



RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:17pm
ASR	3:44pm
MAGHRIB	6:25pm
ISHA	7:36pm
FAJR (MARCH 28)	4:48am





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ANNOUNCEMENT

HM issues Royal Decree amending sanctuary name to Arabian Oryx Reserve



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq on Sunday issued Royal Decree No. 18/2023 reading as follows: Article (1) stipulates that the name of the "Living and Fungal Organisms Reserve in the Governorate of Al Wusta" shall be amended to "Arabian Oryx Reserve", wherever it

might occur in Royal Decree No. 4/94 on the "Living and Fungal Organisms Reserve in the Governorate of Al Wusta", and its attached Annex. Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing. — ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN EA continues to monitor biodiversity

1 The Environment Authority (EA), represented by the National Biodiversity Survey project's team, continues its efforts to improve the ranking of the environmental performance index of the Sultanate of Oman in the field of biodiversity. >A5



SPORTS Oman claim bronze medal at Beach Soccer Asian Cup

2 Oman concluded their campaign in the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2023 on a victorious note as they claimed the bronze medal after winning 4-2 against the United Arab Emirates in the third-place playoff in Pattaya, Thailand. >A8

MARKET Fees for restructuring requests for debtors

3 A Ministerial Decision No. 250/2023 was issued on Sunday by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) specifying the required fee for restructuring requests for the debtor merchant, at an amount of OMR10. >B1

FLEXIBLE RAMADAN HOURS ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY

The government's decision during Ramadan has been welcomed as it helps workers cope with fasting at work

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Government employees in the Sultanate of Oman have welcomed the decision of flexible working hours and option of remote work during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Ahead of the start of Ramadan, the Ministry of Labour had issued a notification where government employees had three other options of working besides the normal Ramadan working hours from 9am to 2pm.

The other timings offered were from 7am-12pm, 8am-1pm and 10am-3pm besides a provision for department heads to allow remote work but with at least 60 percent in attendance.

With nearly 14 hours of fasting, employees do face situations where lack of energy and sleep can affect productivity.

Though only two working days have passed since Ramadan began on Thursday, the changed flexible working hours have made it easier for government



employees to practice fasting and cope with work.

Welcome decision
Saada Al Ismaili, vice-president of Oman women's sports and gender equality committee, said: "It is a welcome decision. I have personally yet to experience it as I am on leave, but the flexible working hours will give a proper life-balance between work and home."
"Remote work helps to avoid time lost in commuting to the office and flexible working hours certainly enhance productivity.

Reduction in commuting hours to work is a big advantage."

Noor Al Balushi, another employee in the government sector, expressed happiness at flexible working during Ramadan. Al Balushi said: "I actually like to work in Ramadan because it regulates my day since I must sleep early to wake early to go to work. But, with options of picking up time slots, I found that there was less traffic on Thursday and even the work was streamlined as we had colleagues coming at different times. Lack of energy, sleep and food can affect

work but with the flexible work hours, it is easier to practice fasting and cope with work."

Ibrahim Al Abri said: "Flexible working hours are not new to us as we had it during the pandemic. I think it's a smart system and I prefer to have it not only during Ramadan but even during the year. For example if, God forbid, something happened and you were late for work, you can compensate for it on the same day with no problem and this system will make it easier for people not to rush every morning to go to work." >A5

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



Rare surgery performed at SQUH

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team from Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) succeeded in conducting a surgical operation, the first-of-its-kind in the Sultanate of Oman, to reconstruct the fractured floor of a patient's eye orbit, using a special plate.

The operation was conducted by a team headed by Dr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Bakathir, Senior Consultant of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit, in addition

to Dr. Khamis Mohammed Al Hasani, Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Department of Dental and Maxillofacial Surgery.

The surgery was conducted on a young man who met with a road accident and suffered injury to the eye. His eye's plate was manufactured in cooperation with Ommani company "CureTech", which designed the plate using CT coordinates of the patient.

Then, the location of the plate was planned in cooperation with

the medical team through a special 3D technology programme to build the plate electronically and restore the fracture area with extreme precision.

PEEK, a polymer material that withstands high temperatures and chemical reaction, was used to form a prosthetic implant piece in the patient's body. It took 60 minutes to conduct the operation, compared to 3 hours when using a conventional method of repairing the orbital fracture. >A2



31st
MUSCAT



SQU STUDENTS

Two Omani students develop smart water meter

MUSCAT: Rayan Khamis Al Kalbani and Mawadda Sulaiman Al Kheyari, students at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), met with success in developing a smart water metering device that keeps pace with international modern technological developments.

The device can be used in households and in establishments.

Rayan told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the device was designed to register water consumption readings and display them in a control panel on a special website that the duo designed under the name "IoT Manager Oman."

She added that the meter comprises a control panel through which the readings are shown in multiple forms and tables and in various colours to facilitate the process of monitoring water



consumption. It took six months to complete the project, which passed through several stages before materialising, said Rayan, noting that the team sought the assistance of Ericsson experts and studied available options and other versions of water metering

devices in the market.

Mawadda pointed out that the device assumes significance as it facilitates the process of calculating water consumption for individuals and homes, besides monitoring water use. "In our project, we envisaged possible is-



issues that this device can resolve," she said.

Mawadda added that the smart device can also solve the problem of water leakage by monitoring and comparing the actual consumption of water in different settings.

The project is the outcome of applications of the Internet of Things (IoT) Programme and the "Centre of Excellence for Advanced Communication Technologies and IoT". The Centre of Excellence focuses on 5G applications and IoT. It was established in cooperation with several departments, including the Ministry of Finance—through the "Programme of Partnership for Development (Offset)", the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and Oman Telecommunications Company "Omantel", in addition to partnership with Swedish company Ericsson, the pioneering firm in providing systems of data transfer and online communication. — ONA



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Can you eat or drink in public places during Ramadan hours?

Anyone who eats food or drinks during fasting hours in a public place shall be punished with an imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Do you know that you can be jailed for up to three months for eating or drinking in public places during the fasting hours in public places during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Omani lawyer Salah Khalifa Al Maqbali, said anyone who eats



food or drinks during Ramadan fasting hours in a public place can be punished with imprisonment for a period no less than 10 days and not exceeding 3 months.

According to Article 277 of the Omani Penal Code, both Muslims and non-Muslims are not allowed to eat and drink in public places during fasting hours. This rule is

applicable to everyone living in or visiting the country and is above the age of 15. He also said that breaking the fast or openly committing it is



Salah Khalifa Al Maqbali.



considered a great sin in the sight of God Almighty, so whoever does not repent and fear God, his punishment in the Hereafter will be a great punishment. As for the legal aspect, Al Maqbali pointed out that the basic law of the state and in its second article expressly stipulates that the religion of the state is Islam and Islamic law is the basis of legislation, as the Omani lawyer stressed the need to respect the Islamic religion and its teachings and stressed those who violate its

sanctities on many occasions. He confirmed that this was stated in the new Omani Penal Code that whoever publicly eats foods, drinks, or other substances that break the fast during the day in Ramadan shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than 10 days and not exceeding 3 months. He explained: "We note here that the text is not restricted to Muslims only, so everyone who appeared to be consuming food or drinks during the day in Ramadan is subject to the text, regardless of his religion or race."

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman and Mauritania discuss trade ties

MUSCAT: Represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Sultanate of Oman on Sunday held an official session of talks with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to discuss aspects of cooperation in the fields of communications and information technology (IT). The session was chaired by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications



and Information Technology, and Mactar Ahmed El Yedaly, Minister of Digital Transition, Innovation

and Modernization of Administration in Mauritania. Two visual displays were pre-

sented at the session. The first featured the National Programme for Digital Economy in Oman and the second dealt with the Government Digital Transition Programme in Mauritania. The Mauritanian delegation's programme includes a visit to some government and private institutions where consultative meetings will explore Oman's experience in the communications and IT sector. — **ONA**

NCSI DATA

Fish worth over OMR423 million caught in 2022



MUSCAT: The amount of fish landed in the Sultanate of Oman at the end of 2022 dropped by 21.9 percent to reach 718,726 tonnes compared to the same period in 2021, when it stood at 920,241 tonnes. The total value of the fish catch was worth OMR423,568,000 in 2022 and OMR420,927,000 in 2021. Initial statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the highest amount of fish landed by artisanal fishing at the end of December 2022 was in the Governorate of Al Wusta with 245,895 tonnes, followed by the Governorate of South A'Sharqiyah with 206,558 tonnes, then the governorates of North and South Al Batinah with 71,639 tonnes, the Governorate

of Dhofar with 68,968 tonnes, the Governorate of Musandam with 36,862 tonnes and the Governorate of Muscat with 34,967 tonnes. The total amount of fish landed by artisanal fishing by species fell by 23.6 percent to 664,890 tonnes by the end of December 2022, compared to 869,968 tonnes for the same period in 2021. The total quantities landed by coastal fishing stood at about 5,062 tonnes, an increase of 8.5 percent at the end of December 2022, compared to the same period in 2021, when it reached 4,665 tonnes. The quantities of fish landed by commercial fishing also rose to 48,774 tonnes, or by 6.9 percent, compared to the same period in 2021, when stood at 45,608 tonnes. — **ONA**

RARE SURGERY

Ideal treatment for complex fracture

< FROM A1 The CT scan after the operation showed that the restoration and reconstruction of the fracture area was carried out accurately and in accordance with pre-operative surgical

planning procedure. The patient left the hospital in good health. The technique is deemed an ideal treatment for this type of complex fracture and is approved in specialised medical centres worldwide. — **ONA**



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GOVERNORATE OF A'DAKHLIYAH

Farmers in Wilayat of Manah start harvesting wheat crop

MANAH: Farmers in the Wilayat of Manah in the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah began harvesting 160 acres of wheat in various villages of the wilayat.

Wheat production
Mohammed Harib Al Bahlani, Director of the Agriculture and Water Resources Department in the Wilayat of Manah, said that this year's wheat production is expect-

ed to reach 170 tonnes, an increase of 40 tonnes over 2022.

Local markets
Farmers market part of their crop in the local markets and another part is purchased through the Oman Flour Mills Company, he added.

He pointed out that the area cultivated with wheat within the guiding programme of the Minis-

try of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources covers 10 acres, and the number of beneficiaries is 14 farmers. He added that there are farmers outside the programme who provided the seeds themselves and cultivated an area of not less than 150 acres.

He affirmed that the department distributed this year 500 kilograms of fortified wheat varieties to various farmers. —ONA



COMMENTARY

Why students do not read books?



In a college's library, there were at least two thousand books packed together in more than a hundred shelves but none of the students were reading any of them.

They go to the library to memorise their class notes so they could pass the exams. Some, use the library to socialise and plan a day out. In defiance of their attitude, I browsed a few titles and picked one that fitted my mood. I settled myself on the sofa and started reading the opening chapter. I lost myself in the next forty minutes mesmerised by the flow of words, the clever phrases, the stirring of emotions and the touching gestures of its characters.

When I put down the book, it was as if I abandoned people I had known for years. Before I left the library, I looked at the students again. The one who was nearest me looked up at me and asked, "Sir, is everything alright?"

I think she caught the mood on my face. I mumbled something to assure her that everything was okay and left quietly. I cast my thoughts years ago when I was only 12. To say books were a second nature to me would be an exaggeration. I breathed on the sentences I read, I smelled the dampness of the old covers and heard every rustle of the pages I turned. When I



was tired of reading, I would rest the book on my stomach, closed my eyes only to pick it up again minutes later. A book to me was a time transporter, a vehicle to unreachable places, a float above the clouds and I could also touch the rainbow on the sky.

I do not understand why youngsters of today find no use of literature. No wonder they cannot express themselves on a simple thing. It is not about reading words and learning to write a decent sentence but a book goes beyond a delightful read. It is about learning other people's cultures, the innermost emotions and how to cope with similar situations in real life. Nothing is really fiction when it has been printed in a book. Every word written in a novel reflects real people from the world of imaginary characters.

It is not just fiction I buried my nose in. I used to read biography of famous people, too. Through reading, I walked the same difficult paths with them, enjoy the same views from the tallest peaks of the world, crossed the pacific and felt their pain or joy in their emotional rollercoasters. By the time I reached my late teens, reading had prepared me mentally what to expect in

the adulthood years that were waiting for me.

The teenagers of today miss all that. They enter their adulthood unprepared. They do not know how to turn disappointments into triumph or tame their feelings in a difficult moment.

Above all, they cannot relate to each other and end up breaking up friendships because they would not know how to tolerate each other. I would not be exaggerating either when I say young people today do not know how to fix their marriages when it is heading for the rocks.

In workplaces, they end up doing badly and miss promotion opportunities because they lack the communication skills. It may only mean that reading, sometimes, may well be a matter of failure and success in life. But having said that, maybe it is not entirely their fault. Parents who do not read raise children who would not read. Teachers also should take some of the blame, too. No point of having libraries if they do not instill enough values in their students to read. In conclusion, reading is simple a torch that shines to the hidden intellectuals of growing up children. It is a pity they don't know about it.

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» IFTAR TIMING

6:25 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:17 pm
Asr	3:44 pm
Maghrib	6:25 pm
Isha	7:36 pm
Fajr (March 28)	4:48 am

» IFTAR RECIPE

GREEN CUTLETS

Recipe by Oneza Tabish



- INGREDIENTS**
- 2 tablespoons roasted gram flour
 - (1/2”) piece ginger
 - 2 cloves garlic, grated
 - 2 green chillies, finely chopped
 - 1/2 cup spinach blanched, drained and roughly chopped
 - 1/4 cup green peas, boiled
 - 1/4 cup mashed potatoes
 - 1/2 teaspoon chaat masala
 - 1/4 teaspoon garam masala
 - Salt to taste
 - 3 tablespoons whole wheat bread crumbs
 - 1 teaspoon oil for cooking

- PREPARATION**
- Combine the spinach, green peas, green chillies and gram flour and blend to a coarse paste without using any water.
 - Add the potatoes to this and season with salt, chaat and garam masala and mix well.
 - Divide the mixture into 6 equal portions and shape them into flat round cutlets.
 - Roll the cutlets in the bread crumbs.
 - Heat oil in a non-stick pan and cook on both sides till they are golden brown in colour.
 - Serve hot with chutney.

» WORDS OF WISDOM

Repentance involves a true feel of remorse for the sin committed, a desire to avoid its repetition, and asking Allah directly for forgiveness. The repentant have an intention to return to obedience and take refuge in the mercy and favour of Allah.

“Assuredly, Allah loves the oft-repentant and those who always seek to purify themselves.”
(Holy Quran, 2:222)

» FASTING TIPS



Eat complex carbohydrate for Suhoor. Include oats and nuts with dates and bananas. This will not only give you energy through the day but will also keep you fuller for longer.

» CUISINE

CHOOSE HEALTHY COOKING METHODS

Try baking sambusa, fish cutlets, and pakora, instead of deep-frying them. Also enjoy your sugary Ramadan juices in moderation and aim for more servings of laban, homemade iced green tea, or plain water.

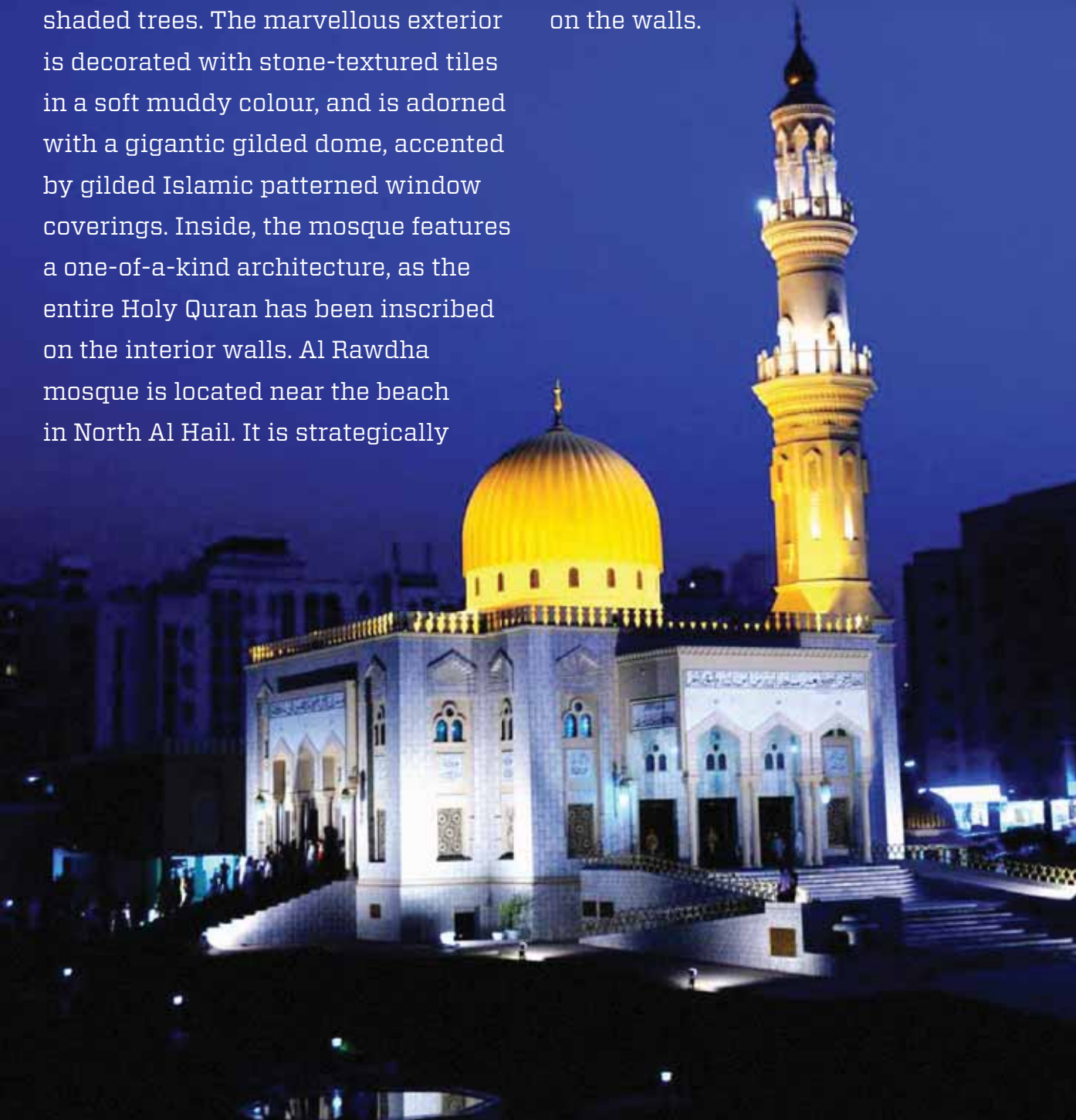


» GOOD DEEDS

VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

RAMADAN is the perfect time to visit the beautiful houses of worship. Whether for Taraweeh prayers or Dhuhr, pay a visit to one of Muscat’s architectural monuments of faith. Zawawi Mosque is one such place. This beautiful mosque was built in 1985 and is situated on a peaceful square patch of grassy land, filled with shaded trees. The marvellous exterior is decorated with stone-textured tiles in a soft muddy colour, and is adorned with a gigantic gilded dome, accented by gilded Islamic patterned window coverings. Inside, the mosque features a one-of-a-kind architecture, as the entire Holy Quran has been inscribed on the interior walls. Al Rawdha mosque is located near the beach in North Al Hail. It is strategically

tucked between a few houses near the corniche. Its exterior is eye-catching and very interesting; it’s covered with marble in different shades of brown and beige and features interesting elements such as metal grills dyed grey and black and Duaa verses in gold adorning the main gate. The most appealing element is the hand carvings on the walls.







HOMMER



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EA continues to monitor biodiversity of Oman



The aim is to enhance building a national database of species, updating their areas of existence and the changes that occurred in them

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority (EA), represented by the National Biodiversity Survey project's team, continues its efforts to improve the ranking of the environmental performance index of the Sultanate of Oman in the field of biodiversity.

The step aims to enhance building a national database of species, updating their areas of existence and the changes that occurred in them, in addition to recording, monitoring and documenting elements of biodiversity in the Sultanate in Oman.

The work team, in cooperation with the Environment Depart-

ment in the Governorate of Musandam, recently carried out two-week field survey for the National Survey of Biodiversity Project in Musandam Governorate. According to the team's division, the project included 119 survey squares from the category of surveys of high-priority areas, which were divided into dimensions of 5x5 km across the governorate.

The work team met with Sayyid Ibrahim Said Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam.

The team highlighted the tasks and specialisations of the team, and the biodiversity of rare natural animal species that live in wild



environments in the Sultanate of Oman and the challenges it faces.

It also spotlighted the efforts of the team and the preliminary results it has achieved since project's inception in 2022 in the Governorate of Dhofar.

The field work resulted in surveying 77 sites, equivalent to 1,925 square kilometres, and installing 45 trap cameras, which will be

monitored periodically to ensure that they remain active for a period of 6 months from the date of their installation.

The joint team managed to complete 65 percent of the project's work in the governorate, while the remaining work will be completed according to the work plan prepared for 2023.

-ONA

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Oman Air hikes frequency of flights to Moscow

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, has increased the frequency of flights to Moscow as part of its summer schedule.

Offering maximum comfort and convenience to its guests, the airline will be flying daily using its popular Airbus A330 wide-body aircraft.

The non-stop flight from Muscat will depart at 15:35 and arrive in Moscow at 20:55, while the return sector will depart from Moscow at 23:20 and arrive in Muscat at 06:30. Guests travelling to Muscat or Moscow should ensure they are aware of official requirements to enter or transit through the country. -ONA



HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Flexible working routine helps in reducing peak hour traffic

< FROM A senior official, who wished to speak on condition of anonymity, said: "One could stick to one routine in Ramadan as it was easier to cope with it when you had a routine. During the blessed month of Ramadan, I have a routine that makes working hours easier. I have suhoor, sleep until 6 am then wake up to go to work around 10am. I stay at work until 3pm. I go home, sleep for some time, then I wake up to break my fast and have iftar."

He added: The flexible working hours also mean that there can be a better coordination between government and private sector and this would mean better business dealings and more productivity." Another employee,

Khoula al Suleimani, said that "the new system of flexible working hours assist to reduce traffic, especially during afternoon peak traffic hours, and will help people to be more productive in the workplace."

"On the first day, a noticeable difference was seen in the afternoon on the roads. Less traffic during peak afternoon hours was visible and this will also help in eliminating road accidents," said Badr Al Maamari, who was travelling to Saham to spend the weekend with his family.

The flexible working hours had one common reply from the employees: traffic woes will be reduced. "There will be less traffic and during Ramadan, when one is hungry and thirsty, to spend time

on the roads can be frustrating," said Said Al Ruqaishi, a ministry employee.

Badr Al Zadjali said that these are "early days of the holy month of Ramadan." "With fasting, one gets tired easily. The flexible work hours makes it easier for us to rest more and go late to office. It is certainly beneficial and provides an opportunity to strike a right work-life balance and help office managers to be more creative and productive, ultimately helping the productivity at work place," he noted.

While government employees have the option of flexible working hours, few Muslims, working in private sector, said that the option should have covered all people who were observing fasting,



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Ramadan Iftar Program



The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1444 AH AD 2023

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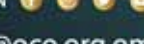
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Turkish Property Developer **Atis Yapi** announced the opening of its office in Muscat, showcases its investment opportunities in a diverse property portfolio to Omani investors



MUSCAT: Atis Yapi, the leading Turkish real estate development company, has outlined its leading real estate developments in Türkiye before investors in Oman, in a special event before Ramadan held in Muscat.

Atis Yapi announced the opening of its Muscat office – a move to create more areas of cooperation between Türkiye and Oman, while also enabling the company to build its presence in the Omani market.

The gathering was held at Kempinski Muscat hotel and attended by His Excellency Muhammet Hekimoglu, Turkish Ambassador to Oman, Mr. Hamoud bin Sultan bin Hamad Al-Sammari Al-Busaidi, Expert in the Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Husamettin Atis, Chairman of Atis group of Companies, and hosted by Mr. Ahmet Atis, CEO of Atis Yapi. The current gathering is part of a series of regional meetings held by Atis Yapi in the region to encourage investments and discuss mutual collaboration opportunities.

Mr. Ahmet Atis, CEO, Atis Yapi stated: “We are honoured to be here in Muscat to explore mutual collaboration and encourage investments in the real estate sector. Atis Yapi has built a strong reputation by delivering excellent property developments in Türkiye, and we aim to provide solid investment opportunities to discerning Omani buyers from within our diverse portfolio of high-quality real estate options which meet their needs. We are ready to be their trusted partner and add great value to their investments”.

On behalf of Atis Yapi, Mahir Abdulkadiroglu, Business Development Consultant presented a presentation about the company's current projects in Türkiye, especially Bursa, and explored the potential investment opportunities for investors from Oman. Abdulkadiroglu stated that the company is executing huge residential and commercial projects that add real value to the market and offers great opportunities for worthy investments.

In addition, Atis Yapi opened during the same day its official office in Muscat to support potential buyers and investors with all related information and consultancy, and offer them a wide range of services.

Atis Yapi is a leading real estate development company based in Bursa, Türkiye, and characterized by its contemporary design, quality and innovation. Throughout more than 15 years of operations, Atis Yapi has developed thousands of luxury residential and com-



mercial units in addition to malls, hotels and shops. Atis Yapi is a full-service provider that delivers solutions and all related services to ensure that customers receive the best returns.

The company's projects are located in the heart of Bursa, offering residents and investors an ideal location to live or invest and providing them with comprehensive solutions.

Located in Türkiye's northwest region, Bursa's rich history and amazing weather attract tourists from across the world, leading it to be considered one of Türkiye's most important cities. In addition to its ancient mosques and myriad museums, the city is known as 'Green Bursa' due to the vast areas of natural beauty that surround it, including Uludag National Park, natural springs and waterfalls, and the Luna Park Botanic Botanical Garden.

TORNADO DAMAGE

President Biden: ‘Will do everything we can to help’

WASHINGTON: As Tornado left a trail of destruction across US state of Mississippi killing as many as 23 people and plunging thousands of homes into darkness, US President Joe Biden called the devastation “heart-breaking” as search and rescue efforts continued on Saturday.

Biden expressed condolences and offered “full federal support as communities recover from the effects of this storm.”

“To those impacted by these devastating storms, and to the first responders and emergency personnel working to help their fellow Americans: we will do everything we can to help. We will be there as long as it takes. We will work together to deliver the support you need to recover,” Biden said.

Biden in his statement on Saturday said: “While we are still assessing the full extent of the damage, we know that many of our fellow Americans are not only grieving for family and friends, they’ve lost their homes and businesses.”

President Joe Biden spoke with state and local leaders after deadly storms swept across the South overnight and said he is “praying for those who have lost loved ones” and “for those whose loved ones are missing.”

The US President said he had reached out to Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves and had spoken to Senator Wicker, Senator Hyde-Smith, and Congressman Bennie Thompson to express his condolences and offer full federal support as communities recover from the effects of this storm.

“I also spoke to FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, who has already deployed emergency response personnel and resources to support search-and-rescue teams, assess the damage,” Biden said in his statement released by The White House. -ANI

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



19 migrants drown as boat sinks off Tunisia

TUNISIA: At least 19 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa died when their boat sank off the coast of Tunisia as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to Italy.

In the past four days, five migrant boats have sunk off the southern city of Sfax, leaving 67 missing and 9 dead, after a significant increase in boats heading towards Italy.

According to UN data, at least

12,000 migrants who reached Italy in 2023 set sail from Tunisia, compared with 1,300 in the same period of 2022. Previously, Libya was the main departure point for migrants.

Tunisia’s coast guard prevented more than 14,000 migrants setting off in boats during the first three months of 2023, compared with 2,900 during the same period last year. -ONA

ISRO

India’s largest LVM3 rocket launches 36 satellites in orbit

SRIHARIKOTA: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched India’s largest LVM3 rocket carrying 36 satellites from Andhra Pradesh’s Sriharikota on Sunday morning.

LVM3 was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at around 9 AM. “LVM3 standing 43.5 metres tall and weighing 643 tonnes lifted off from the second launch pad rocket port carrying OneWeb’s final instalment of 36 Gen1 satellites”, said the officials.

Reportedly, the LVM3 is a three-stage rocket with the first stage fired with liquid fuel, the two strap-on motors powered by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and



the third is the cryogenic engine.

“Just over 19 minutes after the rocket’s take off, the process of satellite separation will begin. The separation of 36 satellites will happen in a phased manner”, as in-

formed by the officials.

Earlier social media handle of OneWeb satellite communications company and a partner in this mission took to Twitter and said, “Our golden ‘Hello World’ mission patch for this launch reflects our initiation of global coverage this year”.

One Web also mentioned the importance of collaboration between the UK and Indian space industries. This mission marks OneWeb’s second satellite deployment from India, highlighting the collaboration between the UK and Indian space industries”.

In the year 2022 on October 23, ISRO launched 36 satellites of OneWeb. -ANI

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FREE 2TRY

Oman clinch bronze medal; Iran are Asian champions

Talib Hilal-coached side defeated UAE 4-2 to finish their AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup campaign on a winning note

MUSCAT: Oman concluded their campaign in the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2023 on a victorious note as they claimed the bronze medal with a 4-2 victory against the United Arab Emirates in the third-place playoff at the Jomtien Beach Arena in Pattaya on Sunday.

The victory is a boost for Talib Hilal-coached Oman as they now train their sights on November's FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup UAE 2023.

Later in the evening on Sunday, Iran were at their awesome best as they defeated Japan 6-0 in the final to clinch their third Asian crown. The victory meant that Iran have drawn level with Japan on three titles each.

A day after Oman had lost to Iran in the semi-finals, the players displayed lot of resilience as they came back strongly to earn a place on the podium.

UAE got off to a bright start with Rashed Yaqoub scoring with the first kick of the ball when he struck from the centre of the pitch to the top right corner of Oman's net.

Oman tried to respond in similar fashion through Khalid Al Araimi but UAE keeper Younis Al Owaisi easily blocked his effort.

The Emiratis looked more likely to score with each passing minute with Kamal Ali sending a looping drive from distance over the



bar in the 11th minute before Ali Mohammad just failed to find the target on the turn moments later.

Oman, however, responded in stunning fashion at the start of the second half with Mushel

The action came thick and fast with both sides jostling for the upper hand with Yahya Al Muraiki, putting Oman in front when he slotted home from a set-piece situation in the 22nd minute.

UAE almost equalised a minute later through Walid Mohammad, who had his shot palmed away by Younis Al Owaisi but the keeper

couldn't deny the Emiratis much longer as Rashed Yaqoub scored his second goal from the spot in the closing stages of the half.

Oman turned up the tempo in the third half with Sami Al Balushi netting in the 26th and 27th minutes thanks to assists from Khalid Al Araimi.

The onus was on UAE to find their way back into the tie but their chance never came as Oman held on to seal the win.

Iran dominant

It was a tense start with neither team allowing the other space but it was Iran who had the first look on goal with Amir Akbari sending his overhead kick just above the bar.

Despite Japan's man-marking, Iran scored the opening goal in spectacular fashion when Movahed Mohammadpour collected a long pass from keeper Seyedmahdi Mirjajili before finishing acrobatically in the fourth minute.

Japan struggled to find their

footing and suffered another setback in the eighth minute with Mirjajili the orchestrator again when he set up Ali Mirshekari for another acrobatic finish leaving Shinya Shibamoto well beaten.

Japan were missing the attacking play which had seen them breeze to the final and had no answer to Iran's aggression when they conceded again in the 20th minute after Mirjajili's throw was deflected by Movahed to an unmarked Moslem Mesigar to slam the ball home.

Iran piled more misery on Japan in the 29th minute when Shibamoto was dispossessed in his own area by Mohammadali Mokhtari before slotting home the fourth into an empty goalmouth. Iran furthered their advantage in the 35th minute following an own goal by Japan's Kosuke Matsuda before Mirshekari added the sixth with seconds left on the clock to seal the win and clinch their third title. (With inputs from www.the-afc.com)



Morocco stunned
Brazil 2-1 in
a friendly

TANGIERS: Morocco upset Brazil 2-1 in a friendly international on Saturday as the north African side recorded a first ever win over the five-time world champions.

Midfielder Sofiane Boufal, a former Southampton star, but now playing with Al Rayyan in Qatar, gave Morocco the lead after 29 minutes, scoring with a powerful turn and drive from a pass by Bilal El Khannous. Brazil skipper Casemiro levelled in the 67th minute when his weak shot was fumbled by goalkeeper Yassine Bounou.

But on-loan Sampdoria midfielder Abdelhamid Sabiri struck the winner with a volley in the 79th minute as Morocco showed that becoming the first Arab or African nation to reach the World Cup semi-finals last year was no fluke.

Only 10 of the 23-man squad that took Brazil to a disappointing quarter-final exit at the World Cup made the trip to Morocco for the game.

The injured Neymar was again missing with his No.10 shirt passing to Real Madrid youngster Rodrygo. Brazil also had a new manager in the dugout with interim coach Ramon Menezes having replaced Tite who stepped down after the World Cup last-eight exit at the hands of Croatia.

Before kick-off at the Ibn Batouta stadium, both teams paid tribute to Pele, who died last December at the age of 82. Until Saturday, Morocco had suffered defeats in their only two other meetings with Brazil - 2-0 in a 1997 friendly and 3-0 in the group stages of the 1998 World Cup in France.



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SHARAKAH HOLDS AGM

Sharakah held its 24th Annual General Meeting to discuss the financial year that ended on December 31, 2022. The meeting was held online through Muscat Clearing and Depository virtual platform, on March 21 and was presided over by Said Al Sahib, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,844.30 points, down by 0.55 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.45 per cent at 479.38 points. Global Financial Investments, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 9.33 per cent, was the top loser.

Fees finalised for restructuring requests for debtor merchant

The bankruptcy law of Oman contributes to empowering the debtor merchant and helps him to get out of financial and administrative turmoil after paying off the debts

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Ministerial Decision No. 250/2023 was issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MO-CIIP) specifying the fee for restructuring requests for the debtor merchant, at an amount of OMR10. The decision shall be effective from the day following its publishing date in the Official Gazette. The ministry emphasised that the bankruptcy law in the Sultanate of Oman contributes to empowering the debtor merchant and helping him to get out of the stage



of financial and administrative turmoil after paying off the debts, through a plan to restructure his/her financial situation. The ministry pointed out that, the law aims at regulating the collective collection of the money of the debtor merchant who has stopped paying the commercial debts on time, taking into account the rights of creditors when fulfilling them fairly, and protecting them from whatever prejudice may affect them, to shorten the litigation periods in the lawsuits arising about bankruptcy and facilitating procedures thereon. The importance of issuing the

bankruptcy law also lies in enhancing the confidence of local and international investors, strengthening the economy forward, and enabling the financial reorganisation of troubled establishments, to overcome the stage of financial failure and pay off debts and obligations, without disrupting the wheel of production. Asila bint Salem bin Abdullah Al-Hussainiya, Head of the Commercial Establishments Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said: "The bankruptcy law was issued by Royal Decree No. 53/2019 on 7th July 2020,

thus this law annulled Book Five of the Commercial Law issued by Royal Decree No. 55/90." She pointed out that, the law included a set of rules and provisions regulating the declaration of bankruptcy of the merchant and the preceding preventive stages that would help him/her to get out of the stage of financial and administrative turmoil, after paying debts and reconciling with creditors following the restructuring plan organised by the legislator and the undertaken settlement process. The conciliation judge between the debtor merchant and the creditors to avoid declaring bankruptcy

based on a request submitted by the debtor merchant in what is called (protective composition). Asila Al-Hussainiya clarified that the provisions of the bankruptcy law apply to everyone who carries out a commercial business in his/her name and has the necessary capacity, and takes transactions as a profession, as well as every commercial company, a foreign merchant who has a branch or agency in the Sultanate of Oman and has not been sentenced to declare bankruptcy in a foreign country. The institutions licensed by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and the insurance companies are exceptionable in the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Corporate restructuring

She also said, "The bankruptcy law defines corporate restructuring as the procedures that would help the debtor merchant to get out of the stage of financial and administrative turmoil to pay off debts, while the Omani legislator introduced this action in this law as the matter has become necessary in light of the economic fluctuations that occur overnight." She pointed out that, the law granted the right to the merchant who stopped paying debts, an opportunity to return to get up again, where allowing for the debtor to utilise the restructuring system, as restructuring is a means of

agreement aims at achieving a balance between the interests of the debtor-merchant and creditors to ensure the work of the troubled company and the creditors' access on their due money. She stressed that the restructuring takes place in various ways, including, reaching an agreement to grant a long grace period for the debtor to pay debts, forgive a part of debts, or both ways. Al-Husseiniyah added: The legislator set objective and formal conditions that must be met to approve the restructuring request. The objective conditions include the continuation of the debtor merchant in practising his/her commercial business on an ongoing basis during the two years preceding the submission of the application and not committing any fraud. The formal conditions include, submitting the application to the Commercial Establishments Control Department in the Directorate General of Commerce at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, within six months from the date of the disruption of the business of the debtor, providing final judgment declaring his bankruptcy has not been issued against him or a judgment has been issued to start protective composition procedures. It also includes that, the company is not in the process of liquidation when applying.

ZUBAIR ENTERPRISES

Session held on digital transformation and its relevance in SMEs sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) recently held its March "Tajribiti" discussion at the Bait Al Zubair Corporation in collaboration with Mazen Mohammed Al Hadrami, founder of Omani agency "Let's M". The session was attended by a group of entrepreneurs interested in Digital Transformation along with consultants of the Zubair Enterprise Development centre. The session focused on the application of digital transformation in different business areas from administration to marketing and customer relations. The discussion was extended to the role e-commerce plays in the digital transformation process. Commenting on the session, Thuraya Al Mahruqi, a business associate at ZEDC stated, "Digital transformation is what drives growth and sustainability in the private sector, especially for SMEs. Through this session, we seek to empower entrepreneurs in the Sultanate by highlighting the importance of Digital Transforma-



tion and how they can take full advantage of the opportunities it can offer for the growth of their business projects. The monthly "Tajribiti" sessions are a platform for participation, interaction and exchange of experiences and knowledge among SMEs entrepreneurs, specialists, and academics in the field of entrepreneurship." She added, "It was our great pleasure to welcome Mazen Al Hadrami to this session and we hope that our participants gained a better understanding of digital

transformation and its application for their businesses." Mazen Al-Hadrami, the Founder of 'Lets Go' and 'Lets M', said, "I was pleased to participate in the ZEDC Tajribiti session on the importance of digital transformation for SMEs. The objective was to showcase how a full digital transformation can have a significant impact on SMEs' performance by using technologies which support management and marketing processes and enhance their customers' experience. During this ses-

sion, we provided valuable advice and information to participants to help them begin their journey towards digital transformation. I hope this meeting provided an opportunity for participants to learn the basics of digital transformation and identify steps they can take to achieve success in their day-to-day operations. This session was a great opportunity to connect and interact with entrepreneurs and those who are interested in digital transformation with engaging and valuable discussions. At "Let's Go" and "Let's M" Agency, we are keen to support and assist these companies in achieving their business objectives by leveraging modern tools and technologies." The Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) is one of the initiatives of The Zubair Corporation in the field of social responsibility, which runs many specialised programmes and a consulting centre for entrepreneurs. Zubair EDC is keen to build strategic relationships with a number of its strategic partners from the public, private and academic sectors to support entrepreneurship in the Sultanate of Oman.

EMERGENCY LENDING FACILITY

US mulls more support for banks while giving First Republic Bank time

NEW YORK: US authorities are considering the expansion of an emergency lending facility that would offer banks more support, in an effort that could give First Republic Bank more time to shore up its balance sheet. While any changes to the Fed's liquidity offerings would apply to all eligible users, the adjustments could be designed to ensure that First Republic benefits from the changes, according to Bloomberg News. All deliberations are at an early stage and an expansion of the Federal Reserve's emergency lending program is one of the many considerations by officials to support the failing lender, the report said, citing people with knowledge of the situation, Reuters reported. Representatives for the US Treasury, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and First Republic Bank declined to comment. Federal Reserve did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.



US banks have sought record amounts of emergency liquidity from the Federal Reserve in the past month after the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. Earlier this month, US President Joe Biden's economic team worked with regulators to set up measures to support the banking system, including setting up a new facility to give banks access to emergency funds and making it easier for banks to borrow from the Fed in emergencies. **BNA**

FASHION INDUSTRY

Fashion extinction: France's affordable brands in crisis

PARIS: The global fashion industry is grappling with a crisis fuelled by high inflation and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. France's pret-a-porter sector is no exception. Even as French luxury labels such as Chanel and Louis Vuitton continue to churn out profits, many midrange brands have been forced to enter bankruptcy proceedings. Except for those with innovative approaches. Insolvent brands include shoe-maker Andre and women's fashion labels Camaieu and Kookai. "Our company used to be incredibly successful and we had about 300 retailers in ten countries," Kookai's marketing director Jennifer Cohen Solal told DW. "But after the French group Vivarte bought the company in 1996, things started to go downhill — our clients gradually withdrew their love," she said. Vivarte downsized the company's business to three countries — France, Spain and Switzerland



— and stopped investing in the remaining 120 stores. When Australia's Magi purchased the brand in 2017, one restructuring plan had already been implemented. A second one was to follow in 2021. "Our frail financial health was the reason why banks then rejected our two demands for gov-

ernment-backed emergency loans after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic," Cohen Solal recalled. Kookai entered insolvency proceedings in February this year. **Hit by multiple crises** But Philippe Moati says today's high inflation and sinking purchasing power are just the final

straw for many midrange pret-a-porter chains. He's a professor of economics at the Paris Cite University and founder of the Paris-based market research company ObSoCo. "France's midrange fashion labels have suffered from multiple crises," he told DW. "The months-long yellow vest protests for more social justice from

November 2018 meant many customers didn't feel like going shopping and more recently, weeks-long lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated the chains' cash-flow problems," he said. "What's more, France has too much shop floor — the market is saturated — and since 2017, sales are allowed all year round, which has amplified competition," Moati noted. He added that websites selling secondhand clothes such as the Lithuanian platform Vinted were putting the sector under further pressure. **Tough competition from fast fashion** And yet, France's midrange pret-a-porter sector did have a golden age, Gildas Minvielle, director of the Economic Observatory at Paris-based fashion school Institut Francais de la Mode, recalled. "These stores outpaced small boutiques in the 1980s and had a very successful period until 2010, even 2015," he told DW.

But now, the sector is also having to cope with so-called fast fashion brands — extremely cheap and continuously updated clothes. "The Chinese company Shein is particularly tough competition — this pure player with only an online presence sells all sizes including very small and very big ones," Minvielle explained. Just like luxury brands, very cheap clothes remain popular. That particularly worries Minvielle. "Every purchase has an impact and young people should be aware of how polluting fast fashion is," he said. The fast fashion sector is sparking environmental and ethical concerns for using a high amount of resources and producing under dubious labour conditions. Since the beginning of the pandemic, which instituted working from home in the business world, people bother even less about what they wear, reckons Michel Resseguier, a fashion industry veteran. **BW**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Global Financial Investments, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 9.33 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,844.30 points, down by 0.55 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.45 per cent at 479.38 points. Global Financial Investments, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 9.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Ominvest were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 624 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.86 million, with more than 8.95 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded securities, 9 advanced, 15 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR366,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR303,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR64,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,737.06 points, down 0.32 per cent. Prices of Global Financial Investments, DIDIC and Oman

United Insurance were up by 9.80 per cent, 1.27 per cent and 0.62 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank and Bank Muscat were up by 4.76 per cent, 2.00 per cent, 1.91 per cent and 0.73 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,083.83 points, down 0.43 per cent. Prices of Oman Fisheries were up by 4.65 per cent respectively. Prices of Construction Materials, National Aluminium, A'Saffa Foods, Dhofar Beverages and Voltamp Energy were up by 9.33 per cent, 8.33 per cent, 7.37 per cent, 5.22 per cent and 4.55 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.2 per cent before closing at 1,718.62 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Al Suwadi Power and Muscat Desalination were up by 4.00 per cent, 3.33 per cent and 2.06 per cent respectively. Prices of Ooredoo, National Gas, Oman Telecom and Abraj Energy were up by 1.44 per cent, 0.97 per cent, 0.46 per cent and 0.34 per cent respectively. - United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDECIES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,871.01	4,800.74	4,844.30	4,871.01	-26.71	-0.55	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,765.62	7,730.90	7,737.06	7,761.55	-24.49	-0.32	
Industry Index	6,126.65	6,083.83	6,083.83	6,109.81	-25.98	-0.43	
Services Index	1,723.58	1,702.14	1,718.62	1,722.12	-3.49	-0.20	
MSX Shariah Index	565.99	479.38	479.38	481.55	-2.16	-0.45	
MSX TR INDEX	6,262.86	6,172.51	6,228.51	6,236.78	-8.26	-0.13	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,255.78	8,218.86	8,225.41	8,217.52	7.89	0.10	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,871.70	1,848.42	1,866.32	1,866.14	0.18	0.01	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,439.74	6,394.73	6,394.73	6,400.11	-5.37	-0.08	

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,950,464	2,864,837	624	23,804,522,525	9	15	18	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 26

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PRI VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	5,000	280	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.051	0.005	9.804	0.056	0.055	0.000	0.100	11,200,000	
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	72,155	3,968	3	0.055	0.055	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.002	4.000	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.055	0.100	11,556,480
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	41,613	13,404	9	0.322	0.324	0.322	0.324	0.322	0.002	0.621	0.324	0.322	0.324	0.100	32,400,000	
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	900	522	2	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.000	0.000	0.580	0.582	0.586	0.100	91,350,000	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,607,153	803,577	44	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.504	0.508	0.100	334,182,713	
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR.	85	136	1	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000	0.000	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.100	143,530,000	
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,700	581	1	0.342	0.342	0.342	0.342	0.342	0.000	0.000	0.342	0.310	0.342	0.100	75,240,000	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	2,390	688	1	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.000	0.000	0.288	0.260	0.300	0.100	35,970,612	
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	52,900	3,881	9	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.075	0.077	0.100	6,660,000	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	102,282	110,365	14	1.080	1.080	1.080	1.080	1.085	-0.005	-0.461	1.080	1.080	1.080	0.100	810,000,000	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,093,280	272,523	62	0.275	0.275	0.269	0.273	0.275	-0.002	-0.727	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.100	940,246,398	
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	5,623	2,362	9	0.420	0.420	0.416	0.416	0.420	-0.004	-0.952	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.100	22,880,000	
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	2,300	943	3	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.416	-0.006	-1.442	0.410	0.376	0.410	0.100	266,887,134	
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	14,000	1,438	6	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.105	-0.002	-1.905	0.103	0.103	0.105	0.100	472,776,416	
Total	14	2,911,381	1,214,668	165													

Parallel Market

OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	1,200	108	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.086	0.004	4.651	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	16,387,056
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	17,000	527	4	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.001	3.333	0.031	0.030	0.031	0.100	22,146,597	
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	2,067	248	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.117	0.003	2.564	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	50,972,425
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	506	50	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.002	2.062	0.099	0.096	0.099	0.100	15,399,490
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT	6,730	1,077	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.158	0.002	1.266	0.160	0.161	0.165	0.100	65,479,411
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	135,000	7,835	13	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	17,814,487
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRO	1,200	294	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	10,068,470
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	243,885	15,108	15	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	21,646,953
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	14,000	2,170	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.100	464,434,473
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	73,150	7,514	9	0.104	0.104	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.104	0.100	20,362,831
OM0000004689	SHARQIYAH DESALIN	157	20	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.100	12,518,676
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	521,347	47,272	30	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	15,825,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	278	16	1	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.057	0.059	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	200	14	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.065	0.072	0.100	33,925,420
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	10,000	1,400	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.133	0.140	0.100	10,573,080
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	4,318,197	1,261,026	332	0.293	0.293	0.292	0.292	0.293	-0.001	-0.341	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.100	224,898,400
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	22,500	2,308	3	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.103	0.100	0.103	0.100	8,670,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	188,334	18,426	13	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.000	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.100	219,231,237
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	147	15	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.110	-0.005	-4.545	0.105	0.105	0.110	0.100	8,547,289	
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV.	534	32	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.063	-0.003	-4.762	0.060	0.057	0.057	0.100	1,800,000
OM0000001251	DHOFAR BEVERAGES	1,500	323	2	0.218	0.218	0.215	0.218	0.230	-0.012	-5.217	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	4,360,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	64,700	12,938	6	0.200	0.200	0.176	0.176	0.190	-0.014	-7.368	0.176	0.172	0.198	0.100	21,120,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	27,700	1,562	7	0.058	0.058	0.055	0.055	0.060	-0.005	-8.333	0.055	0.054	0.058	0.100	1,846,430
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	15,000	450	1	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.033	-0.003	-9.091	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.100	20,246,623
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	10,000	680	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.075	-0.007	-9.333	0.068	0.068	0.075	0.100	4,250,000
Total	25	5,673,132	1,381,383	449												

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sharakah's 24th AGM marks another year of achievements and growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sharakah held its 24th Annual General Meeting to discuss the financial year that ended on December 31, 2022. The meeting was held online through Muscat Clearing and Depository (MCD) virtual platform, on March 21st, 2023, and was presided over by Said Al Sahib, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. Various stakeholders, including Board Members, shareholders, representatives of shareholders, statutory auditors, lawyers, MOCI representatives, and Sharakah employees attended the meeting. The meeting was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Muscat Clearing and Depository. During the AGM, the audited financial statements for the year 2022 were discussed and approved, along with the appoint-

ment of the statutory auditor for the upcoming fiscal year of 2023.

Election

This was the election year for the Sharakah board hence the shareholders elected seven members as the Board of Directors for the year 2023-2025.

The following members have been elected to the board: Hani Mohammed Al Zubair, Said Salim Al Sahib, Kamal Uddin Hassan Al Maraza, Hassan Abdul Amir Shaban, Qais Mahmood Al-Khonji, Rashad Jaffar Al Shaikh and Malvika Pankaj Khimji.

During the meeting, Said Al Sahib provided an overview of Sharakah's accomplishments throughout the year. He emphasised the company's unwavering commitment to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Oman by pursuing all available avenues to help them remain resilient. Despite fac-

ing challenges, Said highlighted how Sharakah aims to help SMEs transform obstacles into opportunities for innovation and growth.

He explained, "In line with the government and Central Bank of Oman's directives, Sharakah continued lending a helping hand to small businesses which were affected by the pandemic, lockdowns, and restrictions with supporting gestures such as interest and principal waivers, repayments deferments and loans restructuring. These interventions have shown positive outcomes for the SMEs we supported."

Entrepreneurship

Building on 25 years of achievement, he said, "Sharakah continues to promote the culture of entrepreneurship by adopting innovative projects and providing aspiring entrepreneurs opportunities to overcome obstacles and fulfil their dreams of becoming

successful business leaders."

During the year Sharakah showed commitment to supporting Oman's Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP) endorsed by the Council of Ministers and approved by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said in 2021 by introducing a new Equity Scheme for Innovation and Technology. It is again redesigning its new five-year strategy to align with market conditions those lines up with Oman's Vision 2040.

Apart from sectors such as information technology, engineering, manufacturing, services, and food industries, Sharakah is now providing support to a substantial number of projects in industries, including transformative industries such as hydroponic farms, fish processing, logistics, tourism, technology, and innovation. Sharakah is increasing the sectors it supports to encourage SMEs to participate and contribute to the country's GDP.

DEVELOPMENT

China's economic recovery adds certainty to global growth

BEIJING: After a good start this year, the Chinese economy will buoy steady and sustained development, adding certainty to global growth clouded by upheavals, an official said on Saturday.

The country has hit the "fast-forward" button on its economic growth after it optimised the epidemic prevention and control measures, said Han Wenxiu, executive deputy director of the office of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs, at the economic summit of the ongoing China Development Forum 2023.

Passenger flows, logistics, and business trips in China are normalising fast, while the domestic demand has recovered, said Han, citing major economic indicators in the first two months.

The country's retail sales, a gauge of consumption growth, increased 3.5 per cent year on year in the January-February period, reversing declines seen in the previous three months.

In the period, China's value-added industrial output went up 2.4 per cent year on year, while the index gauging the country's service industry output rose 5.5 per cent. With the accelerated implementation of supporting policies, the confidence of enterprises and investors is also on the mend, Han said.

He also noted that China's economic operation still faces chal-



lenges such as stagflation risks and spillover effects brought by the tightened monetary policies of developed economies, saying that the country's 2023 growth target is set after considering the above factors.

China aims to expand its economy by around 5 per cent in 2023, according to its government work report.

"The current development momentum bodes a promising prospect for the full-year growth target," said Han, adding that China will remain a significant engine fueling global economic growth.

The contribution of China's economy to the world economic growth has exceeded 30 per cent on average in the past decade, and the figure this year will surpass that in 2022, providing market demand and a strong impetus to the global recovery, he said.

Han also pointed out that China is proactive in stabilising global industrial and supply chains, defusing financial risks, attracting foreign investments, and upholding multilateralism.

To further revive the economy, China will make more efforts in Chinese modernisation to cultivate development in the medium and long term, said Han.

China will expand international innovation cooperation and achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, he said.

Han noted that the country would improve birth policies and the elderly care service system and stick to high-level opening up.

"The pursuit of Chinese modernisation will surely inject vitality into the world's prosperity," he added. -Xinhua

INDIA GLOBAL FORUM

IGF annual summit to discuss global issues

NEW DELHI: India Global Forum (IGF) announced that its flagship annual summit will be held in New Delhi today, with the theme of 'Setting the Pace'

CREATE A CAREER



THAT FUELS YOUR DREAM LIFESTYLE

When will you break away from your 9-to-5 job so you can embrace the lifestyle of your dreams? “Hindsight 2020” author Kyle Corbett is motivating would-be entrepreneurs who are still in their 20s to make the leap now, before the economy tanks and life traps them at their desk jobs.

At just 38, Corbett owns and runs several businesses but doesn’t consider any of them to be jobs.

He started his first of several entrepreneurial efforts with \$6,500. That business now grosses upwards of \$650,000 a year. He runs sailing tours. He operates an ocean conservation and eco-tour business. He surfs, travels and lives his dream lifestyle. His book teaches others the skills to do the same.

“Anyone can do the stuff I do. The tools are right there in front of us,” he confirms. “You can travel the world. You’re just used to telling yourself that you can’t. It’s

often easier to hang onto your career as your security blanket. You pursue the American dream: a mortgage and white picket fence. Before you know it, you can’t quit your job because you’ve taken on financial obligations you can’t get out of. Even if you’re capable of changing, you may be too afraid.”

Corbett stresses having what you want means believing in yourself. “I often ask my consultation clients: What are you waiting for? Find that one thing that you are truly passionate about and you will not be able to see any barriers. Then educate yourself and set yourself up for success. From the time your eyes open in the morning to the time they close at night, you are in school.”

His book describes how being in constant learning mode gave Corbett the tools to do more than stay financially afloat despite operating within the tourist industry during the pandemic. This enabled him to pivot, thrive and discover fresh ways to pursue his passions.



I often ask my consultation clients: What are you waiting for? Find that one thing that you are truly passionate about and you will not be able to see any barriers. Then educate yourself and set yourself up for success. From the time your eyes open in the morning to the time they close at night, you are in school.

HERE IS WHERE YOU CAN START, IF YOU WANT TO EMPOWER YOUR DREAM LIFESTYLE

MANIFEST YOUR MENTORS

Think of yourself as a university with one student: you. Mentors are all around you.

Someone who lives down the street can teach you more important lessons than what you might learn in a classroom.

“Those who manifest their mentors go the farthest in life. Talk with people in the field you are considering. We are all storytellers. As humans, we always want to share information with others that we think will help them,” advises Corbett, adding that his ‘baker story’ often creates epiphanies for would-be entrepreneurs.

“Maybe your dream is to own a small business. You have a relationship with Bob, the man who owns the bakery on the corner, and decide to make him a mentor. One morning, you arrive five minutes early and help him carry in inventory. You ask him about his business. You can get a life lesson in five minutes.”

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN LIFE?

Do you want to be your own boss and exchange the employee badge for one that says ‘owner’? You can. “If you stay stuck, the worst-case scenario is that you’ll be in the exact same chair five years from now, and you still won’t want to be there,” cautions Corbett. “The best thing you can do for yourself, and your family may be to start creating your dream career and lifestyle right now.”

Find what will keep you motivated, then go for it! “The world needs small business people who are willing to get up in the morning and go to work.”

He concludes, “If you want to set yourself up for success and keep your motivation high even during hard times, “Hindsight 2020: An Inspiring Change” is the book to read right now.” Today is the day to start making your dream a reality. -NewsUSA

FEATURE



QATAR HAS GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



Times News Service

MUSCAT: From water sports to camping, nature to architecture, luxurious spas, best shopping experiences, a thriving art scene and thrilling adventures, Qatar has something for everyone.

The country offers a blend of tradition and modernity that is difficult to find elsewhere in the world. While Qatar celebrates its heritage it also offers travellers modern amenities, hotels and infrastructure, and a mix of international cultures, cuisines and lifestyles. Cultural authenticity meets modernity where the world comes together to experience unique offerings in culture, sports, business and family entertainment all rooted in service excellence.

The Doha skyline may be the most popular image of the country but there are hidden gems like the Souq Waqif, the Corniche, Katara Cultural Village, Aspire Park, the Qatar National Library, Msheireb Downtown Doha and more.

Doha Quest
Doha Quest, is a 32,000 square metre indoor experiential theme park located within Doha Oasis mixed-use development in Msheireb. Quest has more than 30 rides and attractions, featuring a mix of adrenaline-heavy thrill rides, media-controlled simulators, virtual reality experiences, and family-friendly attractions, all offering unique experiences. Quest's signature rides are the EpiQ Coaster, crowned as the World's tallest indoor roller coaster, and the Magma Blast, the World's tallest indoor drop tower. Being the first of its kind, Quest is a themed and story-based concept that caters to an audience of all ages.

Printemps Doha
Printemps Doha, located in Doha Oasis, is the largest luxurious department store in the Middle East. It was launched for the first time outside France and is designed as a 3-floor elliptical architectural masterpiece spanning 40,000 sqm. The store has been able to attract iconic brands such as Louis Vuitton, Dior, Valentino, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Bottega Veneta, Balenciaga, Balmain, and more.

Qatar International Food Festival 2023
Earlier this month, Qatar Tourism (QT) celebrated the opening of the 12th edition of the annual Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) at the minted Al Sa'ad Plaza in Lusail Boulevard. QIFF is Qatar's longest-running food and beverage festival and is a headline event in the country's annual social calendar. In partnership with Qatar Airways, more than 80 exciting and popular culinary vendors attended the festival, which attracted more than 7,000 visitors a day. From fireworks and family-friendly entertainment to chef masterclasses at the Qatar Airways cooking theatre, the festival offered something for all ages. Global cuisines, from local shawarma to Mexican tacos and Liberian rice bread were on offer. On a daily basis, the leftover food is collected and distributed by the festival's charity partner Qatar Charity.

Katara Cultural Village
Since opening in late 2010, Katara Cultural Village has been a hub for art and culture lovers in the city. It is the new cultural hub located in the heart of urban Doha. While its name implies a certain provinciality, Doha's brand new Katara Village is a stunning show of architecture, modernity, and global unity.



The village contains dozens of galleries and event spaces, restaurants and theatres. Exhibitions range in subject from patriotic tributes to the royal family, to works from local potters and painters. Each space has its own unique architecture that pulls inspiration from several different parts of the world. Perhaps the best example is the Katara Masjid, or mosque, that was designed by world-renowned Turkish architect, Zainab Fadil Oglu. The façade features blue and gold tiles inspired by the Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul.

Lusail City
Qatar's futuristic green city is part of Qatar's extensive tourism development strategy as the country works to diversify and build upon its offering for visitors. Lusail is becoming Qatar's next popular destination for tourists and residents alike. It is Qatar's first sustainable city. The foundation idea was to develop the city by combining true modernity with the richness of Qatari traditions and Islamic architecture. Rooted in authentic Qatari heritage and cultural values, the name

'Lusail' was derived from one of Qatar's rarest flowers, an emblem of the city's uniqueness, and the seamless fusion between Doha's heritage and contemporary transformation.

Place Vendôme
It is the jewel of the entertainment district. The Parisian-inspired development pays ode to the famous high-end shopping street in Paris, Rue de la Paix, where Place Vendôme originated. It includes 1,000,000m² of retail, leisure, entertainment, and luxury at a one-stop family destination by the seafont. Place Vendôme is set to become a new destination for the region, combining utmost convenience with an ocean of choices. It is home to the most prestigious international brands in magnificent surroundings inspired by iconic Parisian architecture.

National Museum of Qatar
As one of Doha's top museums, it's an absolute must-visit for tourists. The immersive and experiential National Museum of Qatar tells the nation's story from earliest times to today, giving voice to the rich heritage and culture, and expressing a vibrant



QATAR IN NUMBERS

- 3 MILLION**
Qatar's population as of August 2022
- >320 DAYS**
Of sunshine per year
- 563 KM**
The length of Qatar's coastline
- 1ST**
Country in the Middle East to host a FIFA World Cup™
- 100+**
Different nationalities living in Qatar
- #1**
Rating as the safest country in the world by NUMBEO Crime Index 2022
- 95+**
Countries given visa-free entry
- 150+**
Destinations served by Qatar Airways
- #1**
World's best airline and airport according to SKYTRAX

community's aspirations for the future. The museum has as its centrepiece, the restored historic Palace of Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani (1880-1957), son of the founder of modern Qatar. It is a building that in former times was both the home of the Royal Family and the seat of government and was subsequently the site of the original National Museum. Jean Nouvel's new building incorporates the Palace while seamlessly integrating innovative artworks commissioned from Qatari and international artists, rare and precious objects, documentary materials, and interactive learning opportunities. If there's one thing that sets the National Museum of Qatar apart from other museums, it is the building itself. Designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, the striking structure was inspired by the complex form of the desert rose, and the entire site covers a 147,425 sq m area. The National Museum of Qatar's permanent collection is spread across 11 galleries, covering topics such as archaeology, life in the desert, and modern history. The museum is designed to bring the story of Qatar to life, so you can expect plenty of immersive elements in each of the galleries, with oral histories and archival images forming a key part of the experience. Historical pieces on display include early maps of the region, and jewellery. The museum is also home to the Pearl Carpet of Baroda, which has been embroidered with more than 1.5 million Gulf pearls, and was commissioned by the Maharaja of Baroda in 1865. Located near Doha Corniche, the National Museum of Qatar is easily accessible via the Metro gold line, which has a stop right outside.





Senior Knockout Tournament winners: Israr Ghala



Junior Knockout Tournament champions: Earn Trust

Israr Ghala, Earn Trust are champs

Oman Cricket’s senior and junior knockout finals conclude with thrilling games at Al Amerat grounds

MUSCAT: Israr Ghala scraped past Vanderlande by one wicket in a thrilling final of the Oman Cricket Senior Knockout Tournament, powered by Khimji Ramdas, while Earn Trust defeated Mazoon Dairy by 13 runs in the final of the Junior Knockout Tournament, powered by Khimji Ramdas, at the Municipal-



Man of the match: Earn Trust’s Khurram Chaudary (centre) is honoured

ity grounds in Al Amerat on Friday. Batting first, Vanderlande scored 137/6 in 20 overs with Aravindh Ramesh top-scoring with 60. His knock came off 41 balls and included five bounda-

ries and two sixes. Mobeen Muhammed bagged 2/22 to be the most successful bowler. In response, Israr Ghala lost three early wickets in the powerplay but Akhtar Saqib



Man of the match: Israr Ghala’s Akhtar Saqib (centre) is felicitated

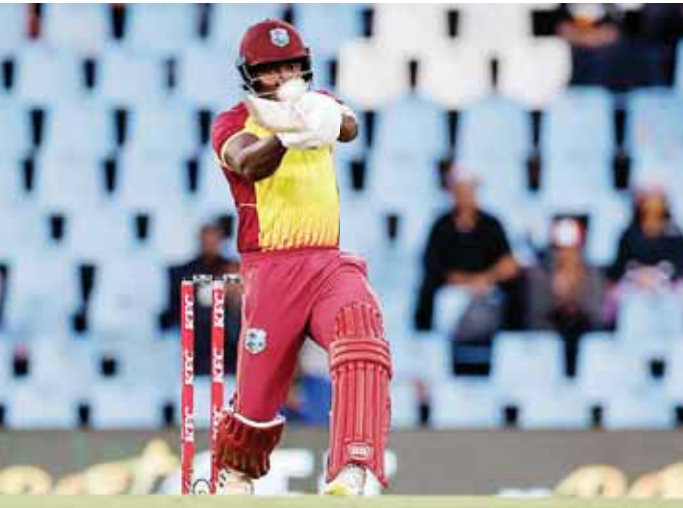
smashed a 32-ball 63 (6x4, 3x6) to power his team towards the target. Late blitz from Naeem Muhammed and Mubeen Muhammed’s six sealed the victory and the title as Israr Ghala

scored 138/9 in 18.3 overs. In the Junior Knockout final, Earn Trust elected to bat first and reached a competitive total of 167/8 in 20 overs. Imran Ali (39 of 29; 4x4) and Khurram Chaudary’s

(41 of 28; 5x4) were the main run-getters. Mazoon Dairy’s Mohammed Ghafoor’s 2/21 and Manish Bhatia’s 2/20 were among the wickets. Chasing a tough target, Mazoon Dairy’s opener Ali Agher (54 of 44; 6x4) played a responsible knock to take them closer to the target along with Mohammed Ghafoor’s (38 of 21; 3x4, 2x6). However, Mazoon Dairy lost a couple of wickets in quick succession to derail their chase as they were restricted to 154/8 in 20 overs. Mustansar Hussain claimed three wickets with Moz-zam Shah and Shameer Khwaja took two wickets each. Later, Oman Cricket’s treasurer, Alkesh Joshi, and chief development officer of Oman Cricket, Duleep Mendis, presented the trophies to the winners and also gave away individual awards.

FIRST T20I

Powell powers WI to victory over SA



CENTURION: West Indies captain Rovman Powell smashed a quickfire unbeaten 43 to power his side to a three-wicket victory over South Africa in a rain-reduced T20 international clash on Saturday. Powell’s knock came off only 18 balls as the West Indies reached their target of 132 with three balls to spare to go 1-0 up in the three-match series. The game was reduced to 11 overs each with South Africa scoring 131-8 and then the tourists replying with 132-7. After a two-hour delay, Powell put South Africa into bat in damp conditions and got immediate returns as key batsmen Quinton de Kock, and Rilee Rossouw departed cheaply. David Miller came to the home side’s rescue by scoring 48 off 22 balls, which coupled with cam-

eos from Reeza Hendricks (21) and Sisanda Magala (18 n.o.), took South Africa to a defendable total. West Indies went on the attack from the start of their innings, scoring 17 runs off their opening four balls before South Africa snagged Kyle Mayers with the next delivery. Brandon King (23) and Johnson Charles (28) continued to bully the bowlers before Powell hit three sixes and a four as the West Indies plundered 25 runs off Bjorn Fortuin in the eighth over. It left them needing 20 runs off the last three overs, but what should have been a routine assignment was frustrated by two wickets in as many balls for Magala before Powell ensured victory in the last over. The second T20 clash will also be contested at Centurion.

UEFA EURO 2024 QUALIFIERS

Joselu’s late goals seal victory for Spain; Wales hold Croatia



MALAGA: Spanish striker Joselu’s two late goals on his debut sealed a 3-0 victory against Norway in UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers on Sunday at La Rosaleda Stadium in Malaga. Dani Olmo broke the stalemate in the 13th minute of the game with a cheeky finish inside the box. Norway tried to make a comeback by increasing the attacking intensity with each passing minute. They were able to create a few openings but ended up snapping right at the moment. The rest of their attacking threat was neutralised by the Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga. The defining moment came when Spain’s manager Luis de la Fuente brought in the 32-year-old Joselu in the 81st minute of the game. The Espanyol striker didn’t waste a single moment to mark his impact on the game. The hosts executed a brilliant set of play, a few passes in the middle then sending the ball wide to Fabian Ruiz who produced a nice cross to find Joselu. The veteran striker made no mistake in finding the back of the net with a header. A few moments later, the super sub sealed the victory for his team. A deflected shot ended up right in Joselu’s path who made an easy finish to find the back of the net and Spain’s third goal. Norway certainly missed the presence of their star striker Erling Haaland in the attacking front. If Haaland was there to finish off some half of the chances, Spain

would have found themselves assessing their defence loopholes after the end of the game. Spain will now face Scotland on Wednesday at Hampden Park while Norway will visit Adjarabet Arena to face Georgia on Tuesday. Elsewhere, Scott McTominay’s late double secured Scotland a comfortable winning start to their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign at home to Cyprus. John McGinn’s close-range finish - the Aston Villa midfielder’s

16th goal for his country - was rewarded for a dominant first-half display. Substitute McTominay eased increased nervousness around Hampden with a clinical 87th-minute finish. And the Manchester United midfielder added his second moments later. Steve Clarke had billed it as a must-win game against Group A’s lowest seeds, who ended the game with 10 men after a late red card for Nicholas Ioannou, and it was a job done in that sense.

Wales draw with Croatia In Group D, Wales played a 1-1 draw against the hosts Croatia on Saturday. Ipswich Town’s Nathan Broadhead scored in the third minute of stoppage time on his debut for Wales to share the spoils. Andrej Kramaric’s sweetly struck a shot on 28 minutes that gave the hosts a deserved half-time lead. **Other results:** Group D: Armenia 1 Turkey 2, Croatia 1 Wales 1. Group I: Belarus 0 Switzerland 5, Israel 1 Kosovo 1, Andorra 0 Romania 2. - **ANI**

IBA WOMEN’S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two Indian pugilists, Saweety and Nitu, clinch world titles

NEW DELHI: Indian boxers Saweety Boora and Nitu Ghanghas clinched maiden world titles in their respective divisions at the ongoing IBA Women’s World Boxing Championships in New Delhi on Saturday. Scripting history, Nitu, a Commonwealth Games winner, won in the 48kg category while Saweety was crowned world champion for the first time in the 81kg class. Nitu defeated two-time Asian bronze medallist Lutsaikhana Altantsetseg of Mongolia with a 5-0

scoreline to clinch her first world championships medal, three-time Asian medallist Saweety had to grind hard to secure a 4-3 win on points after the bout was reviewed against Wang Lina of China to clinch her second world championship medal. “I am very happy after winning the gold medal. I fell short in my quest for the gold last year so we worked on the mistakes and won it this time round in front of the home support. Having discussed with my coaches yesterday I had decided to be aggressive since the

first round today to get the scores in my favour. I have been working hard for many years and this medal means a lot to me,” said Nitu after her bout. Competing in her second world championships final, Saweety faced a tough challenge against the 2018 world champion Wang Lina. However, the Indian made use of her high technical ability and strength throughout the bout to impressively overpower her opponent in the closely contested bout. “I am thrilled after fulfilling my dream of becoming the world

champion. The bout went well and I was able to execute our planning perfectly. “My performances in the tournament got better as the bouts progressed with my body also responding well. I want to thank the fans for their constant love and support,” said Saweety after the bout. Both pugilists were awarded with US\$100,000 each. The ongoing event is witnessing the participation of 324 boxers, including several Olympic medallists, from 65 countries fighting for titles in the 12 weight categories. - **ANI**



Nitu Ghanghas



Saweety Boora

ROUND-UP

Salalah Rotana Resort: Jewel of Hawana Salalah

With its collection of six dining venues, including award-winning restaurants, Salalah Rotana Resort is one of the city's top dining destinations



MUSCAT: Enjoy authentic Omani hospitality and five-star luxury at the stunning Salalah Rotana Resort. Situated 30 minutes away from Salalah International Airport and overlooking the beautiful turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, it is the perfect place for guests looking to relax and unwind. The resort's 422 deluxe guestrooms and suites feature a comprehensive range of modern amenities suiting the needs of business and leisure travellers,

including families. All rooms and suites overlook the beach, lagoons, water features, or the hotel's man-made canals and feature sophisticated interior design, plus a host of modern amenities. With its collection of six dining venues, including award-winning restaurants, Salalah Rotana Resort is one of the city's top dining destinations. Dine on the finest international cuisine at Saffron; sample dishes with Arabic flair at

The Beach Bar & Restaurant; try grills from the land and sea at Club Rotana Restaurant & Lounge; or go on a magical culinary journey of the Far East at Silk Road. Share a coffee with friends or colleagues at Arabesque Lounge & Terrace or savour a relaxing drink by the beach at Coco-Shack Beach Bar. "Salalah Rotana Resort is a unique hotel in a beautiful destination such as Salalah. It's an extensive resort offering our guests

luxury accommodation and service set within beautiful surroundings. The guests' experience is our utmost priority, and together with the team, we strive on delivering nothing but the best for our valued guests. We look forward to welcoming you and spending a memorable time with us at Salalah Rotana Resort," said Ahmed Afifi - Executive Assistant Manager and Operations-in-charge of Salalah Rotana Resort.

'SEASON OF GENEROSITY' CAMPAIGN



Ford unveils exclusive benefits in 'Season of Generosity' campaign

MUSCAT: This season own your favourite Ford and get exclusive benefits in 'Season of Generosity' campaign including service for 5 years/100,000km and registration for 1 year. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.) In Oman, Ford has an impressive range of powerful and dependable vehicles that cater to a range of desires. Including vehicles with enough space for families to drive out together, or thorough off-road-ers for the adventure-seekers and

more. The range of vehicles includes the Taurus, Explorer, Edge and Bronco. The Ford Taurus blends seamless connectivity, high on-road performance, and an entirely new sleek modern design. Boasting an all-new design, on an entirely different platform, the all-new Taurus still exudes refinement with numerous premium touches. In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

SHOP AND WIN



Lulu picks 1st and 2nd draw winners of Ramadan promotion

MUSCAT: Lulu Hypermarket announced the first two sets of winners of its ongoing Ramadan Shop and Win promotion. The first draw was held on March 8 at Lulu Al Bandar and the second draw was held on March 15 at the Sohar branch.

The promotion, which started on March 1 will run till April 29 at all Lulu stores in Oman. In addition to cash prizes, there will be huge discounts and exclusive offers on all essential commodities, including fresh and frozen foods, grocery items, electronics and home appliances etc. during the promotional period.

As part of the Shop and Win promotion, customers get a chance to win cash prizes worth OMR 100,000 during the entire promotional period. Customers who spend OMR 10 or more in a single receipt at any of the Lulu outlets in Oman or purchase from Lulu online stores are eligible to be part of the electronic draws. The cash prizes include a grand prize of OMR 10,000 and weekly cash prizes of OMR 100, 200, 500, 750

and 5,000. Weekly draws will be held for 8 consecutive weeks to pick a total of 281 winners. Eight customers get a chance to win the first prize of OMR 5000 each. There will be 8 second prizes of OMR 750 each, 24 third prizes of OMR 500 each, 80 fourth prizes of OMR 200 each and 160 fifth prizes of OMR 100 each.

Commenting on the Ramadan promotion, Shabeer K A, Regional Director - Lulu Hypermarkets, Oman, stated, "We have announced the first two sets of winners of our Ramadan Shop and Win promotion, held in two consecutive weeks at different outlets of Lulu. We congratulate all the winners who were lucky enough to win cash prizes right at the start of this promotion. I believe this is the perfect time to shop with us, as there are six more draws left for our shoppers to win big during Ramadan," he added.

Lulu has also lined up several other offers and deals to enhance customer experience and to make shopping a memorable and fun-filled experience during Ramadan.

RECOGNITION

Oman Oasis wins top Omani Brand Award

MUSCAT: Oman Oasis, has recently added another feather to its cap by winning the Top Omani Brand in the Water Category for the year 2023.

The event, held annually, felicitates top corporate leaders, business performers and achievers in the Sultanate of Oman, and this year's ceremony saw the congregation of the country's business leaders and dignitaries, who are driving the economy towards progress and growth. The award, which is a testament to Oman Oasis's dedication to excellence and leadership position in the market, was proudly received by NSS Subramanian, COO of Oman Oasis.

Speaking about the achievement, Subramanian, stated, "We are honoured and humbled to receive this award for the Water category, and we express our gratitude to the esteemed panel of judges for recognising our commitment to excellence. This award recognizes our unwavering dedication to providing high-quality products



and services to our customers and our efforts to strengthen our position in the Oman market. We are grateful for this recognition and it motivates us to continue striving towards excellence and innovation in the industry."

The award by a leading magazine in Oman is an annual event

that recognises the achievements and contributions of the best companies, entrepreneurs, and professionals. Oman Oasis is a leading bottled water brand in Oman, known for its high-quality, pure, and refreshing water. The company is committed to providing superior products and services

to its customers and has been a trusted brand in the Oman market for more than 29 years. It offers a portfolio of three premium drinking water products, including Oman Oasis - Balanced Drinking Water, Mai Alkaline - Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water, and Sifr - Sodium Free Drinking Water.

CONVENIENT SERVICE

Nissan service appointment pick up and drop off service gains popularity

MUSCAT: Suhail Bahwan Automobiles' Nissan service appointment pick up and drop off service has proved to be a hit among customers with its popularity continuing to soar.

To use the pick-up and drop-off service, customers need to pre-book it at a nominal fee through various channels such as Nissan Oman's Toll-free number, the Nissan Oman website, sending an SMS, writing an email or by WhatsApp.

Once the service is booked, SBA will take care of everything related to the car, including servicing, repairs, tyres, wheel alignments, and all services under the manufacturer's warranty.

The service is currently available in the capital area.

Providing this service reflects SBA's commitment to enhancing



ing the customer experience. It is aligned with customer feedback and SBA's efforts to make a difference in the ownership experience. With this offering, SBA aims to provide customers with the convenience of getting their necessary vehicle work completed

ed without stepping out of their homes or office.

An SBA senior official said, "We are delighted to offer this service to our valued customers. Our goal is to provide top-class after-sales service to every customer purchasing a Nissan vehicle. This of-

fering ensures that our customers receive the best possible care for their cars. We guarantee the advantage of well-trained experts, consistency, and support during after-sales service, which ascertains Nissan's performance and resale value in the years to come."

With the pick-up and drop-off service for Nissan service appointments, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles is taking another step forward in providing customers with an exceptional ownership experience. Customers can be rest assured that they will receive top-quality care for their cars, and the service will ensure that they don't have to take time off work or adjust their plans. For more information on the pick-up and drop-off service or to book an appointment, customers can contact SBA through the various channels mentioned above.



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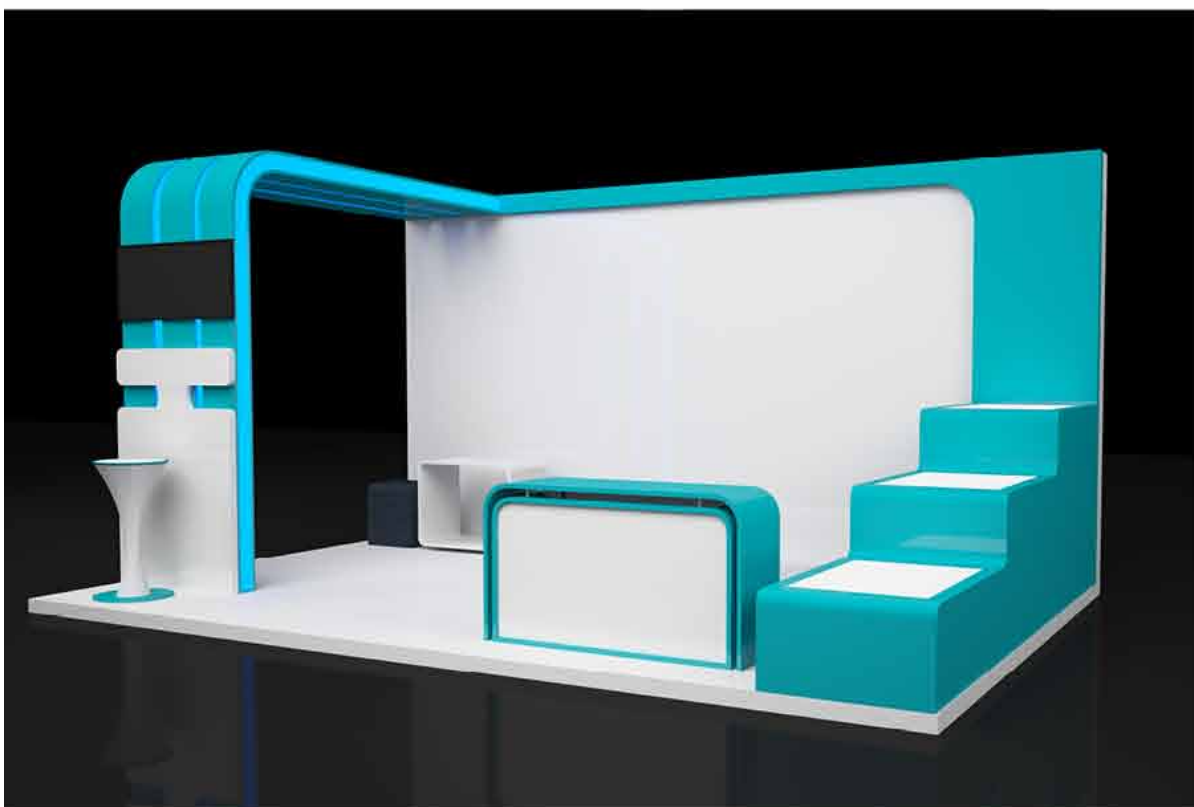
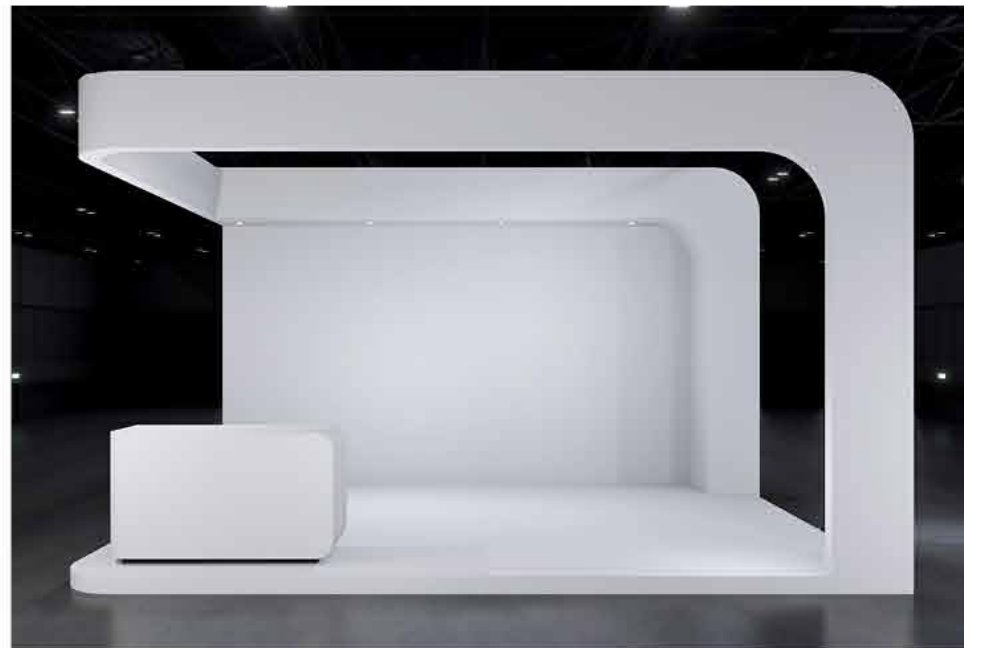
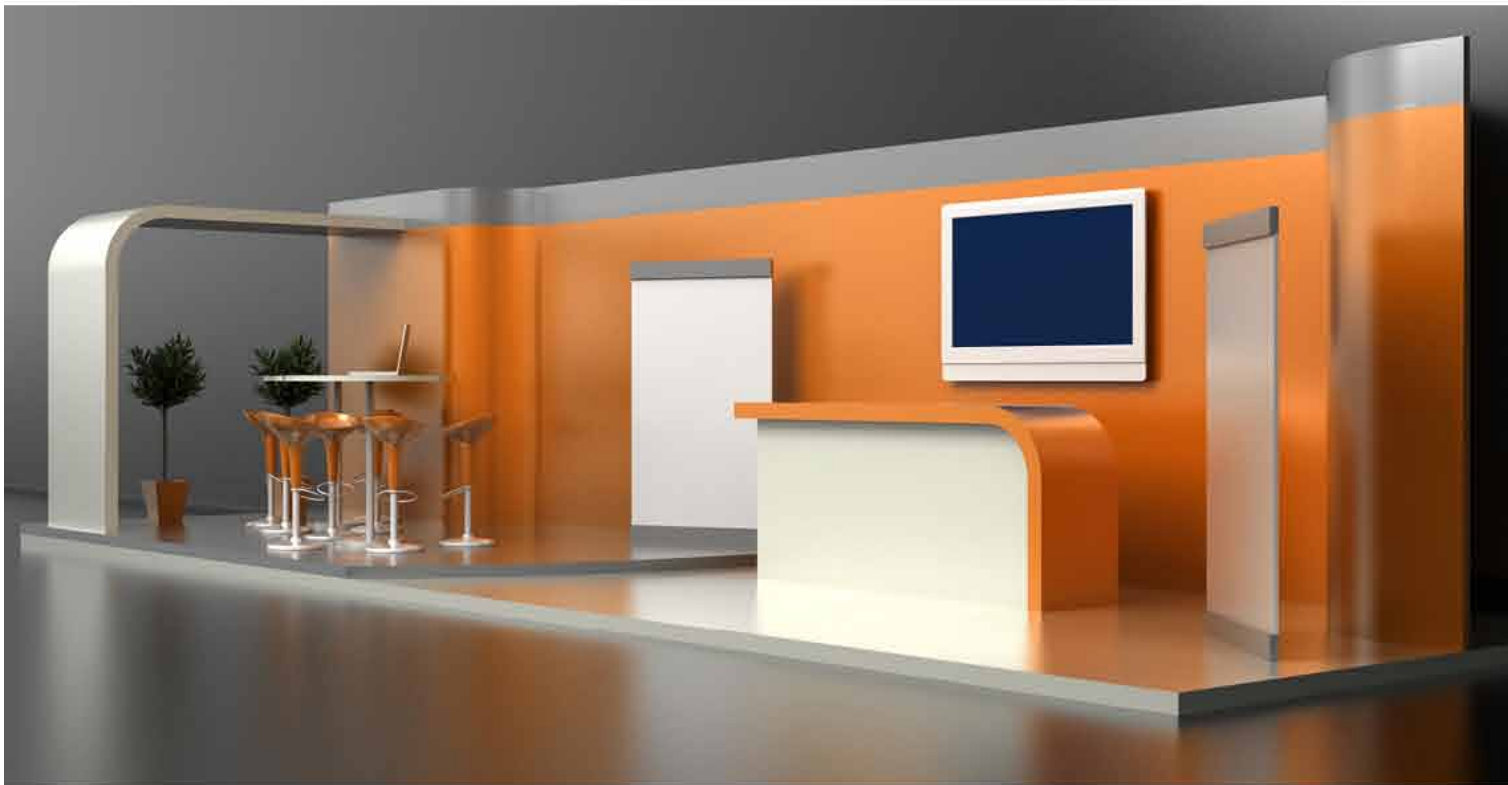


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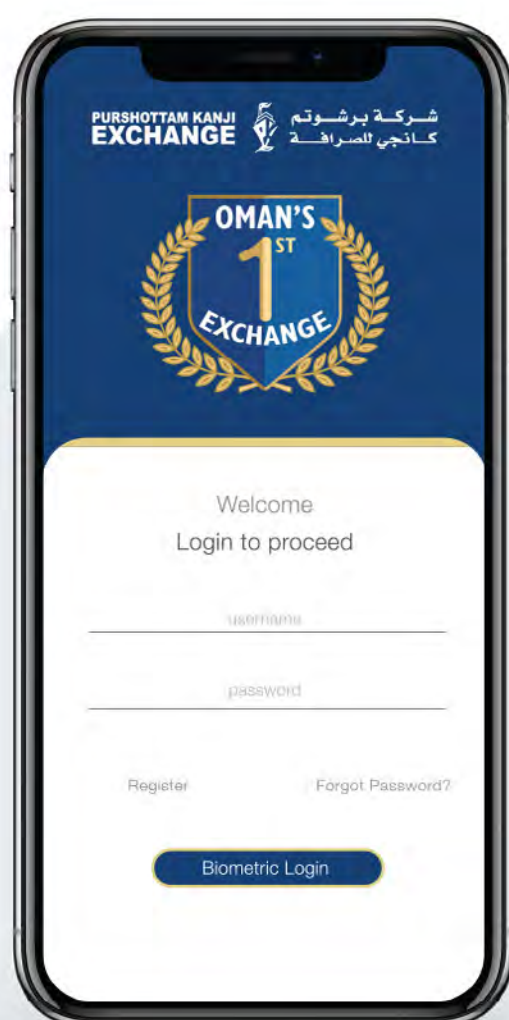
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