

**WINTER SOLSTICE IN OMAN
ON DECEMBER 22**

The Sultanate of Oman will experience winter solstice from Thursday, 22 December 2022, astronomically considered the first day of winter season in the northern hemisphere. **>A5**



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HM THE SULTAN GREETES EMIR OF QATAR

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to Sheikh Tamim. His Majesty also prayed to the Almighty Allah for the return of this occasion while the people of Qatar realise aspirations of further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



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ARGENTINA CROWNED WORLD CHAMPIONS



Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties to win the World Cup 2022

Times News Service

DOHA: Argentina clinched the World Cup on Sunday after beating defending champions France 4-2 on penalties, following a thrilling 3-3 draw after extra time to end their 36-year title drought. Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez saved Kingsley Coman's penalty and Aurelien Tchouameni fired wide to give Argentina their first world title since 1986, and third overall. France had clawed back from two goals down to level in 90 minutes with Kylian Mbappe netting twice in two minutes, including an 80th-minute penalty. The France striker completed his hat-trick in the 118th minute with another spot-kick after Argentina's Lionel Messi had tapped in for a 3-2 lead in the 109th. This was only the second-ever hat-trick in a World Cup final. **>A2**

**Sohar Festival a grand success:
Suleiman Al Kindi**

A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

**OMAN
Temperatures dip
across Oman**

1 Jabal Shams recorded the lowest temperature in the Sultanate of Oman at less than 4 degrees Celsius on Sunday. With moderate to active northern winds blowing over the Dhofar Governorate, the temperatures in the wilayats of Oman have witnessed a steep fall. **>A3**



**WORLD
Indian N-arms stance
impacted Russia: CIA**

2 Indian PM Narendra Modi's views on the use of nuclear weapons had an impact on the Russians and could well have averted a global disaster in the context of the Ukraine war, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Bill Burns said, according to PBS. **>A6**

**MARKET
OMR11mn Duqm fuel
terminal inaugurated**

3 The OOMCO Marine bunker fuel terminal worth OMR11 million at the Port of Duqm was officially inaugurated on Sunday. Located in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), the OOMCO Marine bunker fuel terminal will supply a full range of bunker fuel to ships. **>B1**

INTAKHIB APP

Municipal council polls: Voters hail smartphone app

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Voting by Omanis living in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Arab states and in a number of other countries confirmed that the steps and mechanism involved in voting via smart phones to elect members of the municipal councils for the third term, is considerably simple and easy.

They confirmed to Oman News Agency that modern methods and techniques involved in the electoral process helped overcome the factors of time and place and created a wider space for exercising their right to vote.

Haitham bin Salem Al-Araimi, a student residing in the Arab

Republic of Egypt, said: "The voting process took minutes and was without trouble, thanks to the use of modern technology which allows wide participation by voters."

Ali bin Salem Al-Nusairi and Ammar bin Yasser Al-Maamari, two students living in the Kingdom of Jordan, said they were

able, through the 'Intakhib' (elect) application, to participate in the voting process and choose their representative in the municipal councils for the third term, with considerable ease.

Suhail bin Mubarak Al Kathiri, a resident of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, said: "The voting process

through the "Intakhib" application allowed us, as citizens residing outside the Sultanate of Oman, to participate, as the voting process did not take time and was completed with ease. This procedure will lead

The application allowed Omani citizens abroad to exercise their electoral right in a hassle-free manner

to wider participation." Al-Mutasim bin Humaid Al-Alawi, a student living in Bahrain, said technical developments had eased the voting process significantly. The application enabled him to exercise his electoral right in simple steps to choose who would represent him in the municipal councils for the third term. On the other hand, Ibrahim bin Saeed Al Jasassi said: "I am a visitor to the Kingdom of Bahrain, and I undertook the voting process in the elections conveniently and decided who would represent me in the municipal councils, as the application allowed us to vote and exercise our electoral right even from outside the Sultanate of Oman."

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Dhuhr.....	12:09pm
Asr.....	3:09pm
Maghrib.....	5:29pm
Isha.....	6:45pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:23am



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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Technical panel takes steps for proper working of poll app

MUSCAT: The Technical Committee of Municipal Council's Third Term Elections has said that all precautionary measures are in place to ensure the proper functioning of "Intakhib" app used in the election process.

The 18th of December is Election Day for Omanis voting from abroad to select the members who will represent them at municipal councils in the wilayats of Oman.

Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology, Head of the Technical Committee, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that technical teams have been deployed to detect and address any challenges that might arise during the electoral process.

He hoped that the electronic election process, applied for the first time in the region via smart phones, would be a success.

Eng. Ahmed Hassan Al Hadabi, Head of the Supervisory Com-



mittee of the Municipal Councils' Third Term Election System, told ONA that the committee checked the efficiency of the related systems prior to the start of the electoral process, conducted via smart phones.

Intakhib

Al Hadabi pointed out that the electoral process runs electronically via "Intakhib" app, without human intervention till the an-

nouncement of the results. "It is a leading experience par excellence in the region," he added.

Eng. Badr Sulaiman Awlad Thani, Head of the Online Voting Committee, said that voters' keenness to elect their desired candidates from abroad reflects social awareness about the importance of the electoral process, which is made unique this time through the use of smart phones.

-ONA

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

< FROM A1 Montiel scores winning penalty

No player under the age of 24 has scored more goals than the Frenchman.

Geoff Hurst was the only other player to score a hat-trick, with his treble coming in the 1966 final for England against Germany. Argentina had gone 2-0 up in the first half with Messi, making a record-breaking 26th World Cup appearance, converting a 23rd-minute penalty.

They struck again with a sublime four-pass counter-attack as Alexis Mac Allister's cutback found Angel Di Maria and he finished well.

Mbappe finished as the tournament's top goal-scorer to win the Golden Boot



award with eight goals. Messi scored from the spot in the shootout as France missed two penalties.

Martinez was the hero once again as he pulled off a brilliant save to deny Kingsley Coman before seeing Aurelien Tchouameni put his spot kick wide of the post

moments later.

Gonzalo Montiel scored the winning penalty after sending Lloris the wrong way and immediately broke down in tears. Messi has followed in the footsteps of iconic Argentina star Diego Maradona in lifting the World Cup with his nation. - FIFA

Tender Notice

Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), announces following E-Tender for 2022:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Deadline for Specifications Request	Deadline for tender bids	Tender Price
31/2022	Support Renewal of VMware for NetApp Equipment For One Year	25 Dec 2022	01 Jan 2023	25 OMR

Interested companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender document from the E-Tendering website: <http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. The Vendors must provide **Electronic Bank Guarantee** issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2%) of the Tender value valid for (90) days on website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> and addressed to Public Authority for Social Insurance.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender inquiry : All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at E-Tendering system (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering system inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel : +968 24402200 , E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

PASI is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other tender that may be received

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FESTIVE WONDERLAND AT KEMPINSKI HOTEL MUSCAT

KIDS FESTIVITIES AT CAFÉ ONE

High tea with Santa & Dippy | OMR 18 | 20 – 23 December | 14:00 – 15:30 & 16:00 – 17:30

Master Class for little chefs | OMR 10 for little ones | 15, 24 December

FESTIVE AFTERNOONS AT AMWAJ

Advent Afternoon Tea | OMR 19 | 18 December | 16:00 – 18:00

Festive Gueridon | OMR 20 includes bubbly | 15 – 30 December | 18:00 to 19:00

CHRISTMAS MARKET WONDERLAND

24 – 30 December | culinary festival and grape market at the Countdown Boulevard.

A MERRY EVE DINNER

24 December | 19:30 – 23:00

The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive soft drinks, juices and mocktails.

The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of festive cocktails and house grapes.

Zale Restaurant & Lounge | OMR 48 inclusive of open house grapes and welcome bubbly.

A MERRY BRUNCH

25 December | 13:00 – 16:00

The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive soft drinks, juices and mocktails.

The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of festive cocktails and house grapes.

Zale Restaurant & Lounge | La Comida by Chef David Pastor | OMR 28 inclusive of tapas with a flow of selected beverages.

FESTIVITIES AT ZALE

15 November – 20 December | 19:00 – 22:00

Festive Goose Dinners | OMR 30 inclusive of grapes and bubbles.

BOXING DAY BRUNCH

26 December | Monday 13:00 – 16:00

The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive of soft drinks, juices and mocktails.

The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of Christmas cocktails and house grapes.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

31 December | 19:00 – 1:00

The Kitchen | OMR 70

Say goodbye to 2022 with a tailored buffet featuring live cooking stations, sweet delicacies and international flavours, inclusive of a wide selection of cocktails and house grapes.

Zale Restaurant & Lounge | OMR 80

Welcome 2023 with our famous Chef's table featuring a new menu and a dazzling performance by an international singer.

Amwaj Lounge | Golden Beluga afternoon tea | OMR 120 inclusive soft beverages, juice and mocktails.

Amwaj Lounge | Golden Beluga afternoon tea | OMR 200 inclusive of premium beverages and bubbly.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH

The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive of soft drinks, juices and mocktails.

The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of premium house beverages and signature cocktail bar | 13:00 – 17:00

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Child’s abdominal pain may be hint of migraine later

There are many types of headaches that affect humans and more than 150 clinical descriptions of headache include tension headache and cluster headache

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abdominal migraine affects children and makes them vulnerable to migraine when they grow up, an Omani doctor said.

There are many types of headaches that affect humans and more than 150 clinical descriptions of headache include tension headache and cluster headache.

Migraine is the most controversial type of headache, as it has under its name a long list of descriptions such as classic migraine, non-traditional migraine and silent headache, including abdominal migraine, hormonal headache, food headache, and others.

Dr. Saleh bin Saif Al-Hinai, Senior Consultant, Family Medicine, said that abdominal migraine often affects children, especially those between the ages of 5 and 9, and makes them vulnerable to migraine when they grow up.

“Children are not the only group at risk of abdominal migraine, but also adults, although

The risk factors that may lead to abdominal migraine include genetic factors, constant exposure to anxiety and tension, swallowing a lot of air as a result of eating quickly and some foods such as chocolate and processed meat

doctors have not yet been able to determine the causes of it,” Dr. Saleh added.

Dr. Saif explained that the symptoms of abdominal migraine

are as follows: abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, a feeling of heaviness in the intestines, lethargy, sweating, fatigue and loss of appetite.

Al-Hinai identified the risk factors that may lead to abdominal migraine. These include genetic factors, constant exposure to anxiety and tension, swallowing a lot of air as a result of eating quickly and some foods such as chocolate and processed meat.

Regarding the diagnosis of this disease, Al-Hinai said there are no specific tests to diagnose the disease, but the doctor comes to know about it through medical history and some tests ruling out other diseases.

For treatment, Al-Hinai said: Avoid risk factors, if possible; some medications reduce the severity or frequency of seizures, such as antihistamines, some types of heart medications, beta-blockers and analgesics.

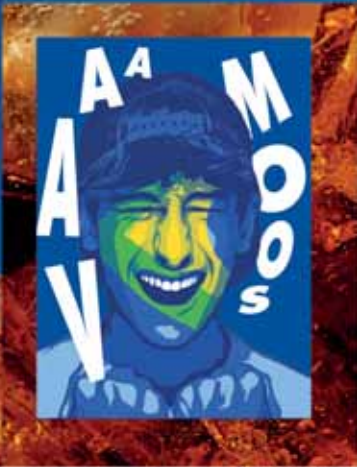


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WEATHER

Strong winds bring down temperatures in coastal Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Jabal Shams recorded the lowest temperature in the Sultanate of Oman at less than 4 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

With moderate to active northern winds blowing over the mountainous and coastal areas of Dhofar Governorate, the temperatures in the wilayats and governorates of Oman have witnessed a steep fall.

While Jabal Shams in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate recorded the lowest temperature at 3.9 degrees Celsius, Saiq recorded the second lowest at 7 degree Celsius and

Thurmait, Mazyouna and Yanqul recorded 12.3, 12.4 and 13.6 degree Celsius, respectively.

The official account of Oman Meteorology on twitter said the sea waves (coinciding with the northeastern winds) on the western coasts of Musandam Governorate and parts of the coasts of the Sea of Oman rose to an average of 2.0 meters this evening and are expected to continue on Monday and Tuesday.”

“The sea waves continue to rise on the coasts of the Arabian Sea to an average height of 2.5 meters,” the Oman Metrology added.

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Regional forum on constructive dialogue, tolerance kicks off

MUSCAT: The regional forum on enhancing principles of constructive dialogue and values of tolerance among youth, through social media platforms, kicked off here on Sunday.

The event is organised by the Ministry of Education, represented by the National Commission for

Education, Science and Culture, in cooperation with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) Civilizational Dialogue Centre.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage

and Tourism for Heritage.

The event aims to increase the awareness of youth regarding the principles of constructive dialogue and values of tolerance. It also introduces legislations and legal aspects related to constructive dialogue on social media platforms.

-ONA

Sohar Festival a grand success: Suleiman Al Kindi

The festival aims to highlight tourism potential of the Wilayat of Sohar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 928,000 people, over 175 job-seekers and 137 productive families visited the Sohar Festival between November 18 and December 18 this year.

Speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*, Sheikh Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah, said the number of visitors to the festival exceeded 928,000 during the period.

The festival aims to open the opportunity for participation of people of the governorate and job-seekers so that they can play an active part in an organisation, in addition to opening the opportunity for productive and low income families to display their products at the sites specified for them. The festival also aims to highlight the tourism, entertainment, geographical and natural capabilities of the Wilayat of Sohar and other wilayats of the governorate in general.

Confirming that the festival had achieved its goal, Al Kindi said: "We achieved the goal of the festival by involving more than 175 job-seekers, and we also sought to open the opportunity for the benefit of productive and needy families. This was achieved as more than 137 families were benefited. Over 37 small and medium enterprises got the chance to display their products at the sites designated for them, whether at the festival site or at the sites of the accompanying events, including those related to the World Cup, in various states of the governorate."

"The goal was also achieved through 100% occupancy rates in hotels, hotel apartments and guesthouses during most days of the festival," he said.

Concluding his speech, Al Kindi said: "The idea of holding a festival in North Al Batinah Governorate is a pioneering idea, and a group of fellow brothers sought it, and this was achieved, praise be to God, through the establishment of the Sohar Festival. We sought that the opening of the festival,



despite the lack of time, be impressive and distinguished."

He said: "This was achieved for us, praise be to God, through the operetta, which reflected the development of life in the Sultanate of Oman since the beginning of the blessed renaissance, the civilisational, developmental and service achievements, and the future vision, including Oman Vision 2040. This dazzling concert is the beginning of the success achieved by the festival," the Governor of North Al Batinah said.

FESTIVE CITY ESCAPE

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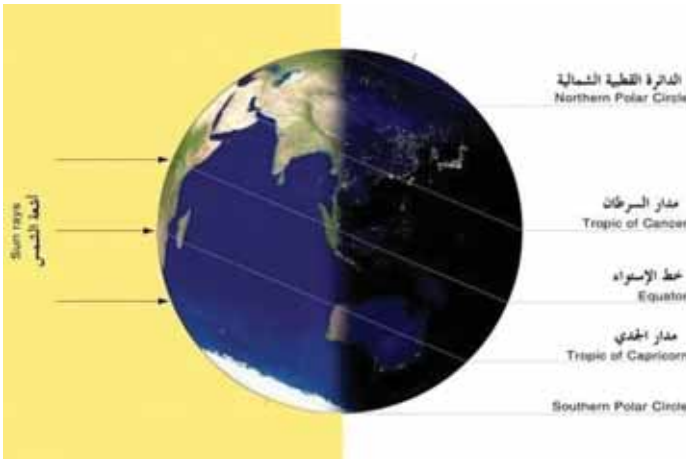
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Winter Solstice on 22 December

The phenomenon begins at 1:48 pm, Oman time, and it is thus the longest night and the shortest day of the year



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will experience winter solstice from Thursday, 22 December 2022, astronomically considered the first day of winter season in the northern hemisphere. The phenomenon begins at 1:48 pm, Oman time, and it is thus the longest night and the shortest day of the year. Speaking about the phenomenon, Rayan Said Al Ruwaishti, a member of Oman Astronomical Society, told Oman News Agency

(ONA) that Thursday, the 22nd of December, being the shortest day of the year, and the night is the longest night in the calendar. “The sun will rise in Muscat at 06:44 am and set at 05:25 pm Oman time. The day will be just 10 hours and 41 minutes long and it will be the first day of the winter season, which lasts 88 days, 23 hours and 36 minutes,” she added. Upon the outset of the winter solstice, it will be observed that as

if the sun rises from one point in the south of the sky for a few days before it begins its apparent path towards the north again as a result of the Earth’s movement in its orbit around the sun. The phenomenon will continue for several days, and then daylight hours begin to extend until their duration becomes equal to those of the night. Later, the vernal equinox (the start of transition into Spring season) will occur on 21 March 2023. -ONA

BOOK LAUNCH

Environment Authority launches book ‘Atlas of Oman’s Reptiles’

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority has launched a book ‘Atlas of Oman’s Reptiles’ which provides a summary on the development of the history of reptiles in the Sultanate of Oman, which aimed to enhance the efforts of preservation and protection of endangered reptiles on account of climate change. The celebration of the launch

was organised under the patronage of Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahroogi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Ameri, Chairman of Environment Authority said that the study documenting reptiles in the Sultanate included their habitats and represents a vital scientific reference for researchers in the field of reptiles. He added that the climate change causes imbalance in environment. The ‘Atlas of Oman’s Reptiles’ also aimed to show the species and habitats of reptiles and to acquaint the citizens, residents and tourists on how to deal with reptiles once they find themselves close to reptiles. -ONA

CAPTIVATING SHOW

ROHM to host acrobatic extravaganza ‘Carousel’



MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) announced three nights of spectacular dance in Carousel, from the international ambassadors of Italian culture, the Katakò Athletic Dance Theatre. Following on from their performance of Play that closed the Spring 2022 season, ROHM is offering another acrobatic extravaganza to audiences in Oman. Carousel takes moments from life and transforms them into a dance, drawing out the emotional and physical connections which make them special. Giulia Staccioli, founder and artistic director of Katakò Athletic Dance Theatre, creates the Grand Italian Hotel on stage, where a cross section of society, from the VIP guest to the humblest hotel worker, welcomes in the new year with a big celebration. Carousel is a captivating show,



inspiring joy and energy, through the creativity and elegance for which Giulia Staccioli’s company and signature are known all over the world. Carousel will take place at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts on 22-23 December 2022. -ONA

ON 18 DECEMBER EVERY YEAR

Oman marks World Arabic Language Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education celebrated yesterday, the World Arabic Language Day, which falls on 18 December every year. The theme of the event for the year is “the contribution of Arabic

language in Civilization and Culture”. Darwish Al Kiyomi, Director of Human Sciences Supervision Department at the Ministry of Education gave a speech on the impact of Arabic language in human civilization and the programmes of the Ministry of Education which

would continue during this week. Arabic Language Department at the University of Nizwa organised a workshop on the poetry of Sheikh Hilal bin Salim Al Siyabi which coincided with the celebrations of the Unesco with the World Arabic Language Day. -ONA

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/186-2	Replacement of Components/ Assets in Existing 5 GSS (Ittin GSS, Al-Qarm GSS, Ashoor GSS, Sha'aon GSS and Raysut GSS)
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be Grade-A registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 2 nd January 2023
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 3 rd January 2023
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for response pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 10 th January 2023
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUCEMENT FOR TENDER

The Ministry of Health, represented by the General Directorate of Health Services in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, invites specialized companies to participate in the auction shown below

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Office where Tenders are to be debosited (HQ)
2022/03	Renting a shop that sells gifts, flowers and various items in Sinaw Hospital The Directorate General of Health Services North Sharqya Governotat	Before 10 am on Thursday 29/12/2022	Before 10 am on Thursday 19/01/2023	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O. 25/= Per set	Office of the directorof finance at the Directorate General of Health Service North Sharqya Governotat

- Copy of Regis tration Certificate issued by the tender Board is to be submitted for collection of tender documents.
- Tender Documents can be purchased from the Office of the director of finance at the Directorate General of Health Service North Sharqya Governotat between 8.00 A.m and 12.00 P.M on working days, on payment of Tender Fee mentioned above.
- Tenders should be submitted in plain sealed envelope, enclosing a bank guarantee or a certified Cheque issud by a local Bank for One per cent not less than (1%) of the quoted value of the tender.
- Tender(s) submitted without Bank Guarantee or a Certified Cheque will not be considered.
- Office of the director of finance at the Directorate General of Health Service North Sharqya Governotat The ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

(https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
Any Clarification, you may contact via
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RESEARCH STUDY

Climate change may alter pollen distribution pattern

WASHINGTON: Two of the most common allergens in the contiguous United States are oak and ragweed pollens. Researchers at the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute have modelled how climate change may alter these two pollen distribution patterns.

Your eyes may water reading the results, which were published in

the journal *Frontiers in Allergy*.

By 2050, airborne pollen loads will significantly increase as a result of climate change, according to a team led by Panos Georgopoulos, professor of Environmental and Occupational Health and Justice at the Rutgers School of Public Health. Some of the biggest increases will occur in regions where pollen has historically been scarce.

"Pollen is an excellent sentinel for the impacts of climate change because shifts in variables like carbon dioxide and temperature affect the way plants behave," said Georgopoulos, who also is director of the Computational Chemodynamics Laboratory at Rutgers and faculty at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

"At the same time, the produc-

tion of pollen and pollen's influence on allergic disease has been increasing due to climate change, and this is one of few studies to forecast this trend into the future," he further added.

Previous efforts to connect pollen indices with climate change have been limited by a scarcity of data.

— ANI



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Indian PM's views on use of nukes may have averted a disaster in Ukraine, says CIA chief

CIA Chief Bill Burns remarks come as Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 3 admitted that the conflict is "going to take a while"

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's views on the use of nuclear weapons had an impact on the Russians and could well have averted a global disaster in the context of the Ukraine war, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Bill Burns said, according to PBS.

"I think it's also been very useful that Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi in India have also raised their concerns about the use of nuclear weapons as well. I think that's also having an impact on the Russians," Bill Burns said in an interview with PBS.

"I think the saber-rattling is meant to intimidate. We don't see



Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Bill Burns. — ANI Picture

any clear evidence today of plans to use tactical nuclear weapons," he added.

CIA Chief Bill Burns remarks come as Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 3 admitted that the conflict is "going to

take a while."

Threat of nuclear war

He also warned of the "increasing" threat of nuclear war. In his address at the meeting of Russia's Human Rights Council at the

Kremlin, Putin said that Russia will fight by "all available means" at its disposal, according to CNN. Putin said that he considered Moscow's nuclear arsenal as a 'deterrent rather than a provocation.'

"As for the idea that Russia

wouldn't use such weapons first under any circumstances, then it means we wouldn't be able to be the second to use them either - because the possibility to do so in case of an attack on our territory would be very limited," CNN quoted Putin as saying.

Dialogue and diplomacy

Notably, India has been calling for dialogue and diplomacy since the war began between Russia and Ukraine. In a telephonic conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy as the "only way forward" in the context of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, according to the statement released by PMO.

During the telephonic conversation, Putin gave a fundamental assessment of Russia's line in the Ukrainian direction. The talks between the two leaders come after their face-to-face meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Samarkand in September.

"At the request of Narendra Modi, Vladimir Putin gave fundamental assessments of Russia's line on the Ukrainian direction," according to the statement released by Kremlin.

During the meeting in Samarkand, PM Modi had said, "today's

era is not of war." Meanwhile, Russian President Putin had said, "I know about your position on the Ukraine conflict. I know about your concerns. We want all of this to end as soon as possible."

"Today's era is not of war and I have spoken to you about it on the call. Today we will get the opportunity to talk about how we can progress on the path of peace. India and Russia have stayed together with each other for several decades. We spoke several times on the phone about India-Russia bilateral relations and various issues. We should find ways to address the problems of food, fuel security and fertilizers," PM Modi had said.

Earlier in October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. During the telephonic conversation, PM Modi underscored that endangering nuclear facilities could have catastrophic consequences on public health and the environment.

"Prime Minister emphasised the importance India attaches to the safety and security of nuclear installations, including in Ukraine. He underlined that endangerment of nuclear facilities could have far-reaching and catastrophic consequences for public health and the environment," according to the press release issued by Prime Minister's office. — ANI

EUROPEAN UNION

EU inks pact to overhaul carbon market

BRUSSELS: The European Union reached an agreement on Sunday to overhaul the bloc's carbon market — its main policy tool in the fight against global warming.

"The agreement ... will allow us to meet climate objectives within the main sectors of the economy, while making sure the most vulnerable citizens and micro-enterprises are effectively supported in the climate transition,"

said Czech environment minister Marian Jurecka, whose country holds the rotating European Union presidency.

The deal is yet to be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council.

The agreement was struck after a 30-hour session. It claims the overhaul will help the bloc contribute towards the global efforts of combatting climate change and

specifically cut carbon emissions by 55% by 2030 when compared to 1990's levels.

The agreement comes days after EU's trading partners criticized the policies and accused the bloc of protectionism, saying it puts export industries at risk. Countries including the US and South Africa pointed out that the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) will unfairly

penalize manufacturers. Critics of the policies also said that developing nations are likely to be most affected by this considering they lack the ability and infrastructure to update their climate ambitions quickly.

Sectors covered by the mechanism include cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electric energy production, hydrogen, iron and steel.

— DW

SOUTH KOREA'S MILITARY

North Korea fires ballistic missiles: Seoul

SEOUL: North Korea launched two ballistic missiles on Sunday morning, according to South Korea's military and Japan's coast guard.

"Our military has strengthened surveillance and vigilance while closely cooperating with the United States and maintaining a full readiness posture" South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Japan's defence ministry added that one of the missiles covered a distance of 500 km (310 miles) towards the Sea of Japan and flew at an altitude of 550 km.

"It threatens the peace and security of our country, this region, and the international community, and it is absolutely unacceptable," said the country's senior vice defence minister Toshiro Ino.

He added that the missiles appeared to have landed outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Advanced technologies in development

The missiles detected on Sunday appear to have been launched from the Tongchang-ri area, which is home to North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground. — DW

BRIEFS

Fiji election results show parliamentary deadlock



SUVA: Fiji's parliament is in a stalemate situation after a final tally of votes in the general elections of the archipelago nation showed that neither the incumbent prime minister nor his political rival secured a majority of seats. Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama and

his opponent Sitiveni Rabuka were both projected to win 26 seats in the 55-seat parliament, according to the country's election office. Bainimarama, 68, is an ex-navy commando who has won the last two elections after first seizing control in 2006. Rabuka, 74, is a two-time coup leader and a former prime minister of Fiji. This is only the latest twist in Fiji's tumultuous general election. After polls closed on Wednesday, opposition leader Rabuka alleged "anomalies" in the count and asked the military to step in. He was then hauled in by detectives for questioning. The government is now likely to be formed through negotiations with the Social Democratic Liberal Party, which holds three seats in the parliament, and therefore the key to power.

Uganda president lifts all Ebola-related restrictions

KAMPALA: Uganda lifted all its Ebola-related restrictions on movement on Saturday, after a two-month lockdown. "Currently, there is no transmission, no contact under follow-up, no patients in the isolation facilities, and we are progressing well with the count down," President Yoweri Museveni said in a statement. The virus has killed 56 people and infected 142 since September when authorities announced the outbreak. In October, Ugandan authorities announced curfew and travel restrictions and shut down places of worship and entertainment.



Greek parliament approves 2023 state budget

ATHENS: Greek parliament ratified on Saturday the 2023 state budget, which foresees 1.8 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth and a 5 percent inflation rate for the year. Initial estimates of 2.1 percent and 3 percent respectively given in October, were revised amidst continuing great uncertainty globally due to the energy crisis, the Finance ministry said in a press release. The year 2022 would close with 5.6 percent of GDP growth and 9.7 percent of inflation, according to the budget which was passed with the votes of 156 lawmakers in the 300-member strong plenary. — Agencies



Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/187-2	Interlink between Rahab Village and Dimeet Village-Disc-DN-R-ZA-2022-33kv-62

Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be at least Grade-B registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 2 nd January 2023
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 3 rd January 2023
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for response pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 10 th January 2023
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.

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Dhofar Integrated Services Company

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CROWNING GLORY FOR LIONEL MESSI

The Argentine star has longed his whole career to win the World Cup. The crowning moment finally came on Sunday

DOHA: Lionel Messi has longed his whole career to win the FIFA World Cup. On an extraordinary Sunday in Lusail Stadium, when Messi and Kylian Mbappe lived up to their heavy-weight billing, the Argentina genius must have felt he won it three times. Mbappe became only the second man after England's Sir Geoff Hurst to score a World Cup final hat-trick, but it is Messi who takes the spoils, if not the Golden Boot, won by eight-goal Mbappe. Not that Messi will mind his Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) teammate winning that race. Messi opened the scor-

ing and looked destined for a straight forward triumph until France recovered from 2-0 down to send the game to extra-time. Messi struck to restore Argentina's lead but Mbappe equalised for a second time. Messi and Mbappe both scored at the beginning of the shootout. But Emiliano Martinez saved from Kingsley Coman and Aurelien Tchouameni fired wide, leaving unheralded Gonzalo Montiel to convert the winning kick. Argentina hadn't scored in their two previous final appearances – in 1990 and 2014 – but the South Americans had two goals before half-time and could legitimately have argued they deserved more. Messi broke the deadlock. Of course, he did. Angel Di Maria did the legwork, deceiving Ousmane Dembele to skip into the box before a nudge in the back from the Frenchman sent Di Maria tumbling. Messi nonchalantly rolled his penalty right and Hugo Lloris dived in the opposite direction. Lionel Scaloni's irresistible team were swarming all over the 2018 champions. And when France were hurried out of possession high on the right, Argentina briskly swept

upfield. Julian Alvarez eventually released Alexis Mac Allister, who guided a perfect ball along the floor to the back post, where Di Maria arrived unaccompanied to defeat Lloris with a controlled strike. Didier Deschamps was never going to sit on his hands and on 41 minutes the France coach withdrew Dembele and Olivier Giroud in favour of Randal Kolo Muani and Marcus Thuram. Argentina remained in the ascendancy nonetheless and Lloris was repeatedly worked after the break. But the remarkable Mbappe, hitherto barely involved, delivered a staggering 97-second one-two to haul France level. Kolo Muani dashed behind the Argentina backline, initiating panic in Nicolas Otamendi, who illegally impeded the attacker's progress in the area. Martinez leapt the right way but couldn't keep out Mbappe's crunching strike. The game had barely restarted when Coman relieved Messi of possession to instigate another raid. Mbappe cushioned Adrien Rabiot's aerial ball back for Thuram, then darted forwards to meet the flighted return with a volley that flew past Martinez. France pinned back visibly

rattled Argentina but couldn't claim the winner, while Lloris tipped over a rising drive from Messi at the death. Argentina regained their composure in time for the extra half hour. Dayot Upamecano bravely blocked a goalbound strike from Lautaro Martinez, who was narrowly wide with another effort. It needed Lloris's outstanding reflexes to repel Martinez early in the second half of extra-time. But there was no denying Messi on the follow up, not even Upamecano desperately trying to clear from the line. Still, France refused to yield. Montiel used an arm to block an Mbappe effort and the nerveless 23-year-old sent his penalty unerringly into the left corner. Both teams could have won it at the very end. Martinez did exceptionally well to save one-on-one from Kolo Muani, then an unmarked Lautaro Martinez headed wide from in front of goal. To paraphrase former England manager Sir Alf Ramsey, Argentina had won it twice and had to win it all over again. They did just that to win a third World Cup and first since 1986. And to give Messi the prize he so wanted to add to a personal treasure trove. - FIFA -

KEY STATS

- » Lionel Messi played his 27th World Cup match to move one clear of Lothar Matthaus and claim the appearance record outright
- » Messi's strike from the penalty spot was Argentina's 150th goal in World Cup matches. They are the third nation to reach that milestone after Brazil (237) and Germany (232).
- » Argentina scored the first goal in all seven of their matches at Qatar 2022
- » Messi is the first player to score in the group stage, Round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final in a single World Cup
- » Kylian Mbappé is the fifth and youngest player to score in two World Cup finals after Vavá (1958, 1962), Pelé (1958, 1970), Paul Breitner (1974, 1982), and Zinedine Zidane (1998, 2006)

LUSAIL STADIUM

Closing ceremony pays artistic tribute to Qatar



DOHA: The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 delivered another memory to treasure for fans around the globe in the form of a dazzling and uplifting closing ceremony on Sunday. The audio and visual spectacular was staged prior to the final between France and Argentina at Lusail Stadium and featured a number of first-rate performers. Qatari singer Dana opened the show with a rendition of It's a Wonderful World. She was accompanied by Tamim Al Barghouti's recital of a poem that salutes the ability of human beings to set aside differences and join together to celebrate "The Beautiful Game". Al Barghouti's reading supplied a heavy nod to the inspiration underpinning the Closing Ceremony: the world uniting for the entirety of the World Cup's 29 days. The tournament's 32 competing nations were represented by flying orbs decorated with the flags of their respective countries. The orbs descended on to the field and their movement represented a symbol of the teams' World Cup paths, until only the orbs of Argentina and France remained. Those two spheres soared into the cool evening sky in an illustration of the desire of both teams to achieve the ultimate goal of claiming World Cup glory. Music took over in the form of a mashup of songs from the World Cup Official Soundtrack, marking some of the tournament's most memorable moments. The first track rolling around the Lusail was (Hayya Hayya) Better Together, led by Davido and Aisha. That gave way to Ozuna and Gims performing Arhbo, before an airing of Light the Sky from Nora Fathi, Balqees, Rahma Riad and Manal. This ceremony was designed as an artistic tribute to the host country, with around 1,000 people from multiple countries involved in bringing the concept to life. Following its conclusion 2010 Spanish FIFA World Cup winning goalkeeper Iker Casillas and Indian actress Deepika Padukone delivered the trophy to the playing area. - FIFA -



FIFA WORLD CUP

Qatar 2022

THE BEST PLAYERS OF FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022



AWARDS CEREMONY: His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, congratulates France's Kylian Mbappe



LIONEL MESSI: Golden Ball Award



KYLIAN MBAPPE: Golden Boot Award



EMILIANO MARTINEZ: Golden Glove Award



ENZO FERNANDEZ: Young Player Award



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PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS

The Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco), one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies, China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) and SABIC, are exploring collaboration across refining and petrochemical projects in China and Saudi Arabia.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,793.73 points, down by 1.29 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.45 per cent at 490.98 points. Raysut Cement, up 4.32 per cent, was the top gainer while Sohar International Bank, declined by 3.81 per cent.

OMR11mn marine bunker fuel terminal opens at Port of Duqm

The project will contribute to further positioning Oman as a world-class logistics and shipping hub

MUSCAT: The OOMCO Marine bunker fuel terminal worth OMR11 million at the Port of Duqm was officially inaugurated yesterday.

OOMCO Marine is the bunker arm of Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO). Located in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), the OOMCO Marine bunker fuel terminal will supply a full range of bunker fuel to ships at the port and port anchorage. The project will contribute to further positioning Oman as a world-class logistics and shipping hub.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng. Ahmed Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz).

Hilal Al Kharusi, Chairman of the OOMCO Board of Directors said, "Inaugurating the OOMCO Marine bunker fuel terminal at the Port of Duqm further strengthens the position of Oman as a world-class logistics and shipping hub, which is aligned with the objectives laid out in Oman Vision 2040. Our terminal contributes to economic growth and diversification in Oman while capitalising on its strategic position near



established global trade routes."

On his turn, Tarik Al Junaidi, CEO of Oman Oil Marketing Company said, "The OOMCO Marine fuel terminal and associated bunker business forms a part of our long-term strategy as a company to facilitate the growth of multiple sectors in Oman, including shipping, logistics, energy and their respective infrastructure. For example, efficient shipping means access to raw materials needed for economic development, and enables the manufacturing and export of goods and products, while of course considering that shipping incurs the lowest environmental footprint in the transport segment

on a per-ton basis."

The bunker terminal at the Port of Duqm meets the increasing demands for high-quality and sustainable marine fuels, including the highest specification compliant HSFO, VLSFO and LSMGO marine fuel, and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 8217, as well as all low sulphur fuel-compliant marine fuels in line with International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) decarbonisation targets.

Bunkers are delivered by a port-based bunker barge and also directly by road truck, with the bunker barge capable of supplying VLSFO 0.5 per cent sulphur and LSMGO

bunker fuels to vessels in the port and at anchorage, at a pumping rate of up to 1,000 m³ / hour.

The safe bunkering services provided by OOMCO's marine fuel terminal ensure that all bunker deliveries meet the highest international specification standards, while it operates according to the health and safety protocols of the Port of Duqm. Vessels calling at Duqm can also take advantage of a range of other high-quality and diverse services at the port, including pilotage, freshwater supply, waste collection, tug services, crew change, de-slopping services, and ship handling, plus ship spares and dry dock services. -ONA



EUROPEAN UNION

To quit Russian gas, EU burns billions on LNG

MUNICH: On March 5, just over a week after Russia invaded Ukraine, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed concern that the Kremlin might turn off the bloc's gas tap. "The EU must get rid of its dependency on fossil fuels," she wrote on Twitter. Von der Leyen then praised Spain, which she called "a frontrunner here, with its large renewables share and LNG capacities."

It would not be the last time that von der Leyen appears to have placed liquefied natural gas within the category of renewable energies. The problem is that LNG is also a fossil fuel: It is pumped out of the ground — in some cases fracked — and in the end burned in ways that are destructive for the climate. This conflation by von der Leyen, who spearheaded the European Green Deal, the EU's road map to decarbonisation, could cost the bloc ecologically and financially.

At the Economist's Sustainability Summit in March, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called fossil fuels "a stupid investment, leading to billions in stranded assets." Countries must "accelerate the phaseout of coal and all fossil fuels," Guterres said. "This is madness. Addition to fossil fuels is mutually assured destruction."

And yet the EU is currently investing billions of euros into fossil fuel infrastructure that will either become obsolete or much more expensive to maintain if the bloc does not intend to further exacerbate the climate crisis.

LNG is booming and costs are high

The largest gas consumer in the EU is Germany, followed by Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia and France, according to Eurostat. These countries are now trying to replace their gas imports from Russia with supplies from other sources.

"Since the beginning of the war, LNG imports to Europe have increased by 58%," said Paula Di Mattia Peraire, a gas analyst with Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS). Because of this, Germany, Greece and Italy



in particular — as well as Ireland, France, the Netherlands and Poland — are expanding their infrastructure to receive LNG.

"There are a lot of investments going on in Europe regarding LNG," Peraire said. "If all these projects materialise — around 15 new projects till the end of 2024 — that will bring the regasification capacity up by 70 billion cubic metres per year."

A particularly large amount of government money is flowing into coastal terminals where cooled LNG is offloaded and heated until it can be injected into pipeline networks. Currently, there are too few of these terminals — especially in the North Sea and Baltic Sea — to meet the European Union's gas needs.

Furthermore, instead of flowing from east to west, LNG gas will have to flow from Spain, France and the Netherlands to Central and Eastern Europe. However, as gas pipelines are mostly one-way streets, a "reverse flow" is only possible to a limited extent. The German capacities, which are geographically central within Europe and therefore key to the network, would have to be at least doubled for this to happen, according to the Fraunhofer Institute.

Another heavy toll would come

in commissioning a fleet to ship gas to Europe. LNG tankers, easily recognizable by their spherical tanks, can hold up to 175,000 cubic meters of liquefied gas, the equivalent of 90 million cubic meters of less-dense pipeline gas. So, to replace the annual 167 billion cubic meters of Russian gas, about 1,800 shiploads — or five per day — are needed for the European Union. According to the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics, this would require 160 new tankers at a unit price of \$220 million (€212.5 million), for a total of \$35.2 billion.

'An emergency now'

The European Union has announced its intent to become climate-neutral by 2050. Germany is aiming for 2045. If the EU burns more LNG, however, emissions will rise. "We have an emergency now," said Ganna Gladkykh, who researches clean-energy transitions for the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA). "Even the International Energy Agency says there should be zero fossil fuels investment, zero investment in fossil fuel infrastructure. Then we will be able to reach the climate goals." The EU's pumping billions of euros into gas infrastructure is contrary to that. "It does not make

sense to invest in LNG and Europe particularly," Gladkykh said.

High-cost hydrogen hopes

Gases produced in climate-friendly ways are intended to mitigate the problem. Instead of fossil gases, ammonia and especially liquid hydrogen are to be processed within a few years. Should that happen, the stated intent is to repurpose the tankers, terminals and transit pipelines for the new fuels — a plan many are sceptical about.

"Whenever they say the infrastructure is hydrogen-ready, this is the way of comforting the public," Gladkykh said. "The storyline that policymakers are selling is that: 'We invest in LNG. We are aware that it's fossil fuels. But don't you worry ... it will become greener because we will have an improvement in hydrogen technology and then we will just receive hydrogen through it.'"

Because hydrogen is more explosive and therefore more dangerous, the transition would require different alloys and materials — as well as "a significant additional investment," said Rainer Quitzow, research group leader at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies. "The switch to hydrogen is not settled," he said. -aw

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MSX releases names of 23 Sharia-compliant firms

MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) has announced a list of Sharia-compliant companies for the third quarter of 2022. The list includes 23 joint-stock companies listed on MSX whose business and financial conduct conformed with the requirements of Islamic Sharia, according to the Sharia rules set by the Accounting and Auditing Organi-

sation for Islamic Financial Institutions.

The index sample, which includes the topmost 15 companies that comply with Sharia standards for four consecutive quarters of any full fiscal year, will be affected by this disclosure, notably with Oman Fisheries Company existing and Oman Packaging Company entering the list. -ONA

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

New CFO appointed by Renaissance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Renaissance has appointed Raashid Ali as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Raashid, who has held leadership positions in organisations across the Middle East and India, joined the company in December 2022.

In a career span of over three decades, Raashid has successfully managed multiple brands under a single asset, implemented financial strategies that have driven capital adequacy, and enhanced shareholder value for companies by scaling up profitability.

A Chartered Accountant, Raashid has worked with leading organisations like DAMAC Group, Aljomaih Automotive (largest General Motors dealer in the GCC), Tatweer/Jumeirah International, Yum! Brands, PepsiCo International and KPMG in the Middle East and India. Raashid was also the founder of Henry Havaldar, one of northern India's most popular cloud kitchen concepts. His expertise extends to supply chain management, mergers and acquisitions, commercial bids, and statutory, regulatory, fiscal and performance reporting compliances.

Stephen R Thomas, CEO, Renaissance said, "We are glad to welcome Raashid to Renaissance



as the company aims for exponential growth with sights on new segments and geographies. We are confident that Raashid's extensive experience will add great value to our future-focused Renaissance 2.0 objectives of delivering smart sustainable service solutions."

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MSX index ends lower

Raysut Cement, up 4.32 per cent, was the top gainer while Sohar International Bank, down 3.81 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,793.73 points, down by 1.29 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.45 per cent at 490.98 points. Raysut Cement, up 4.32 per cent, was the top gainer while Sohar International Bank, down 3.81 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Muscat Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 454 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.19 million, with more than 9.76 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 7 advanced, 22 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR176,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR150,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR26,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,764.73 points, down 1.29 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance and Muscat Finance

were up by 2.65 per cent and 1.52 per cent respectively. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Dhofar, Bank Nizwa, and Global Financial Investments were down by 4.32 per cent, 3.80 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 2.02 per cent and 1.79 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,401.42 points, down 0.11 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement was up by 4.32 per cent respectively. Prices of A'Saffia Foods, Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, and Al Maha Ceramics were down by 3.45 per cent, 2.16 per cent, 1.14 per cent, 0.48 per cent and 0.46 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.35 per cent before closing at 1,589.59 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah and Oman Telecom were up by 3.08 per cent and 0.43 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Al Batina Power, OIFC, SMN Power Holding, and Al Jazeera Services were down by 3.45 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 2.31 per cent, 2.27 per cent and 1.12 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,857.54	4,791.39	4,793.73	4,856.20	-62.47	-1.29
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,874.67	7,759.31	7,764.73	7,866.21	-101.49	-1.29
Industry Index	6,443.66	6,388.11	6,401.42	6,408.27	-6.85	-0.11
Services Index	1,598.57	1,586.94	1,589.59	1,595.16	-5.57	-0.35
MSX Shariah Index	492.72	490.29	490.98	493.22	-2.24	-0.45
MSX TR INDEX	6,131.11	6,047.57	6,050.56	6,129.41	-78.85	-1.29
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,239.96	8,119.25	8,124.92	8,231.11	-106.20	-1.29
SERVICES TR IDX	1,689.55	1,677.26	1,680.06	1,685.95	-5.89	-0.35
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,708.65	6,650.82	6,664.67	6,671.80	-7.13	-0.11

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,768,009	2,187,173	454	23,741,889,922	7	22	14	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFR	PRN VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001087..... OMAN UNITED INSUR.	5,000	1,550	5	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.302	0.008	2.649	0.310	0.288	0.006	0.100	31,000,000
OM0000003026..... OMAN TELECOM	397,751	339,720	16	0.920	0.928	0.920	0.928	0.924	0.004	0.433	0.928	0.928	0.000	0.100	696,000,000
OM00000001400..... OMAN FLOUR MILLS	72,400	50,680	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.100	110,250,000
OM00000002200..... AHLI BANK	608,000	99,295	8	0.162	0.164	0.160	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.154	0.164	0.100	319,743,824
OM00000003000..... ALMAHA PETROLEUM	100	91	1	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.908	0.960	0.000	0.100	62,652,000
OM00000002381..... TAGIER FINANCE	112,000	11,038	4	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.000	0.100	25,607,518
OM00000005005..... ALMAHA CERAMICS	573	251	3	0.440	0.440	0.438	0.438	0.440	-0.002	-0.455	0.438	0.438	0.440	0.100	24,090,000
OM00000003968..... OREDOO	147,607	62,381	7	0.420	0.428	0.418	0.426	0.428	-0.002	-0.467	0.426	0.426	0.426	0.100	277,302,242
OM00000002168..... AL ANWAR CERAMIC	385,000	151,840	3	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.418	-0.002	-0.478	0.416	0.000	0.416	0.100	91,520,000
OM00000002224..... RENAISSANCE SER	386,678	181,038	10	0.468	0.470	0.466	0.470	0.474	-0.004	-0.844	0.470	0.428	0.470	0.100	111,112,700
OM00000001152..... OMAN NAT ENG	47,730	5,352	7	0.113	0.115	0.112	0.112	0.113	-0.001	-0.885	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	15,680,000
OM00000002796..... BANK MUSCAT	1,236,454	361,616	28	0.290	0.293	0.290	0.290	0.293	-0.003	-1.024	0.290	0.290	0.291	0.100	2,176,855,148
OM00000002228..... ALJAZEERA SERVICES	18,515	5,009	6	0.267	0.267	0.266	0.266	0.269	-0.003	-1.115	0.266	0.264	0.268	0.100	16,280,537
OM00000001483..... NATIONAL BANK OMAN	471,230	136,902	5	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.294	-0.004	-1.361	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	471,524,443
OM00000003125..... GLOBAL INV. H	73,367	4,056	6	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.056	-0.001	-1.786	0.055	0.055	0.057	0.100	11,000,000
OM00000002176..... JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	33,890	7,624	7	0.228	0.228	0.223	0.227	0.232	-0.005	-2.155	0.227	0.222	0.227	0.100	28,351,837
OM00000001525..... OMAN INVESTA FIN	267,845	34,209	7	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.127	0.130	-0.003	-2.308	0.127	0.126	0.129	0.100	30,099,000
OM00000002440..... AL SHARQIA INV	98,530	7,289	6	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.079	-0.003	-3.797	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	6,840,000
OM00000003398..... SOHAR INT. BANK	496,278	50,555	19	0.102	0.103	0.101	0.101	0.105	-0.004	-3.810	0.101	0.101	0.103	0.100	463,596,291
Total	19	4,807,738	1,510,597	149											

Parallel Market

OM00000001418..... RAYSUT CEMENT	455,166	76,615	66	0.163	0.177	0.160	0.169	0.162	0.007	4.321	0.169	0.169	0.172	0.100	33,800,000
OM00000004735..... SEMBICORP SALALAH	31,250	2,094	4	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.002	3.077	0.067	0.060	0.070	0.100	63,956,321
OM00000001590..... MUSCAT FINANCE	179,536	123,289	94	0.070	0.070	0.067	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	20,578,804
OM00000008868..... THE PEARL REIF	372,500	44,328	4	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.001	0.847	0.119	0.116	0.119	0.100	50,547,655
OM00000001160..... NATIONAL GAS	20,000	2,090	4	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.099	0.110	0.100	8,925,000
OM00000001319..... ALUMINIUM PROD.	2,390	191	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.075	0.080	0.100	2,685,716
OM00000001517..... HSBC BANK OMAN	325,436	52,721	5	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.162	0.174	0.100	324,050,672
OM00000004768..... MADINA TAKAFUL	260,742	23,206	8	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.086	0.089	0.100	15,575,000
OM00000005963..... PHOENIX POWER	700	30	1	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.041	0.043	0.100	61,429,261
OM00000006912..... AHLIA INSURANCE	6,550	2,987	1	0.456	0.456	0.456	0.456	0.456	0.000	0.000	0.456	0.450	0.000	0.100	45,600,000
OM00000008710..... BARKA DESALINATION	288	39	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.130	0.134	0.100	10,119,948
OM00000006979..... OMAN QATAR INSUR	100	20	1	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.200	-0.001	-0.500	0.199	0.180	0.200	0.100	19,900,000
OM00000003521..... GALFAR ENGINEER	3,591	621	3	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.175	-0.002	-1.143	0.173	0.173	0.175	0.100	35,116,655
OM00000002374..... UNITED FINANCE	385,845	25,411	19	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.062	0.066	0.100	23,043,431
OM00000004420..... BANK NIZWA	310,691	30,320	14	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.099	-0.002	-2.020	0.097	0.097	0.099	0.100	216,984,444
OM00000004248..... SMN POWER HOLDING	70,000	3,030	3	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	0.044	-0.001	-2.273	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.100	8,584,331
OM00000000540..... BANK DHOFAR	4,934	600	1	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.175	-0.005	-2.857	0.170	0.170	0.175	0.100	508,379,744
OM00000002804..... ALSAFFA FOODS	108,222	24,238	26	0.224	0.224	0.222	0.224	0.232	-0.008	-3.448	0.224	0.223	0.224	0.100	26,880,000
OM00000004925..... ALBATINAH POWER	204,100	5,715	4	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.029	-0.001	-3.448	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.100	18,896,848
OM00000004933..... AL SUWADI POWER	260,900	7,306	9	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	0.029	-0.001	-3.448	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.100	20,003,378
Total	20	4,620,831	1,425,070	269											

INVESTMENT BANKING

Goldman Sachs plans to cut thousands of employees as Wall Street layoffs intensify

NEW YORK: Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GS.N) is planning to cut thousands of employees to navigate a difficult economic environment, a source familiar with the matter said.

The layoffs are the latest sign that cuts are accelerating across Wall Street as deal-making dries up. Investment banking revenues have plunged this year amid a slowdown in mergers and share offerings, marking a stark reversal from a blockbuster 2021 when bankers received big pay bumps, Reuters reported.

Goldman Sachs had 49,100 employees at the end of the third quarter after adding significant numbers of staff during the pandemic. Its headcount will remain above pre-pandemic levels, the source said. The workforce stood at 38,300 at the end of 2019, according to a filing.

The number of employees that will be affected by the layoffs is



still being discussed, and details are expected to be finalised early next year, the source said.

The bank is weighing a sharp cut to the annual bonus pool this year, a separate source familiar with the matter said. That contrasts with increases of 40 per cent to 50 per cent for top-performing investment bankers in 2021, Reuters reported in January, citing people with di-

rect knowledge of the matter.

"GS needs to show that its costs are as variable as its revenues, especially after a year when it provided special rewards to top managers during the boom times," wrote Mike Mayo, a banking analyst at Wells Fargo.

"Goldman Sachs now needs to show that it can do the same when business is not as good and that

they live up to the old Wall St. adage that they 'eat what they kill,'" he said in a note.

The company's stock fell 1.3 per cent in afternoon trading alongside shares of JPMorgan & Chase Co (JPM.N) and Morgan Stanley (MS.N), which fell 0.6 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively.

Goldman shares have slumped almost 10 per cent this year. But they have outperformed the broader S&P 500 bank index (SPX BK), which is down 24 per cent year to date. The latest plan would include hundreds of employees being cut from Goldman's consumer business, a source said.

The bank signalled it was scaling back its ambitions for Marcus, the loss-making consumer unit, in October. Goldman also plans to stop originating unsecured consumer loans, a source familiar with the move told Reuters earlier this week, another sign it is stepping back from the business. —BNA



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FLOATING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TERMINAL

German Chancellor opens country's first LNG terminal

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and other senior government officials officially opened the country's first floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on Saturday.

The opening of the LNG import terminal is a milestone in Germany's plans to find alternate sources of natural gas. Berlin was forced to quickly shift its heavy reliance on Russian fossil fuel imports in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking in the northern port city of Wilhelmshaven where the LNG terminal is located, Scholz praised how quickly the facility was built.

The terminal, floating off the North Sea coast, was built in a record time of just under 10 months. The project shows that Germany "is capable of new beginnings and speed," Scholz said at the inauguration ceremony.

The chancellor added that Germany's LNG projects will help make the country "independent from pipelines out of Russia."

Economy Minister Robert Habeck, Finance Minister Christian Lindner and Lower Saxony state premier Stephan Weil were also in attendance.

"We are taking a very important step today for energy supply security in Germany," Habeck said. The Green Party politician also emphasised that the government is "pushing renewable en-



ergy" sources with the same zeal.

Scholz greenlit the LNG projects on February 27 this year — just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine.

The facility opened off of Wilhelmshaven is slated to feed an estimated 6 per cent of Germany's gas demand into the energy grid each year.

Environmental groups have sharply criticised Scholz's government for ramping up fossil fuel energy sources in the scramble to fill the energy gaps left by Russian supplies to Germany being short this winter.

The German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation, in particular, said that the same speed with which the LNG terminal was built should also be applied to "the phase-out of fossil fuel energy."

"There is actually nothing to celebrate," BUND regional board member Imke Zwöck told German news agency DPA.

The liquefied natural gas facility that opened on Saturday is the first of five terminals that are due to be opened by the end of next year.

Another LNG terminal is slated for construction in Wilhelmshaven, while there will also be facilities in the northern cities of Brunsbüttel, Stade and Lubmin.

The LNG terminal opened on Saturday includes a specially equipped ship called a floating storage and regasification unit. This vessel docked on Thursday carrying 165,000 cubic metres of LNG.

According to Habeck's Economy Ministry, the LNG terminals will be able to provide a third of Germany's natural gas needs. —BW

COLLABORATION

Aramco, Sinopec and SABIC expand refining and petrochemical cooperation

DHAHRAN: The Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco), one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies, China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) and SABIC, are exploring collaboration across refining and petrochemical projects in China and Saudi Arabia.

Aramco and Sinopec have signed heads of agreement for a greenfield project in Gulei, Fujian Province, which plans to include a 320,

YOUR NOSE KNOWS IT ALL

SMELL IS HELPING SCIENTISTS DETECT BRAIN DISEASE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

YOUR SENSE OF SMELL IS A POWERFUL PART OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. SMELL STRONGLY INFLUENCES HOW SOMETHING TASTES. EMOTION CAN BE INFLUENCED BY CERTAIN SMELLS. AND IF YOUR SENSE OF SMELL IS MINIMISED OR YOU'VE LOST IT COMPLETELY, IT COULD BE AN EARLY INDICATOR OF BRAIN DISEASE.



The nose knows

While temporary loss of smell may indicate you have a cold, COVID-19 or a respiratory virus, ongoing and progressive smell loss may be one of the most important signals of brain health, including risk for Parkinson's disease.

According to a research study sponsored by The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF), up to 30% of people with enduring smell loss showed brain changes associated with Parkinson's disease - a chronic, neurodegenerative disease that currently affects an estimated 6 million people worldwide.

Importantly, smell loss can happen years or even decades before the traditional motor Parkinson's symptoms appear, such as tremors or difficulty with balance. But studies have shown it can be surprisingly difficult to know whether you have smell loss - 7 in 10 people living with it didn't know until they were tested.

"From my role on a hospice team caring for others, I used to think Parkinson's started with a tremor or other movement symptoms. Little did I know, I had lost my sense of smell years before noticing its impact on my work, daily life and connection to my own diagnosis," says Reni Winter-Evans, 68, of West Point, Indiana, a medical social worker and former journalist who lives with Parkinson's and is an active research volunteer.

The scratch-and-sniff test

While scientists don't yet know why smell loss occurs in Parkinson's, researchers are hard at work trying to uncover this link. It could be an important missing puzzle piece in understanding Parkinson's, including who's at risk for the disease, who gets it, who doesn't and why.

Now, MJFF is using a simple screening tool to measure your risk for brain disease. It's a free "scratch-and-sniff" smell test for people over age 60 living without Parkinson's, developed by scientists at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Research is becoming clearer that our sense

of smell has the power to help scientists answer key questions around how Parkinson's develops and when it begins," says Maggie Kuhl, vice president of research engagement at MJFF. "In addition to helping further brain disease research, taking a test is a simple, free tool people can use to assess their own ability to smell."

Getting started is easy - people aged 60 and up without a Parkinson's diagnosis can request a free smell test at [MySmellTest.org/GetStarted](https://mysmelltest.org/GetStarted) for delivery right to their door.

The 40 scratch-and-sniff multiple-choice questions are simple. You'll be asked questions like, "Does this page smell like a rose, mint or coffee?" Then, you'll submit your answers online and the results have the potential to change our understanding of brain disease, who gets it and why.

"It's an opportunity to help people and families around the world living with this disease, and partner with leading scientists toward our joint goal of ending Parkinson's for good. And, for many, the test is a fun and easy way to get involved," says Kuhl.

The opportunity to further Parkinson's prevention

Scientists will then analyze your smell test results and you may be asked to join MJFF's landmark brain health study, the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI), that

seeks to enroll 100,000 participants with and without the disease in the hopes of better understanding and preventing it.

Currently underway across the United States and the world, both in-person and online, smell test participants will be able to join PPMI and contribute valuable insights into the link between smell loss and brain health.

"We can only find a cure for brain diseases if we volunteer for research and educate ourselves on what we can actively do today to boost our brain health. I wish I had known about smell loss and its connection to Parkinson's earlier in my disease journey," says Winter-Evans, who began participating in PPMI after noticing Parkinson's symptoms. "Today, I participate in research because I feel a strong sense of duty to help in any way possible to provide a disease-free future for myself,

my children and everyone else."

Not everyone with smell loss will go on to develop brain disease. That said, everyone can play a valuable role in helping find better treatments, cures and even prevention of brain disease altogether.

If you're over 60 and living without Parkinson's, consider taking a few moments to put your nose to the test: [MySmellTest.org/GetStarted](https://mysmelltest.org/GetStarted).

-BPT

Five Omani runners conquer Doi Inthanon mountain in Thailand

Fresh from a successful race at the Himam Trail Run Race, all five travelled to Thailand to acquire the Running Stones credits needed to qualify for the UTMB® Chamonix 2023, taking place in August next year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani ultra-trail runners Hamed Al Harthi, Hamdan Al Khatri, Mohammed Al Shizawi, Issa Al Abri and Dr Yaqoob Al Nadabi all took part in and completed Thailand by UTMB® set within the Doi Inthanon National Park near to Chiang Mai in the country's north.

Fresh from a successful race at the Himam Trail Run Race, all five travelled to Thailand to gain



Issa Al Abri arriving at the finish line.



Hamdan Al Khatri during the race.



Hamed Al Harthi during the race.

more experience and acquire the Running Stones credits needed to qualify for the big one: UTMB® Chamonix 2023, taking place at the end of August next year.

Hamdan Al Khatri finished second in the Al Hajar Range Challenge 100km race in Birkat Al Mouz, just seven minutes behind legendary nine-time Marathon des Sables champion Rachid El Morabity of Morocco.

He continued his good form by finishing the Summit 160km race in 31 hours, 36 minutes and 51 seconds, finishing 43rd out of 287 finishers.

He said, "I really enjoyed the race. At times it was difficult, but I trained well, and the Himam Trail Run was great preparation. I feel I am running really well in all conditions and will look to continue this form as we get close



Dr Yaqoob arriving at the finish line.

to UTMB® Chamonix 2023 in August and September. It really was amazing to see the landscape and turning the corner to see the mountain tops and rice fields gave all of us, I think, the inspiration to keep going."

As one of Oman's most experienced ultra-trail runners, Hamed Al Harthi has completed races all around the world. This time out he also took on the Summit 160km race, completing the course in 45 hours, 56 minutes and 23 seconds. At 64 years old he was one of the oldest competitors in this year's race and finished 2nd in the 60-64 age category.

Fellow Omani Mohammed Al Shizawi finished 155th overall in the Summit 160km race, crossing the line after 42 hours, 32 minutes and 25 seconds.

Speaking after the race, Hamed said, "Switching from the dry heat of Oman to the humidity of Thailand takes time to acclimatise to and adds a new challenge to the race. I am pleased with my performance to have completed the course. Aside from the conditions,

the climb to over 2000 metres is difficult but the views from the top are worthwhile. I am thankful to the local people for their kindness in welcoming all of the runners to their region; it really shows that we are all one community."

Dr Yaqoob completed the 100km Al Hajar Range Challenge at the Himam Trail Run Race in 27th place - crossing the line with a time of 26 hours, 23 minutes and 41 seconds. Issa raced The Adventure 55km route in Birkat Al Mouz, finishing 7th overall in a time of seven hours, 16 minutes and 49 seconds.

The pair took on the Pagoda 50km race in Thailand with Issa making it home first out, in 77th place overall out of 1,061 runners and completing the course in eight hours 51 minutes and 49 seconds. Dr Yaqoob was just over two hours

behind, finishing in 273rd place with a time of 11 hours, five minutes and 18 seconds.

Each route took runners on an incredible immersive journey through native forest, taking them up a gradual climb from 400 to 2100 metres above sea level.

The race routes gave all four a close look at the local culture as they pass through ancestral lands of the Hmong, Pga-Gan-Yaw and Karenic tribes, allowing them to experience the peaceful ways of life as well as enjoying awe-inspiring views of the terraced rice paddy fields and cool temperatures in beautiful, tropical, humid forests.

Training will resume in January as each runner looks to build endurance and cover a variety of distances in preparation for a busy calendar of races in Oman and around the world.

CRICKET

India record 188-run victory over Bangladesh, take 1-0 lead in series

CHATTOTGRAM: Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav wrapped up Bangladesh's tail to give India an emphatic 188-run win in the first test of the two-match series here at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram.

India moved to the third spot in the ICC World Test Championship table with this win as Bangladesh succumbed to the brilliant blowing of India's spinners losing their four wickets within an hour of the first session of the fifth day. The spin duo of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav accounted for seven wickets to dismantle the hosts. Axar scalped four wickets while Kuldeep bagged three to take his tally to eight for the match.

Bangladesh resumed their inning at 272/6 with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (9) and Shakin Al Hasan (40) at the crease for the hosts. Things were off to a positive start for Bangladesh as Mehidy drove Mohammed Siraj through the covers in the first over of the day while Shakib slog-swept Axar Patel for a six from the opposite end.

However, the hosts were bowled out for 324 runs as the Indian bowlers took just 11.2 overs to wrap up the second inning. Mehidy sliced one to backward point



after failing to swat Siraj on the up. Shakib attacked the Indian spinners and smashed a barrage of boundaries before being sent out for 84 by Kuldeep Yadav.

The chinaman removed Ebadot Hossain in his next over while Axar castled Taijul Islam to give India a 1-0 lead in the series, bolstering their chances of a place in the World Test Championship

final. Earlier, India struck three more times in the final session of the fourth day of the match, leaving the hosts struggling at 272/6 at the end of the day's play, with 241 more runs required to win with only four wickets in hand.

At the end of the play, Shakib Al Hasan (40*) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (9*) were unbeaten for Bangladesh.

Kuldeep Yadav was declared the player of the match for his eight wickets and his valuable knock of 40 runs in the first inning.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 150 and 324 (Zakir Hasan 100, Shakib Al Hasan 84, Axar Patel 4-77) vs India 404 and 258/2 declared (Shubman Gill 110, Cheteshwar Pujara 102*, Khaled Ahmed 1/51). -ANI

KARACHI TEST

Brook century powers England to narrow lead over Pakistan

KARACHI: England's Harry Brook rich vein of form continued as he scored his third century in as many matches while Ben Foakes hit a half-century to guide England to a 29-run lead over Pakistan at the end of day two of the final Test of the series at Karachi's National Stadium on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Brook made 111 to continue his excellent start to Test cricket, putting on partnerships with Ollie Pope and captain Ben Stokes before a stand of 117 with Foakes. Spinners Nauman Ali and Abrar Ahmed played a big role in stemming England's flow on either side of the sixth-wicket stand, picking up four wickets apiece as the visitors were eventually dismissed for 354, in response to Pakistan's first innings total of 304.

England lost two wickets in quick succession shortly after resuming on 7-1, with Nauman first trapping Ben Duckett lbw and then getting Joe Root to depart for a duck after being caught in the slips on the next delivery.

Nauman was denied a hat-trick

by Brook, who kept England's chase going, despite Pope being bowled by Abrar and Stokes losing his wicket in a run out following a mix-up between the batters.

Brook and Foakes then revived England's innings, building a defiant partnership which ended when Mohammad Wasim was able to find a chink in Brook's armour to dismiss him lbw.

Foakes valiantly fought on, scoring 64, but skied a delivery from Nauman to mid-on, where it was caught by Abdullah Shafique.

The last bit of English resistance came through Jack Leach and Ollie Robinson, who combined for 30 runs before Robinson was bowled by Abrar to end England's innings.

England were unable to take any wickets in the few overs that Pakistan batted on day two, with Shafique ending on 14 while Shan Masood was on 3.

England won the opening Test by 74 runs and then sealed a 26-run victory in the second to secure their first series victory in Pakistan since 2000-01. -Agencies

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

OCA thrash Muscat Women by 98 runs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket Academy recorded 98-run victory against Muscat Women in the Oman Cricket Women's League Season 2022-23 powered by TM Done.

Electing to bat first, Skipper Vaishali Jesrani and Nitya Joshi opened the batting for OCA Women. Both openers looked in sublime form and tandem as they tonked the Muscat Women for 57 runs in the powerplay. Nitya Joshi took up the charge and continued charging onto the bowling with Vaishali getting out scoring 39 of 37 balls stitching a 122 run opening stand.

In at No.3, Nayan Anil joined hands with Nitya Joshi to take OCA Women to 232 runs. Nitya Joshi remained not out jotting 62 runs. This was a record for the highest total of OCA Women in a T20 match. In response, Muscat Women got off to a steady start by openers Nikithaa



Jagadish and Amanda Dcosta.

The Muscat Women could not race up to the required run rate with Amanda Dcosta scoring 56 of 48 balls and Muscat Women falling short of 98 runs.

Brief scores : OCA Women 232/2 in 20 overs (Nitya Joshi 62(81) 5x4, Vaishali Jesrani 39(37) 6x4 ; Nikithaa Jagadish 47(1) beat Muscat Women 134/1 in 20 overs (Amanda Dcosta 56(48) 7x4 ; Nitya Joshi 30(1) by 98 runs.

SIX-WICKET VICTORY

Australia defeat South Africa to close in on World Test Championship final

BRISBANE: Australia have maintained their unbeaten Test status at home this summer and closed in on booking a spot at next year's World Test Championship final with a decisive six-wicket victory over a disappointing South Africa in Brisbane on Sunday.

The win sees Australia move further ahead at the top of the World Test Championship standings, while South Africa are overtaken by India and drop to third as a result of the loss.

Australia now hold a 76.92 win percentage, with India (55.77) now ahead of South Africa (54.55) following their 188-run triumph over Bangladesh in Chattogram earlier in the day.

The Test match was over in less than two days as Australia's strong bowling attack - with some assistance from a bowler-friendly surface at The Gabba - made light work of South Africa's batters with an impressive team performance.



Skipper Pat Cummins (5/42) and the consistent Scott Boland (2/14) did the majority of the damage on Sunday, while Mitchell Starc (2/26) picked up his 300th

Test wicket early in the day as South Africa were skittled for just 99 in their second innings. South Africa caused some concern in the Australia camp when they claimed

four wickets. The hosts chased down the 34 required for victory, with Marnus Labuschagne (5*) and Cameron Green (0*) guiding the side home as the Aussies clinched the opening match of the three-game series.

The battle to reach next year's World Test Championship decider at The Oval is still wide open, with South Africa a chance to reclaim second place with positive results during the remaining two Tests in Australia. The Proteas travel to Melbourne for the second Test that commences on Boxing Day, before the third and final Test of the series in Sydney early in the New Year.

Australia will be keen to add to the three Test matches they have won against the West Indies and South Africa at home this summer, with a difficult trip to India for four Tests in February and March to likely to decide who claims the two spots in the World Test Championship final. -cc



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ROUND-UP



The Myriad Muscat celebrates its first anniversary in style

The Myriad Muscat endeavours to incorporate comfort and safety in a modern living environment dedicated exclusively to women



MUSCAT: The Myriad Muscat – the first all-ladies living community and retail complex celebrated its first anniversary in style recently. The Myriad Muscat endeavours to incorporate comfort and safety in a modern living environment dedicated exclusively to women. It is in the heart of Al Khoud, near SQU, and is well connected to the Muscat Expressway.

The property sprawls across 14,000 square metres, offering accommodations for over 2,700 women. Residents have the freedom of choice between various single and multi-occupancy room types to best suit their needs. “The Myriad Muscat is one of its kind, designed to be a launchpad

for young women in Oman. Our mission is to provide a safe and fulfilling community exclusively for women and to be pioneers in student and working women’s housing. “We have created this beautiful project based on in-depth research and analysis of today’s local and global expectations of women,” said Ilavarasi Raja Bhatia, GM, The Myriad Muscat.

She added, “Along with unique accommodation, we ensure a convenient day-to-day experience with two floors of retail space and recreational facilities, including a mix of restaurants, cafés, shops, gaming, a supermarket, study and work-spaces, health and beauty services, and much more. It houses a state-of-the-art gym -LYFT, the largest gymnasium in Oman for women.” The accommodations available at the property are inclusive of Wi-Fi and utilities, and the residents also benefit from on-site laundry facilities. The mall area will be accessible to residents and non-residents. Residents can use separate entrances from guests visiting the mall, and dedicated reception areas ensure secure access. There are ample parking spaces available for both residents and visitors. The Myriad Muscat is comprised three buildings, including two basement floors, two retail floors, and six residential floors. A new lifestyle awaits women at The Myriad Muscat.

DIGITAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

New maserati.com site is now online

MODENA: Maserati is beginning a new era of digital customer experience: the www.maserati.com/global/en website is now online, with new sections and features. The website is the starting point for the development of an integrated digital experience for Maserati customers, made possible by sales support tools that result in a personalised customer journey online. Maserati.com consists of three main sections: Models, Brands and Ownership. The “Models” section has a new layout, offering all the information there is on the range and trims. In the “Brand” section, the digital experience is made immersive by the area focusing on the values, history and fascinating facts about the Trident Brand. In particular, the “Stories of Audacity” page is a veritable magazine with a live feed of the latest and greatest Maserati stories, news and events. Finally, “Ownership”, a content-packed



section directly linked to the Maserati Owner Apps. The customer journey online has changed purchasing behaviour, especially in the luxury segment where digital services have become key elements. Maserati’s response is to make digital the linchpin of the sales and ownership experience, including services such as the new OTO Retail project (‘OTO’ stands for “online to offline”, and vice versa) and Maserati membership. In the coming months, the maserati.com/global/en site will continue to implement new features. With the arrival of the Folgore range, a series of support tools will also be provided for the future owners of 100% electric Maseratis.

LUXURY CROSSOVER

INFINITI QX55 boasts inspired dynamics, spacious cabin and great connectivity

MUSCAT: Alluring and luxurious, INFINITI QX55 amazes with premium qualities, driver-convenience attributes, inspired dynamics, spacious cabin, and great connectivity. Offering a suite of comfort and convenience features, the impressive crossover hits right notes, merging innovative technology and daring style in equal measure. The soul of the iconic INFINITI FX lives on in the QX55, bringing an eye-catching crossover coupe silhouette together with performance-inspired details to create something truly, unapologetically individual. INFINITI’s QX55 is available in three well-appointed categories: Luxe, Essential and Sensory. A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, “The QX55’s brilliant dynamics, plush interior, and perceptive technology offers owners a perfect vehicle. Its generous cabin, advanced driver-assistance systems, leading convenience features make QX55 owners and passengers happy participants in every journey.”



The QX55 boasts of a refined design language, and sporty styling. The signature double-arch grille is complemented by a stunning, origami-inspired mesh pattern that delivers visual depth and showcases modern Japanese-inspired artistry. It is flanked by standard LED headlights that mimic the human eye. The stylish and flowing lines of the model reach from the hood, over the front fenders, across the doors, and over the rear wheels. Twenty-inch wheels are standard on all QX55 models, which fill the

which further frees the rear end from clutter. Inside, the QX55 features INFINITI’s dual-screen, InTouchTM infotainment system with Apple CarPlay and Android AutoTM compatibility, and multiple USB inputs for charging. The upper 8-inch and lower 7-inch high-resolution screens inform the driver and entertain passengers with an available Bose series audio system providing a concert-like acoustic experience. Leatherette, leather, or semi-aniline leather appointments for the seats adorn the QX55’s spacious interior, and its sliding second-row seats provide flexible cargo capacity or increased legroom, depending on need. Under the hood of the QX55 is INFINITI’s award-winning and innovative Variable Compression Turbo four-cylinder engine that outputs 268 horsepower and delivers enhanced efficiency or on-demand power, based on the driver’s needs. wheel arches and affirm the SUV’s dynamic presence. The rear of the QX55 heightens the nuance of the automaker’s design and interpretation of Japanese minimalism by coupling an uncluttered liftgate with handsome, understated technology to deliver a lasting impression. Digital “piano key” taillights combine 45 separate LEDs in a single housing to create an elegant light signature. The INFINITI logo on the tailgate is similarly advanced and houses the power liftgate release,

UNIQUE FEATURES

Renault Koleos impresses with powerful styling and unparalleled technology

MUSCAT: With its athletic profile, robust front end, roomy seats, taut lines underscored with chrome, Renault Koleos allows owners to take their journey with confidence. Featuring a powerful and efficient new engine and more on-board technologies, Renault Koleos fully embodies the values of the top of the Renault line-up. Owners assure Renault Koleos offers them a unique experience that combines innovative technology, unequalled comfort and uncompromising safety to perfectly serve all of their top-end vehicle expectations. Salem Al Siyabi articulates, “Renault Koleos easily blends refined luxury with functionality offering business class comfort for everyday adventure. It is engineered to demand attention and make heads turn. Offering off-road capability with its all-wheel drive transmission, Renault Koleos stands out with its assertive exterior design and enhanced interior comfort.” The Renault Koleos also comes with additional features, such as rich acoustics with the BOSE audio system, lighting options, multimedia, navigation, Bluetooth and driving assistance systems in addition to easy park assist. Hasan Al Badi from Ibri says, “Renault Koleos has been capturing everyone’s attention in Oman with its charismatic, features rich and packed with safety attributes. If you are looking for a spacious SUV with elegant styling and unparalleled four-wheel drive technology, Renault Koleos is the car to buy.” Renault Koleos stands out with its assertive exterior design and enhanced interior comfort. The wide-ranging suite of driver-assistance systems and infotainment options it offers make it a top brand. The model features powerful, efficient engines, safety attributes and on-board technologies. The SUV is marked for its fuel efficiency and infotainment options too. Ramesh Kumar from Adam likes Renault Koleos for its strong and high-end design, comfort and outstanding performance. He says, “Koleos extends a variety of features that are among the most capable in the market. I particularly like its blind spot warning with flank protection warning, auto park assists and remote start engine with timer option.” Many customers are fascinated



with the brand’s easy trunk access and hand-free function. Akhtar Hashmi says, “With a sensor located under the bumper, all you need is a simple gesture with your foot to open the boot with ease. It is very practical when your hands are full when returning from office or shopping. I also like its 8.7” touchscreen navigation with R-Link2 system & Bose sound, 5 colour ambient lighting.” The model’s spacious cabin inspired Taamir Al Hinai from Muscat into buying a Renault Koleos. “Renault Koleos has a 2,705 mm wheelbase – for a total vehicle length of 4,673mm – counts amongst the longest in the class and allows Koleos to boast record-breaking interior space to position itself as a D-

segment SUV,” Taamir says. Adventurer Khalil Al Wahabi explains that one can get off the beaten track with Renault Koleos any time. “It’s all mode 4x4-i technology, swap between 2WD mode, Auto mode and 4x4 (lock) mode is really impressive. It offers an ideal balance of torque between the front and rear wheels for perfect grip in all circumstances,” he says. A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “A great combination of power and refinement, the Koleos makes its presence felt with large shoulders and muscular side panels that are further enhanced by a robust front-end; broad, smart-looking tires; and a distinctly large wheelbase.”

with its new brand identity, it is orienting itself towards new goals and accomplishments. Following the hard times endured during the Covid pandemic, the College felt that the time was right to refresh its visual identity and reflect its long term commitment towards transforming students’ lives positively in a dynamic and constantly changing market. Some of the College’s progressive initiatives that meet the 4th Industrial revolution requirements include introducing new undergraduate degrees in Business Analytics, Fintech, Digital Archiving and cybersecurity and the launch of the first Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme in Oman, in cooperation with Bradford University, UK.

REBRANDING



Majan University College reveals new brand identity

MUSCAT: At its 26th graduation ceremony, and in the presence of Sheikh Nasr bin Amer Al Hosni, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour, and a number of VIPs and representatives of government and private institutions, Majan University College announced its new identity under the slogan “Together we Transform Lives”. The rebranding event was revealed through a brief and engaging video. Majan University College was the first private sector higher education institution, established in 1995 as the College of Administrative Sciences. Having completed 27 years of service to the nation, with numerous remarkable achievements to its name, the College officially announced at the graduation ceremony that,



ROUND-UP



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Bank Muscat wins Best Corporate / Institutional Digital Bank award

The award was received on behalf of the bank by Mohammed Sultan Al Habsi, Chief Representative, UAE Representative Office, Bank Muscat, at the Middle East Digital Bank and Innovators Awards 2022 held in Dubai

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman has won the prestigious Best Corporate / Institutional Digital Bank (Oman) award from Global Finance.

The award was received on behalf of the bank by Mohammed Sultan Al Habsi, Chief Representative, UAE Representative Office, Bank Muscat, at the Middle East Digital Bank and Innovators Awards 2022 held in Dubai.

Winners were selected based on a number of criteria, including their strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and site design and functionality.

Speaking on the occasion, Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, General Manager - Corporate Banking,



Bank Muscat, said: “We take this opportunity to thank Global Finance for recognising the bank’s innovative digital banking services and products, which have been greatly benefitting our customers. Bank Muscat offers the latest digital financial services and so-

lutions to its corporate and public sector customers.

“With emphasis on multiple channels and new products that cater to different sectors, the bank is focused on maintaining its leadership in through innovative products and services including electronic payment and online services. We would like to thank all our customers for their continued patronage and strong confidence in Bank Muscat.”

Digitalisation is in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and will further enhance financial inclusion in Oman. The bank’s customers are benefiting immensely from the latest devices, solutions and technological advances made available to them through the implementation of cutting-edge technology. As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat has the largest banking network in Oman with 174 branches and over 800 ATMs, CDMs and other devices. Corporates also have access to dedicated Corporate Banking branches at business hubs like Ruwi, Ghala, Sohar and Salalah apart from the other conventional banking branches of the bank.

Digitalization is helping corporates too speed up transactions, optimize the efficiency of their employees, minimize data-entry related risks in payment processes and improve security. Digitalisation addresses the entire value chain of corporates by providing sophisticated analysis of data sets, real-time insights to ensure transparency and greater control for corporate customers to make better-informed decisions.

With state-of-the-art solutions and services like the recently launched Trade Portal, Liquidity Management solution, Business-to-Business (B2B) Connect platform, Corporate Online Banking platform, Direct Debit solutions and Remote Deposit Capture Bank Muscat’s Corporate Banking offer secure ‘best-in-class’ digital solutions and services, which are based on customer feedback and needs as well as global trends.

OMANI SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2023 OSHRM Awards to be held in February

MUSCAT: The Omani Society for Human Resource Management (OSHRM) once again gets set to honour and award excellence in the field of Human Resources Management with their hosting of the prestigious 2023 OSHRM Awards, which will take place next year on February 9 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre in Muscat under the auspices of Her Highness Dr Mona bint Fahad Al Said, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for International Cooperation at Sultan Qaboos University.

The event will take the form of a glamorous gala awards ceremony, where the winners in each of the OSHRM Awards categories will be presented their prestigious OSHRM Award Title and accompanying OSHRM Awards Trophy.

The 2023 OSHRM Awards also form a final day climax to the 6th Annual OSHRM Conference, which goes ahead from 7 – 9 February at the same venue, and which will welcome a high-profile mix of HR industry leaders and representatives for a three-day schedule of workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

According to Dr Ghalib Saif Al Hosni, Chairman of the OSHRM Board, “Exceptional Human Resource Management demands exceptional recognition. So, we are exceptionally honoured to host a multitude of HRM practitioners from multiple industry sectors – and to place these HRM professionals’ achievements in the international media spotlight.

“We are delighted to highlight the absolute best of Human Resource Management to a high-profile local and international audience, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to this prestigious event for Oman.”

For 2023, OSHRM Jury Members will include the distinguished

Dr. Yasmin Al Balushi, The Project Manager of “Itimaad” programme at The Royal Academy of Management, Dr. Ramin Mohajer, Managing Partner at Aspire Muscat Institute, Saif Al Hosni.

General Manager of Microsoft Oman and Bahrain, and Dr Zahran Al-Salti, Dean of College of Banking and Financial Studies – who will collectively bring a significant depth of knowledge, acumen, and highly-regarded perspective to the awards, due to their vast experience in HR fields and related industries.

2023 OSHRM ‘Organisation’ Awards

For the 2023 OSHRM “Organisation” category, award titles include: “Most effective organisation during the pandemic”, “Best HR initiative during the pandemic”, “High business impact by adapting data analytics during the pandemic”, and

“High business impact by adapting e-learning during the pandemic.”

2023 OSHRM ‘Business/ Professional’ Awards

In the 2023 OSHRM “Business/ Professional” category, award titles include: “Top people – leader”, “Effective HR professional during the pandemic”, and “Most effective CEO during the pandemic”.

2023 OSHRM ‘Research/ Academia’ Awards

Finally, for the 2023 OSHRM “Research/Academia” category, the event will honour and award the title, “Best research related to HR during the pandemic”.

The OSHRM Awards will welcome participation by all organisations, as well as human resources management professionals and researchers. Potential candidates can enter and apply for OSHRM Awards via awards@oshrm.om

NISSAN E-4ORCE 04



Nissan Formula E Team unveils striking cherry blossom livery for Season 9

PARIS: Last week, Nissan kicked off Season 9 of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship in Madrid with the unveiling of its brand-new livery on the Nissan e-4ORCE 04.

With 85 years of motorsport history and over a decade of EV expertise, Nissan’s participation in Formula E is the perfect showcase of its commitment as the company charges towards an electrified future in alignment with its sustainability goals.

Featuring an eye-catching cherry blossom pattern, the team’s choice to incorporate Japan’s national flower in its Season 9 livery is not only a nod to the squad’s Japanese DNA, but also symbolises and celebrates a new beginning.

“Season 9 marks a new era for Nissan’s participation in the championship. It will be our fifth competing in Formula E but our first as one team. We have a long history in racing, and we also love to dare to do what others don’t. Our new livery celebrates our Japanese heritage and I’m certain that the design will stand out on the track like never before”, said Ashwani Gupta, Nissan’s Chief Operating Officer.

The upcoming championship also marks the start of the highly anticipated Gen3 era. Packed with 40% more power than last year’s homologation and delivering over 320 km/h top speed, the new Gen3 race car brings a level of excitement to electrification never experienced before.

“Formula E represents the pinnacle of EV technology, and we are confident this upcoming, next-generation series will deliver innovation and excitement on and off the track”, said Guillaume Cartier, Chairperson, Nissan AMIEO (Africa, Middle East, India, Europe and Oceania).

“With more than half of the races taking place within our diverse AMIEO region, our ability to implement road-to-track and tack-to-road knowledge exchange will directly contribute to the development of our electrified technologies and electric powertrains to deliver the best for our customers”.

Tommaso Volpe, general manager, Nissan Formula E, and managing director, Nissan Formula E Team, also commented: “The upcoming campaign is a big moment for the series, with the introduction of the Gen3 cars. But it’s also key for us at Nissan, with the team running under its new name as we take full ownership of all our operations in Formula E. All of us at Nissan are very excited for this new beginning, very motivated to tackle this new challenge, and very much looking forward to getting started.”

Formula E is the first carbon neutral sport in the world since its inception, and compliant with its sustainable regulations, Nissan Formula E Team received the top three-star rating in the Environmental Accreditation Programme, a sustainability certification by the FIA.

PROMOTION

Own Lexus LX with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Lexus enthusiasts looking forward to owning the LX can benefit with service 5 years / 50,000km (whichever is earlier) and 1 year free registration. Campaign is valid up to December 21 (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

The flagship LX has set the standard for capability and luxury. The LX has earned its place as a preferred luxury SUV for those who love to go beyond on every journey. The LX is available with a choice of two powertrain options, including two newly developed V6 twin-turbo engines.

The V6 twin-turbo 3.5-liter petrol engine achieves class-leading performance that surpasses that of a conventional V8, producing 409 hp and up to 66.28 Kg.m torque. Meanwhile, the V6 twin-turbo engine 3.3-liter diesel variant is capable of 302 hp and up to 71.38 Kg.m torque. Both versions are mated to a 10-speed automatic transmission.

The LX’s updated Tazuna cockpit organizes the principal controls and information displays within the driver’s immediate sight-line for easy, intuitive operation. Its slim instrument panel creates a sense of balance, particularly in off-road driving, giving the cabin a wide and open feel.

The cabin offers a range of



advanced features such as dual-centre displays, which include an upper 12.3-inch Multimedia touchscreen display that is compatible with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™, and a lower 7-inch display for navigation, audio, and climate controls as well as other driver support function. It features a colour head-up display, an 8-inch colour Multi-information Display (MID) in the cluster gauge, wireless charging for smartphones, and a 4-zone automatic climate control system with rear control switches. Owners also benefit from enhanced security with Lexus’ first fingerprint-authentication push-button start switch.

Additional features include a 25-speaker Mark Levinson sound system with Quantum Logic Immersion QLI, Clari-Fi & PurePlay technology for precise, lossless audio and amazing 3-D surround sound experience.

As with any Lexus vehicle, safety is a top priority for the all-new Lexus LX. Drivers can enjoy complete peace of mind thanks to the Lexus Safety System+, an advanced safety and driver assistance system that includes a Pre-Collision System (PCS) with new features and expanded detection range. The system also includes Full-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC) with Curve Speed Reduc-

tion (RSR) that suppresses vehicle speed when entering a curve to offer additional acceleration upon exit. Drivers also benefit from Lane Tracing Alert (LTA), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), and Adaptive High-beam System (AHB).

In addition the car features a comprehensive array of safety features such as all-round SRS airbags including side-curtain airbags for the rear seats, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Brake System (ABS), Brake Assist (BA), Parking Support Brake (PKSB), Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Multi-terrain Monitor (MTM) including Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), Downhill Assist Control (DAC), Tyre Pressure Warning System (TPWS) and Drive Start Control (DSC) among many others.

For customers in pursuit of even greater comfort and luxury, the LX has also been made available for the first time in its new Grandeur. The LX Grandeur model boasts exclusive interior features, including two large heated rear seats with ventilation and massage functions, up to 48 degrees of reclinability, a Rear Seat Entertainment (RSE) system with an 11.6-inch anti-reflective screen, and built-in ottoman support for the lower legs and calves.



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Christmas Eve Dinner

24th December 2022 | 7 pm to 11 pm | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with Christmas buffet | Painting activities | Christmas-themed movie

OMR 23 net per person (Adult)
OMR 11.5 net per child (6-12 years old)

Save 25 % when you book between 18th December - 21st December 2022

Christmas Brunch

25th December 2022 | 12 pm to 4 pm | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with Christmas buffet | Painting activities | Christmas-themed movie
Santa Claus gifts

OMR 23 net per person (Adult)
OMR 11.5 net per child (6-12 years old)

Save 25 % when you book between 18th December - 21st December 2022

NYE Dinner

1st January 2023 | 7 pm - 01 am | Taybat Restaurant

Kids corner with NYE buffet | Painting activities | NYE-themed movie
Live DJ performance

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Kids corner with new year's buffet | Painting activities | NY-themed movie

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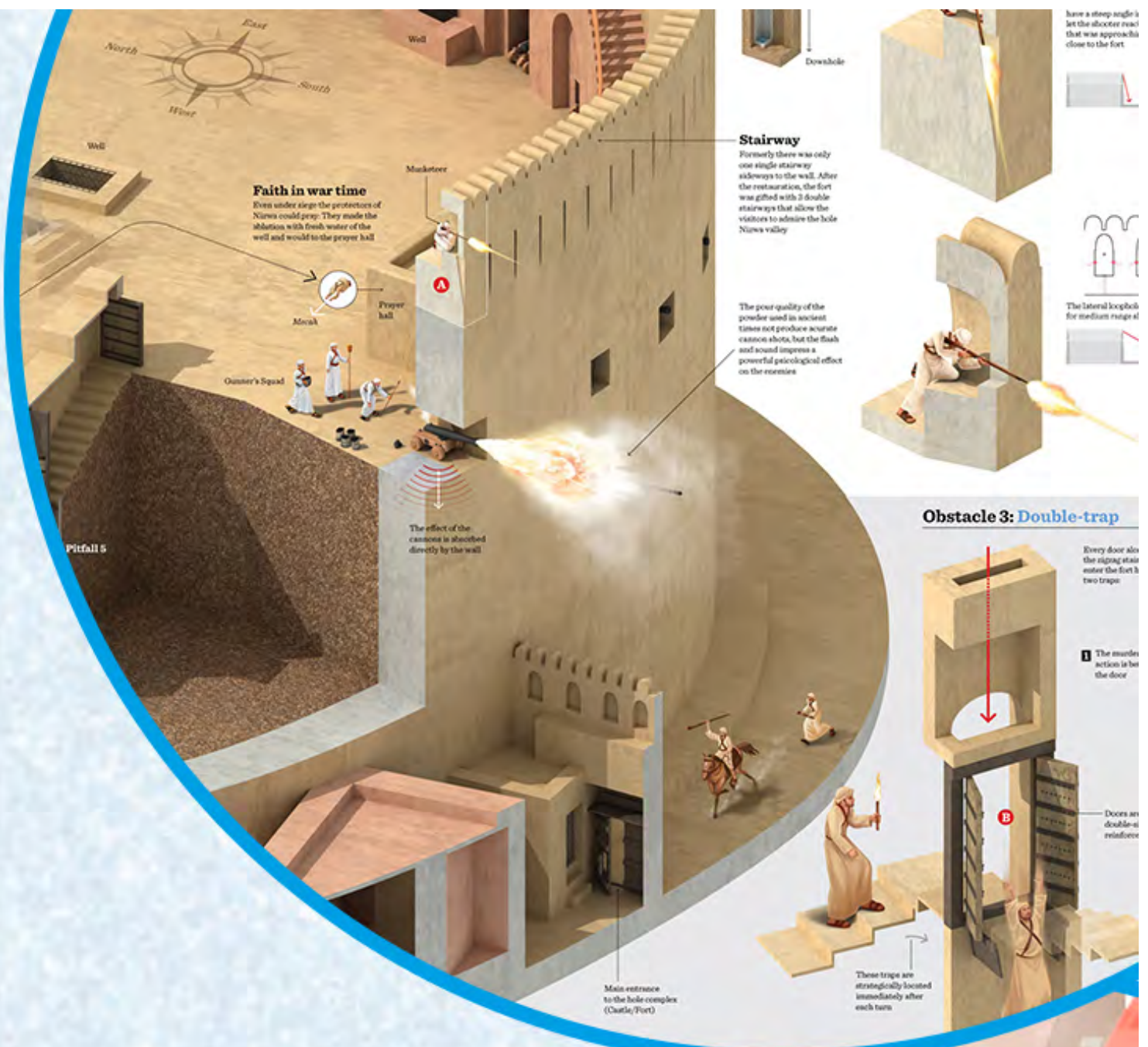
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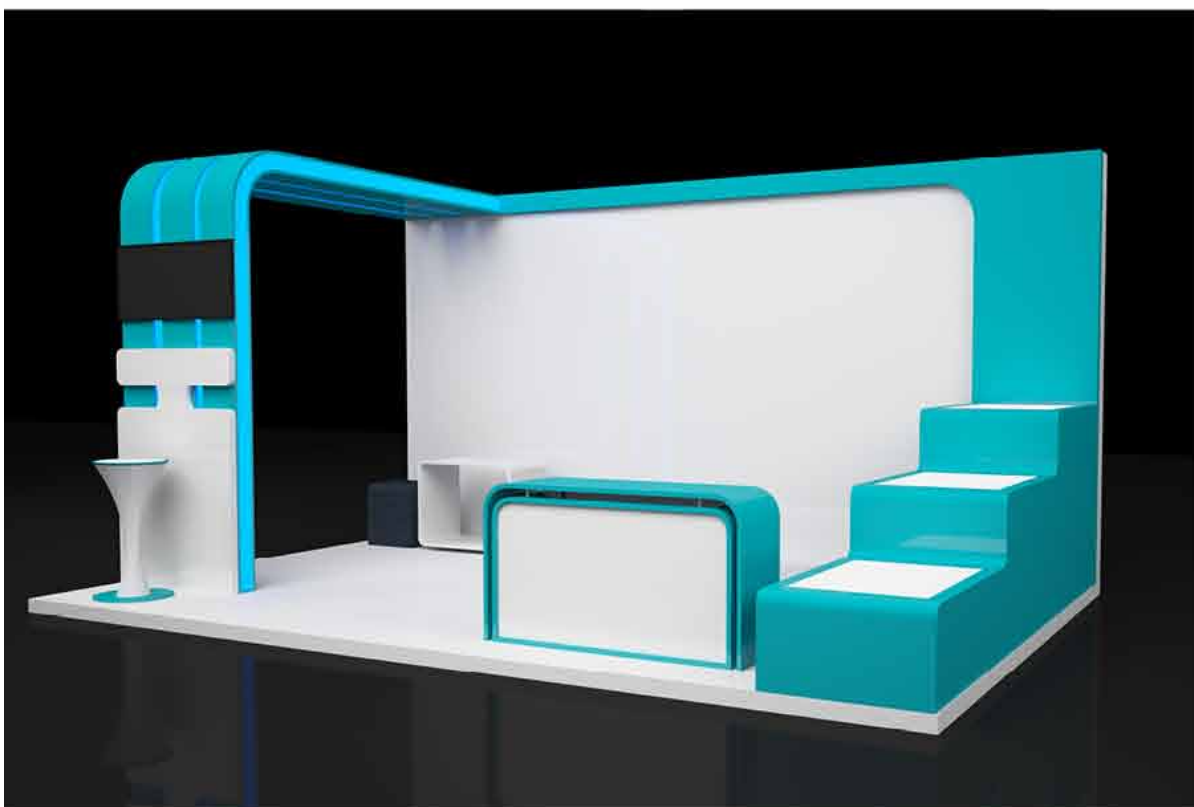
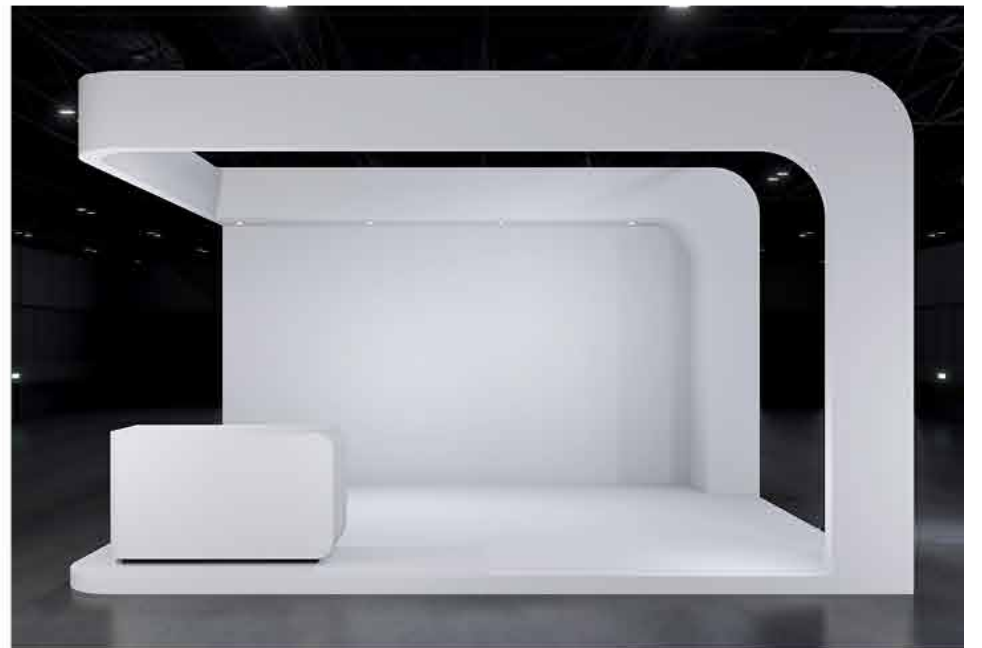
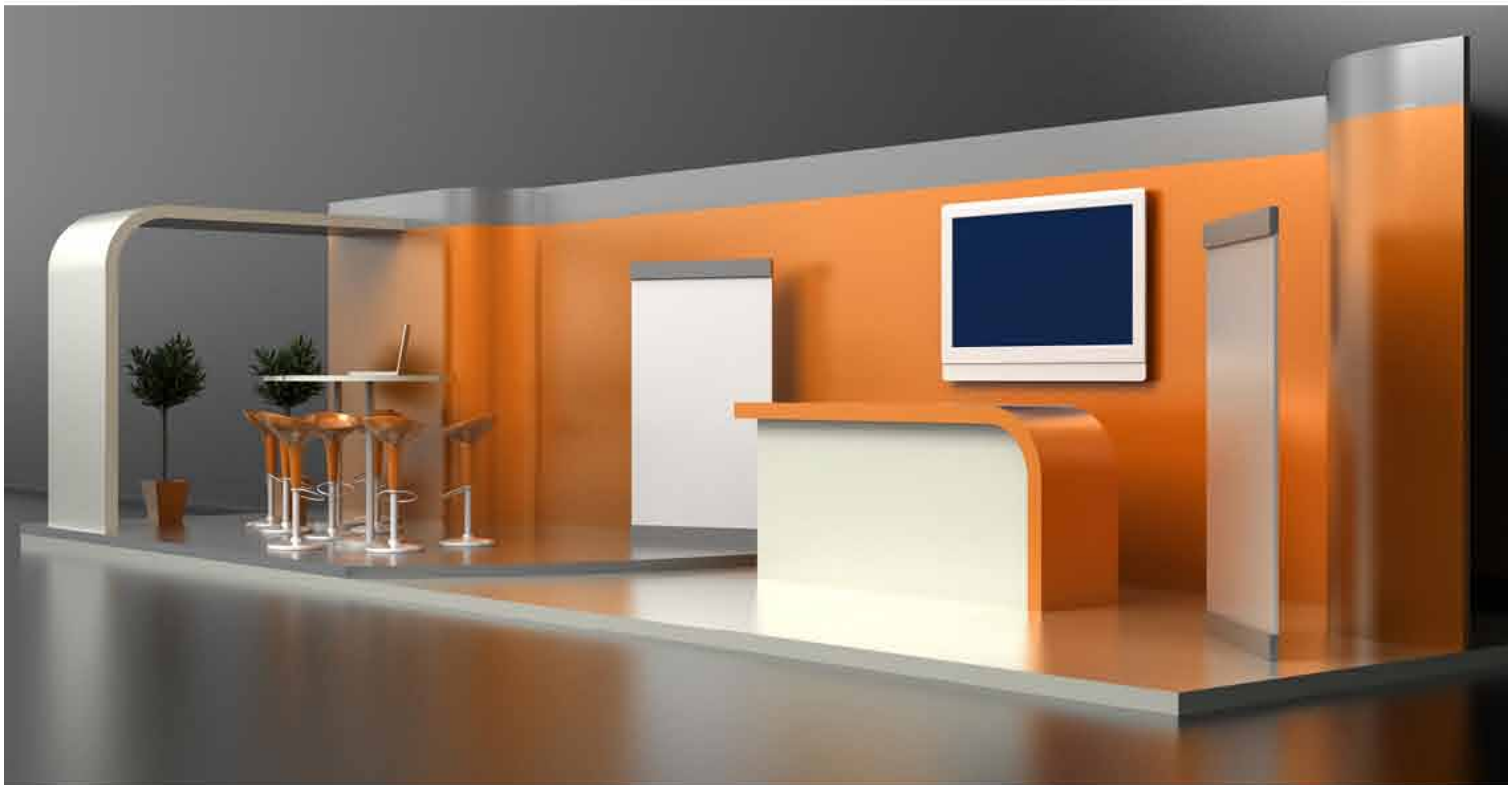
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