

**ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER
MEETS ENVOY OF UAE**

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office met yesterday Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, Ambassador of the UAE to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty. **>A2**



**OMAN COMMITS TO ACHIEVE
CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050**

Within the Royal care of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on improvement of environment performance and curbing the impacts of climate change, the year 2050 has been set as the deadline for reaching carbon neutrality. **>A5**



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MESSAGE

The Honourable Lady sends greetings on Omani Women's Day



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PRAISES OMANI WOMEN FOR TAKING CARE OF THE FAMILY

Celebration
of the 17th of
October as Omani
Women's Day 'is a
manifestation of
the status of Omani
women in society'

MUSCAT: The Council of Ministers on Sunday greeted the Omani Woman on the occasion of Omani Women's Day, which falls on 17 October every year.

The Council of Ministers saluted mothers and valued their great role in looking after the family and taking care of its members.

The Council of Ministers affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman's celebration of the 17th of October as Omani Women's Day "is a manifestation of the status of Omani women in society and the attention that has been accorded to them

since the dawn of the renaissance".

The Cabinet indicated that the attention accorded to women is aimed at empowering them to contribute alongside men in the country's comprehensive development. The Council of Ministers added that "The State's constant support for women over the past decades has had significant positive impact, notably by providing jobs for women and putting all enabling services at their disposal.

"As a result, Omani women proved their mettle by efficiently carrying out the missions en-

trusted to them. This qualified Omani women to scale new heights and win awards of distinction in many local, regional and international spheres.

"The Council of Ministers hereby expresses its deep appreciation for mothers' contribution to family upbringing and the attention they accord to family members so that they could contribute effectively to the national action."

The Council of Minister wished Omani women further success in their quest to achieve progress and prosperity of Oman. **-OMA**

MUSCAT: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, has sent a message of greetings on the occasion of Omani Women's Day—the 17th of October, reading as follows:

"It pleases us, as we celebrate Omani Women's Day, to salute the women of Oman, thanking them for their great contribution to the nation's development. We value Omani women's access to top strata in scholarly and practical domains. We also

applaud Omani women's accomplishments and their coronation for the feats they made at different arenas, which placed them in the forefront.

"While we affirm our commendation of Omani women's resourcefulness, we would also like to send warm greetings, thanks and appreciation to every woman who resides in this benign land and contributes to the service of the Sultanate of Oman, wishing them and their families further success and prosperity."

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Royal Academy seeks to develop leaders

1 The Royal Academy seeks to develop national leaders at various levels of management. **>A2**

WORLD US, Canada to help fight Haiti gangs

2 The US and Canada have sent security equipment to Haiti to help the impoverished country deal with the dire situation. **>A6**

MARKET Domestic liquidity increases by 2%

3 The total domestic liquidity rose 2 per cent at the end of July 2022 to stand at OMR20.35 million. **>B1**

OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

A manifesto of shattering the glass ceiling

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani women are a symbol of fertility, growth and giving. They are honoured by Islam for their exalted role and the impact in building up society.

In this sense, the Omani Women's Day is a badge of honour and appreciation that Omani women have received from their wise government. It is in confirmation and honour of the essential role that she plays in bringing about progress on this good land. On their part, their pledge and loyalty to this beautiful country is renewed. So, congratulations to the Omani woman in the plains or the mountains, beyond the



Dr. Sabah Al-Sulaimani



Fawzia bint Abdulaziz



Nadia Rashid bint Saif Al Maktumi

lands and the seas.

The wise government attaches great importance to empowering Omani women and supporting them to perform their roles in society along with her male counter-

parts. They are the two wings by which nations take their flight to progress, in harmony and in a sustained manner.

Their importance can be felt by their presence in civil, mili-

tary, governmental and private fields. The government's utmost trust in them can also be perceived in this fact and in their ability to play the role entrusted to them; they are ministers, doctors, teachers, engineers or in any military or civilian offices.

The gestures of Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, in her messages of trust, appreciation and responsibility to Omani women is evident, encouraging as it is to contribute their might to the building of the nation and raising its status among the comity of nations. **>A4**

**34°
MUSCAT**

MUNA KHALFAN'S PHOTO EXHIBITION

Woman photographer showcases Oman's diverse terrain

Times News Service

MUSCAT: She wanted to feel and live the experience of being an adventurer. And her passion for photography amalgamated her adventure exploits over the past few years.

Al Hajar Mountain range is home to stunning natural wonders and some of Oman's most important historical sites. Its mountainous, arid setting is broken up only by the occasional lush oasis.

Showcasing the adventures through her lens is well-known Omani photographer Muna Khalfan Al Shidhani with an exhibition, 'Adventures of the Hajar Mountains', at The Water Front, Shatti Qurum.



The exhibition, which opened on Sunday, brings alive the various adventures one can undertake on the Hajar Mountains. With the terrain offering plenty of op-

tions, adventure-seekers can enjoy mountain trekking, free climbing and rock climbing.

The exhibition showcases exploits of adventures in a creative

way and highlights the beauty and charm of the vast natural landscape in the Sultanate of Oman.

Story to tell

Each photograph has a story to tell and the details in each exhibit speak of the thrill, risk and excitement that Muna Khalfan experienced during her many adventure trips she completed.

A total of 40 exhibits are on display with few clicked during trekking trips on the mountains, crossing of valleys and gorges, rock climbing, and few portraits of adventurers in the midst of action.

The photographs were clicked during a total of 27 adventure trips Muna Khalfan undertook at 18 different locations. Muna Khalfan's

memorable clicks underline the progress made by Omani women in field of adventure and photography.

Muna Khalfan says: "My journey in the world of photography began in 2010 with my participation in the Photography Club. After learning the basics, I started to take part in several local and Gulf exhibitions."

International exhibitions

"My works got accepted in international exhibitions and competitions in several categories. Some of my adventure photos have been published in leading newspapers and magazines, as well as on social media platforms, including the *National Geographic* Arabic magazine." **>A4**



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Maghrib.....	5:45pm
Isha.....	6:55pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:50am

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MEETING

Royal Office Minister meets envoy of UAE



MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office met yesterday Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, Ambassador of the UAE to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

Al Suwaidi expressed his appreciation for the cooperation extended to him by all officials in the Sultanate. He also lauded the bilateral relations between Oman and the UAE. Al Nu'amani thanked the ambassador for the efforts he exerted in boosting the relations between the two countries during his tour of duty, wishing him success in his future endeavors. -ONA

WORLD FOOD DAY

Oman Food Bank inaugurated

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources inaugurated Oman Food Bank (OFB), a non-profit firm.

The company operates in the field of food supply for eligible beneficiaries through a professional work system that covers all parts of the Sultanate of Oman.

The launch of OFB coincides with World Food Day, which falls on 16 October every year. - ONA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Royal Academy to create national leaders

MUSCAT: The Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Sayyid Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court.

The meeting discussed the strategy and plans of the Academy for the next phase, along with the programmes it will launch.

Through these programmes, the Academy seeks to develop national leaders at various levels of management, to broaden the horizons of the Omani economy, and to provide the public and private sectors with empowered leaders and qualified competencies in line with Oman Vision 2040's mission to build innovative and future-ready managerial apparatus.



The Board of Trustees includes Sayyid Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, as Chairman of the Board and Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Vice Chairman. The board members are Dr. Mahad Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour, Dr. Ali Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal

Academy of Management, Sheikh Waleed Khamis Al Hashar, CEO of Bank Muscat, Khaula Hamoud Al Harthy, CEO of Injaz Oman and Dr. Hatem Bakhit Al Shanfari, faculty member at the College of Economics and Political Science, Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).

The Royal Academy of Management is under the honorary patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The academy was established in January 2022 and it aims to develop national leaders at various levels of management in the public and private sectors through an integrated suite of specialised centres, initiatives, and programmes based on the latest concepts and trends in New Public Management.

WATER RESOURCES

Sayyid Badr receives Germany's Joining Document

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, has received Germany's Joining Document announcing its membership at the Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC), which is based in the Sultanate of Oman since its inception in 1996.

The document was handed over by Thomas Schneider, the Ambassador of Germany to Oman.

MEDRC was set up on the basis of forming a water resources' action team whose mission stems from the Middle East Peace Process.

The document presentation ceremony was attended by MEDRC managing director, as well as Hashil Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department and Dr. Sulaiman Saud Al Jabri, Head of the Legal Department.





PRESENTS



INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ 2022

English: Friday, 28th October 2022
Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022
Venue: City Amphitheater, Qurm
Time: 7:00pm, Gates open at 5:30pm

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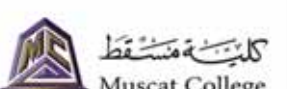




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MONDAY COLUMN

Maternal instincts



Saleh Al-Shaibany

When I had nothing better to do with myself earlier this week, I thought I should go and look for the cat who woke me up several times the night before.

I inspected my garden and there was this brown and white cat stretching under the lime tree. I thought I should give the cat a proper dressing-down for giving me a sleepless night. I bent down and started talking to it. The cat completely ignored me and started licking its paws. Then rested its head on the tiled ground to indicate how bored it was with me.

My wife came around the corner and asked me to leave it alone, saying, "the poor cat is pregnant. She needs a rest because she did not sleep the whole night."

I wanted to say that was the whole point because I did not sleep either. But thought I should steer away from the maternal instincts the cat and my wife shared that moment. Instead, I asked casually as I was walking back to the house, "I wonder who the father is?"

"Who cares? You should care of your own role as the father of your own children," she said and grabbed my hand and pushed me inside.

I grabbed my car keys



CAT STRETCH: I thought I should give the cat a proper dressing-down for giving me a sleepless night.

and left the house with one thought in my head. Would my wife have been in a defensive mood if a male cat was howling the whole night? I decided to leave like that and drove straight to the beach. No one was there at the time except three fishermen untangling their nets. I sat on a bench under a tree and watched them. The temperature of the day was in mid-thirties but the wind was surprisingly cool.

I diverted my gaze to the passive sea and watched the waves rolling lazily to the white sands. My attention was interrupted when a group of seagulls invaded the sky. Right under the flying birds, I could see the reason of their invasion. The fishermen were removing the fish from their nets and threw them on the carpet laid on the sands.

The bravest of seagulls, swooped down at an incredible speed and picked the fish and flew off to feed at a distance. The fishermen did not like it. For the next five minutes, I was an audience to a free show of men versus birds. With free food right below them, the starving

seagulls would not just go away. I was thoroughly entertained while watching three fishermen trying to scare away about two hundred hungry birds.

The whole show took about 15 minutes and it was over when the fishermen covered their catch with a big canvas. I was disappointed to see the poor birds flying away but more disappointed because that was the end of the entertainment. I got up and started walking towards my car. As I was opening the door, two cats crossed the road, walked into the beach and dived straight under the canvas that was hiding the fish.

The fishermen did not notice them. I smiled to myself but a curious question crossed my mind. Was one of them the pregnant cat who kept me awake all night? I fought off the impulse to go and check so I could at least have something interesting to tell my wife about her beloved cat. Instead, I drove back home and the first thing I did was to check if the pregnant cat was still in the house.

She was not.

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VOTING ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022

OCCI poll candidate registration deadline extended by 2 weeks



MUSCAT: Dr. Saleh Said Masn, Commerce and Industry Undersecretary and Chairman of the Elections Committee of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), has said that the deadline granted for OCCI elections' candidate registration has been extended two more weeks, so that the last day for registration would be the 27 October 2022. Voting will take place on 22 November 2022.

Speaking at a press conference here on Sunday, Masn affirmed that 13,000 companies have registered for a "Voter membership card" in the OCCI 2022-2026 elections. Masn pointed out that the OCCI new board will comprise 21 members, 5 of them from the Governorate of Muscat, 10 as heads of boards in OCCI branch-

es and 5 as members from boards of directors of general stock companies listed on Muscat Stock Exchange and 1 member who will be a resident foreign investor.

Aim

Masn affirmed that the new OCCI system is the outcome of modifications aimed to contribute directly to expanding and enhancing the participation of all segments of the private sector to economic development in Oman.

He explained that it is a condition that eligible registered voters be holders of "Riyada Card" or a firm having at least one Omani employee, to help consolidate the quality of performance of member companies of the candidates in different governorates of Oman. -**ONA**

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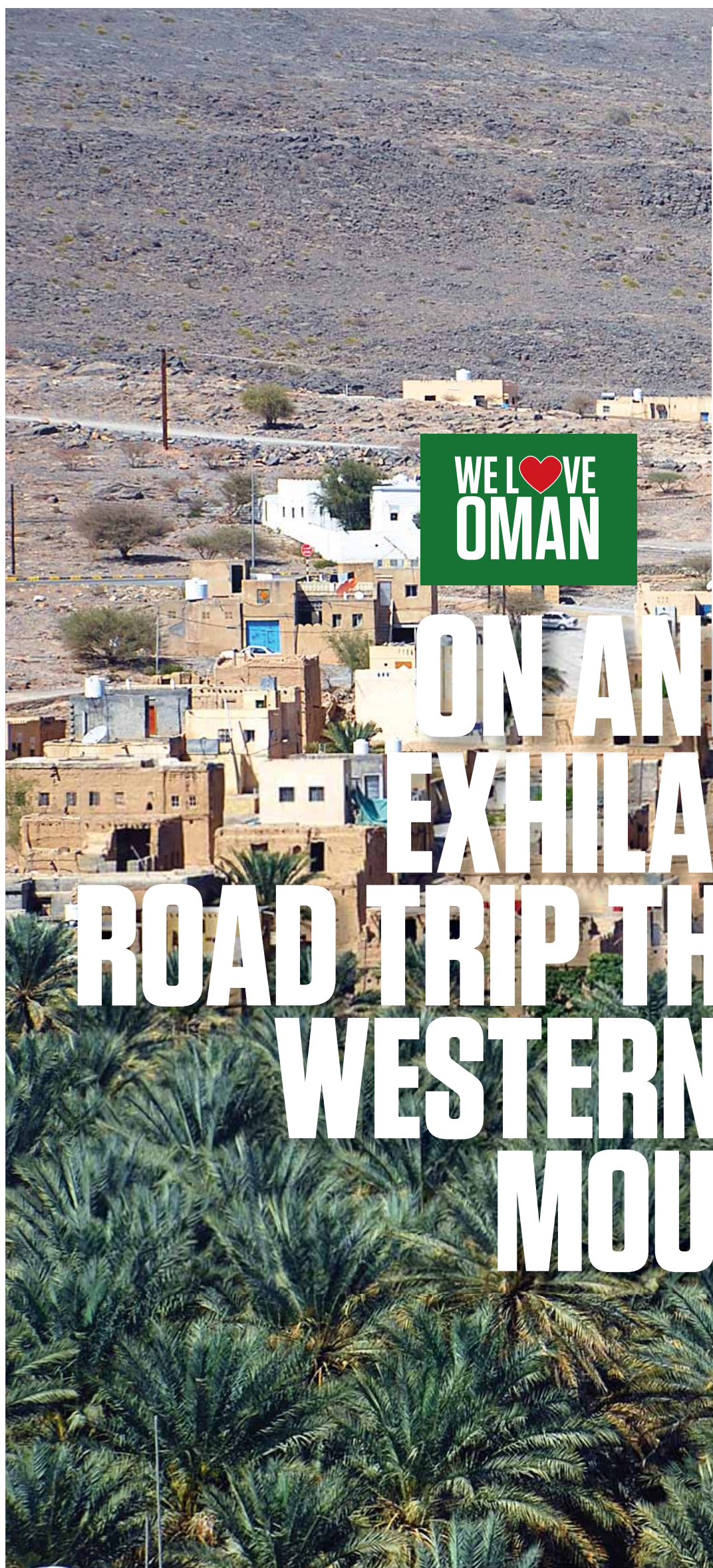


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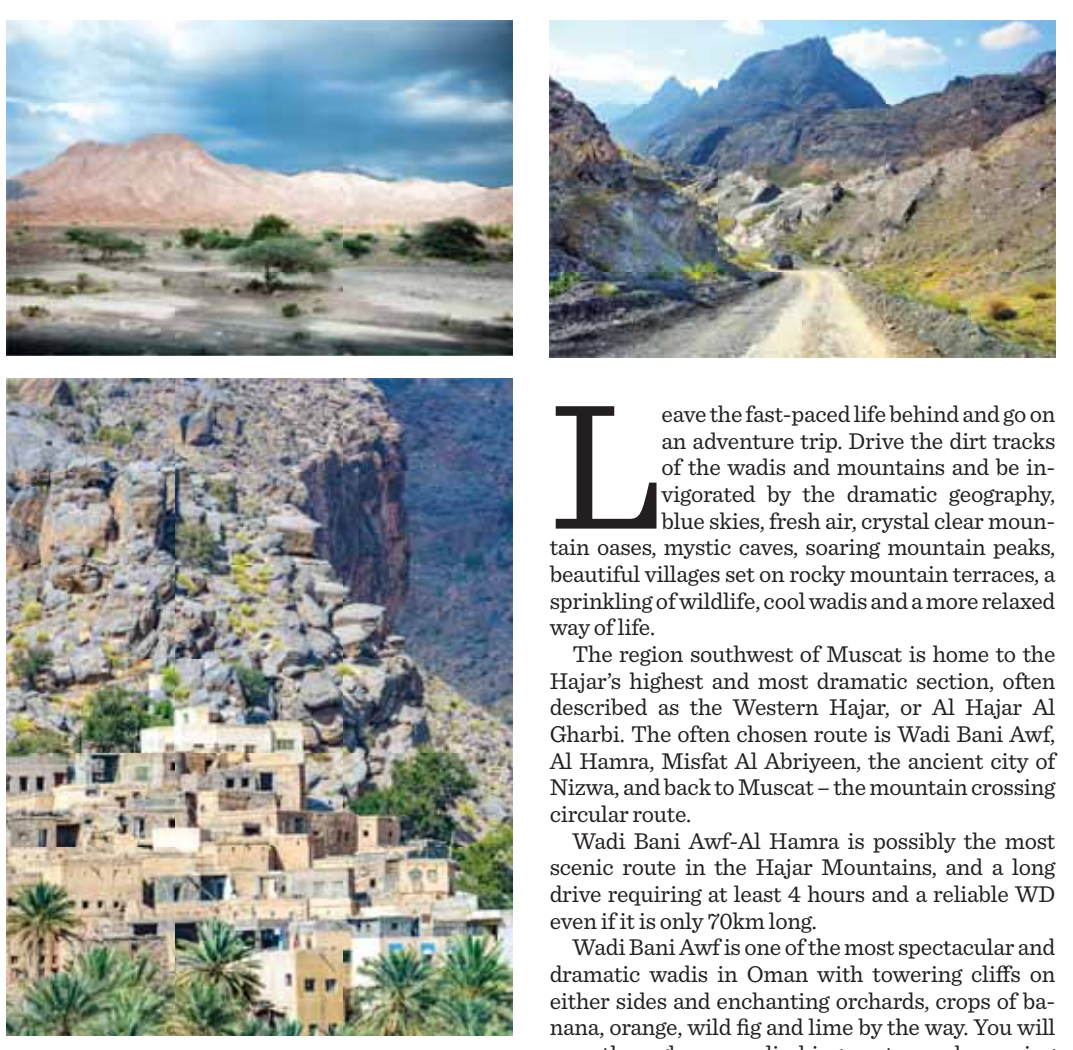
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The region southwest of Muscat is home to the Hajar's highest and most dramatic section, often described as the Western Hajar, or Al Hajar Al Gharbi. The often chosen route is Wadi Bani Awf, Al Hamra, Misfat Al Abriyeen, the ancient city of Nizwa, and back to Muscat – the mountain crossing circular route.

Wadi Bani Awf-Al Hamra is possibly the most scenic route in the Hajar Mountains, and a long drive requiring at least 4 hours and a reliable WD even if it is only 70km long.

Wadi Bani Awf is one of the most spectacular and dramatic wadis in Oman with towering cliffs on either sides and enchanting orchards, crops of banana, orange, wild fig and lime by the way. You will pass through many climbing routes and camping spots, and small settlements such as Al Qasmitayn, Al Rakhah, and Tikhah.

Go straight another 3km and turn left at the junction, which has two huge signboards bearing the names of a lot of interesting places. In another 3km you will reach the entrance of Little Snake Canyon on the right. Stop there for a break and explore the canyon.

For the scenic village of Bilad Sayt, turn right at the next junction. The village, hidden away between the mountains, is well worth a visit.

With its picture-postcard perfection of terraced fields and sun-baked houses, it's one of the prettiest villages in Oman. The villagers prefer visitors to park outside and walk in or simply view the village from a distance.

You have to come back to the junction to proceed to Al Hamra. The track goes near a green football pitch and you will pass through a small aloe vera forest and a stream.

The steep ascent begins here; you will pass by Hat village. Climb further until you reach the Sharfat Al-Alamayn viewpoint, on the saddle of the ridge: this is the highest point in the road. It's worth spending time here to enjoy the scenery, the chilling breeze and to look for piles of stone with a slate trap door before heading to the traditional and amazing villages of Misfat Al Abriyeen via Al Hamra.

SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN

Omani women seen as active partners in society

< FROM A1 Nadia Rashid bint Saif Al Maktumi, a specialist in family and educational counselling and CEO of the Nadia Al Maktumi Centre for Family Counselling, said: "I personally had the pleasure of reaping the fruits of giving as an Omani woman as I am a wife and mother of seven children before I am a family counselling specialist and founder of the Nadia Al Maktoum Centre for Family Counselling. I was raised from my early childhood on love and loyalty to this country and I grew up with a desire to leave my imprint on this country. I am proud that I am an Omani mother who has made efforts in raising my children to be individuals capable of developing themselves and their country as well."

She added: "I also had a passion for achieving for myself and also contributing to building my community through a journey of passion and challenge that began since I was a student. I looked upon myself at that time as Nadia, so I took up science to start my journey of passion and ambition. Since I was a student, I have been diligent on my work, and I have distinguished myself by the grace of God, in all my educational stages, right since my first grade of primary school until now. I am completing my doctoral study in educational psychology now."

Fawzia bint Abdulaziz, has studied forensic medicine, but



has built up a factory for one of the major oil companies. She is the first Omani woman to run an oil blending factory. In Oman's 2040 vision, the focus is on providing a suitable environment for women to participate strongly in various aspects of economic, social and political life.

Fawzia said: "Omani women are well-known in the Arab world and in the international community, where they have become a role model for other women who seek success and have a better future for themselves and their community. In my opinion, Omani women are as determined as any other woman in the world. I realised that we are growing in cer-

tain organisations, especially in senior and operational positions. I can also see different platforms launched by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik - may God protect him - and the Honourable Lady, Her Highness Ahd for the development of Omani women in various fields."

She further said: "The Honourable lady gave the Omani woman and many groups of society a lot of support, and this gave the Omani woman a strong impetus towards success."

Fawzia confirmed that in Oman's 2040 vision, focus was placed on providing a suitable environment for women to participate strongly in various as-

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Many factors have led to the enhancement of the role of women as active partners in society. These include their access to education and employment and participation in various areas of development

pects of economic, social and political life and enable them to promote comprehensive and sustainable development efforts. Many factors have led to the enhancement of the role of women as active partners in society. These include their access to education and employment and participation in various areas of development.

Dr. Sabah Al-Sulaimani, an Omani pioneer who has achieved many local, regional and international awards, received the Royal Commendation Medal from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, said: "I am very proud, as an Omani woman to be honoured and awarded this high-level medal, es-

pecially since it is from the Sultan. Omani women have proven year after year, their unlimited capacity for dedication and giving and their determination to continue building Oman."

She added, "On this special day, I can only praise the majesty of the Omani woman for the challenge and distinction she carries in her genes. The Omani woman has proven, year after year, her unlimited capacity for dedication and exhibiting her determination to build Oman. This day, so dear to our hearts, every Omani woman is the focus of attention, and from her various locations, every Omani woman tells a story of determination and pride, pride in her achievements one after the other, a joy for the nation and a shining image of its development."

Nazik Al Balushi, an employee at Bank Muscat, said women have a prominent role in leading many initiatives and teams and have a clear imprint in all areas, departments and branches, explaining that since joining Bank Muscat, she has been receiving great attention to develop and enhance many skills that helped her climb the ladder. She had the opportunity to lead a number of initiatives and participate in many activities, exhibitions and various programs.

Al Balushi called on every Omani woman to realise the importance of their presence and the importance of motivating themselves to achieve future achievements.

OMAN TOURISM

Emotions of adventures reflected in photographs

< FROM A1 She added: "In 2020, I began to focus on adventure photography in the Sultanate of Oman to highlight its beauty with a distinct artistic character. I started taking active part in adventure expeditions and followed international channels such as National Geographic Adventures. I followed professional photographers and specialists who excelled in adventure photography. The magic of the adventure photographs bowled me over and I decided to bring together the two fields – adventure and photography."

Muna Khalfan said that the reason for taking up this project is her deep love for adventure, sports and discovering nature.

A couple of years ago, Muna Khalfan volunteered to accompany YallaGo 2020, an adventure expedition that took the adventurers from the northern part of Oman, Jazirat Salamah in Musandam to the southernmost part in Mirbat over a 47-day trip.

She said: "The emotions of adventures are reflected in photographs. Each terrain brings its own set of challenges. The challenges give me great opportunities to capture and tell the real story of the adventure trip. Through my photos, I tell the world what Oman has to offer and promote Oman as a destination for adventure tourism."



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NATIONAL PLAN APPROVED

Oman commits to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Within the Royal care of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on improvement of environment performance and curbing the impacts of climate change, the year 2050 has been set as the deadline for reaching carbon neutrality.

A national plan has been approved to achieve this goal coupled with the establishment of Oman Sustainability Centre to oversee and implement plans and programmes to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

His Majesty the Sultan has also directed cooperation of all units of the administrative apparatus of the state with the departments concerned for the success of the efforts accorded for execution of the aforementioned national plan.

Engr Mohammed bin Khalfan Al Shuaili, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager at PDO and Secretary to the National Plan for Climate Change said the climate neutrality is a contemporary term accompanying activities related to climate change and Paris Agreement and aimed to achieve balance between carbon emissions against the reduction in CO2 emissions.

For instance, if a country's carbon emissions amounts to 100 million tonnes annually, to achieve the zero-carbon status by a deadline (by 2050 in the case of the Sultanate and several other countries), then such countries should reduce the CO2 emissions by 100 million tonnes, he added.

Speaking on the purpose of setting the year 2050 for achieving this goal, Al Shuaili said that setting the year 2050 for achievement of this goal is established on detailed studies and numerical models set by houses of expertise, mainly the scientific committee within the Paris framework agreement on climate. Some countries have committed to achieve this zero-carbon goal before 2050 and most countries have committed to achieve it by 2050. Some countries have set 2040 or 2045 as deadline and a few countries have set the year 2060 and only one country has set 2070 for achievement of this zero goal, he added, pointing that a total of 137 countries, some 240 global cities and over 800 compa-



Times file picture used for illustrative purpose only

nies have committed to achieve the goal by 2050.

Integration and gathering efforts are key to achievement of the zero-carbon goal, he said, adding that sectors should integrate with and serve each other.

For instance, in the field of heavy industries, carbon emissions cannot be reduced in the absence of green energy (green electricity energy in this case) and hydrogen fuel should be available instead of fossil fuel or gas, however, there would be carbon emissions that cannot be reduced or controlled and hence such emissions should be reused in other industries.

Carbon can be retrieved and transported from cement, steel or aluminium factories and reused to enhance oil production in a win-win situation to all parties.

Engr Alaa bin Hassan Al Lawati, who is concerned with the Renewable Energy Sector, said the energy sector is at present the top sector with carbon emissions followed by the transport sector, which means that any change in the strategy of the energy sector is vital for reaching the zero-carbon goal.

"All current projects, whether renewable energy projects (solar energy and wind energy) and other projects, including the green hydrogen projects are no doubt among the key factors for reaching the zero-carbon target," he added.

He said the majority of Western countries have agreed on the target of reaching zero-carbon emission by 2050.

This commitment was made at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Scotland in 2021, he added.

On the possibility of issuance of registrations regulating the carbon production operations and fixing certain percentages/quantities for carbon emissions, he said there is a laboratory for carbon management and is working on all technical, operational, political, legal and regulatory frameworks along with laws that work on formulating the future policies aimed to achieve the zero-carbon goal by 2050.

These laws and regulations come at present at the world level. For instance, if someone is interested in promoting and marketing some products, there should be a clean energy card or the use of clean energy in generating power in factories.

These issues are under international laws and regulations frameworks which would be followed by local frameworks and regulations for reaching the zero-carbon goal.

On the contribution of individuals in achieving this goal, he said if an individual is interested in the establishment of a building, then such a building should be environment friendly.

The idea of an environment-friendly building would contribute to some extent in reaching the zero-carbon general goal in the Sultanate. Individuals may consider using a more balanced and efficient energy rather than using energy in large quantities, he further added.

CREATING A DATABASE



Survey for vector-borne diseases commences

MUSCAT: The Directorate General of Health Services at Muscat Governorate began conducting the Comprehensive National Survey for vector-borne diseases.

Similar survey campaigns conducted by Directorates General of Health Services began across all governorates.

The national survey aims to enhance individual health and protect individuals and the society from epidemic outbreaks transmitted by disease vectors. It also targets creating a database on the breeding places of those vectors. The database will be utilised to facilitate evidence-based control operations. — ONA



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Tender fee	RO.100/- (refundable)
Closing date of the tender	25.10.2022
Mode of payment of tender fee	By cash – Finance dept.
For communication	Mr. Mohamed Al Balushi # 93912022 Mr. Shabib # 98047984

Interested parties need to submit the bids separately in a sealed envelope with our ref. Nos duly mentioned and drop them to the tender box in Atyab Investment Building, Reception.



omanflourmills



Oman Flour Mills

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

67% work at new hospital in Madha completed

MADHA: Construction work at the new hospital of Madha in the Governorate of Musandam are pressing ahead, with 67 percent of the tasks completed at a cost of more than OMR6 million.

The Ministry of Health supervises the project.

40 beds

Eng. Jamal Salim Al Shanfari, Director General of Projects and Engineering Affairs at the ministry, said that the hospital occupies an area of 10,000 square metres and consists of 40 beds, hospitalisation wards, labs and other facilities.

Eng. Jamal Salim Al Shanfari further added that the project is progressing as planned.

Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al Madhani, Head of Madha Health Centre, said the new hospital has 14 standard health clinics.

— ONA



شركة الطحين العمانية المحدودة
Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG



REF: OFM/ADM/22- 001 FOR SALE OF COMPANY
REGISTERED CARS

Oman Flour Mills Co. (SAOG) invites for the sale of company-owned commercial vehicles:

Code	Type	Model
C1	ALTIMA NISSAN	2012
C2	ALTIMA NISSAN	2013
C3	ALTIMA NISSAN	2012
C4	NAVARA Pickup NISSAN	2013
C5	NAVARA Pickup NISSAN	2013
C6	MERCEDES BENS VAN	2012

For more information and site visit, please contact our Admin department from 07:00 am To 03:00 pm.
Mr. Rashid Al-Habsi
Mobile no. 92753587

The closing date of the tender will be 25 October 2022, 2.00 PM and Interested parties need to enclose a warranty for bidding, RO.100/- that is refundable and drop them to the tender box of our Atyab Investment Building, Reception.



omanflourmills



Oman Flour Mills



Port of Salalah

Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG

PO Box 105, PC 118, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Tel: +968-24090888, email: info@salalahport.com

NOTICE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG (the "Company") invites shareholders to attend an Ordinary General Meeting ("OGM") to be held on Wednesday, 2nd November 2022 at 3:00 pm, via electronic means for holding AGM's, which can be accessed from the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not present to convene the OGM, another meeting will be held on Monday, 7th November 2022 at 3:00 pm to discuss the following agenda:

OGM Agenda:

1. To consider and approve entering into a related party transaction with APM Terminals BV (APMT) in relation to lease to the Company of ten ULCV Capable Cranes and other supporting equipment (Equipment) to allow the Company to service Ultra Large Container vessels (ULCV) within the current term of the concession on the terms summarised in Appendix 1.

1. To consider and approve entering into a related party transaction with Maersk AS (Maersk) in relation to a volume commitment on terms which are summarised in Appendix 1.

2. To authorise the Board to negotiate, undertake all acts that are necessary or desirable in connection with and to execute final form legally binding agreements reflecting the transactions above as outlined in agenda items 1-2 and any other related document and to delegate such authority to the management of the Company.

NOTE: Related Parties must abstain from voting on these resolutions. These resolutions must be approved by a simple majority of the shares represented in the meeting.

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

The juristic shareholder only has the right to appoint a natural person as proxy to attend the general meeting through electronic means and vote on its behalf and such natural person must have an investor number with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company. A member of the board of directors shall not represent a shareholder, or else the proxy will not be valid.

Voting on any of the proposed agenda items will commence during the period not exceeding three days prior to the date of the meeting until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. In the event of any change to a shareholder's shareholding, by way of an increase or decrease, then the votes cast will be cancelled, and such shareholder must re-cast his/her votes on the day of the meeting.

To prevent a delay in commencing the meeting, shareholders are requested to attend the meeting half an hour before the scheduled meeting time.

For any queries relating to the above agenda, please contact Mrs. Eman Al Shahry at (+968-24090890 or at eman.alshahry@salalahport.com).

Chairman

Auditors

Legal Advisor



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US and Canada send armoured vehicles to Haiti to fight gangs

The request for help from Haiti came as a cholera epidemic worsened and armed gangs occupied vast tracts of land, including the country's largest fuel import terminal

PORT-AU-PRINCE: The US and Canada on Saturday delivered security equipment to Haiti, including armoured vehicles, to help the impoverished country deal with the spreading security and health crises. US and Canadian air force planes landed in Port-au-Prince carrying "vital Haitian government-purchased security equipment, including tactical and armoured vehicles," a joint statement from the two governments said.

Humanitarian assistance
"This equipment will assist [local police] in their fight against criminal actors who are fomenting violence and disrupting the flow of critically-needed humanitarian assistance, hindering efforts to halt the spread of cholera," the statement said. The request for help from Haiti came as a cholera epidemic worsened and armed gangs occupied vast



FIGHT AGAINST CRIMINALS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on member states to deploy a "rapid reaction force" to Haiti to deal with "a dramatic deterioration in security." — DW

tracts of land, including the country's largest fuel import terminal. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on member states to deploy a "rapid reaction force" to Haiti to deal with "a dramatic deterioration in security." But Washington has made it clear that it is reluctant to send troops to Haiti.

Protests against a fuel price hike
The American and Canadian equipment arrived more than a month after one of Haiti's most powerful gangs surrounded a fuel depot and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

Demonstrators have also blocked roads in major cities to protest sharp increases in fuel prices after Henry announced on September 11 that his government could no longer afford to subsidise fuel. Since then, gas stations have closed, hospitals have reduced services, and banks and grocery stores have had limited openings as fuel, water and other supplies dwindle across Haiti. Owners of the fuel terminal announced Saturday that gunmen had attacked their facilities for a second time and fled with more than 28,000 gallons of petroleum products after overpowering the facility's surveillance and rescue personnel.

Looming cholera crisis
The UN last week also warned of a possible explosion of cholera cases in Haiti, with 32 confirmed and 224 suspected cases as of October 8, according to the World Health Organization. Those are the country's first cases in three years. Nearly 10,000 people died during a cholera epidemic in Haiti between 2010 and 2019. Haiti was mired in political and economic crisis for years before the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021 exacerbated its instability and the increasing influence of gangs.

— DW



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Huge fire reported at Tehran's Evin prison

TEHRAN: A huge fire broke out at a prison in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Saturday night, after nearly a month of protests over the death in custody of Jina Mahsa Amini. Online videos posted to social media appeared to show smoke rising from the city's Evin prison, which holds political prisoners and dual nationals. Gunshots and chanting can be heard in the background. The official IRNA news agency quoted an unnamed security official as saying the unrest was "under control," and that the blaze was put out. According to IRNA, at least eight people were injured but no body was killed in the fire.

The unnamed official cited by IRNA said the unrest occurred in a section of the prison holding "thugs." IRNA said it erupted due to clashes between prisoners and prison personnel in one ward. Prisoners set ablaze a warehouse holding prison uniforms, a senior security official told the agency. The authorities claimed to have de-escalated the situation by separating the "rioters" from the rest of the inmates. Witnesses told the Reuters news agency that roads leading to the prison were blocked, while ambulances arrived at the scene. They added that families of prisoners gathered outside the main entrance. — DW



COLOMBIA

20 killed in bus accident

BOGOTA: At least 20 persons were killed and 15 others were injured on Saturday when a bus overturned on the Pan-American Highway in southwestern Colombia, police said. The accident took place in the southwestern Colombian cities of Pasto and Popayan. It was travelling between the port city of Tumaco, in the southwestern corner of Colombia, and Cali, 320 kilometres (200 miles) to the northeast when the incident occurred, reported Daily Sabah. "Unfortunately, we have a toll of 20 people dead," said Capt. Albertland Agudelo of the Narino department traffic police.

— ANI

NUCLEAR STOCKPILE

Pakistan summons US ambassador over Biden's 'most dangerous nation' remark

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan demanded an explanation on Saturday from US Ambassador Donald Blome after US President Joe Biden referred to the South Asian country as being "maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world." In a speech on Thursday at a fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in California, Biden said Pakistan's nuclear stockpile is "without cohesion." The White House later published his remarks on its website, igniting a response in Islamabad. Pakistan's foreign minister,

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and former President Asif Ali Zardari, said the US ambassador had been summoned over Biden's remarks. After Biden spoke, Pakistani Twitter pounced with politicians, retired diplomats and regular people all weighing in on the invective with some of their own. In Karachi, Bhutto Zardari told reporters that he was "surprised by the remarks of President Biden." He said the concerns were not raised in meetings with officials during his recent visit to Washington.



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. — DW

"If this was such a concern, I imagine it would have been raised with me," Bhutto Zardari noted, adding that Pakistan's nuclear weapons meet "each and every in-

ternational standard" of security and safety outlined by the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. He pointed to India and charged that his country's archrival had once mistakenly fired a missile into Pakistan. Biden's words come at a time when Pakistan and the US are looking to renew their engagement with one another after the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan just over a year ago. Prior to the withdrawal in August 2021, relations had been rocky as the US accused Pakistan's military and intelligence

services of supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan while at the same time providing the US military with essential logistical access. Washington is also weary of Pakistan's deepening ties to China. Beijing has offered \$54 billion (€55.5 billion) in infrastructure deals as part of the Belt and Road Initiative to Pakistan in exchange for access to the Indian Ocean. The US believes the deal will leave Pakistan with unsustainable debt. Islamabad, however, has brushed aside concerns the US has about China, its most formidable competition on the world stage. — DW

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

India rejects annual Global Hunger Index Report 2022

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday rejected the Global Hunger Index 2022 report, saying it suffers from serious methodological issues and chooses to deliberately ignore efforts made by Government to ensure food security for the population. The Ministry of Women and Child Development in a statement stressed that it is a consistent effort to taint India's image as a nation. In the recent report of the Global Hunger Index, India ranked 107 out of 121 countries with its child-wasting rate at 19.3 per cent, being the highest in the world. "A consistent effort is yet again visible to taint India's image as a nation that does not fulfil the food security and nutritional requirements of its population. Misinformation seems to be the hallmark of the annually released Global Hunger Index," according to the statement released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The statement added, "The index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues." The statement pointed out that three out of the four indicators

used for the calculation of the index are related to the health of Children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator estimate of the Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3000. **Disconnected from ground reality** "The report is not only disconnected from ground reality but also chooses to deliberately ignore efforts made by the government to ensure food security for the population, especially during the Covid pandemic," the statement reads. The statement pointed out that the recent report lowers India's rank and that also on the basis of an estimate of the Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population for India at 16.3 per cent. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimate is based on the "Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)" Survey Module conducted through Gallop World Poll, which is an "opinion poll" based on "8 questions" with a sample size of



SERIOUS METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES: The Ministry of Women and Child Development in a statement stressed that it is a consistent effort to taint India's image as a nation. — ANI

"3000 respondents". The statement further added that the data collected from a miniscule sample for a country of India's size through FIES has been used to compute PoU value

for India which is not only wrong and unethical, it also reeks of obvious bias. The Ministry of Women and Child Development in its statement said that the publishing

agencies of the Global Hunger Report have evidently not done their due diligence before releasing the report. "The matter was taken up with FAO not to use such estimates

based on FIES survey module data in July 2022 as the statistical output of the same will not be based on merit. Though an assurance was forthcoming that there will be further engagement on this issue, the publication of the Global Hunger Index report irrespective of such factual considerations is regrettable," the statement reads. **Nutritional support** "It is evident such questions do not search for facts based on relevant information about the delivery of nutritional support and assurance of food security by the Government," the statement added. The per capita dietary energy supply in India, as estimated by FAO from the Food Balance Sheets, has been increasing year-on-year owing to enhanced production of major agricultural commodities in the country over the years and there is absolutely no reason why the country's undernourishment levels should increase. In the statement, the ministry also described the measures that were taken by the government to ensure food security.

— ANI



HRH Crown Prince receives President of South Africa

HRH Crown Prince and the President of South Africa held a session of official talks

JEDDAH: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister received at the Royal Court at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa.

An official reception ceremony was held for Cyril Ramaphosa.

Then, HRH Crown Prince and the President of South Africa held a session of official talks, during which the bilateral relations between the two countries and aspects of cooperation in various fields were reviewed, in addition to discussing a number of issues of common interest.

The session of the talks was attended by Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz, Minister of State and Cabinet's Member; Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior; Prince Abdullah bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Minister of National Guard, and Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It was also attended by the Minister of Tourism, Ahmed bin Aqeel Al-Khateeb (the accompanying minister; the Minister of Investment, Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih; the Minister of

Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar bin Ibrahim Al-Khorayef; the Governor of the Public Investment Fund, Yasser bin Othman Al-Rumayyan; the Advisor at the Royal Court, Ahmed Qattan and the Saudi Ambassador to South Africa Sultan Al-Anqari.

From the South African side, the session of official talks was attended by the Minister of Co-operation and International Relations Dr. Naledi Pandor; South Africa's ambassador to the Kingdom Mogobo David Magabe; the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza; the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel; the Minister of Transport Fikile Mbalula; the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Gwede Mantashe; the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Thandi Modise, and a number of senior officials. **-SPA**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Deputy Ruler of Dubai visits pavilion of Saudi Arabia at GITEX 2022

DUBAI: Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai has paid a visit to the pavilion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior, participating in GITEX Technology Week 2022 Dubai UAE - exhibition, which was held in Dubai from 10 to 14 October 2022.

Pavilion of the Saudi MOI has participated at at GITEX Technology Week 2022 under the theme "Absher for A Safe Homeland" for the 8th time through a unified platform that brings together the security and service bodies in the ministry.

The five themes included the impact of "Absher" in achieving digital transformation at the level of the Saudi Ministry of Interior, enhancing security and reducing



all forms of crime, including information crimes, enhancing civil and traffic safety, and services for Hajj and Umrah performers, in addition to the ministry's efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The themes also aim to highlight the successes and achievements

of the Ministry of Interior in light of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, where visitors have had access to the new version of smart applications and electronic systems, which contributed to developing procedures and providing the best services. **-SPA**

FOOD SUPPORT

1 Billion Meals initiative distributes over 2.5 million meals in Asian countries

DUBAI: The 1 Billion Meals initiative, the region's largest food donation drive to support the underprivileged and undernourished in 50 countries across four continents, announced the completion of the distribution of more than 2.5 million meals across seven Asian countries, in collaboration with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment (MBRCH).

Organised by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), the 1 Billion Meals initiative provided food support to underprivileged and undernourished individuals and families in a number of cities and villages in India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Philippines, and Cambodia. The meals, in the form of food parcels comprising ingredients to enable individuals and families to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for several weeks, were delivered directly to approximately 75,000 beneficiaries.

Around 1,537,500 meals were distributed in various cities, villages, and rural areas of India, and

800,000 meals were distributed equally in four countries, 200,000 meals in each – in Kashmir, Bagh, Jrb Doteeh, and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan, in the cities and villages of Dushanbe, Kulob, Narakin, Varzob, and Jadat in Tajikistan, in Bishkek, Osh, Jalalabad, and Alshui in Kyrgyzstan, and in the cities and villages of Astana, Shymkent, and Almaty in Kazakhstan.

In addition, 100,000 meals were distributed in Surigao, Bubuthag, and Baghdaian in the Philippines, and another 100,000 meals were distributed to beneficiaries in Phakhong, Kampong Som and Kamion in Cambodia.

Ibrahim Bumelha, Advisor to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs and Vice Chairman of MBRCH, highlighted that reaching out to underprivileged and undernourished individuals and families around the world, in cooperation with pioneering food aid initiatives such as the 1 Billion Meals, translates MBRCH's mission to improve the quality of life for people and their communities. **-WAM**

UAE'S RICH HISTORY

Abu Dhabi's Liwa Date Festival and Auction launched in Liwa City

LIWA: The first edition of the Liwa Date Festival and Auction was launched on Saturday in Liwa City, Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of Shaikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region.

Organised by the Cultural Programs and Heritage Festivals Committee on October 15 – 24, 2022, the event aims to underscore the UAE's rich history of palm trees and dates, and provide a platform for businesses to communicate and build a stronger business network.

"The Liwa Date Festival and Auction contributes to supporting the efforts made at the country

level to improve date palm cultivation, production and marketing," Major General Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of the Abu Dhabi Police, and Chairman of the Cultural Programs and Heritage Festivals Committee – Abu Dhabi, said.

"The event helps in ensuring continued growth of the agricultural industry while supporting farmers in developing their production by educating them on the latest farming techniques and best international practices, therefore enabling them to open fresh global markets for their products."

The Liwa Date Festival and Auction underscores the UAE's con-

siderable support for the date palm sector and the development of its products and related industries at the Arab and global levels," he added.

"The Festival celebrates the rich history of palm trees in the UAE by pursuing a strategy of preserving and sustaining authentic Emirati heritage, being an integral part of the Emirati society and its deeply rooted traditions."

The festival is a reflection of the efforts made to pay tribute to these living symbols of the past's authenticity, the present's sustainable development and the future's promise of ensuring food security, self-sufficiency and economic diversification, he said. **-BNA**



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Quote of the Day

CP RIZWAN, UAE SKIPPER, AFTER HIS TEAM'S NARROW LOSS TO THE NETHERLANDS

"It's definitely heartbreaking, we put our heart and soul into the match. We nearly pulled that off. We should be happy with the effort."

Today's matches

08:00am
Scotland vs West Indies

12:00pm
Ireland vs Zimbabwe

Points table

GROUP A (first round)							
Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	PTS	NRR
Namibia	1	1	0	0	0	2	2.750
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.097
UAE	1	0	1	0	0	0	-0.097
Sri Lanka	1	0	1	0	0	0	-2.750

GROUP B (first round)							
Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	PTS	NRR
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Indies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



NAMIBIA PULL OFF AN UPSET FOR AGES, DOWN ASIAN CHAMPS SRI LANKA BY 55 RUNS

Be it late death over batting or electric fielding and bowling performances, Namibia outplayed Sri Lankans in every department

GEELONG: An all-round Namibia pulled off an upset for ages after defeating Asia Cup 2022 champions Sri Lanka by 55 runs in their Group A, round one match of ICC T20 World Cup 2022 at Geelong on Sunday.

This day will be one to remember for Namibia as the win was not a close one by any means, but rather a highly comprehensive one. Be

it late death over 68-run stand between Frylinck (44) and Smit (31*) or electric fielding and bowling performances, Namibia outplayed Lankans in every department. Bowlers like David Wiese (2/16), Ben Shikongo (2/22) and Bernard Scholtz (2/18) led the team from the front with the ball. Chasing 164, a surprise awaited Sri Lanka. Opener Kusal Mendis

Namibia vs Sri Lanka		Scoreboard	
NAMIBIA		SRI LANKA	
M van Lingen c Liyanagamage b Chameera	3	P Nissanka c Smit b Shikongo	9
D la Cock c Shanaka b Liyanagamage	9	K Mendis c Green b Wiese	6
J Loftie-Eaton c Mendis b Karunaratne	20	D de Silva c Shikongo b Frylinck	12
S Baard c D de Silva b Liyanagamage	26	D Gunathilaka c Green b Shikongo	0
G Erasmus c Gunathilaka b Hasaranga	20	B Rajapaksa c la Cock b Scholtz	20
J Frylinck run out	44	D Shanaka c Green b Frylinck	29
D Wiese c Mendis b Theekshana	0	W Hasaranga c Loftie-Eaton b Scholtz	4
JJ Smit not out	31	C Karunaratne c Baard b Smit	5
Extras: 10 (b 1, w 9)		P Liyanagamage run out	0
TOTAL: 163/7 (20 overs, RR: 8.15)		D Chameera c Erasmus b Wiese	8
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-16, 3-35, 4-76, 5-91, 6-93, 7-163		M Theekshana not out	11
Bowling:		Extras: 4 (lb 2, w 2)	
M Theekshana 4-0-23-1, D Chameera 4-0-39-1, P Liyanagamage 4-0-37-2, C Karunaratne 4-0-36-1 W Hasaranga 4-0-27-1		TOTAL: 108 all out (19 overs, RR: 5.68)	
		Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-21, 3-21, 4-40, 5-74, 6-80, 7-88, 8-88, 9-92, 10-108	
		Bowling: G Erasmus 1-0-8-0, D Wiese 4-0-16-2, B Scholtz 4-0-18-2, B Shikongo 3-1-22-2, JJ Smit 3-0-16-1 J Frylinck 4-0-26-2	

was dismissed for just 6 by medium-pacer David Wiese in the 2nd over. Ben Shikongo, another medium pacer dismissed Pathum Nissanka (9) and Danushka Gunathilaka (0) on two consecutive deliveries, sending the opposition camp into panic. Sri Lanka was 21/3 in 3.3 overs.

Dhananjaya de Silva was joined by hard-hitting Bhanuka Rajapaksa and they took Sri Lanka through the remainder of their powerplay safely. SL was at 38/3 in six overs, with Silva (11*) and Rajapaksa (9*) at the crease.

Medium-pace continued its domination in Lanka's innings as Jan Frylinck joined the party, dismissing Silva for 12 off 11 balls after being caught by Shikongo at deep backward square leg. Sri Lanka was 40/4. **ANI**

ICC T20 WORLD CUP

Netherlands avoid scare, win by three wickets against UAE



GEELONG: Netherlands avoided a major scare to register a three-wicket win over a spirited UAE in a hum-dinger of a match at the Simonds Stadium, Geelong on Sunday.

UAE suffered a batting collapse in the final over of its innings to end with just 111 runs, setting a paltry total for the Netherlands. Bas de Leede starred with the ball to help restrict UAE. Chasing a paltry total of 111 runs the Dutch pair of Max O'Dowd and Vikramjit Singh walked out at the crease in an attempt to give the Netherlands their first victory of the T20 World Cup. The innings started on an aggressive note with Vikramjit smashing two boundaries in the very first over.

However, the first over was nowhere to indicate what was about to come as the UAE bowling department bowled magnificently to dismiss Vikramjit in the second over and Max O'Dowd in the sixth over to send both the openers packing within the powerplay.

Vikramjit was dismissed by Basil Hameed 10(7) while O'Dowd 23(18) saw his timber being disturbed by Junaid Siddique. The Netherlands ended their powerplay at 42-2.

Things got worse for the Dutch team as they kept losing wickets, with batters getting starts but failing to convert them into match-winning knocks.

UAE vs Netherlands		Scoreboard	
UAE		NETHERLANDS	
C Suri c Edwards b van der Merwe	12	V Singh b Hameed	10
M Waseem c Pringle b Klaassen	41	M O'Dowd b Junaid Siddique	23
K Daud b Pringle	15	B de Leede c Rizwan b Meiyappan	14
V Aravind c Klaassen b de Leede	18	C Ackermann c Siddique b AKhan	17
Z Farid run out	2	T Cooper lbw b Siddique	8
B Hameed c van der Merwe b de Leede	4	S Edwards not out	16
CP Rizwan b de Leede	1	Rvan der Merwe b Siddique	0
A Khan c Cooper b Klaassen	5	T Pringle b Z Khan	15
K Meiyappan not out	0	Lvan Beek not out	4
J Siddique not out	0	Extras: 5 (b 2, lb 2, w 1)	
Extras: 13 (b 1, lb 6, w 6)		TOTAL: 112/7 (19.5 overs, RR: 5.64)	
TOTAL: 111/8 (20 overs, RR: 5.55)		Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-41, 3-59, 4-71, 5-76, 6-76, 7-103	
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-59, 3-91, 4-99, 5-103, 6-104, 7-106, 8-110		Bowling:	
Bowling: F Klaassen 4-0-13-2, T Pringle 4-0-13-1, L van Beek 2-0-19-0, B de Leede 3-0-19-3, P van Meekeren 4-0-21-0, R van der Merwe 3-0-19-1		J Siddique 4-0-24-3, B Hameed 1-0-7-1, A Khan 3-0-15-1, KPMeiyappan 4-0-22-1, Z Khan 4-0-11-1, Z Farid 2.5-0-24-0, K Daud 1-0-5-0	

Bas de Leede 14(18) was dismissed by Karthik Meiyappan in the ninth over, courtesy of a brilliant catch at cover by UAE captain CP Rizwan.

The tight bowling from the UAE bowlers saw the Netherlands batter failing to score freely and send the ball over the ropes as the Dutch team scored 62/3 at the end of the 10 overs. Colin Ackermann 17(19) was dismissed by Aayan Afzal Khan to keep UAE in the game, instilling belief and enthusiasm in

the bowlers despite the low total.

Junaid bowled with fire as the pacer came back in the 14th over to pick up the two most experienced batters in the Dutch lineup. He got rid of Tom Cooper and Roelof van der Merwe bowling wicket to wicket not erring with his line and length.

The UAE team could sniff the victory with the Netherlands six down but captain Scott Edwards and Tim Pringle stitched a match-winning partnership of 27 runs to take the team just shy of a win. **ANI**



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,529.97 points, down by 0.25 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 2.15 per cent at 478.58 points. Ahli Bank, up 5.47 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 31.37 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's domestic liquidity rises by 2% to reach OMR20 billion

The total foreign assets of the Central Bank of Oman decreased by 18.7 per cent, reaching OMR5.38 million at the end of July 2022 compared to OMR6.61 million at the end of the corresponding period in 2021

MUSCAT: The total domestic liquidity increased by 2 per cent at the end of July 2022 to stand at OMR20.35 million compared to OMR19.95 million at the end of July 2021, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The total foreign assets of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) de-

creased by 18.7 per cent, reaching OMR5.38 million at the end of July 2022 compared to OMR6.61 million at the end of the corresponding period in 2021.

Narrow Money Supply (M1) rose by 1.5 per cent to reach OMR5.89 million compared to OMR5.811million during the same period in 2021.

The private sector deposits with commercial banks and Islamic windows declined by 0.4 per cent at the end of July 2022, reaching OMR17.06 million compared to OMR17.14 million during the same period in 2021.

Total loans and financing in commercial banks and Islamic windows went up by 2.1 per cent to stand at OMR27.86 million at the end of July 2022 compared to OMR27.29 million during the same period in 2021.

The effective exchange rate index of the Omani Rial increased by 9.5 per cent to reach 113.8 points compared to 103.9 points by the end of the same period in 2021.

Meanwhile, the total issue currency at the end of July 2022 dropped by 7.3 per cent to reach OMR1.69 million compared to OMR1.82 million at the end of July 2021. -**ONA**



SHARIA-COMPLIANT REIF IPO

Pearl REIF IPO opens for subscription

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Pearl Real Estate Investment Fund (The Pearl REIF), Oman's largest Sharia-complaint fund has announced the opening of its initial Public Offering (IPO).

The subscription will be open from October 16 to 30.

Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and its subsidiary, Omantel are the promoters of The Pearl REIF. Sohar International is the Investment Manager and also the Issue Manager for the IPO.

The promoters of the Fund will divest 49 per cent of their stake through the IPO. Accordingly, the Fund is offering 208,137,400 offer units for 112 baisas per offer unit (including the offer price of 110 baisa and offer expenses of 2 baisas per offer unit) for the subscription.

The Pearl REIF IPO is a unique opportunity for common investors to benefit from income-generating real estate investments.

Historically, they were attractive only to large investors due to the size and scale of such investments. However, with The Pearl REIF, common investors have the same opportunity.

Highlighting the offer, Wahbi Sulaiman Al Riyami, Chairman, The Pearl REIF (representing Omantel) said, "The Pearl REIF is a compelling and rare opportu-



nity for investors considering real estate to diversify their portfolios. The strong promoters and marquee tenants of these properties will demonstrate the strength of the offering. I am confident that retail investors will see the potential of this offering positively."

At initiation, The Pearl REIF has two marquee tenants: Omantel and Lulu Group. Omantel has already confirmed a definitive agreement with The Pearl REIF for the sale and leaseback of its iconic headquarters building located in Madinat Al Irfan. Lulu Hypermarket Salalah has also a long-term

lease agreement for the property.

Aown Abbas Al Bahrani, Deputy Chairman of the Pearl REIF and Director of Public Markets at OIA, said, "The IPO of Pearl REIF is underpinned by the strength of the experience and expertise of the fund management body, the investment manager and the issue managers. We are confident that the public investors will utilise this unique opportunity."

The Pearl REIF has projected an Average Distributable Profit Yield of 9.2 per cent, which compares favourably to other yield instruments in Oman such as term de-

posits, perpetual bonds or Sukuk.

The Pearl REIF has appointed a collection syndicate consisting of banks and prominent brokerage firms who would be accepting application forms for the IPO through electronic channels.

All applicants must have an account and Investor Number with Muscat Clearing & Depository (MCD). Any applicant may apply to obtain an Investor Number and open an account by completing the MCD application forms.

This may be obtained from the MCD or its website or brokerage companies licensed by the CMA.

CONCLUDING SESSION



Oman participates in joint annual meetings of World Bank, IMF for 2022

WASHINGTON: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the concluding session of the annual meetings of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday.

The Omani delegation was headed by Nassir Khamis Al Jashmi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance.

The meetings discussed a set of important international issues, among them a study of the financial status of the WB, the IMF and their affiliate organisations as of June 30.

The topics discussed also in-

cluded reports of the WB and IMF on developments of the global financial and economic situation, policies aimed to spur growth worldwide, address international developmental challenges and adapt to climate change.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Arab ministers of finance held a meeting with the chairman of the WB and the executive president of the IMF. The meeting covered financial and economic issues and prospects for development in the region, besides other matters of mutual interest. -**ONA**

TAX AUTHORITY

Decision to amend certain provisions of Oman VAT Executive Regulations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Tax Authority has issued Decision No. 456 of 2022, amending certain provisions of the Oman VAT Executive Regulations (Executive Regulations), these amendments aim to harmonise the controls related to some tax policies, such as the controls for exempting financial services and determining the place of supply of wireless communications services, in a manner that is in line with international best practices related to value added tax.

The amendments also included the addition of some provisions related to the application of the electronic tax invoicing system, which is proposed to be implemented in the Sultanate of Oman during the next few years, provided that the Tax Authority issues the necessary executive decisions to implement this system, including the obligations of taxpayers regarding this system and the dates and mechanisms of application.

The amendments included provisions related to tax refunds to foreign governments, diplomatic, consular and military bodies and missions, their heads and members accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. The amendments authorise the tax authority to determine the conditions and controls for tax refunds in coordination with the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a manner that is in line with the Sultanate's obligations regarding the international agreements regulating this matter.

The following are details of the most important provisions of this decision:

1. Place of supply of telecommunication services:

The decision referred to the amendment of the text of Article (28) of the Executive Regulations related to determining the place of supply of telecommunication services. The country from which the electronic chip used by the customer is issued, instead of being subject to it at the place of use and actual enjoyment of the service as stated in the provisions of the executive regulations before the amendment.

2. Controls for exempting financial services from tax:

The Executive Regulations issued pursuant to Tax Authority Decision No. (53/2021) stipulated that financial services provided by banks and financial institutions licensed by the Central Bank of Oman or Any of the competent authorities in which it is established to conduct banking business are exempted from tax in the application of the provision of Clause (1) of Article (47) of the Law.



The amendments to the provisions of this article come with the exemption of the origin of the financial service exempted under the law, regardless of whether or not its provider is licensed by the competent authorities.

This applies, for example, to financial services provided by business sectors (companies) other than financial institutions in the event that they provide financial services. Exempt such as selling shares of its shares or providing loans to affiliated companies or other financial facilities that are exempt from tax.

3 Determining the deadlines for issuing the tax invoice:

The decision included amending the provisions of Article (143) of the Executive Regulations, by adding a text indicating that the tax invoice must be issued no later than 15 days from the date of making the taxable supply or making the assumed supply (which is made between related persons) or receiving the consideration - In whole or in part - before the date of supply.

The amendment also included Articles (146) and (150) of the Regulations in a manner that requires

the issuance of the simplified tax invoice within (15) days as well, and that the summary tax invoice (issued from supplies made within one month) must be issued within (15) days of the end of the month.

The provisions of Article (202) of the regulation were also amended by adding the violation of not issuing the tax invoice in accordance with the requirements and the specified period to the violations for which the head of the Tax Authority may impose an administrative fine of no less than OMR500, and not more than OMR5000.

4. Provisions related to the application of the electronic tax invoicing system:

A definition of the electronic tax invoice has been added to the first article of the regulation related to tariffs, as it is defined as a tax invoice issued in an electronic format organised through an electronic means, and this invoice must include, at a minimum, the information specified in this regulation and any other information specified by the Tax Authority.

The amendment included the provisions of Article (143) of the Regulation, where the amendment stipulated that the tax invoice must be issued in an approved electronic format in the cases specified by the Tax Authority, provided that the Tax Authority determines the

additional requirements for issuing electronic invoices and the data that it must include.

5. Amending the articles related to refunding tax paid

Amending the articles related to refunding tax paid by foreign governments, diplomatic, consular and military bodies and missions, international organisations, heads and members of diplomatic and consular authorities accredited to Oman:

In accordance with the obligations of the Sultanate of Oman towards international agreements regulating tax exemptions and exceptions granted to diplomatic and consular bodies and missions, international organisations and their heads and members, Articles (188) and (189) of the regulations have been amended, in a manner that gives the tax authority flexibility in determining and amending the conditions, controls and procedures related to tax refund to this category, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance.

The Tax Authority will issue decisions regulating tax refunds based on setting limits and ceilings for tax refunds, with the principle of reciprocity prevailing if Omani missions and their members obtain advantages and limits higher than what is permitted in the Sultanate of Oman.

MARKET




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MSX index ends lower

Ahli Bank, up 5.47 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 31.37 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,529.97 points, down by 0.25 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 2.15 per cent at 478.58 points. Ahli Bank, up 5.47 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 31.37 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 456 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.91 million, with more than 7.84 million shares changing hands. Out of 53 traded securities, 11 advanced, 30 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net buyers for OMR140,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR120,000, followed by

foreign investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,225.91 points, up 0.11 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, Oman Arab Bank, DIDIC, Oman Qatar Insurance, and HSBC Bank Oman were up by 5.47 per cent, 3.31 per cent, 2.34 per cent, 1.03 per cent, and 0.64 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Al Batinah Development Company, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance, and Taageer Finance were down by 31.37 per cent, 6.25 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 3.23 per cent, and 2.02 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,150.58 points, down 2.3 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry and A'Saffa Foods, were up by 3.23 per cent and 1.72 per cent, respectively. Services Index was down by 1.78 per cent before closing at 1,586.47 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES					
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.
MSX 30 INDEX	4,564.57	4,526.08	4,529.97	4,541.35	-0.25
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,244.89	7,181.91	7,225.91	7,217.93	7.97
Industry Index	6,268.76	6,150.57	6,150.57	6,295.37	-2.30
Services Index	1,621.22	1,585.99	1,586.47	1,615.27	-28.80
MSX Shariah Index	490.88	478.58	478.58	489.08	-2.15
MSX TR INDEX	5,756.99	5,708.44	5,713.35	5,727.71	-14.36
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,580.97	7,515.06	7,561.10	7,552.76	8.34
SERVICES TR IDX	1,683.49	1,646.91	1,647.40	1,677.30	-29.90
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,505.92	6,383.26	6,383.26	6,533.54	-150.27

Trading Summary					
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down
7,849,860	1,907,513	456	23,245,503,438	11	30
				12	53

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFR	PRV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	129,000	17,415	5	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.128	0.007	5.469	0.135	0.128	0.134	0.100	263,203,758
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	1,000	1,596	2	1.590	1.600	1.590	1.590	1.550	0.040	3.226	1.600	1.580	1.650	0.100	143,520,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	138,127	124,848	6	0.880	0.904	0.880	0.900	0.880	0.020	2.273	0.900	0.880	0.900	0.100	875,000,000
OM0000000155	OMAN NAT. ENG.	367,793	40,637	34	0.114	0.114	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	15,680,000
OM0000003000	AI MAJIA PETROLEUM	5,303	4,348	2	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.816	0.004	0.480	0.850	0.844	0.828	0.100	56,580,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	53,938	14,193	6	0.264	0.264	0.260	0.264	0.264	0.000	0.000	0.264	0.264	0.264	0.100	429,249,838
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	35,000	2,625	6	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	6,750,000
OM0000002798	BANK MUSCAT	773,665	448,680	31	0.580	0.580	0.578	0.578	0.578	0.000	0.000	0.578	0.578	0.580	0.100	2,168,344,751
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	336,912	141,398	7	0.418	0.420	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.000	0.000	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.100	268,189,023
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	78,163	23,467	13	0.304	0.304	0.300	0.300	0.302	-0.002	-0.662	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	99,261,813
OM0000003598	SCHAH INT. BANK	107,000	10,583	3	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.100	454,416,167
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	241,288	115,353	6	0.480	0.480	0.476	0.480	0.486	-0.006	-1.235	0.480	0.470	0.480	0.100	113,476,800
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	141,000	18,580	13	0.135	0.135	0.128	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.128	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,336,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	880	242	1	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.270	0.286	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	162,689	54,514	17	0.336	0.350	0.330	0.330	0.336	-0.006	-1.786	0.330	0.330	0.350	0.100	220,560,591
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	54,786	5,374	3	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.097	0.099	-0.002	-2.020	0.097	0.097	0.104	0.100	25,090,195
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	55,998	3,136	5	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.058	-0.002	-3.448	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.100	11,200,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	238,000	118,280	5	0.500	0.500	0.460	0.460	0.486	-0.026	-5.350	0.460	0.452	0.510	0.100	25,300,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAH CERAMIC	826,363	319,027	24	0.392	0.392	0.370	0.370	0.396	-0.026	-6.566	0.370	0.388	0.370	0.100	81,400,000
OM0000002178	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	7,297	1,658	1	0.240	0.240	0.224	0.230	0.248	-0.018	-7.258	0.230	0.224	0.230	0.100	28,726,531
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	20,000	5,045	5	0.264	0.264	0.245	0.245	0.270	-0.025	-9.259	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.100	14,995,047
Total		3,774,202	1,471,008	199												

Parallel Market

OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	9,267	1,122	2	0.121	0.125	0.121	0.125	0.121	0.004	3.306	0.125	0.121	0.125	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT.	12,435	1,629	1	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.128	0.003	2.344	0.131	0.130	0.134	0.100	53,611,267
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	281,282	75,514	22	0.285	0.287	0.285	0.285	0.290	0.005	1.724	0.295	0.290	0.295	0.100	35,400,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	151,281	29,782	6	0.197	0.197	0.196	0.197	0.195	0.002	1.026	0.197	0.000	0.197	0.100	19,700,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	357,000	56,406	8	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.157	0.001	0.637	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	316,048,421
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	5,000	1,000	0	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.191	0.009	0.503	0.200	0.185	0.200	0.100	30,952,408
OM0000004428	SMN POWER HOLDING	60,144	1,925	2	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.030	0.032	0.100	6,388,339
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	241,000	23,377	9	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004699	SHARQIAH DESALIN.	590	73	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.000	0.124	0.124	0.132	0.100	12,157,468
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	166,997	7,181	13	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	6,000	228	2	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.038	0.035	0.038	0.100	25,645,722
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	108	5	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.040	0.049	0.100	65,871,068
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	1,810	206	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.110	0.120	0.100	17,732,746
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	163,000	22,983	7	0.141	0.143	0.141	0.141	0.142	-0.001	-0.704	0.141	0.141	0.143	0.100	10,648,602
OM0000008710	MADINA TAKAFUL	145,000	12,350	12	0.084	0.088	0.083	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.083	0.086	0.100	15,225,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	8,210	515	4	0.083	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100	10,359,375
OM0000001772	ALANWAH INVESTMENT	321,920	24,368	18	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000008447	OMAN BET FUND	37,318	2,217	6	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	-0.007	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	27,788,997
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	191,801	28,876	12	0.150	0.156	0.150	0.156	0.159	-0.003	-1.887	0.153	0.153	0.154	0.100	31,665,886
OM0000001690	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,091,200	66,378	36	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	18,428,780
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	80,667	6,381	17	0.078	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.080	-0.002	-5.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	65,871,068
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV.	10,000	450	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.048	-0.003	-6.250	0.045	0.040	0.040	0.100	1,350,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEM.	20,000	1,731	3	0.090	0.090	0.085	0.086	0.092	-0.006	-6.522	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	1,806,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MEX.	825	713	17	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.000	0.000	0.820	0.820	0.880	0.100	77,800,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	10,000	380	2	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.041	-0.003	-7.317	0.038	0.037	0.038	0.100	27,147,441
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	73,236	7,290	7	0.100	0.100	0.096	0.096	0.103	-0.007	-7.767	0.096	0.096	0.100	0.100	7,733,261
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	49,365	3,654	6	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	-0.007	0.069	0.072	0.072	0.100	5,821,200
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	48,900	8,509	4	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.183	-0.019	-9.845	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.100	34,800,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	305,999	30,094	37	0.125	0.125	0.117	0.117	0.130	-0.013	-10.000	0.117	0.117	0.124	0.100	9,945,000
OM0000001386	CONSTRUCTION M.	196,935	14,179	12	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.080	-0.008	-10.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	4,500,000
Total		4,025,147	435,416	247												

ROADSHOW

HSBC economists positive about economic outlook for Middle East

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The annual HSBC Economist Roadshow has arrived in the Middle East with an optimistic forecast for the region's economic outlook in 2023 and expectations that the Gulf nations are on course to deliver some of the strongest growth in the world in 2022. The



LIFESTYLE

6 WAYS TO CARE FOR YOUR EYES AS YOU AGE

AS YOU AGE, YOU'LL NOTICE SEVERAL PARTS OF YOUR BODY CHANGE. YOU MAY FIND THAT YOU'RE ACHEY OR CAN'T MOVE AS FAST AS YOU USED TO. ONE AREA OF YOUR HEALTH YOU MAY NOT THINK ABOUT CHANGING AS YOU AGE IS YOUR EYESIGHT.

As you age, you'll notice several parts of your body change. You may find that you're achy or can't move as fast as you used to. One area of your health you may not think about changing as you age is your eyesight.

"Vision changes are a natural part of aging," said optometrist Dr. Inna Lazar based in the US. "But so many people don't get their eyes regularly examined and aren't proactive about their eye health. There are also many simple fixes for aging eyes, including affordable reading glasses and innovative eyewear solutions."

If you want to take care of your sight but don't know where to start, check out these six tips for protecting your eyes as you age.

1

REVIEW YOUR FAMILY EYE HEALTH HISTORY

Just like you inherit your eye colour from your parents, they may pass down eye diseases and conditions that develop as you age. Talk with your family about their eye health history to determine if you're at higher risk for developing an eye disease or condition. Make sure to let your primary care physician and optometrist know about any genetic eye conditions so you can be proactive about diagnosis and care.

2

NOTICE CHANGES TO YOUR VISION

Our eyes change slowly as we age, so you might not notice eye issues immediately. One common eye condition you'll likely develop as you age is presbyopia, the gradual loss of your ability to focus on nearby objects. A telling sign of this condition is holding books, newspapers and other reading materials farther away so you can read them. While annoying, this eye problem isn't serious and can often be managed with reading glasses or bifocal.

4

GET EXAMINED

An eye exam can identify potential eye issues in their early stages when they're easiest to treat. According to WebMD, if you don't have existing eye issues and are younger than 40, you should get a routine eye exam every 2 years. As you get older, exams should be more frequent to catch any changes to your sight. If you are experiencing symptoms or have a family history of eye problems, it's a good idea to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam. This exam can help identify common vision problems as well as glaucoma and other eye diseases.

3

PROTECT YOUR SIGHT BY EATING RIGHT

Having a healthy, balanced diet isn't just good for your waistline. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, nutrition can help protect your eyesight. Focus on eating eye-healthy foods like orange-colored vegetables and fruits like carrots, cold-water fish with omega-3 fatty acids and leafy green vegetables.

5

PROTECT YOUR EYES

When you think of eye protection, you probably imagine safety goggles, eye shields and sports glasses. But one piece of eye protection you should use regularly is a pair of sunglasses.

According to the American Optometric Association, overexposure to solar radiation over time can increase your risk of cataracts, eye cancer and macular degeneration. You can protect your eyes by purchasing sunglasses that block 100% of UV-A and UV-B radiation. Pick a stylish pair so you can look good while caring for your eyesight.

6

REST YOUR EYES

Just like when you exercise your muscles, your eyes can become fatigued from overuse. If you spend most of your day looking at screens, you may experience eyestrain. To give your eyes a break, look away from your screen every 20 minutes at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. Also, consider using blue light reading glasses. Be proactive and protect your eyes. Using these six tips, you can give your sight the best chance of staying healthy as you age.- BPT



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Al Faisal-Schiller clinch top honours in race 1 in Barcelona

Al Zubair teamed up with German Fabian Schiller to claim the top honours in race one in the final round of the 2022 International GT Open Series in their Mercedes AMG car

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya motorsport race track in Montmeló, Barcelona, seems to be a happy hunting ground for Oman's talented racer Al Faisal Al Zubair.

On Saturday, the Omani teamed up with German Fabian Schiller to claim the top honours in race one in the final round of the 2022 International GT Open Series in their Mercedes AMG car.

Racing for GetSpeed Performance team as a guest entry in the



Pro category, the victory of Al Faisal and Schiller meant that the fight for the overall title between regular participants moves to the final race of the series later on Sunday.

Al Faisal had competed in the International GT Open last year and finished a creditable third overall with a runner-up finish at the same venue in the final round, but in a different car, Porsche.

Al Faisal recently concluded his maiden participation season in the 2022 Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS – Endurance Cup.

Al Faisal Al Zubair, teammate Fabian Schiller and Zimbabwe's Axcil Jeffries rounded off their first season together in the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS – Endurance Cup by finishing in fourth place in the Silver Cup category at the season's finale in Barcelona.

The result also confirmed that the Al Manar Racing trio finished fourth in the final Silver Cup Drivers' Championship.

On Saturday, GetSpeed Performance for Al Faisal Al Zubair-Fabian Schiller, who took the pole and dominated the race despite

the 10-second handicap for first appearance in the closing round.

They beat the Dinamic Motorsport Porsche 911R of Riccardo Cazzaniga-Klaus Bachler with the Oregon Team Lamborghini of BenjaHites-Leo Pulcini third. The championship leaders, Hites-Pulcini, made a little step forward, as most direct rivals, Nick Moss-Joe Osborne (Optimum Motorsport McLaren) finished fifth. They are now separated by five net points only.

Speaking after the strong victory, Al Faisal said: "Honestly, what a way to start a weekend. A perfect race, starting with the practice round and then a pole with Schiller on the wheels.

"We were quite confident going into the race after the strong display in practice and qualifying sessions."

Al Faisal added: "During the race, Schiller maintained his dominance and came into the pits as a leader. With 35 minutes to go, I completed the race, keeping a good lead over the nearest rivals, Riccardo Cazzaniga-Klaus Bachler in Porsche.

"So far, we had a great round and we hope to finish off with a nice display on Sunday."

At the start, Schiller keeps the advantage ahead of Pulcini as Osborne jumped to third ahead early. With a car going into the gravel

in turn 10, safety car came out. After the restart, in lap five, positions remain unchanged at the top, with Schiller taking a four-second advantage on Pulcini.

Safety car was back at the end of lap 10, as two cars crashed. The race was restarted two laps later and the pit stop window in lap 14 had Schiller in lead.

Al Faisal took over and despite a couple of stops, finished the race as comfortable winner, seven seconds ahead of Bachler and nine seconds on Hites.

Earlier, in the qualifying, there was delay with the start due to fog. But that was no issue for Fabian Schiller. The fast German driver, on a guest appearance with Al Faisal Al Zubair in one of the Mercedes AMG of GetSpeed, took pole, setting a time of 1.43.811.

"It's been a perfect weekend so far", Schiller said. "The team has given us a car that goes perfectly on this very nice track and we'll see what happens later," he added.

Schiller's only rivals for the pole were his GetSpeed teammate Sébastien Baud and championship co-leader Leonardo Pulcini in Lamborghini, who both were provisionally in pole during the session.

Eventually, Pulcini took second, only 0s130 behind, while the other GetSpeed Mercedes was third, 0s338 behind.

ARAB SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Almutasim Al Farsi from Oman clinch gold in the ILCA 6 class

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Arab Sailing Championships came to a close after five days of exceptional racing from the best young sailors in the region in perfect conditions at Barceló Mussanah Resort.

In the Optimist competition, UAE's Mayed Al Ali edged out Oman's Tamim Al Balushi by four points to take gold, with his teammate Mohammed Al Marzouqi finishing third in a very tight fleet. Karma Walid Mohammed won the women's category, finishing third overall, ahead of Bahrain's Malak Al Doseri – fourth overall – and Egyptian Talia Hussein Emad who finished eighth overall in what was a very high-quality fleet of both male and female sailors.

It ended up being a UAE one-two-three with Othman Al Hammadi taking gold despite easing off in the last race. Alharith Al Ali finished second and picks up the silver, ahead of Mohammed Al Zaabi in third.

Ganna Mohamed Shaalan of Egypt took the women's gold, finishing fourth overall, ahead of teammate Asmaa Wael Mahfouz in second and Ourabah Sofia of Algeria in third. Elyass Al Fadhil was the highest ranked Omani sailor in fifth overall and fourth in the men's category.

Teammates Hatim Al Ouraimi



finished seventh overall and Alsalim Al Hamdani finished ninth overall.

Almutasim Al Farsi from Oman showed a high level of skill and control throughout the week in the ILCA 6 class to hold off the challenge of the chasing pack, taking the gold medal ahead of UAE's Ahmed Younis in second and his teammate Zakariya Al Wahabi of Oman in third.

Khoulood Moustafa Mansy of Egypt won the women's category, finishing second overall, and comfortably ahead of Dhuha Al Beshr of UAE in second and Mariam Ihab Moustafa of Egypt in third. Nibras Al Owaisi of Oman finished tenth overall.

The ILCA 7 event was won by Adil Khalid of UAE who finished five points ahead of Al Alsaadi of Oman, and Abdulmalik Al Hanai also from Oman finished third, holding off the challenge of Faris Al Bakri from Qatar in fourth and Egypt's Aly Nabil Ahmed Badawi in fifth, as just eight points separated third and ninth. Fellow Omani sailor Abraa Al Noufi finished eighth. Conditions were ideal for the windsurfing events and the Omani duo of Abdulmajeed Al Hadhrami and Omar Al Qartobi continued to dominate the iQFOiL competition.

Al Hadhrami took the gold, ten points ahead of his teammate Al Qartobi, with Mehdi Guembri of Tunisia a further eight points back in third. Oman's Abdullah Al Sarahi finished sixth.

The Arab Sailing Championships marked the debut of the RS Venture class, a highly versatile

dinghy for para sailors, and it was victory on home waters for the Omani pair of Malik Juma Al Qartobi and Ghaliya Al Jabri. Leading all week, the team notched up another win today to seal victory overall.

Sami Al Sulaimi and Naser Al Rahbi of Oman finished second, winning the final race of the day to bring a very impressive campaign to a close. The Saudi crew of Saleh Al Tuwaylie and Turki Al Khawaji finished third after showing great consistency throughout. The team skippered by Ahmed Salman Abdulwahid of Iraq finished fourth.

Rashid Al Kindi, Director of Sailing at Oman Sail, said, "This week has shown that the future of sailing across the region is very bright. In all classes there are talented, determined sailors making progress every time they take to the water. I would like to congratulate the winners, and special appreciation for the RS Venture sailors who are breaking the boundaries for para sailing in the region and showing there is a pathway for everyone in sailing."

The winners received their prizes from Sheikh Ghosn bin Hilal bin Khalifa Al Alawi, President of the State Financial and Administrative Audit Institution during the closing ceremony at Barceló Mussanah Resort.



BDO capture Auditors Cup

MUSCAT: BDO defeated KPMG in the final of the 20th edition of the Auditors Cup that concluded recently. BDO's Haaris Patel was the star in the win and was named the man of the match. A total of six teams took part in the event. Deloitte came third while PWC finished fourth. Alkesh Joshi, Tax partner of EY and Oman Cricket Treasurer was the chief guest and gave away the prizes. KPMG's Rana Noman was adjudged the player of the tournament. Haaris Patel was named the best batter and Nayam Patel of BDO was declared the best bowler.

MOTORSPORT

Al Harthy just misses out on last pole of ELMS season

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hundredths of a second made all the difference in the final LMGTE qualifying session of the 2022 European Le Mans Series in Portimao on Saturday, 15th October, with Ahmad Al Harthy concluding the run with the fourth fastest time – just 0.196 seconds shy of the round six pole position.

Competitive from the outset on his first visit to the Portuguese track, and in the fight for pole throughout the short 10-minute period at the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve, the Oman Racing driver delivered a salvo of typically consistent laps in the No.69 Aston Martin Vantage GTE.

Starting off with a time of 1m42.187 seconds to go second fastest after the first flying laps, Al Harthy made a marginal improvement the next time around to post a time of 1m42.084 seconds but slipped to fourth on the timesheets, albeit only a tenth of a second away from pole.

On his fourth flying lap of the session he was inside the pole time in the first sector, but the lap as a whole wasn't an improvement, and he just missed out again on his fifth and final lap so the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sohar International Bank, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS backed driver had to settle for fourth on the grid.

In a session where the smallest of margins made all of the difference, Al Harthy was the quickest non-Ferrari driver and he and team-mates Sam De Haan and Marco Sorensen go into today's final race of the season targeting a podium return and more silverware with which to end the campaign.

"It was the best I could do, the Ferraris were quick, but I'm happy with P4", said Al Harthy, "It's still a good place to race from as the gaps are very small. There really is hardly anything to separate all of us up near the front of the LMGTE grid, so it should be a very competitive and exciting





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ROUND-UP



Bank Muscat empowers Omani women and their role in banking sector

It is indeed a matter of great pride for Bank Muscat that more than 50 per cent of its over 3,800 employees are women

MUSCAT: Omani women enjoy a special position due to their great efforts, sheer determination and effective participation in making the Sultanate of Oman’s development plans a reality. Their important role in Omani Renaissance is well appreciated by all and it is very well known that the wholehearted participation and role of women has been a strong factor in the stability, progress and long-term development of the Sultanate. The Omani Women’s Day celebrates the important role that Omani women play in nation-building, and at the same time also represents a platform for them to discuss their needs and put forward new ideas and opinions, which can further boost their societal status and participatory role. On this occasion, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has expressed its sincere appreciation and great pride in the efforts made by all Omani women to re-



alise the lofty goals and objectives of Oman Vision 2040 across various fields and sectors including the banking sector. In particular, the bank commended its female employees for their continuous efforts and achievements in furthering Oman’s Renaissance. Throughout its four-decade-long history, Bank Muscat has keenly worked to empower Omani women through jobs as well as training and learning opportunities. Thanks to an exemplary work environment based on fair and equal opportunities to all, state-of-the-art technology and global best practices in the financial services sector, women have been able to contribute more and more to the bank’s progress and successes in the past decades. Today, women employees work across different departments and at all levels including the bank’s senior management. It is indeed a matter of great pride for Bank Muscat that more than 50 per cent of its over 3,800 employees are women. On the occasion of Omani Women’s Day, several female employees ex-

pressed their happiness regarding the fact that a day has been dedicated to Omani women and to celebrate their successes and achievements across various sectors. **Great opportunity for society** Speaking on the occasion, Nazik Lal Bakhsh Hassan Al Balushi, Head of Small Sector - Al Wathbah, Bank Muscat said: “Omani women form half of our society and have a major role to play in the building of our great nation. Omani women play an important social role as mothers who bring up the next generation in the best traditions and heritage of Omani society apart. On top of this, they have an important role at the workplace in ensuring that they support the progress of the country along with their male brethren. Since the launch of the Blessed Renaissance under the leadership of the Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said (May his soul rest in peace), the role of Omani women has been recognised and cherished as a pillar of society’s progress in

various fields. This role has been further strengthened under the able leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said to continue on the path of Renewed Renaissance of the Sultanate. Today, we have unlimited support for the continued success of Omani women, to maintain their leadership roles in various sectors and enhance their position in the march of progress.” Continuing about the role of women at Bank Muscat, Nazik Al Balushi added: “The bank is keen to continue supporting Omani women and give them more opportunities to grow and rise to the top-most levels. Since joining the bank I have received many opportunities to participate in different programmes and roles, which have played a key role in enhancing my leadership abilities. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Bank Muscat, especially the Executive Management of the bank, for the support and attention accorded to Omani women. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation, thanks

and greetings to each and every Omani woman as we work together for the further advancement of our beloved country.”

Continuous support at all levels Speaking on the occasion of Omani Women’s Day, Haifa Ahmed Al Zadjali, Manager, Sultan Qaboos University Branch, Bank Muscat, said: “It is wonderful to be honoured on this day. This motivates Omani women to exert more effort in nation-building and contribute more to the success of the Sultanate across different sectors. The strong participation of Omani women will be an engine of strong growth that helps achieve the ambitious goals of Oman Vision 2040 and progress further on the path of the Renaissance. “I must say here that the sky is the limit for Omani women under such inspiring leadership. With regards to the excellent opportunities that have been provided to me in my career, there is no doubt that Bank Muscat is helping me grow and build my skills.” She added: “I have been continuously offered several opportunities for training and upskilling myself to take on more responsibilities and bigger roles. At Bank Muscat, women work across all departments and branches and are offered plenty of opportunities to upskill themselves and grow to the next stage in their careers. It is indeed a matter of great encouragement that the bank provides scholarships and opportunities to its employees including women to grow further in their careers. I would like to take this opportunity

to call upon all my sisters to together build on the achievements so far and strengthen the pillars of our great nation along with our brothers as we progress to the next stage of our development.” **Concrete efforts to support the community** On her part, Ahlam Ahmed Al Ghaithi, Manager, Bait Al Reem Branch, Bank Muscat, said: “The Omani Women’s Day is a very important day for all of us. Today, we see many Omani women occupying high administrative, political and military positions. Also, many Omani women entrepreneurs have achieved top-notch success both at the local and global levels. Our wise government is continuously working on the principle of equality of both men and women as our beloved nation marches forwards on the path of progress and development. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed al Busaidi, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, who is continuously working hard to enhance the status of Omani women in society and is a great inspiration for all of us. Speaking about her experience at Bank Muscat, Ahlam Al Ghaithia explained that the bank is like a second family that has been supporting her since the first day of joining. She wished all Omani women the very best as they work towards achieving personal and career goals. Ahlam hoped that everyone would find their path to success by building on the foundations of hard work, passion and perseverance.

CLASSY EXPERIENCES

Toyota Avalon: Designed to make fine impression



MUSCAT: The Toyota Avalon is designed to make a fine impression with its stylish exterior and well-detailed interior. Its powerful performance, range of advanced features and technology promote

some of the most exceptional experiences on the road. The Toyota Avalon is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 engine, which produces a maximum output of 298 HP and 36.3 Kg-m of torque.

The engine is paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission that merges smooth, precise gear selection throughout the RPM range with alacrity for fuel efficiency and on-demand power.

MODEST COLLECTION

REDTAG adds pastel perfection and classic creativity to its collection A’aniqa

DUBAI: REDTAG, the Middle East’s favourite value fashion and homeware brand, has made fantastic new additions to A’aniqa, its curated collection of modest apparel. The signature, premium collection exclusive for women, A’aniqa, has struck a chord with the fashion-conscious generation in the region following its launch earlier this year. The new additions pay homage to classic designs as much as they embrace the power of pastels. Meaning “unique” in Arabic, A’aniqa has stayed true to its name, by featuring apparel that stands out from the crowd, and its purpose, by exuding modesty in appearance. Since its launch, A’aniqa has steadily become popular among REDTAG’s loyal clientele and has managed to amass its own fanbase. The new additions are set to reinforce REDTAG’s reputation for value-centric and inclusive fashion. “A’aniqa embodies our emphasis on inclusive fashion. We have always believed, and expressed through actions, that a value-fashion brand should cater to all,



regardless of their personal preferences, clothing choices, and perspectives. Over the years, we have launched curated collections, such as A’aniqa, in line with this belief.

The new additions reflect our continued commitment to inclusive fashion,” said Shehbaz Shaikh, Chief Retail Officer, REDTAG. The new capsule range brings a complete makeover with layering options through jackets in classic colours and a touch of contemporary design. If scarves are your staple style, the new A’aniqa has options in refreshing colour combinations. For the power dressers, there are long-sleeved shirts in bright browns to go with elasticated waist trousers in benevolent beiges. Animal print shirts and cream trousers represent modest fashion in its trendiest. High-neck white tops with subtle stripes can go with solid black leather trousers, making a statement. If convenience is what you crave, the 2-piece shirt and trouser sets in beiges, creams and pastels have got you covered. Layered with cosy cardigans in classic hues, these sets make you effortlessly fashionable. Belted maxi dresses with ruffled shoulders in eye-catching greens are simply unique, or, in Arabic, “A’aniqa”.

“Modest fashion boils down to the balance. It must characterise modesty while being in sync with modern trends, colours, trends, and the zeitgeist. So, it requires greater attention to detail. We have drawn eclectic influence and factored in customer feedback to arrive at the new additions to A’aniqa. This is to say, it is essentially a customer-centric collection,” added Shehbaz Shaikh. In line with Shehbaz’s belief, REDTAG has launched customer-centric, hyper-convenience services such as ‘Anytime-Anywhere Exchange’, ‘Find Your Size’, ‘Fashion Stylists’, and ‘Free Home Delivery’. With several such first-to-market services in the Middle East and its tiered loyalty program — RT Rewards — which boasts over 15 million members, REDTAG continues to cement its position as the leading value fashion and homeware brand in the region. Its contributions were acknowledged by RetailME through the ‘Most Admired Brand Campaign of the Year’ award 2021.

MOBILE BANKING APP

Sohar Islamic announces free remittance offer



MUSCAT: Continuing to innovate for providing better customer service and enhanced digital financial inclusion, Sohar Islamic announced its free remittance offer. The offer extended until December 31 allows Sohar Islamic retail customers to transfer money to a local account or internationally with no charge when using Sohar Islamic mobile banking app. Revealing the new offer, Abdul Wahid Al Murshidi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer said, “The Free Remittance offer is an exclusive solution to enable our customers to carry out instant money transfers

with no fees. Additionally, customers can now make the most of the current exchange rates after removing the fees related to transferring money, especially for transfers abroad. This will enhance the banking experience for our customers while supporting the broader digitalisation objectives of the nation.” The Sohar Islamic mobile app features a modern, streamlined look that caters to ease of navigation, allowing customers to do banking on the go with facilities to view account balances, transfer funds, pay utility bills, credit card payments and much more.

Before the commencement of the campaign, prices for domestic transfers were between OMR1 to OMR3, while international transfers were charged OMR5 per transaction in addition to the VAT. With an all-pervasive culture of innovation, best-in-class operations, and a keen focus on contributing to the country’s socio-economic progress, the bank continues to invest significantly in digitalisation, providing a structured and customised array of relevant technologies and digital capabilities to ensure it is fully geared for the future.

TOURIST SPOT



Musandam: A connection point and relaxation destination

MUSCAT: The destination of Musandam offers a lot of interesting recreational activities so the tourist needs at least 5 days to explore the historical landmarks of the state of Khasab. The first thing to visit, after arriving and relaxing in the arms of our authentic hospitality, is the majestic fjords of Oman, where tourists can take a boat tour along the coast to watch dolphins and take pictures with them, pass by the Telegraph Island, where geological formations cannot be missed, and then visit Khor Najd, a picturesque lake and an ideal place for open-air lovers. In addition to diving where adventure lovers will be amazed by what they can discover under Khasab water. This is by sea, as for land, the Mountain Harem overlooks the wonderful valley, and there are still well-preserved fossils, inlaid on the rocks, at an altitude of more than 2000 meters above sea level. As for Khasab Castle, it is not just a castle, as there is one of the best museums in it, that allows visitors to learn about the history of the country and how Omanis lived in that ancient period of time. Speaking about the beauty and uniqueness of Musandam, Tariq Al-Sahlan, General Manager of Atana Hotels and Resorts, said that the area is rich in natural and historical treasures, and that no visitor can pass by Musandam without saving exclusive memories and authentic moments. Travellers can also spend some time on Bassah Public Beach, enjoy swimming and stroll along the golden sands. From this

standpoint, we strive to maintain the highest standards of international hospitality, in an authentic Omani style that reflects the destination’s culture and heritage. “Soaring rocks that embrace the restless tides, composing a natural symphony of vibrancy, energy and determination, stand majestic to embrace your stay from dawn to dusk. This is apart from a rich history redrawing hundreds of years ago in the eyes of visitors. “One of the challenges we face in order to compete on a global scale is the lack of direct flights from and to Khasab. Our two properties Atana Khasab and Atana Musandam are 10 minutes’ drive away from Khasab airport, 160 km from Dubai, 40 km from Ras Al Khaima, 55 minutes flight time from Muscat and 2 hours by ferry from Shanna. “It’s a source of pride to pass by the hotel facilities, and meet local travelers and international tourists from all over the world, mainly from the UAE, Asia and Europe. More than 150 rooms and suites, in addition to sea views, poolside seats, Al Mawra Restaurant, Athila Spa, Arjan restaurant, and Zaree Khasab, are here to cater to our guests, and fulfil all the dimensions of their happiness,” he said. In conclusion, Tariq wished Atana Hotels to be among the top visited destinations, stressing his deep belief in the growth of the Atana hotels brand, to keep pace with the requirements of modern hospitality, while preserving the spirit of authenticity and with full responsibility and integrity.



ROUND-UP



Alizz Bank wins award for Sultanate’s Best Islamic Bank on Social Media

Alizz Islamic Bank has used social media to launch its campaigns for the various customer segments and reinforce its brand and marketing strategies for important accomplishments

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has had a new achievement added to its track record by winning the award of ‘The Sultanate’s Best Islamic Bank on Social Media’ in the Global Banking and Finance awards ceremony held in Dubai as the bank’s strong presence on social media (Twitter, Facebook,

Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and LinkedIn) enables the bank to maintain a distinguished position among the local financial institutions, given the importance of addressing and engaging the public in interesting topics. Alizz Islamic Bank has used social media to launch its campaigns



for the various customer segments and reinforce its brand and marketing strategies for important accomplishments in this regard. Commenting on the bank’s receipt of the award Murtadha Jawad, Alizz Islamic Bank’s AGM

- Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications, said, “Alizz Islamic Bank is proud to have been one of the earliest banks that adopted digital technology as the vast majority of the public continually resort to social media to search for information and receive answers to enquiries. “Therefore, it is very important for the bank to adopt digital marketing strategies such as social media which enable the bank to engage with customers in a more effective and accurate way.” “Digital transformation on all levels including social media keeps pace with developments in this industry. Transformation should not be limited to products only as social media are ever-changing and the public claims for the provision of services across digital channels instead of dependence

on traditional means. For us, the best way to promote our services and closely interact with customers is communication through the means they frequently use and are comfortable with, which are, of course, social media on smartphones, given answers to enquiries take 3 minutes only,” he added. “Alizz Islamic Bank always makes sure that it is one of the leading, cutting-edge banks that keep pace with the regional and global trends on social media as well as big data and data analysis. We focus on interaction with our customers as well as the publication of useful, interesting content and analyse data to measure the social media’s contribution to the improvement of the Bank’s performance,” he went on. Since its establishment, Alizz Islamic Bank has sought to

strengthen its relationship with its customers and offer varied hi-tech solutions thanks to its solid infrastructure that enables it to offer innovative financial solutions as well as exceptionally quick customer service on the bank’s website, Internet banking, mobile banking, SMS service, call centre and ATM, ITM and the bank’s branches. The bank continues to invest in the existing digital platforms for they are the bank’s bright future. The bank entered into partnerships with several FinTechto to provide the customers with a solution. In addition, the bank was keen to adopt an innovative culture and reinforce its basic capabilities. The bank continues to endeavour to have a digital business model to fulfil the customers’ ever-changing requirements and keep pace with the technological evolution.

ACADEMICS

Downe House School offers adventure in education for girls in Muscat

MUSCAT: Downe House Muscat School, supported by the Ministry of Defence Pension Fund (MoDPF) opened on August 30, welcoming its founding pupils for the new academic year. Downe House Muscat is the first top-ranked premium British girls’ international school to open in the Sultanate of Oman. The school brings over a century of teaching experience to Muscat, helping to deliver a first-class education for girls aged between 9 and 18. With a strong focus on academic excellence and pupil well-being, Downe House develops pupils into confident, young ladies with the abilities to contribute successfully to society and on a global stage. Downe House Muscat’s Principal, Michelle Scott, passionately believes that a first-class all-girls education sees young girls turn into successful, empowered, strong and courageous women of the future. The school’s ethos is to nurture girls in a warm, happy environment and respect them as individuals with wide-ranging talents and ambitions. At Downe House, all girls are encouraged to become strong independent women who will drive positive change not only in Oman but across the globe.



The school offers a supportive and nurturing internship programme for motivated, ambitious, creative and inspirational Omani female graduates, across all areas of school life as well as employing several inspirational female Omani staff, both in the academic and

administrative areas of the school. Students at Downe House Muscat are very lucky to be surrounded by strong female role models, and graduates will join an esteemed alumni community of over 3,000 women, including members of British and international royal

families and well-known figures in broadcasting, writing, the arts and business. Be your best... be a Downe House girl. For further information about Downe House Muscat, please visit the website: www.downehouse-muscat.com

MASERATI



New F Tributo Special Edition celebrates Maria Teresa De Filippis

MODENA: Maserati’s sporting DNA has inspired a new special edition, available for the Ghibli and Levante: the new F Tributo Special Edition pays homage to Maria Teresa De Filippis and her story of audacity. Maria Teresa was the first woman to qualify for a Formula 1 Grand Prix, having done so aboard a Maserati 250F. The tenacious spirit of Maria Teresa De Filippis and the timeless reference to the racing world of the Trident have inspired the new F Tributo Special Edition, a limited series available for the Ghibli and Levante in two exclusive colours – Arancio Devil and Grigio Lamiera. The special edition raises sportiness to a new level, courtesy of its eye-catching details and sporty aesthetics. Even the exterior clearly recalls the adrenaline

rush on the track. Arancio Devil is a special saturated orange, a combination of vibrant energy and audacity, to recall Maria Teresa’s nickname, “the she-devil”. Conversely, the grey is inspired by the track, Maserati’s real “home”, where the Trident has reaped victories and has produced its greatest performance. To complement the exterior, in the Arancio Devil livery, the Levante F Tributo comes with 21” Anteo wheels, or 21” Titano wheels for the Ghibli F Tributo in the new Grigio Opaco colour. The wheel rim details come in cobalt blue, including the specific badge on the fender and the Trident logo on the C-pillar. For the Grigio Lamiera bodywork, the wheel colour turns to Glossy Black, while the details, the specific badge and the Trident logo come in a contrasting orange.

HEALTHCARE

Aster Hospital’s agile critical care team saves life of a patient

MUSCAT: Timely intervention and advanced care save patient life at Aster Hospital Ghubra. A 36-year-old gentleman (The identity of the patient is kept confidential at the patient’s request) with no previous comorbidities was found unconscious in the garden. Aster Hospital’s agile ambulance team brought him to the ER. The multidisciplinary team led by Dr Dilip managed to treat him in no time. His heart rate was 186/minute when he was connected to an ER monitor with a spiked fever of 41 degrees since night and had altered sensory abilities. Quick lifesaving critical care measures including airway management, quick antipyretic measures and a sepsis protocol were initiated right from the ER as per novel recommendations. The ad-



vanced radiology department findings deemed him to have severe sepsis with shock and multi-organ dysfunction including myocarditis, acute kidney injury, and post-ictal phase (post-seizure). An experienced team working together harmoniously, including its primary attending physician, Dr Dilip Abdul Khadar (Physician Intensivist and Chief Of Medical

Services), along with Dr Meher Ali (Sr. Consultant & Interventional cardiologist), Dr Lekha (Sr. Anesthesiologist), Dr Farooq (Nephrologist) Dr Anchint Krishna (Neurologist), Dr Fahad and Dr Karthikeyan (Radiologist), Dr Pranjal (Pathologist). The patient recovered fully and was discharged in sound health within a week.

INVESTING IN NATIONAL TALENT

Vodafone partners with Memac Ogilvy for marketing training programme

MUSCAT: Following the success of its earlier skills development programmes in Care and Retail, Vodafone partnered with Memac Ogilvy to curate, manage and implement a specialised marketing training programme. This latest collaboration comes as part of Vodafone’s aim to help build a circular talent economy, by nurturing Omani talents, increasing their employability and building their capabilities through continuous learning opportunities from world industry-leading experts. The programme was centred on three pillars of modern marketing and communications including media, content & creative, and social media communications. In its first successful year, candidates were carefully selected through a rigorous assessment



process following which they were challenged to spend six months on both learning and working through live briefs. Bader Al Zidi, CEO, Vodafone in Oman said, “We are in the business of connectivity that transcends the boundaries of telecommunications. Our goal is to create opportunities that are transformative and impactful. Through this partnership with

Ogilvy, our youth were provided access to a global network of talent who coached and mentored them to grow, develop and succeed.” David Fox, CEO, MENA, Memac Ogilvy, said: “Combining the talents and expertise of a major brand such as Vodafone, and our global and local expertise, allowed us to further develop young talents in communications.”



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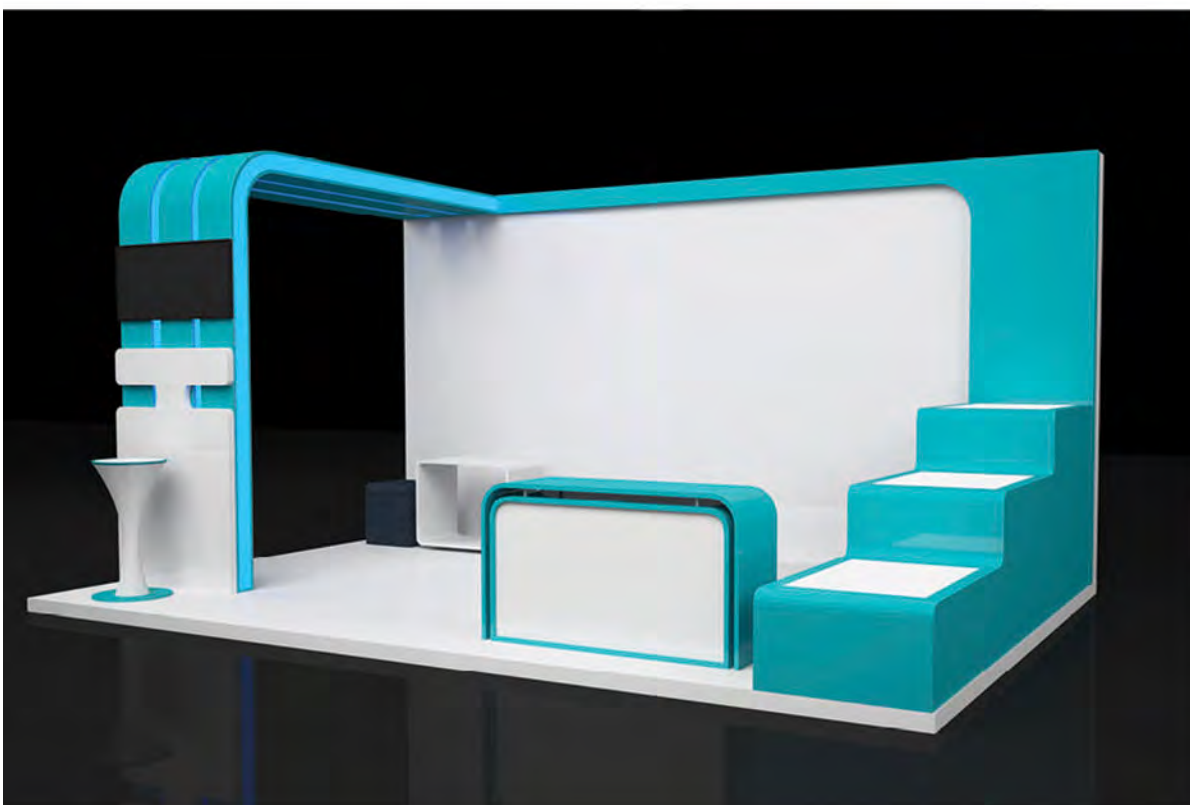
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