated and Ventilated Seats



3.5" TFT +10.25" TFT +9.2" TFT cluster



Front Airbags, Side Airbags, Curtain Airbags



Forward Collision Warning & Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control

ROUND-UP

PARTNERSHIP

Mercedes-Benz Oman supports opening stage of 44Cup 2023

MUSCAT: Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz Oman talks to *Times of Oman* about the company's pleasure to partner with Oman Sail and support the 44Cup Oman that concluded recently. Mercedes-Benz Oman supported the opening stage of the 44Cup 2023 in Muscat, which welcomed some of the world's best crew sailors to compete in Omani waters.



Tell us more about the reasons behind your involvement.
We are excited to continue our longstanding partnership with Oman Sail to promote a culture of sustainability and increase environmental awareness through the 44Cup Oman. Mercedes-Benz is spearheading global efforts of electromobility, which is undoubtedly the key future technology for effectively advancing climate protection in the transport sector. Climate protection, sustainable luxury and an all-electric future of driving performance are high priorities for us as a company, as it is for our customers.
Meanwhile, sailing has achieved a trailblazer status when it comes to sustainability in sports. Moreover, one of the specific aims of 44Cup Oman was to highlight the conservation of Oman's maritime heritage and the local sailing community aims to further protect coastal reserves and boost conservation efforts.

It has been a great pleasure to partner with and support the 44Cup Oman, while we have a narrative in common with this event and the sailing community as such. During this latest edition of the race, we were delivering on our AMG brand promise of a dynamic and emotional driving experience as we introduce the first all-electric ambassador in the performance segment, the Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC+.

How does hosting international sporting events help to build new business opportunities in Oman?
We continue to support this world-class, high-profile sporting event, which attracts many participants and visitors from Oman and abroad because it is an opportunity to further our relationship with key stakeholders in the community while contributing to so-

ciety and the environment as well.
After all, the 44Cup Oman is a suitable event for us to introduce our all-electric Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC+ to a broad audience and further drive the important conversation about sustainability in Oman. Moreover, not only does the 44Cup put Oman on the map as a unique destination for the sailing community, but it also has a positive spill-over effect on other sectors in Oman, including tourism and hospitality.
Mercedes-Benz has a long legacy in Oman that dates back to the early 1970s. Today, more than 50 years later, it stands strong as one of the most trusted, respected and recognisable brands. We have built and aim to maintain long-lasting relationships with our customers, sometimes spanning many generations. We were therefore keen to participate in an event that focused on popular interna-

tional sport, Oman's rich maritime heritage and sustainability, while it also acted as a catalyst for further local economic and community development.
Tell us about Mercedes Benz's continued efforts to increase the adoption of electric energy-powered cars - particularly with the introduction of the EQ range Mercedes-Benz.
EQ stands for 'Electric Intelligence' and represents a range of electric vehicles (EVs) that represent Mercedes-Benz in the most progressive manner, which includes the first all-electric Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC+ that will command everyone's attention with its intimidating yet sustainable road presence.
It combines luxury and performance and has been designed to travel in comfort and to celebrate an emotional response to driving.

While paired with eco-friendly options, the Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC+ is also packed with all the high-end features you would be expecting from us at Mercedes-Benz.
This model and the entire Mercedes-EQ range are aligned with our focus on sustainability, environmental awareness and the global and national transitions from conventional hydrocarbon-based fuels to renewable energy. We expect that the future demand for batteries and electrical drives will grow, while the need for conventional transmissions and engines is expected to decline.
Mercedes-Benz is getting ready to go all-electric by the end of the decade when market conditions allow. Shifting from electric-first to electric-only, we are accelerating toward an emissions-free and software-driven future. The transition from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles is feasible and already underway at Mercedes-Benz and from 2025 onwards, all our newly launched vehicle architectures will be electric-only.
What are Mercedes Benz's plans for 2023 and beyond in the EV space given the increasing global demand for electric and hybrid vehicles?
We entered 2023 with a renewed purpose to continue building the brand, and we are excited about the outlook for 2023. We will continue

to adapt to the needs of customers, while we carry our strong heritage and legacy at the same time.
As always, we aim to introduce the latest models to the Omani market. There is certainly a growing interest in all-electric cars, which is why we are striving for a technological leadership role in electric drives and digitalisation and looking forward to meeting the increasing market demand by introducing more innovative and powerful models.
Although Europe, China and North America are currently leading when it comes to global demand for electric vehicles, the Middle East is not far behind. In Muscat, for example, you can spot the increasing number of electric vehicle charging stations across the city, which is another sign of the transition from using fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.
Meanwhile, apart from sustainability, other key focus areas include further digitalisation and the e-commerce journey to make it more convenient for customers to choose their new Mercedes-Benz. We will also continue to offer training and professional development opportunities to help our team grow in their careers. We will remain committed to ensuring that our customers remain always satisfied throughout their entire journey with us, as we continue to deliver on our promise to offer 'the best or nothing'.

Geely launches fourth generation Emgrand and Azkarra in Oman

The next generation of Geely cars is ahead of their time in being modern, eco-friendly, and reliable



MUSCAT: Towell Auto Centre (TAC), the sole distributor of Geely vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the launch of the 4th generation of its two exciting models - the all-new Emgrand and the all-new Azkarra across its showrooms in Oman.
The next generation of Geely cars is ahead of their time in being mod-

ern, eco-friendly, and reliable. Geely's innovative designers have given the all-new look to Emgrand and Azkarra with the right blend of exterior styling, interior comfort, and

advanced technological features.
Emgrand
The visually attractive All-new Emgrand is a stylish sedan de-

signed to impress. Made in Geely's advanced Changxing (an advanced 5G smart) factory using the B-segment Modular Architecture (BMA), it has been designed to exceed the criteria for 5-star NCAP safety ratings. It is equipped with a 1.5-litre engine that delivers excellent performance and fuel efficiency and features a sleek and aerodynamic design that complements its impressive performance.
Powered with a lightweight 1.5L engine and 8CVT transmission, it offers the max power of 101HP and high rotational torque of 142Nm, for smooth and responsive acceleration. The elegant hella flush wide body design comes with Geely's latest 'Energy Pulse' radiator grille flanked by projector LED headlights, and LED daytime running lights. The skyline rhythmic tail lights comprise 190 LEDs.

Azkarra
The all-new Geely Azkarra Sport Utility Vehicle is a game-changer. It is a versatile SUV that combines style and performance. It comes equipped with a 1.5-litre turbo-charged engine with direct fuel injection that delivers a powerful driving experience, a spacious interior, and a host of advanced features that make it the perfect vehicle for families and adventure-seekers alike.
Lifestyle-inspired premium SUV equipped with 48V Electric Motor Synergy with a mild hybrid system that uses a 48-volt battery system lets you reduce fuel consumption with lesser emissions. Its sharp dynamic appearance is sure to fascinate you. The All-new Azkarra is equipped with a choice of driving modes - normal, eco, sport, and off-road.
The all-new Azkarra comes

with an attractive and modern design with a high level of design accuracy, both inside and outside the car. It boasts a new Innovative front grille design that mimics water ripples to give the car a streamlined and dynamic look and LED headlights including a daytime running light.
The Smart and eco-friendly cockpit offers a range of advanced features such as wireless charging for smartphones, Interior ambient lights (42 colours) adjustable, a 7-inch LCD dashboard, a Panoramic sunroof, a 360° Camera, an Entertainment system with a 12.3-inch screen, Nappa Leather Seats, etc.
The all-new Emgrand and all-new Azkaara are now available for test drives and purchase. Those interested in taking a test drive can visit their nearest Geely Showroom. In Oman, Geely vehicles are brought to you by Towell Auto Centre.

HOTEL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Shaza Hotels concludes annual partner meet across GCC cities

DUBAI: Shaza Hotels, the leading hotel management company dedicated to offering true Arabian hospitality, has successfully concluded its annual partner meet in the key GCC cities.
The event brought together industry players and major stakeholders to pave a stronger relationship and bonding for the coming years. Shaza & Mysk brand's 10 properties, which comprise Shaza Doha, Shaza Riyadh, Shaza Makah, Mysk Al Mouj Muscat, Mysk Touch Al Madinah, and the Sharjah Collection Retreats by Mysk, recently took part in GCC Partners meetups held in major GCC cities such as Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Kuwait, Doha, Muscat and Dubai.
At the final event held in Dubai, Shaza Hotels entered into a brand-



wide agreement with WebBeds, one the largest travel trade partners in the world, to agree on brand-wide pricing and distribution globally for all Shaza & Mysk Hotels through their distribution networks, connecting travel agents and travel trade suppliers. Riyam Darkazally,

COO of Hotel Division -WebBeds, and his entire team were present at the event to conclude the master agreement and to celebrate the partnership. This partnership will strengthen Shaza Hotels' distribution network and expand its reach in the global travel market.

REFINED PERSONA

All-new 2023 Escalade-V reinforces dominance in big-size SUV segment

MUSCAT: Cadillac Escalade-V as passionately as Oman - a welcome that speaks to the Sultanate's enduring dalliance with big and powerful SUVs. But far more than making a compelling statement, the new Escalade-V has been turning heads and garnering approving looks as well for its striking design, refined persona and performance credentials.
This powerful appeal stems from the 2023 Escalade-V's distinctive characteristics. For one, it's the fourth generation of the V-Series lineup, thereby retaining the iconic lineage of the brand albeit with ramped-up designed, technology and performance features. Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, it still preserves its billing as the industry's most



powerful full-size SUV in the region, with Cadillac's distinctive DNA at its core.
Indeed, a combination of signature design, craftsmanship and technology takes the 2023 Escalade-V to a new level. Inside and out, the new Escalade-V

builds on the brand's bold, layered design statement and sophisticated, technology-infused passenger environment.
Leading automotive firm OTE Group is the exclusive distributor of Cadillac models in the Sultanate of Oman.



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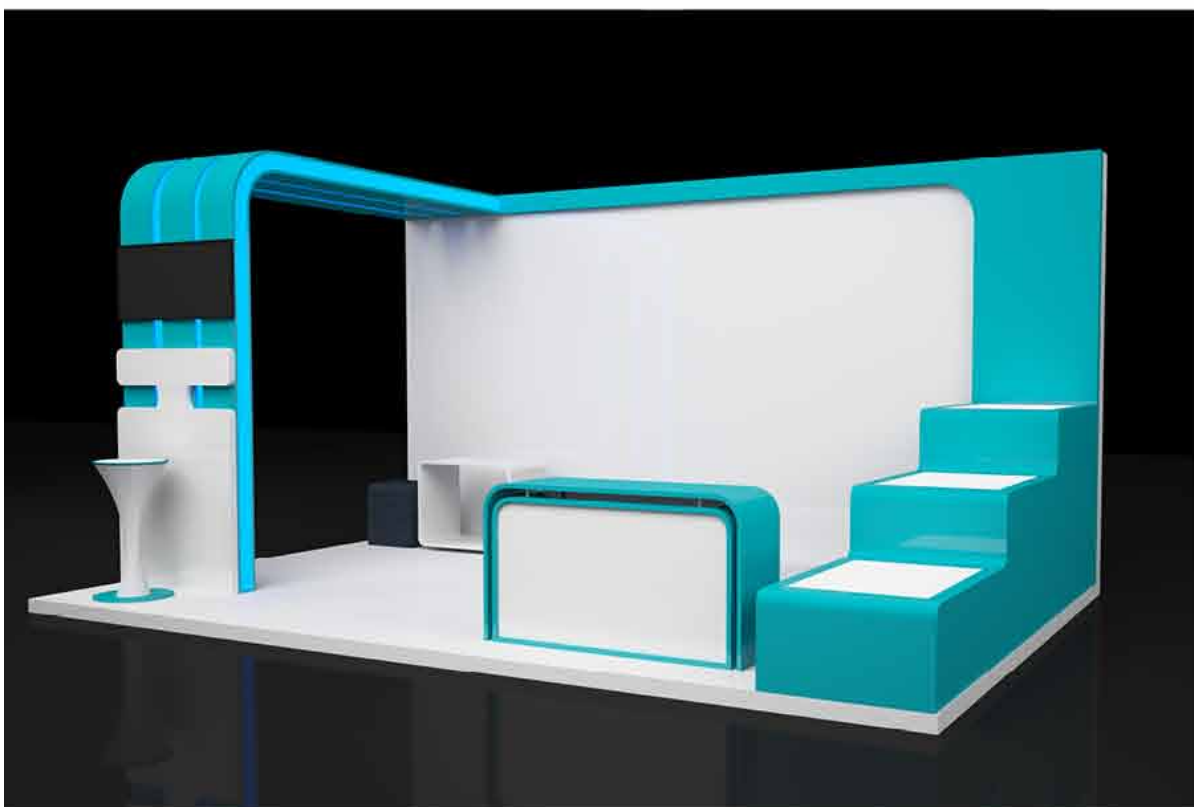
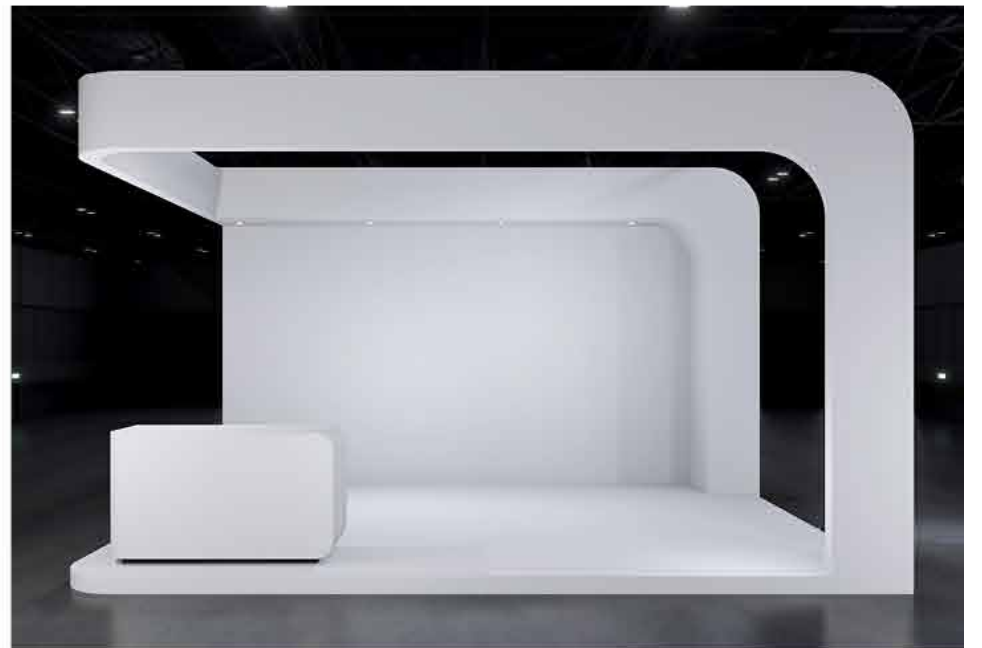
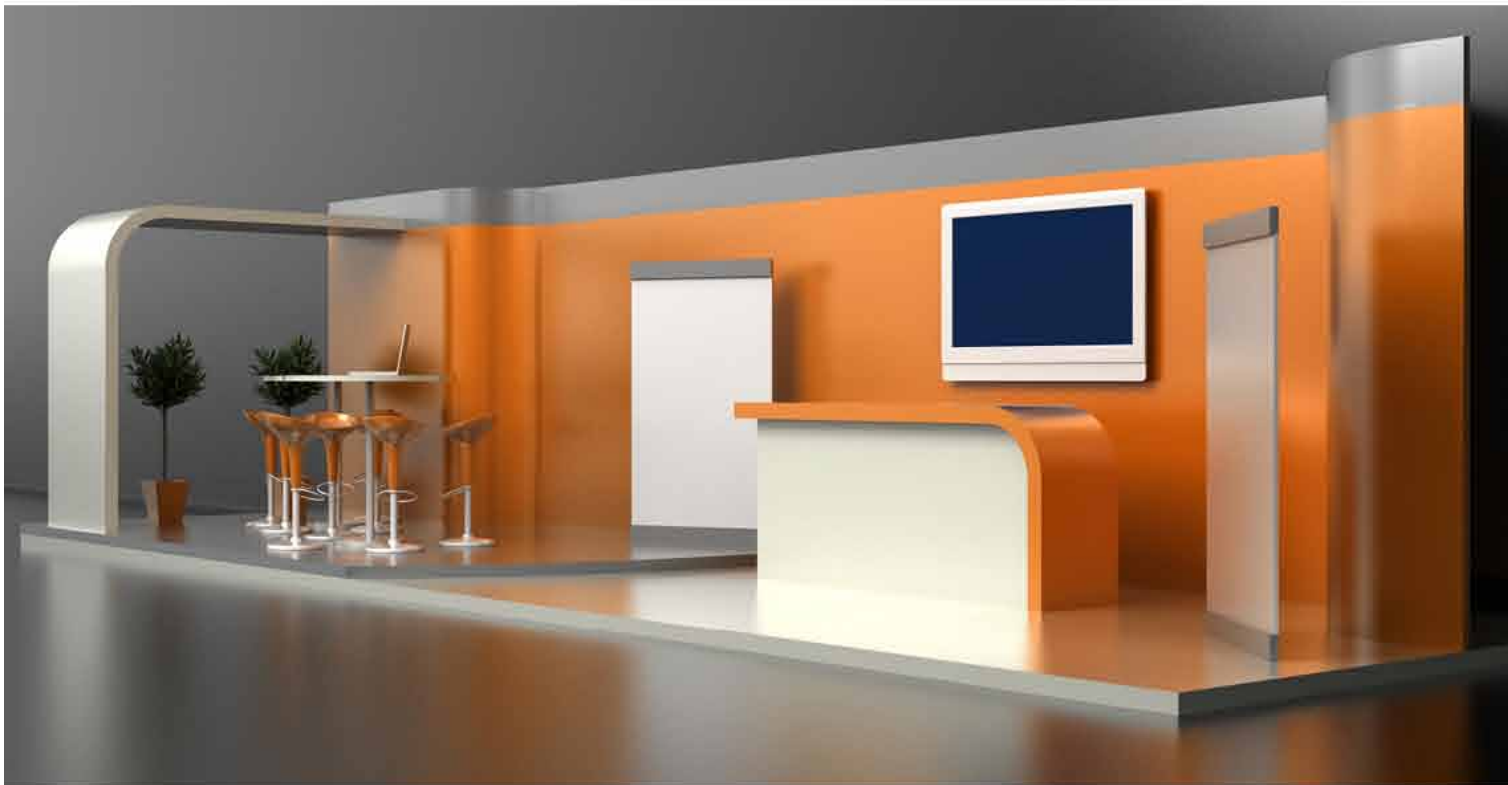
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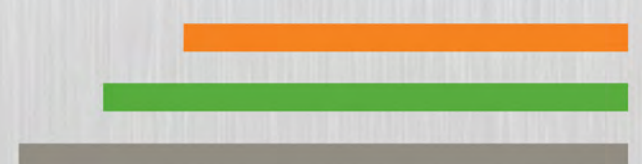




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