

HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF IRAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Iranian New Year (Nowruz). In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi. His Majesty also wished the people of Iran further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



6 085010 120010

RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:19pm
ASR	3:45pm
MAGHRIB	6:24pm
ISHA	7:34pm
FAJR (TOMORROW)	4:52am



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HM THE SULTAN GREETES PEOPLE OF OMAN

The Diwan of Royal Court issued a statement of HM on the advent of the Holy Month

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has addressed a message of greetings on the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan, said a statement issued by the Diwan of Royal Court to this effect reading as follows:

“Upon the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, as Muslims all over the globe revel over the blissful onset of the Holy Month — His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has addressed a message of greetings to Omani citizens, residents in the Sultanate of Oman and the whole Islamic nation on the advent of the holy month, praying to Allah the Almighty to accept their fasting, prayers and good deeds. His Majesty also prayed for the return of this and similar occasions while all are enjoying good health and happiness. May the Almighty Allah bestow His plentiful bounties on His Majesty the Sultan and guard him as a treasured source of pride and inspiration to this nation, its citizens and residents!” — **ONA**



CABLES OF GREETINGS

His Majesty exchanges Ramadan greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has exchanged cables of greetings on the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan with Arab and Islamic leaders of the brotherly and friendly countries. In his cables, His Majesty the

Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments along with his best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to them and their countries’ people further progress, prosperity and welfare. His Majesty also prayed to the Almighty Allah to bestow his blessings on all Muslims,

wishing that it would be a month of security, peace and stability. In their cables, the leaders expressed their sincere greetings along with their best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty the Sultan. They also wished the Omani people to achieve all aspirations of progress, prosperity and welfare.

They prayed to the Almighty Allah for the return of this occasion on His Majesty, the Omani people and Arab and Muslim nations with blessings, bounties and prosperity. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN



Sayyid Bilarab visits start-up companies

1 His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Honourary President of the Promising Omani Start-ups Programme, paid field visits to a group of Omani start-ups. **>A4**

WORLD

UN warns of ‘imminent’ global water crisis

2 About 26% of the global population does not have access to safe drinking water and about 46% of people lack access to safely managed sanitation services. **>A8**

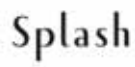
MARKET

Sohar Port and Freezone reports solid growth

3 Sohar Port and Freezone revealed its excellent performance with an impressive growth in throughput by 11.3 percent to 77 million tonnes year-on-year. **>B1**



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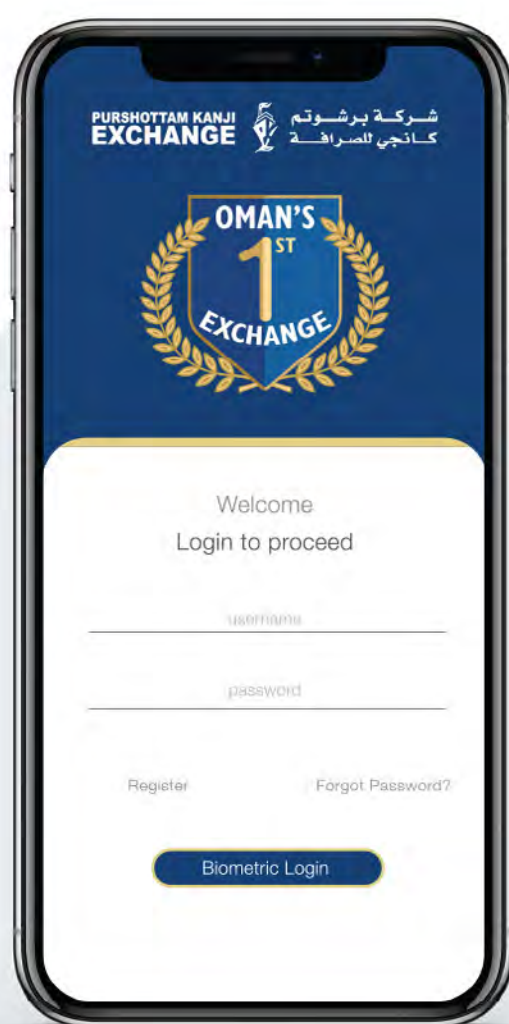


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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:19pm
Asr.....	3:45pm
Maghrib.....	6:24pm
Isha.....	7:34pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:52am

HOLY MONTH

Ramadan begins in Oman today

MUSCAT: The Main Committee for Ramadan Moon Sighting 1444 AH has announced that Thursday (23 March 2023), will be the first day of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

This was stated in the statement issued by the Committee which convened at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs on Wednesday.

Committee meeting

The Committee met under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs and membership of His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed Hamad Al Khalil, Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman, Eng. Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Dr. Wa'el Saif Al Harrasi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed Salim Al Akhzami, Judge at the Supreme Court, Sheikh Abdulrahman Abdulsattar Al Kamali, Judge at the Supreme Court and Sheikh Mohammed Salim Al Nahdi, Judge at the Supreme Court.

— ONA



MEETING

Oman, Iran review ways to boost trade

MUSCAT: The Oman-Iran Joint Business Council (Omani side) on Wednesday held its first meeting for 2023 under the chairmanship of Mohammed Abdul Hussein Baqer, head of the Omani side in the council.

The meeting, held at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (OCCI) headquarters, discussed a spectrum of business, economic and investment topics. It also touched on the council's action during the previous period, in addition to what will be implemented during 2023.

The meeting highlighted means of enhancing trade exchange, which contributes to boosting exports and imports.

— ONA

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following auctions:

Auction No.	Auction title	Last date for bid submission	Document's Fee
01/2023	Leasing out a site to provide an ATM machine (to withdraw and deposit cash and checks) inside the General Office of the Ministry	Sunday 30/04/2023 At 10 a.m.	RO 25/-
02/2023	Leasing out a site to provide an ATM machine (to withdraw and deposit cash and checks) next to the shops on the south side in the General Office of the Ministry		RO 25/-

- Specialized establishments may obtain the auctions' documents from the Treasury Section at the 3rd floor of the Ministry of Labour's building at the Airport Heights, against payment of the above mentioned (non-refundable) fees, as of Wednesday 22/03/2023.
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee issued by a local bank for 1% of the total bid value addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted in closed envelopes sealed with red wax, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, bearing the auction number and subject with no indication to the name of the bidder.
- Bids shall be deposited in the Tender Box located at the Secretariat of the Internal Tender Committee at the 3rd floor of the Ministry's building at the Airport Heights, not later than the date and time mentioned against the auction. Bids shall be opened at 11 am on the same day.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN

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3,423 ancient sites identified for restoration

Among the 310 historical and archaeological sites restored are 83 castles, fortresses and archaeological walls, 145 towers and 80 mosques

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The efforts of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to restore and maintain castles, forts, ancient lanes, mosques, and archaeological sites have borne fruit with 310 archaeological sites restored in 2022, according to a senior official at the ministry.

Engineer Amjad bin Ahmed Al Makhhladi, director of restoration and maintenance at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said: "The restoration campaign is among the key responsibilities of the ministry with an aim to preserve the Omani architectural and archaeological heritage for future generations and also develop these sites to attract tourists."

Among the 310 historical and archaeological sites restored are 83 castles, fortresses and archaeological walls, 145 towers and 80 mosques.

Al Makhhladi said: "Another 3,423 archaeological sites have been identified for restoration and maintenance. We have already announced the tenders for



the restoration and maintenance of various archaeological sites. These include Al-Owaid Tower in the Wilayat of Al Musanna, Al-Maghabsha Wall and Al-Hilal Wall in Wilayat of Al Suwaiq, Sohar fort, maintenance of Jibrin fort, reconstruction of Al-Seeb fort, maintenance of Sadah fort and the restoration of Al-Kasfa Tower (Al-Ramah)."

Among the major projects under maintenance are Al-Marah fort, Al-Munaikh fort, Ibri fort and mosque, Al-Muntarib fort, Al Wasil Fort and Al-Musanna fort.

Many citizens have welcomed the ministry's efforts to preserve the forts and archaeological sites in the Sultanate of Oman.

Nasser Al Shidani said: "The ef-

forts taken by the Omani government to restore these monuments is commendable. They are our national treasures and reflect our deep and strong tradition and history. We should be proud and the public should come forward to ensure that these national treasures are safeguarded."

Hussain Al Saqri said that more awareness is growing with a lot of these sites being promoted on social media accounts. "Tourism is a key driver of the economy and Oman is blessed to have so many attractions. The ministry is taking positive steps but along with the preservation and conservation of these sites, more facilities should be provided for tourists to visit these places."

HM exchanges Ramadan greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Wednesday exchanged greetings over the phone on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan with King Hamad Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to King

Hamad Issa Al Khalifa.

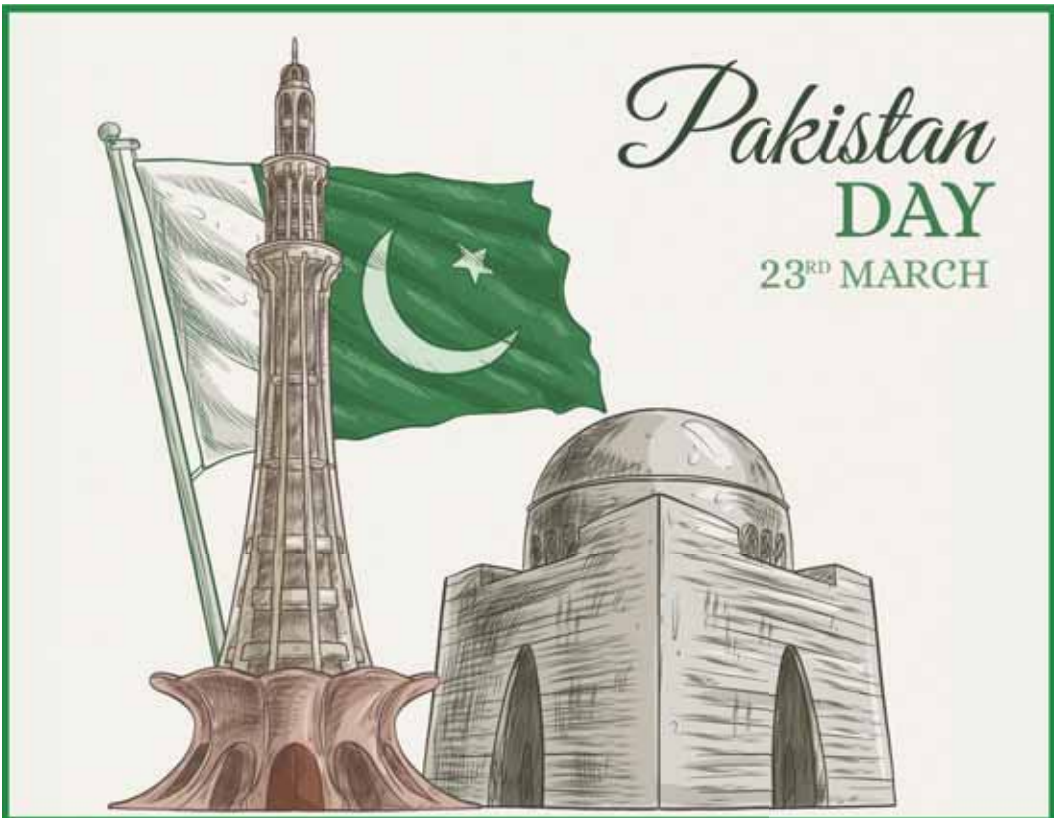
Holy occasion

His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty for the return of this holy occasion on King Hamad Issa Al Khalifa while the people of Bahrain realise aspirations of further progress and prosperity, and the Arab and Islamic world blessings and welfare.

In his turn, King Hamad Issa Al Khalifa expressed his greetings to His Majesty, praying to Allah the Almighty to grant His Majesty continuous good health, happiness and a long life.

He also wished for the return of this occasion while the Omani people realise aspirations of further development and growth.

-ONA



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FIELD VISIT

Sayyid Bilarab visits Omani start-ups

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Honorary President of the Omani Programme for Promising Omani Start-ups, paid field visits to a group of Omani start-ups.

The visit reflects the programme's objectives by supporting innovation and technology-based start-ups, creating an enabling milieu for owners of start-ups and creative ideas. The visit also aims at viewing the work progress of start-ups and the challenges facing them. The visits also comes as part of the programme's plans for 2023, and one of the themes revealed by the first meeting of the supervisory committee of the Omani Programme for Promising Omani Start-ups, which was held last February.

The programme of his tour included a visit to the headquarters of ITHCA Group at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM), during which HH Sayyid Bilarab viewed the investment file in start-ups, in addition to familiarising with the experience of the Group in investment in other start-ups.

The visits also included viewing the experience of eMushrif. It is a company specialised in safe and smart school transportation by providing school buses with electronic devices linked to smart applications for parents and service providers to ensure the safety of students.

The visits also included Bviser "Ijtimaati", which is specialised in meeting governance, starting



from preparing the agenda and attaching documents to distributing meeting minutes and following up on taking and implementing decisions in a faster and orderly manner.

This visit also included OSOS company, which is specialised in providing integrated business programmes and applications, technology and digital transformation services for institutions.

HH Sayyid Bilarab also got acquainted with Otaxi company, an Omani company for requesting taxi services through an application on smart phones.

He also visited Onsor Technologies company, which is a leading Omani company in providing a variety of products and technical solutions. — ONA

OMAN AND ETIHAD RAIL COMPANY

Prequalification bids invited from companies

MUSCAT: Oman and Etihad Rail Company, the developer and operator of the railway network connecting the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has invited prequalification bids from companies specialised in executing mega infrastructure projects in Oman to carry out civil works of the network. The company set 27 March 2023 as deadline to receive the bids of the interested companies. Documents of the prequalification bids will be available for purchase and downloading through (<https://TenderDoc.oerail.com>).

The step aims to expand the role of the private sector in the nation-



al economy and logistics sector in particular, in addition to maximising the ICV.

After the stage of prequalification bids, the tenders will be floated for civil and construction works that are divided into three packages; the first on design and construction of railways, the sec-

ond on construction of associating facilities and stations and the third on construction of various facilities related to the project.

The much-anticipated 303-km railway will primarily link Sohar to Abu Dhabi and will feature the best international safety, security, and environmental standards, to provide faster and safer passenger and freight services. The passenger trains are designed to reduce travel time from Sohar to Abu Dhabi to 1 hour 40 minutes, and from Sohar to Al Ain to 47 minutes, travelling at a maximum speed of 200 km/h.

Meanwhile, the freight trains will run up to 120 km/h.

Built on the historic and strategic relations between the two countries, this major joint venture is an extension of the longstanding collaboration of Oman Rail and Etihad Rail, who both seek to create new prospects in the infrastructure, transport, and logistics industries by connecting the two countries via rail.

The two parties aim to unlock new opportunities by strengthening commercial exchange and social cohesion, connecting key urban centers, facilitating travel between communities and providing seamless transport solutions between economic and industrial zones in Oman and the UAE. — ONA



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
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CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

IN RIYADH



Oman participates in GCC Ministerial Council's meeting

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the 155th session of the GCC Ministerial Council held at the GCC Secretariat General headquarters in Riyadh on Wednesday.

The Sultanate of Oman was represented in the meeting by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister. Present at the meeting were GCC foreign ministers and the GCC Secretary General.

In his speech, Sayyid Badr underlined the approach pursued by the GCC to support peace, security and stability in the region and the world in a bid to achieve comprehensive development and prosperity for all, as well as promoting the constructive co-operation and mutual benefits among different countries and peoples.

He also welcomed the tripartite joint statement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA),

the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China on resuming Saudi-Iranian diplomatic relations.

This agreement, Sayyid Badr said, constitutes a significant step within the context of GCC common goals.

The ministerial meeting reviewed the course of implementing the decisions issued by the GCC Supreme Council, which aim at enhancing the GCC joint action.

The participating ministers have taken the decisions necessary to promote cooperation among the members states, develop economic, cultural, educational and security ties in a manner that contributes in consolidating and sustaining stability and comprehensive development in the region, as well as enhancing cooperation and solidarity among the member states.

— ONA

AHAD FOUNDATION

Financial support for 'Fak-Kurba' initiative

MUSCAT: Ahad Foundation rendered financial support to the initiative locally called "Fak-Kurba" or "ending financial crisis" which targets relieving those who are imprisoned for financial dues. The support extended to the initiative aims to contribute to releasing a number of prisoners from all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The 10th edition of the initiative, which is organised by the Omani Lawyers Association, comes under the theme "Because we believe that a person deserves a second chance". It aims to collect financial donations to relieve the families of the imprisoned on financial dues arising from civil, commercial, legal or labour cases. This edition will run till 16 May 2023.

During the humanitarian journey of the initiative which began in 2012, the initiative contributed to the release of 4,969 insolvent people.

— ONA

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TADOOM

Smart cities to reduce operational costs and enhance sustainability

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Smart cities are expected to reduce operational costs and enhance the sustainability of local communities, according to Eng Abdullah bin Rashid al Badi, CEO of Tadoom.

Tadoom, a pioneering semi-governmental company in the Sultanate of Oman, is dedicated to delivering cutting-edge smart city solutions that will enhance the efficiency and sustainability of local communities.

The company was officially launched recently at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre by Abdulsalam bin Mohammed al Murshidi, President of Oman Investment Authority (OIA). The company aims to empower cities with the latest technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and big data analytics, and harness the power of connected devices



and data-driven insights.

Backed by OIA, Tadoom's vision is to drive smarter, more efficient, and sustainable urban environments, shaping a brighter future for all.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Al Badi, said: "Tadoom provides solutions for smart cities and aims to increase the efficiency of services by cutting operational costs through a build-operate-transfer ownership system.

"We have intensified our efforts in the renewable energy sector, where we launched Solar Wadi

Company, one of the first local companies involved in developing electricity production projects from renewable energy sources, to contribute to reducing emissions and achieving the carbon neutrality target by 2050."

The company seeks to enable both the government and private sectors to provide basic and service infrastructure by contributing smart water solutions, smart energy solutions, smart environmental solutions, smart mobility solutions, smart building solutions, and smart governance.

CABLE

His Majesty greets President of Pakistan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Arif Alvi of Pakistan on his country's National Day. His Majesty the

Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Dr. Arif Alvi.

— ONA



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SUMMARY OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

(Amount in RO'000)

ASSETS		2022	2021	LIABILITIES		2022	2021
1	Cash on hand	5,976	3,857	1	Capital and reserve	10,072	9,628
2	Deposit with Central Bank of Oman	120	120	2	Borrowings from banks	-	-
3	Precious metals	-	-	3	Balance due to branches	-	-
4	Balance due from banks	5,553	6,960	4	Balance due to money changers	689	658
5	Balance due from branches	-	-	5	Loans and advances payable	-	-
6	Balance due from money changers	19	28	6	Cheques and drafts issued outstanding	160	111
7	Cheques and drafts purchased	-	-	7	Other liabilities	3,833	3,011
8	Fixed assets	1,603	1,433				
9	Investments	-	-				
10	Other assets	1,483	1,010				
	Total	14,754	13,408		Total	14,754	13,408

We certify that the above balances are in agreement with the books and records of the company as at 31 December 2022.

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GENERAL MANAGER

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Consumer Protection Authority

Zawawi Trading Company LLC.

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz
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CLS (219 platform), C-Class, CLC (203 platform)
Model year: 2001-2011

Date of Campaign: 23.03.2023
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
5	WDB203***1*033044	TO	WDB203***1*000547	C 240- C 320
6	WDB209***1F0E8437	TO	WDB209***1F269033	CLK 200- CLK 320
15	WDB211***1*027396	TO	WDB2112***1*667024	E 230- E 55 AMG
24	WDD219***1A005905	TO	WDD219***1A143785	CLS 350- CLS 55 AMG

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain C-Class, CLC (203 platform), CLK (209 platform), E-Class (211 platform) and CLS (219 platform) vehicles the bonding between the glass panel and the sliding roof frame might not meet specifications.
In this case, the adhesion of this bonding might deteriorate gradually over time. Therefore, the specified durability requirements of the bonding would not be guaranteed. In consequence, a separation of the glass panel from the vehicle cannot be excluded.
Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will check the glass panel bonding on the affected vehicles and replace the sliding roof, if necessary. The expected workshop visit for the check and, if necessary, replacement of the sliding roof will take up to 2 hours and will be free of charge.
For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 23.03.2023 to get their car inspected.
Contact details:
Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 23.03.2023.

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Oman Charitable Organization

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

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

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2023 reaching \$74.53, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 63 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$73.90. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,896.50 points, up by 0.76 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.91 per cent at 481.43 points. Takaful Oman, up 7.69 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Fajar Al Alamia, down 9.94 per cent, was the top loser.

ANNUAL BUSINESS RECEPTION

Sohar Port and Freezone announces impressive growth in all key areas

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone held its annual business reception at The Chedi Muscat where it revealed excellent performance achievements and meaningful contributions to the community over the past year, with an impressive growth of throughput by 11.3 per cent year on year, reaching 77 million tonnes.

The senior management presented Sohar's plans for the coming year and beyond as the complex continues to be a pioneer in Oman's economic transformation. Revealing its 2022 results, Sohar Port and Freezone has announced impressive growth in all key areas. Compared to 2021, throughput has increased by 11.3 per cent year on year, reaching 77 million tonnes.

Dry bulk and liquid bulk increased by 9.6 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Vessel calls enjoyed a slight increase to 3,192 while containers remained steady at 725,000 TEU.

Total investment rises
This success is mirrored within the freezone where total investment grew by 17 per cent. Land occupancy grew from 3.5 per cent

to 77 per cent, and 14 new contracts were awarded. At year-end, 52 countries are now represented within the free zone, an increase of three from 2021 as the Sohar Freezone cements its position as an engine of economic diversification. In addition, in Q1 2023, two land lease agreements were signed in the freezone, which highlights its competitiveness and ability to attract more investors.



SQU CAREER FAIR



CMA presents practical training opportunities offered by insurance firms

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) participates in the SQU Career Fair by presenting several practical training opportunities offered by insurance companies; which are suitable for graduates of accounting, finance and different management sciences.

The CMA's participation also includes providing many practical and professional programs and workshops as part of the Tamkeen Initiative; which endeavours to empower national cadres in the field of insurance within the annual plan set by the CMA.

The CMA is keen to participate in this interactive event; which is awaited by a large group of graduates and job and training seekers; to shed light on its Omanisation initiatives and programs that target various job positions in insurance companies and capital market institutions.

This is achieved through participating in Tamkeen initiative which aims at enhancing Omanisation percentages in the managerial and occupational job positions, whether operational, middle or senior.

The training programmes and opportunities are mainly focused on the fields of law, administration, finance and accounting and they come within a series of integrated plans for national cadres' qualification to enable them to compete and occupy the best job levels. This eventually results in achieving the targeted percentages on an annual basis in all three job levels.

Notably, Tamkeen initiative contributed to increasing the Omanisation percentages in the insurance sector by more than 83 per cent.

Omanisation percentages in the operational job level increased to 90 per cent at the middle managerial and occupational levels to 78.3 per cent. As for senior managerial and professional levels, the percentages rose to 59.18 per cent in contrast to the year 2017 when it did not exceed 25 per cent.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

India's core inflation continues to defy softening input costs: RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its monthly bulletin, noted that consumer price inflation (or retail inflation) in India remained high while core inflation defied to reflect the softening of various input costs.

Retail inflation in India fell marginally, **ANI**

OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (S.A.O.G)

Chairman's Report and Audited Consolidated Financial Results for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Respected Shareholders,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of the results of the operations for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Operating performance:

REVENUE:

Group Revenue for the year ended 31st December 2022 has reached RO 2682.8 million compared to RO 2408.3 million for the corresponding period 2021 which represents an increase of 11.4 %. The Group revenue include acquired business of Zain Group, with reported revenues of RO 2,129 Mn.

Omantel (Domestic performance) Revenues reached RO 565.5 million compared to RO 531.4 million for the corresponding period 2021 which represents an increase of 6.4 %. Revenues growth achieved in Mobile Postpaid, Fixed Broadband and cost optimization measures have contributed in managing the profitability for the year 2022.

EXPENSES:

Group's total Operating expenses increased to RO 1,305.3 Mn compared to RO 1267.5 Mn for the corresponding period 2021, an increase of 3 %.

NET PROFIT:

The Group achieved an after tax Net Profit of RO 278.9 Mn compared to RO 233.6 Mn in 2021. After adjusting for minority interest the net profit for the period is RO 91.3 Mn compared to RO 67.5 Mn in 2021, an increase of 35.3 %

Oman Domestic operations Net profit for the Year 2022 stands at RO 86 Mn, which is an increase of 16 % in comparison to Year 2021 performance of RO 74 Mn. Net profit for year 2022 includes capital gain arising out of Sale of Towers amounting to RO 28 Mn (net of taxes). Profitability was effectively managed by capitalizing on growth in Mobile Postpaid revenues which increased by 11.2 %, Fixed broadband by 3.3 % with stable revenues from Wholesale segment. This was also further supplemented by a reduction in Operation and Maintenance costs and depreciation driven by proactive cost optimization measures.

Group Earning per Share (EPS) for the year ended 31st December 2022 is RO 0.121 (including EPS of 0.037 from discontinued operations (Towersale) compared to RO 0.089 (including EPS of 0.004 from discontinued operations) for the corresponding period of year 2021.

Dividend

Board has recommended a final dividend of 55 bz per share for the year ended 31 December 2022 and an interim dividend of 5 Bz per share for the year 2023 (to be distributed in August 2023) and is subject to the approval of shareholders in the Annual General meeting.

SUBSCRIBER BASE

The total domestic subscriber base as of December 2022 (including mobile and fixed businesses) was 3.216 Mn (excluding Mobile Resellers) compared to 3.208 Mn of the corresponding period of the previous year, recording a growth of 0.3 % over the last period. Total subscriber base with mobile resellers reached 3.8 Mn.

Subsidiary Companies:

1) Mobile Telecommunication Company (Zain):

Zain Group revenues reached RO 2,129 Mn as of December 2022 compared to the corresponding period revenues of RO 1,887 Mn. EBITDA stands at RO 828.6 Mn compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of RO 780.2 Mn recording a growth of 6.2 %. Net profit stands at RO 276.5 Mn compared to RO 249.8 Mn of the previous period an increase of 10.7 %

Total customer base of Zain Group increased by 7 % to 52.4 Mn compared to 48.9 Mn of the previous period.

Market Share:

Omantel's Mobile market subscriber share (including Mobile Resellers) is 47.4 % compared to 51 % in 2021. The Fixed Telephone (post & pre-paid) market share is 71.3 % with a revenue market share of 81.8 %.

Tower deal and REIF:

In pursuance of our Asset-Lite strategy, Omantel completed 2 high profile deleveraging deals that will enable us achieving an optimized capital structure and liquidity. In December 2022, Omantel concluded sale of its passive infrastructure comprising over 2,519 tower sites to a mobile tower infrastructure company Helios Towers plc, for a cash consideration of US\$ 494 Mn.

Furthermore, we, successfully monetized our investment in Omantel Head Quarter building located in Madinat Al Irfan-Muscat. The transaction included a sale and lease back of the HQ building through a REIF structure which has allowed Omantel to generate considerable liquidity, yet retaining a considerable degree of control over the REIF which will help Omantel in participating in the value created by the REIF in future for the shareholders. 'Pearl REIF', successfully completed its initial public offering corresponding to 136.7 Mn investment units at the offering price of RO 0.112/share. Following the IPO, Omantel is holding the remaining 142.3 Mn units of Pearl REIF translating into a 33.51 % shareholding.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

As part of its ongoing commitment to support the society and environment, Omantel has embarked on number of CSR Initiatives and programs and has extended its support to various organizations and events. The below summarizes the major initiatives and events supported during the year 2022:

- Oman Charitable Organization (OCO): Omantel contributed RO 100K to the Oman Charitable Organization (OCO) as part of CSR initiatives.
- IT & Coding Curriculum: In continuation of the agreement between Omantel and the Ministry of Education, Omantel contributed RO 100K during 2022 to launch the IT & Coding Curriculum of school grades 1-2 for the academic year 2022-2023 and to develop an IT and coding curriculum for primary school students from Grades 1 to 4, which aims to develop an educational curriculum to provide students with the skills of the future and the fourth industrial revolution in line with Oman Vision 2040.
- House Maintenance Project (Maskani Mo'amani): As an annual campaign, Omantel subsidized RO 100K during 2022 with a sustainable partnership with Dar Al Atta charitable organization, which continues since 2014; this project had contributed to maintaining 172 houses across Oman for underprivileged people. Relief work in Oman's rain affected areas: As part of its ongoing CSR efforts, Omantel donated 150K for relief work in south Batinah, with a partnership with DAR AL ATTA, helped to restore services and helped those affected by the heavy rainfalls in Wilayats of South Batinah.
- Innovation and Technology Transfer Center: Omantel entered into a cooperation with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) for the fourth year in a row to contributed (RO 50K) to the establishment of a state-of-the-art Innovation and Technology Transfer Center at SQU. The Cooperation Program is part of the mutual efforts to foster innovation in Oman and create the conditions that will enhance its contribution to driving economic growth, improving the lives of people in Oman, and creating an innovation and knowledge-based economy.
- Other CSR Initiatives: Mubadara Training Program: Omantel contributed RO 26K. In its first edition, Mubadara training program was born as a new branch of Mubadara awards. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and implementation by the Omani Society for Educational Technology with the participation of 60 females from the Omani Women's Associations across the Sultanate with the aim of empowering them through technology to enhance their homebased businesses. Scholarships for students belonging to Social Security families Omantel Supported second year payment of RO 34K).

FUTURE OUTLOOK:

Our Corporate Strategy – Shift Gear to Achieve Sustainable Profitability Growth

2022 can be defined as a very exciting year for the Omantel and the telecom market in Oman. We have seen a substantial competitive shift, with the launch of the third mobile network operator in Oman. The introduction of the new player has clearly showed an improvement of active subscribers in the country, however the overall market revenue and especially margins are showing a decline, confirming the earlier indications of a saturated market in core telco services. Despite this challenging environment, Omantel has, through a successful execution of its Shift Gear strategy, been able to minimize the impact of the intensified competition. This is further helped by early signals of economic improvement following Covid-19 and growing confidence in new investments from private entities and government institutions. Nevertheless, we remain cautious as the improvements in spending patterns continue to be slow and cost optimization and control remains high on the agenda of consumers and enterprises.

The decline of revenues and margins in telecom services, combined with a continuous growth in demand for data volumes, triggered by the unrelentless success of OTT (over-the-top) services such as Netflix, Youtube, Instagram and WhatsApp, remains one of the key challenges for operators globally, regionally and in Oman. The growth in data requires substantial upgrades in network infrastructure, while customers are not willing to pay extra for more bandwidth, resulting in operators to increase data volumes for similar price points and ARPU. This challenge is especially demonstrated in the allocation of funding for investments in 5G. While 5G offers significant opportunities leveraging its superior services in terms of speed and latency, the development of a new stream of advanced solutions and IoT services will require time before the investments can be fully monetized, something we have also seen in previous network upgrades.

We continue to see growth potential in the Home Broadband Services, converting copper customer to higher speed broadband services using 5G FWA (Fixed Wireless Access) and fiber. In addition, the 4th industrial revolution and the digital transformation of private and public entities provides growth opportunities in ICT services and solutions, a domain in which Omantel has been investing over the past years to provide an expanded portfolio of tailor made ICT products and services.

Thanks to our ambitious diversification strategy, capitalizing on Oman's unique geographical location, Omantel has managed to become an industry leader and a main wholesale provider serving telecom operators, Hyperscalers and content providers locally, regionally and globally. Omantel has anchored its position to become a global hub with investments made in over 20 subsea cable systems globally, 7 unique subsea cable landing stations connecting to over 120 cities in more than 50 countries.

In light of the current situation and in order to further strengthen our position as one of the primary enablers of Oman's digital ambitions, Omantel's "Shift Gear to achieve sustainable profitability growth" strategy continues to be our primary tool to optimize value generation for both our customers and shareholders. Shift Gear builds further on the key transformation initiatives and focusses on a number of key business enablers:

- Focus on differentiating activities to generate value, especially in our core telco services, infrastructure, our brand and our position as a key international communications hub
- This will be achieved by fully leverage our transformation to become a digital native operator, extracting value and insights from our data and continue to enhance our Customer Experience as well as our human capital
- Simultaneously, we develop new areas of growth from new business opportunities, primarily in the ICT and value added services domain, while at the same time identifying innovative solutions through the Omantel Innovation Labs. Building a strong ecosystem of complementary players is a key part of our strategy.
- In addition, Omantel continues to implement stringent cost optimization mechanisms while continuing to invest in essential strategic domains.

Thanks and appreciation

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our shareholders and loyal customers for their continued support that enabled us to achieve these excellent results. Also, we wholeheartedly appreciate the sincere contribution of the Executive Management and Employees for the performance in the challenging situation. With your support, we are confident that Omantel will continue its good performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we are honored to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for His visionary leadership. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him long live, health and welfare to achieve more progress, prosperity and welfare for Oman and its people

CHAIRMAN

Note:

- The audited consolidated financial statement will be delivered to any shareholders or other interested party who requests them, within 5 days of the written request. The request must indicate preference for Arabic or English.
- Request may be addressed to Secretary, Board of Directors, Omantel P.O. Box 789, P.C. 112, Ruwi Sultanate of Oman, Fax: 242 40 586



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2022

	2022 RO'000	2021 RO'000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and bank balances	451,324	390,214
Trade and other receivables	1,122,000	972,305
Contract assets	108,940	90,679
Inventories	69,573	79,853
Investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	50,708	43,329
Investment securities at amortised cost	1,000	-
	1,803,545	1,576,380
Assets of disposal group classified as held for sale	322,956	31,589
Total Current assets	2,126,501	1,607,969
Non-current assets		
Contract assets	65,983	52,937
Investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	24,528	25,522
Investment securities at FVOCI	21,794	22,438
Investment securities at amortised cost	-	1,000
Investments in associates and joint venture	150,027	114,288
Other non-current assets	59,752	73,312
Deferred tax asset	29,269	10,151
Right of use of assets	206,539	225,860
Property and equipment	1,761,504	1,982,990
Intangible assets and goodwill	3,389,546	3,450,987
Total Non-current assets	5,708,942	5,959,485
Total Assets	7,835,443	7,567,454
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,466,164	1,354,169
Contract liabilities	122,772	139,043
Income tax payables	38,652	45,479
Borrowings	547,584	579,725
Lease liabilities	33,078	46,277
	2,208,250	2,164,693
Liabilities of disposal group classified as held for sale	109,318	3,249
Total Current liabilities	2,317,568	2,167,942
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	1,740,067	1,823,187
Lease liabilities	210,914	202,379
Other non-current liabilities	679,958	606,893
Total Non-current liabilities	2,630,939	2,632,459
Total liabilities	4,948,507	4,800,401
Equity		
Share capital	75,000	75,000
Legal reserve	25,000	25,000
Voluntary reserve	49,875	49,875
Capital contribution	7,288	7,288
Capital reserve	36,893	36,893
Foreign currency translation reserve	(90,719)	(88,590)
Investment fair valuation reserve	(3,653)	(2,375)
Other reserves	5,204	(4,217)
Retained earnings	530,408	480,331
Attributable to the Company's shareholders	635,296	579,205
Non-controlling interest	2,251,640	2,187,848
Total equity	2,886,936	2,767,053
Total Liabilities and Equity	7,835,443	7,567,454

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss – Year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 RO'000	2021 RO'000
Continuing operations		
Revenue	2,682,776	2,408,293
Cost of sales	(930,161)	(763,156)
Operating and administrative expenses	(707,380)	(668,938)
Allowance for expected credit loss on financial assets	(46,383)	(5,950)
Depreciation and amortization	(551,536)	(592,603)
Interest income	8,567	6,695
Investment income	6,598	3,980
Share of results of associates and joint venture	5,466	4,398
Other (expense)/ income	(8,251)	1,181
Gain on disposal of units in associate	755	-
Gain on sale and lease back transactions	495	1,195
Gain on modification of financial liabilities	-	2,578
Impairment of goodwill	(34,458)	-
Finance costs	(157,352)	(138,596)
Gain/ (loss) from currency revaluation	2,248	(8,615)
Net monetary gain	-	389
Profit before income taxes	271,584	250,851
Income tax expenses	(20,690)	(34,125)
Profit for the year from continuing operations	250,894	216,726
Discontinued operations		
Profit for the year from discontinued operations (net of income tax)	28,030	16,876
Profit for the year	278,924	233,602
Attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Company	91,316	67,050
Non-controlling interests	187,608	166,552
	278,924	233,602
Earnings per share (EPS)		
Basic and diluted – RO		
From continuing operations	0.084	0.085
From discontinued operations	0.037	0.004

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Takaful Oman, up 7.69 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Fajar Al Alamia, down 9.94 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,896.50 points, up by 0.76 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.91 per cent at 481.43 points. Takaful Oman, up 7.69 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Fajar Al Alamia, down 9.94 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 642 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.85 million, with more than 10.15 million shares changing hands. Out of 36 traded securities, 18 advanced, 9 declined, and 9 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR250,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR153,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR97,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,817.73 points, up 0.2 per cent. Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman United Insurance, National Bank Oman, DIDIC, Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 7.69 per cent, 1.92 per cent, 1.89 per cent, 1.28 per cent and 1.19 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment and United Finance were up by 5.13 per cent and 1.59 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,124.94 points, up 0.36 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cables Industry, Raysut Cement and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.14 per cent, 4.27 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 2.19 per cent and 0.35 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Fajar Al Alamia, A'Saffa Foods, National Aluminium and Al Maha Ceramics were up by 9.94 per cent, 5.26 per cent, 1.70 per cent and 0.95 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.5 per cent before closing at 1,708.64 points. Prices of Oman Telecom, Sembcorp Salalah, Renaissance Services and Ooredoo were up by 3.33 per cent, 2.50 per cent, 1.94 per cent and 0.97 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination and Abraj Energy were up by 4.04% per cent and 0.34 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDECIES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,907.11	4,854.98	4,896.50	4,859.36	37.14	0.76
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,826.54	7,773.72	7,817.73	7,802.41	15.32	0.20
Industry Index	6,127.07	6,098.54	6,124.94	6,102.69	22.25	0.36
Services Index	1,716.49	1,701.01	1,708.64	1,700.08	8.56	0.50
MSX Shariah Index	482.96	477.09	481.43	477.09	4.34	0.91
MSX TR INDEX	6,231.19	6,165.01	6,217.72	6,170.56	47.16	0.76
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,216.69	8,161.24	8,207.45	8,191.36	16.09	0.20
SERVICES TR IDX	1,860.04	1,843.27	1,851.53	1,825.71	25.82	1.41
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,415.31	6,385.44	6,413.08	6,389.78	23.30	0.36

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,154,074	1,852,479	642	23,951,812,575	18	9	9	36

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OMD000003026	OMAN TELECOM	50,534	55,177	42	1.060	1.100	1.060	1.085	1.050	0.035	3.333	1.085	1.155	1.085	0.100	813,750,000
OMD000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	7,865	12,484	5	1.550	1.600	1.550	1.600	1.550	0.050	3.226	1.600	1.500	1.600	0.100	143,520,000
OMD000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	206,608	86,767	23	0.420	0.420	0.418	0.420	0.412	0.008	1.942	0.420	0.452	0.420	0.100	99,292,200
OMD000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	100,036	31,441	12	0.312	0.318	0.312	0.318	0.312	0.006	1.923	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.100	31,800,000
OMD000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	311,237	82,601	23	0.260	0.270	0.260	0.270	0.265	0.005	1.887	0.270	0.291	0.270	0.100	439,005,516
OMD000003968	OOREDOO	80,053	33,261	25	0.412	0.420	0.412	0.416	0.412	0.004	0.971	0.416	0.452	0.416	0.100	270,792,800
OMD000001533	OMINVEST	134,209	66,836	6	0.498	0.500	0.498	0.500	0.498	0.002	0.402	0.500	0.498	0.500	0.100	334,182,713
OMD000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	50,000	14,440	2	0.288	0.289	0.288	0.289	0.288	0.001	0.347	0.289	0.288	0.289	0.100	36,095,510
OMD000002796	BANK MUSCAT	471,356	136,452	38	0.290	0.290	0.288	0.290	0.289	0.001	0.346	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	2,176,855,148
OMD000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	4,100,000	428,495	8	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	481,956,540
OMD000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	7,654	3,212	4	0.420	0.420	0.416	0.416	0.420	-0.004	-0.952	0.416	0.416	0.420	0.100	22,880,000
OMD000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	2,600	147	4	0.057	0.057	0.052	0.052	0.057	-0.005	-8.772	0.052	0.052	0.056	0.100	11,556,480
Total	12	5,522,152	951,313	192												
Parallel Market																
OMD000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	2,400	101	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.039	0.003	7.692	0.042	0.040	0.042	0.100	10,500,000
OMD000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	400	30	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.070	0.005	7.143	0.075	0.063	0.075	0.100	4,687,500
OMD000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	1,000	220	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.211	0.009	4.265	0.220	0.200	0.224	0.100	10,068,476
OMD000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	127,725	10,219	6	0.079	0.082	0.079	0.082	0.080	0.002	2.500	0.082	0.076	0.082	0.100	78,274,900
OMD000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	35,000	4,900	11	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.137	0.003	2.190	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	28,000,000
OMD000001509	DHOFAH INT.	15,048	2,357	2	0.155	0.158	0.155	0.158	0.156	0.002	1.282	0.158	0.160	0.000	0.100	64,660,918
OMD000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	31,850	2,677	5	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.084	0.086	0.100	10,359,375
OMD000004420	BANK NIZWA	261,843	26,149	22	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OMD000001160	NATIONAL GAS	40,000	4,120	3	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.105	0.100	8,755,000
OMD000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	75,427	7,665	8	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	20,362,831
OMD000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	386,806	35,266	24	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.084	0.093	0.100	15,925,000
OMD000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	549,400	16,657	13	0.031	0.031	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.030	0.031	0.100	21,432,190
OMD000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	136,077	15,649	17	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.113	0.115	0.100	191,982,150
OMD000005963	PHOENIX POWER	16,187	923	3	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.060	0.100	83,368,283
OMD000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,368,336	694,933	303	0.294	0.296	0.293	0.293	0.294	-0.001	-0.340	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.100	225,668,600
OMD000002374	UNITED FINANCE	492,000	30,504	14	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.587	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	21,644,953
OMD000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	19,000	1,103	4	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	1,947,144
OMD000007084	MCT DESALINATE	3	0	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.099	-0.004	-4.040	0.095	0.096	0.099	0.100	14,777,288
OMD000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	10,000	744	2	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.078	-0.004	-5.128	0.074	0.074	0.081	0.100	14,800,000
OMD000002804	ASAFA FOODS	15,375	2,768	1	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.190	-0.010	-5.263	0.180	0.175	0.190	0.100	21,600,000
OMD000002150	FAJAR ALAMIA	2,357	1,325	4	0.624	0.624	0.562	0.562	0.624	-0.062	-9.836	0.562	0.562	0.000	0.100	277,23,601
Total	21	4,586,434	858,311	446												

ENERGY

Oil prices down

SINGAPORE: Oil fell in Asian trade morning, paring two straight days of gains after an industry report showed US crude inventories rose unexpectedly last week in a sign fuel demand may be weakening. Brent futures, which have risen more than 3 per cent this week, were down 37 cents, or 0.5 per cent, at \$74.95 a barrel at 0400 GMT. — BNA

FINANCING AND LEASING COMPANY

National Finance set for new era of growth

MUSCAT: National Finance, the top financing and leasing company, has recently announced its renewed business direction and commitment to expansion, as part of its strategic plans for organisational transformation and enhanced customer experience. The company unveiled its new branding at a high-profile event held at the W Muscat, which reflects its unmatched strengths and fresh identity. These adjustments align with the company's evolution towards a new identity and are part of its ongoing efforts to stay at the forefront of the industry. "We are excited to be entering into a new phase of structured growth. A new National Finance, while staying true to our tradition of being fast, easy and flexible, represents our vision for the future, as we continue to improve and grow. At the heart of everything we do remains our unwavering commitment to our customers, employees and partners. With our new branding, we are taking the entire look and feel of our brand to the next level. The company is evolving and we view this as a perfect opportunity to enhance our brand position in the market," said Tariq Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer of National Finance. "Our renewed sense of purpose across the company embraces change and progress. This year marks a significant milestone for National Finance, as we continue to accelerate our vision to become a "Partner for Growth," he added. The finance company's vision is to be the provider of choice for comprehensive financial and leasing solutions in its markets of operation. The company's mission is to deliver the right financial solutions on time, exceed customer



expectations through partnership and continuous improvement and provide an inspiring workplace for hard-working and dedicated people who believe in the company. "A focus on the youth of Oman is an essential component of our improved strategy. The young population of Oman is increasing at a rapid pace and National Finance recognises the need to cater to their financial needs. As such, National Finance aims to provide innovative financial products and services that are customised to meet the specific requirements of the younger generation.

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FIELD VISIT



OETC conducts site visits to its grid stations

MUSCAT: As part of site visits to grid stations and offices of Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) in the Sultanate of Oman, Dr Mansoor Al Hinai, Chairman of the Authority for Public Services Regulatory, accompanied by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of OETC Eng. Ahmed Al Mahrizi, CEO Eng. Saleh Al Rumhi and the executive management team conducted a field visit to the company premises in Musandam governorate. The visit included the Tibat grid station in Bukha, a power plant station in Khasab, Load Dispatch Centre, a transmission plant in Diba, and a visit to transmission lines, in addition to inspecting OETC's offices, meeting employees and following up on the progress of the company's projects.



Muscat CT players and coaching staff pose for a photograph after being crowned the 2022-23 Oman Cricket Premier Division champions at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat recently

Muscat CT are Oman Cricket Premier Division champions

Clinch second title of the 2022-23 season after defeating Oman Stallions by three wickets in the final

MUSCAT: Muscat CT edged past Oman Stallions by three wickets in a thrilling final of the 2022-23 Oman Cricket Premier Division Super League, powered by Muscat Pharmacy, at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat recently.

It was a befitting finale to the domestic cricket's top-flight league as the champions were crowned after an engrossing battle on the field. The victory completed a grand double for Muscat CT, who had earlier lifted the Oman D10 title.

Chasing a target of 202 for win, Muscat CT got off to a disastrous start as they lost three top-order batters in the first three overs with Oman Stallions' pace duo of Hemal Tandel and Bilal Khan getting those early breakthroughs.

It was left to Hashir Dafedar to shepherd the chase and the batter displayed great composure to slam an unbeaten 64 off 104 balls, which included five boundaries, to lead the team to a memorable victory. Crucial knocks from Ayaan Khan (35, 32b, 4x4, 1x6), Siddharth Prasad (28, 38b, 5x4) and Sandeep Goud (28, 60b, 3x4) provided the necessary support to Dafedar as Muscat CT reached the



Oman Stallions players, with team owner Chaitanya Gulabsi and manager Vinu Mathew, after finishing second in Premier Division



Hashir Dafedar of Muscat CT

target in 45.2 overs for the loss of seven wickets.

Earlier, put to bat first, Oman Stallions struggled early as Munis Ansari and Sandeep Goud took three wickets in the powerplay for 33 runs.

Stallions fought back to post a total of 201/9, courtesy responsible knocks from Rafiullah (40, 69b, 1x4, 2x6), Sankata Prasad (32, 73b, 3x4) and Jay Odedra (36, 60b, 2x4). A quickfire innings of



Kashyap Prajapati (right) receives award from Varun Khimji

27 off 31 balls, which included two fours and two sixes, from Vinayak Shukla helped the team cross the 200-mark. Experienced Ansari bagged three for 63 while Shoaib Khan picked two wickets for 33.

Speaking after the title triumph, Muscat CT's coach, Hemal Mehta said: "We had an outstanding year, claiming Premier Division and Oman D10 titles while finishing runners-up in Oman D20. All the

hard work of the boys and the way they handled the games were the key to our success.

"Kashyap Prajapati's consistency with the bat and support from Jatinder Singh and Shoaib Khan at the top was a big plus point. Experienced Munis Ansari led the fast-bowling attack with efficiency while spinner Samay Shrivastava, as usual, spun magic with his arm. Having said that, everyone, including the support staff, had a role in our title triumphs."

He added: "The solid backing of team owners, Khimji Ramdas, was another big reason for our double success. We hope to keep working hard improve as a side in the future."

Muscat CT's manager Madhu Jesrani, said: "I am extremely delighted with the boys' performances. They have borne fruit after the hard yards they have put in throughout the season. The season was exemplary for us as we won a total of 11 out of 13 games on our way to the Super League title.

"One of the highlights of this season was the form of Kashyap Prajapati, who slammed a strokeful double hundred against a strong Oman Stallions side ahead of the final. It was one of the most remarkable achievements in the Premier Division in recent years."

He added: "With two titles and second-place in D20, it has been a successful season for us. I thank all the players, coaching staff and the Khimji Ramdas management."

After the final, Khimji Ramdas Group honoured Prajapati for his double century. Varun Khimji, KR Group board director and Oman Cricket advisor, handed him a token of appreciation and wished him good luck ahead.

RAMADAN TT TOURNEY

Spin Table Tennis Academy in Ghala will organise a Ramadan Open TT tournament 2022 at its academy from March 26. Cash prizes are on offer for the winners. Interested paddlers can contact the academy on 91101221 for participation. The event is supported by Oman Table Tennis Association and Sports Mania Oman.



SHARJAH TO HOST THE SERIES

Rashid to lead Afghanistan T20I squad against Pakistan

KABUL: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Tuesday named a 17-member squad, with Rashid Khan as skipper, for the home three-match T20I series against Pakistan, which will be played from March 24 to 27 in Sharjah.

Tall left-handed opener Sediqullah Atal has been added to the squad. He could be a potential debutant for Afghanistan in the series. In addition, senior all-rounder Mohammad Nabi, who led Afghanistan at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup last year, has been recalled to the squad.

Nijat Masoud and Zahir Khan who were part of the Afghanistan squad during the UAE tour last month have been kept as reserves, whereas Rahmat Shah and Hazratullah Zazai have been dropped.

ACB CEO Naseeb Khan said: "Our team has been working hard in training camp and selectors have selected the best available players for the series.

"I am confident that our team will perform at their best and make our nation proud. We wish our team the best of luck for the series and hope to see them



Rashid Khan, Afghanistan captain

emerge victorious."

"In addition, we look forward to an exciting competition between two great teams. Both nations have passionate fans who support their teams with enthusiasm and pride. As neighbours, we have a special bond and we hope to showcase not only our cricketing skills but also the spirit of friendship and sportsmanship. We wish both teams the best of luck and hope that cricket fans around the

world will enjoy the games," he added.

Squad: Rashid Khan (captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wicket-keeper), Ibrahim Zadran, Usman Ghani, Sediqullah Atal, Najibullah Zadran, Afsar Zazai, Karim Janat, Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Fareed Ahmad, Fazal Haq Farooqi and Naveen Ul Haq. - ANI

EURO QUALIFIERS

De Bruyne to lead Belgium

BRUSSELS: Manchester City's star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne was on Tuesday named the captain of Belgium after Eden Hazard's retirement. There were a few changes in the camp of Belgium after Roberto Martinez's exit and the 32-year-old Eden Hazard surprisingly announced his retirement.

Many predicted that Belgium's golden era would bear some fruits at the international level. However, Belgium failed to convert their quality on the pitch into trophies.

Belgium posted a video in which De Bruyne expressed his feelings after becoming captain of the Belgian Red Devils.

He said: "It's a proud moment to be captain of the national team. I have been representing Belgium as a footballer for quite a long time. To represent it in this way is an honour. I hope I can fulfil that role well."

De Bruyne has already featured as the captain for Belgium quite a few times. His last captaincy role came against Croatia in their final group-stage game of the 2022 World Cup. - ANI

ROUND-UP

All-new Chevrolet Tahoe Z71: Up for challenge in any environment

From towering sand dunes to rock-strewn gravelly plains - and every patch of terrain in between - the Z71 is up for the challenge

MUSCAT: Built for action, the Chevrolet Tahoe Z71 has been designed and engineered to take on the rugged landscapes of the Sultanate of Oman, and indeed the wider Middle East. From towering sand dunes to rock-strewn gravelly plains - and every patch of terrain in between -- the Z71 is up for the challenge. After all, this powerhouse is at home amid the rugged topography of this region, chugging away with relative ease even with heavy loads in tow. Indeed, the Tahoe Z71 has been crafted to unlock maximum performance, no matter the environment. The perfect SUV for every desert adventure, it has specifically designed off-roading performance features for the region's most adventurous drivers. With a best-in-class approach angle of up to 34.0 degrees, the Z71 is capable of handling all kinds of natural landscapes. The car is equipped with air ride adaptive suspension and magnetic ride control.



Muscular in character, the all-new Tahoe Z71 encapsulates the 'bigger, bolder, better' signature styling of the legendary Chevrolet brand. An adventure-packed standalone trim from the legendary Tahoe line-up, the Z71 benefits from a styling reboot best-in-class

interior, superior performance and advanced technology. Powering the all-new Z71 is a 5.3L V8 engine mated to an advanced 10-speed automatic transmission. Delivering a substantial 355 horsepower and 519 Nm of torque, it packs enough power to

tow heavy loads of up to 3,800 kg with hardly a peep. Helping balance efficiency with performance is the Tahoe's Dynamic Fuel Management system that optimizes engine efficiency across a broad range of driving conditions. A key feature of the Z71 is its all-

new independent multi-link rear suspension which allows each rear wheel to handle road conditions separately. This architecture also enables first-in-class Four-Corner Air Ride Adaptive Suspension which provides load-levelling at all corners of the vehicle and up to four

inches of ride-height adjustment. The smoothness of the journey is evident even as the Z71 makes its way across undulating terrain. Enabling the Z71's superior performance notwithstanding the terrain is the Autotrac system, a 2-speed automatic, active transfer case offering five modes: Auto 4WD, 4HI, 4LO, 2HI and Neutral. These modes can be activated across different landscapes, supporting the driver no matter what's beneath the wheels. As with any Chevrolet model, there's no dearth of technology to complement the Z71's unmatched performance on or off-road. Take, for example, its class-leading 360 camera offering a total of nine views, in addition to HD Surround Vision. There is also the Chevy Safety Assist, which encompasses active safety features such as Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Automatic Emergency Braking, Front Pedestrian Braking, Forward Collision Alert, Following Distance Indicator and IntelliBeam auto high beams. To ensure memorable rides in pristine natural settings, the all-new Z71 also comes packed with unrivalled connectivity and technology with up to five display screens, a 12"-inch-diagonal instrument cluster, a 10.2" multi-colour touch screen, Bose speaker system and dual 12.6-inch diagonal rear seat LCDs (available). OTE Group is the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet models in Oman. Check out the all-new Tahoe Z71 at OTE showrooms distributed across the country.

SPORTS CAR



Ferrari 296 GTB: Defining fun to drive

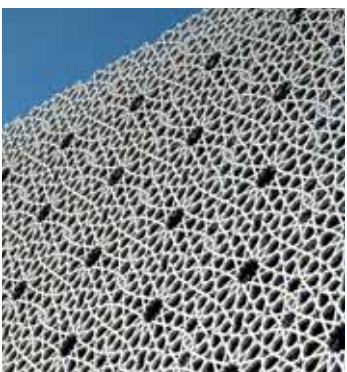
MUSCAT: The 296 GTB, the latest evolution of Maranello's mid-rear-engined two-seater berlinetta signals the start of a new generation of driving pleasure, daring to challenge the rules. The 296 GTB redefines the whole concept of fun behind the wheel, guaranteeing pure emotions not just when pushing the car to its limits, but also in day-to-day driving situations. The 296 GTB ushers in an authentic revolution for Ferrari as it introduces a new engine type to flank the marque's multi-award-winning 8- and 12-cylinder power units: a new 663 cv 120° V6 coupled with an electric motor capable of delivering a further 122 kW (167 cv). This is the first 6-cylinder engine installed on a road car sporting the Prancing Horse badge: it unleashes its massive 830 cv total power output to deliver previously unthinkable performance levels and an innovative, exhilarating and unique soundtrack. The car's name, which combines its total displacement (2.992 l) and number of cylinders with the GTB (Gran Turismo Berlinetta) acronym, in finest Ferrari tradition, was chosen to underscore this new engine's epoch-changing importance to Maranello: it is not simply the living, beating heart of the 296 GTB but also ushers in a new V6 era that has its roots deep in Ferrari's unparalleled 70-year-plus experience in motor sports. The very first Ferrari V6, in fact, featured a 65° architecture and debuted on the 1957 1500 cc Dino 156 F2 single-seater. This was followed in 1958 by bigger displacement versions on the front-engined sport prototypes - the 196 S and 296 S - and F1 cars, such as the 246 F1 which pow-

ered Mike Hawthorn to the F1 Drivers' Championship title the same year. The very first Ferrari to sport a mid-rear-mounted V6 was the 246 SP in 1961, which won amongst others the Targa Florio both that same year and in 1962. Also in 1961, Ferrari secured its first Constructors' title in the Formula 1 World Championship with the 156 F1, which was powered by a 120° V6. Ferrari first installed turbos between an engine's cylinder banks on the 126 CK in 1981 and subsequently on the 126 C2 in 1982, which became the first turbo-charged car to win the Formula 1 Constructors' World Championship title. This was followed up with a second title in 1983 with the 126 C3. Lastly, V6 turbo hybrid architecture has been used on all Formula 1 single-seaters since 2014. The 296 GTB's plug-in hybrid (PHEV) system guarantees it is an incredibly usable car as well as cutting pedal response times to zero and delivering a 25km range in all-electric eDrive mode. The car's compact dimensions and the introduction of innovative dynamic control systems as well as meticulously honed aero ensure that the driver will instantly experience its astonishing agility and responsiveness to commands. Its sporty, sinuous design and extremely compact dimensions also visually underscore its exceptional modernity, brilliantly referencing the likes of the 1963 250 LM, the perfect marriage of simplicity and functionality. As was the case with the SF90 Stradale, for clients who want to exploit the car's extreme power and performance to the utmost, particularly on the track, the 296 GTB is also available with the Assetto Fiorano package.

HOLY MONTH

Experience Ramadan journey of reflection, connection and culinary delights at W Muscat

MUSCAT: With a focus on reconnection, reflection, and fitness, W Muscat has unveiled a stimulating plan for Ramadan, which promises to be an unforgettable experience for guests. The specially curated offering from the hotel caters to the diverse interests and tastes of its guests. To conform to the 'reconnect' theme, Harvest is offering a sumptuous iftar buffet that showcases the best of Arabic and Omani cuisine. Guests can indulge in a variety of dishes, including cold seafood, live BBQ, chicken shawarma, traditional Omani cuisine, and live cooking of "Lugaimat." There is also an ice cream bar and a selection of thirst-quenching Ramadan beverages to choose from. The Iftar buffet is available daily from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm and is priced at OMR 23 per person, with a 50% discount for children aged 6-12. Children under six eat free. Guests can book now and get one free seat



for every 10 guests. For those looking for a unique Suhoor experience to 'reflect', Meduse Lounge offers a serene outdoor location by the pool. Guests can enjoy an a la carte menu featuring International and Arabic dishes and indulge in a selection of bubbly Meduseflavours. There is also live Arabic entertainment to complete the experience. The Suhoor at Meduse Lounge is available every

night from 8:30 pm to 2 am. Fitness enthusiasts can break their fast and sweat it out at AWAY Spa's FIT sessions. Guests can choose from a variety of workout sessions, including punch the power out boxing, bodyweight workout, Tabata Time, and aerobic conditioning. On Wednesdays, guests can punch the power out with boxing, while Thursdays feature a Bodyweight workout. Tabata Time is on Saturdays, while aerobic conditioning is on Sundays. Private yoga sessions are also available upon request. The hotel's corporate Iftar offering, Reflect and Reconnect at The GreatRoom, extends a private Iftar experience at W Muscat's GreatRoom (Ballroom), featuring three different buffet menus prepared by the hotel's talented chefs. The Great Room can accommodate a minimum of 100 guests, making it an ideal venue for large groups. For guests looking to unwind

and relax during Ramadan, Hotel W Muscat offers two ideal options. The Siddharta Lounge by Buddha-Bar is the perfect place to experience the magic of the season with its serene ambience and spectacular views of the city skyline. Open daily from 7 PM to 12 AM. Gerald Chevasson, General Manager of W Muscat said, "We are thrilled to present an exceptional Ramadan experience at Hotel W Muscat, which captures our passion points of sound, taste, body, passion and stance. Our curated offerings provide guests with a unique opportunity to reconnect with themselves and their loved ones, reflect on the blessings of the month, and indulge in exquisite culinary experiences. We are excited to welcome our guests to Harvest, Meduse Lounge, GreatRoom, AWAY Spa, Siddharta Lounge by Buddha-Bar, and WET Deck, and provide them with an unforgettable Ramadan experience."

MUSCAT HOSPITALITY ACADEMY

MHA inaugurates Academic Year 2023

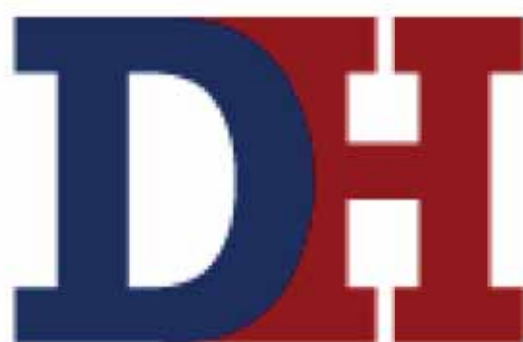
MUSCAT: Muscat Hospitality Academy (MHA) announced the inauguration of its Academic Year 2023, which began on Sunday, March 19. The launch event held at the academy campus marks an important milestone for MHA, as it welcomes an eager batch of young Omanis to its hospitality programmes. MHA offers vocational training to fresh Omanis in the field of hospitality, including Food & Beverage, Culinary, Room Service, and Hotels. Partnering with VET by EHL, the world's top-ranked university for hospitality and leisure management based in Switzerland, MHA offers exceptional hospitality education to students. Upon completion of the 12-month vocational training, MHA also guarantees employment opportunities for academy graduates. The training programs are sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, and the students' education is fully funded as part of the government's initiative to effectively contribute to the growth of the economy. Amina Al Zadjali, the academy's founder, welcomed the students and highlighted the importance of vocational training in empowering young Omanis by equipping them with the knowledge and skills that ease their way into the job market.



Business partners expressed their excitement and support for the initiative. "This event is a great start of something new and promising," said one partner. "We have been working with MHA on this and we are delighted to see the 2023 academic calendar underway. Good luck to the students, and we look forward to taking this

forward in the best ways possible." The academy's vision is to be Oman's premier service provider in hospitality education and training, supporting the Oman Vision 2040 to drive the tourism and hospitality sector. The hospitality industry is one of the fastest-growing industries, and MHA is committed to empowering Omani

youth to achieve more. Students also shared their enthusiasm for the opportunity to learn and grow. "As young Omanis, we feel that this opportunity will give us a chance to show our skills and talents," said one student. "We are thankful for this opportunity and excited to be here as we embark on our careers."



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info@mfsioman.com
info@delaware-horizon.com



(12) **United States Patent**
Al-Sahli

(10) Patent No.: **US 10,032,156 B2**
(41) Date of Patent: **Jul. 24, 2018**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONDUCTING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS USING A MOBILE DEVICE**

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(71) Applicant: **Mahmoud Anass Mahmoud Al-Sahli, Mississauga (CA)**

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(72) Inventor: **Mahmoud Anass Mahmoud Al-Sahli, Mississauga (CA)**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(Continued)

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Primary Examiner — Hai Tran

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(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Hayes Soloway PC

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G06Q 20/32 (2012.01)
(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC G06Q 20/3229 (2013.01); G06Q 20/1085 (2013.01); G06Q 20/18 (2013.01);
(Continued)

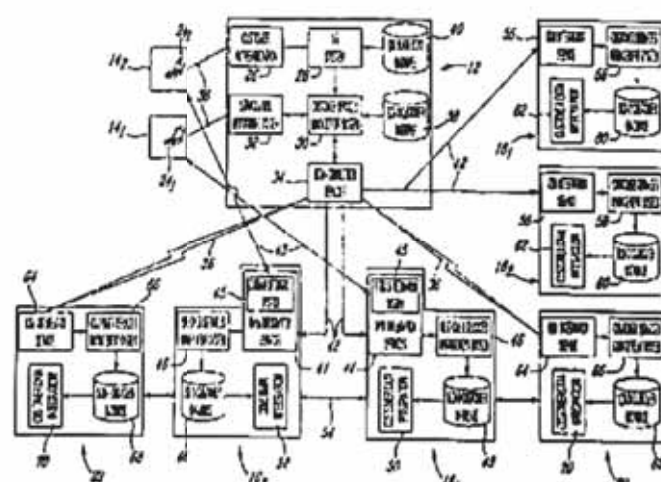
(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC G06Q 40/00; G06Q 20/32; G06Q 20/341; G06Q 20/04; G06Q 20/108; G06Q 40/02; G06Q 40/04; G06Q 40/06
(Continued)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Chip Bank system and method for enabling users registered in the system to control their financial and telecommunications resources from their mobile device over a mobile communications network. The system combines mobile network providers and financial services through the use of SIM chips without the need for modifying the users' mobile devices or SIM chip installed thereon. A SIM Chip Bank System Operator (SCB-O) regulates data flow between users, banks, mobile communications service providers, SIM Chip Automated teller Machines and SIM Chip Service Providing Machines through a plurality of communications channels. Upon a user connecting to the SCB-O to request a transaction, the SCB-O connects to the appropriate bank to authorize the requested transaction. Upon successful completion, reports are sent back and forth to users confirming the event.

18 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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Page 2

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G06Q 20/10 (2012.01)
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 705/35-45
See application file for complete search history.

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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat launches all-new Salary Transfer offer package

The new offer combines a number of benefits including cashback on salary credit, attractive discounts at select leading retail outlets, eligibility for discounted loans at highly competitive rates, limited free transfers and waiver of cheque book fees on selected books

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision, Bank Muscat has launched an all new Salary Transfer Package to reward customers who are new to the bank as well as those who do not have an existing salary account at Bank Muscat. The new offer combines a number of benefits including cashback on salary credit, attractive discounts at select leading retail

outlets, eligibility for discounted loans at highly competitive rates, limited free transfers and waiver of cheque book fees on selected books. The benefits do not stop with just the account holder. Immediate family members can enjoy supplementary credit cards with waiver of fee for the first year on both the main card and supplementary cards. The launch of this



highly attractive offer came after a keen study by the bank of the needs of different customer segments in the country before coming up with a strategy to further enhance banking services and financial inclusion in the country. Customers will be particularly excited by the option to get guaranteed cashback for transferring their salary to the bank. Those with salaries of OMR700-999 can get 5 per cent of the total monthly

salary credited as a one-time cashback for transferring their salaries to Bank Muscat, while those transferring salaries from OMR1,000 and above can get 10 percent of the total monthly salary as a one-time cashback subject to a cap of OMR500. Adding further cheer to the new package is the chance to get discounts ranging from 20 per cent discount on non-promotional items as well as a VIP discount of 5 per cent on appliances, electronic

devices, accessories and extended warranties at select retail outlets. New customers can also get the fees on their first 3 fund transfers within Oman or international Speed Transfers reversed and credited back into their account. Speaking about the announcement of the new offers, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, General Manager – Products, Bank Muscat, said: “We invite all people in the Sultanate of Oman to take advantage of the various offers that the bank keeps introducing on a regular basis. The new Salary Package Offer features some of the most attractive benefits and was launched as part of the bank’s ongoing efforts to reach out to the maximum number of customers and offer the state-of-the art and convenient banking services as per their ever-changing needs. I take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their strong support and confidence in the bank and their continued feedback, which helps the bank in developing and launching new services and prod-

ucts in line with their needs and global financial trends.” Bank Muscat customers also benefit from a number of excellent savings and investment options including the Themaar Savings Plan, Term Deposits and Bank Muscat Mutual Funds, applications for which can be easily submitted online through Mobile or Internet banking. The Themaar Savings Plan allows customers to put aside a fixed amount every month for a fixed period of time while Term Deposits allow them to save a lump sum for a specified period of time. Customers can choose the amount that they plan to save and the period according to their future financial goals. The Themaar Savings Plan and Term Deposit allow for safe investments with a guaranteed rate of return. Investors also have a chance of earning good returns from equity markets through lump sum investments or systematic investment plans (SIPs) in Bank Muscat Mutual Funds.

IMMERSIVE CULINARY JOURNEY

Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel all set to celebrate Ramadan

MUSCAT: In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel will be hosting daily Iftar buffets and delectable Suhoors. Guests can experience an Iftar culinary journey at Al Khiran Kitchen, featuring cuisines from countries beyond Oman including Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Morocco and much more from 6:30pm till 10:30pm. For Suhoor, visitors can kick start each day of fasting with a specialsuhoor menu at the hotel’s ‘Layali Ramadan’ over the scenic beach views from 8:30pm till 2am with daily live entertainment from 9pm till midnight.

For Iftar, guests can enjoy live stations representing a number of countries with signature dishes such as assorted cold mezze and salads from Lebanon, Omani Shuwa, along with Turkish Doner Kebab action stations and Pide from Turkey. End a long day of fasting with assorted Iranian kebabs, spicy curries and a live Turkish bread station. The Sultanate will be represented by a number of traditional dishes including lamb Shuwa, Harees, Kuku Paka and assorted Omani bread. Rejoicing culinary masterpieces together with a lively ambience, guests can take delight in the sweetness of Turkish

ice cream, Baklava or the special Ottoman majoonwhile indulging in a truly memorable experience. Take pleasure in great company and food throughout the night with a special Suhoor at the resort’s ‘Layali Ramadan’ on the lawn. Enjoy time-honored dishes such as shish tawook, kebab meshuallahemmeshui and assorted hot and coldmezze selections along the tunes of traditional entertainment paired with your favorite scented flavors. Whether an intimate meal or a social soiree, Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel has all the elements to provide guests and visitors with an unforgettable Rama-



dan experience. Special cabanas are also available for guests seeking a more private setting with their friends and families.

Book Al Khiran Iftar buffet for 20 people and above during the first week of Ramadan and enjoy a special rate.



HOLY MONTH

Malabar Gold sets aside OMR170,000 for CSR activities in GCC

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retail chain in the world with 309 showrooms across 10 countries, has announced its CSR programmes in the GCC and Far East regions for the Ramadan month. It has set aside OMR170,000 for CSR activities. These initiatives are planned in addition to the ESG initiatives conducted by the group throughout the year in the 10 countries of operation. The brand will associate with embassies, NGOs and like-minded organisations to carry out philanthropic activities throughout the holy month, including the distribution of Iftar meals and food provision kits to deserving labourers and families. The generous initiatives, which Malabar Gold carries out without fail every year, are expected to be a boon for the underprivileged sections of our society. Around 125,000 Iftar meals will be distributed as part of this year’s Ramadan CSR initiatives across the UAE, KSA, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA. In Oman, the Iftar meal distribution will be mainly focused on the Ruwi area. “At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the philanthropic activities that we have carried out over the years

have resulted in the betterment of numerous lives and this is a fact that we are extremely proud of. The creation of a Hunger-Free World is one of the key components of our ESG goals and the Ramadan initiative is in line with our larger objective. As Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrates its 30th anniversary, we sincerely hope that our actions will leave a lasting impression and motivate other organisations to carry out similar activities,” commented Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director – International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds. “The CSR activities that Malabar Gold & Diamonds carries out every year are a testament to our commitment towards making a significant change in society. Spearheaded by the goodwill of our entire team and like-minded organisations, the month-long charitable activities that we have planned for Ramadan are sure to support those of us in our society who need it the most. As we approach another holy month of piety, generosity, and reflections, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude towards our partnering organisation for their wholehearted support in this noble venture,” said Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group.

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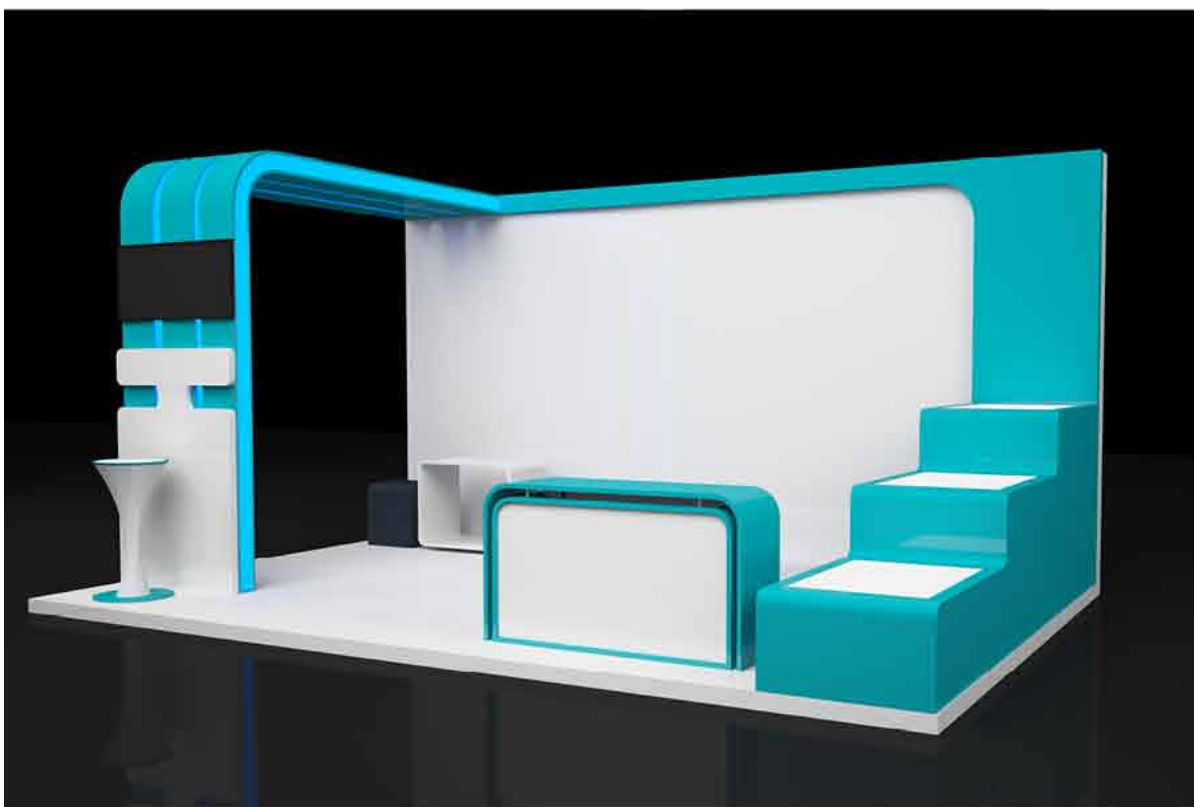
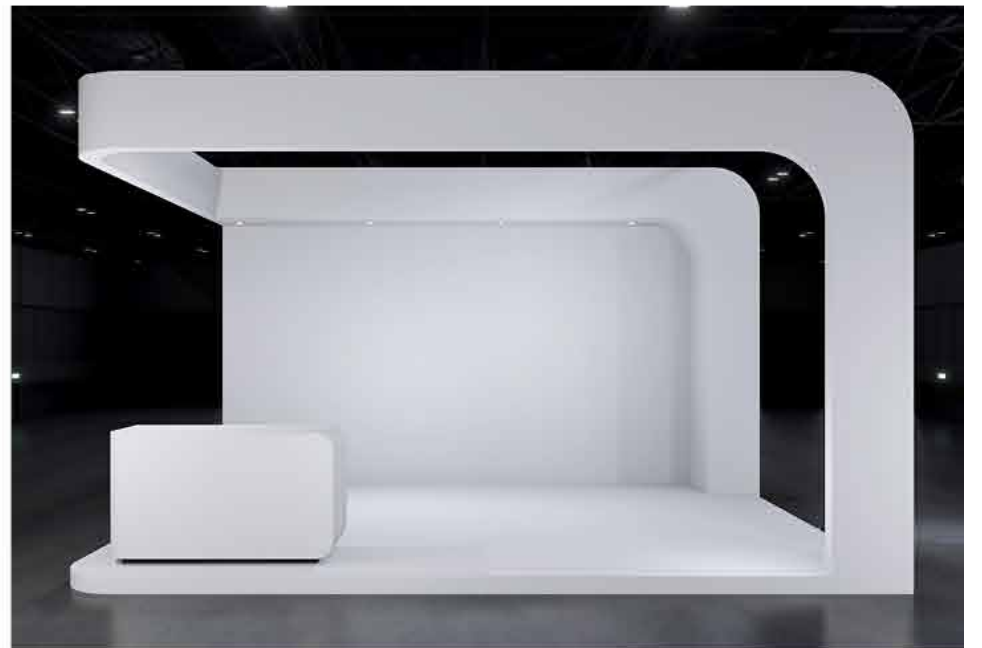
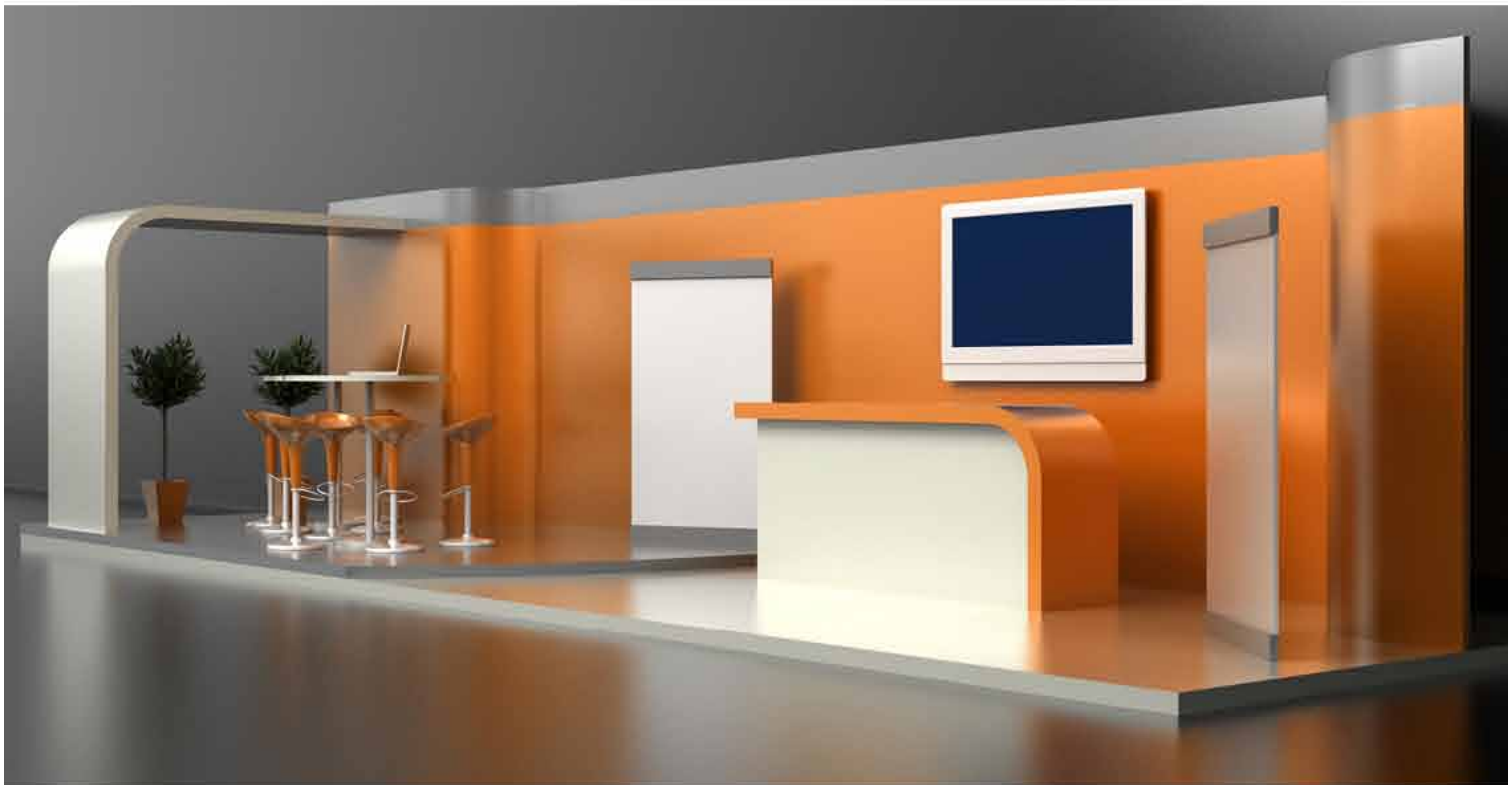
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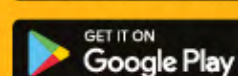
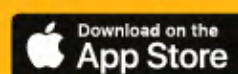
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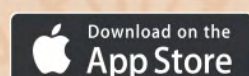
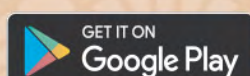
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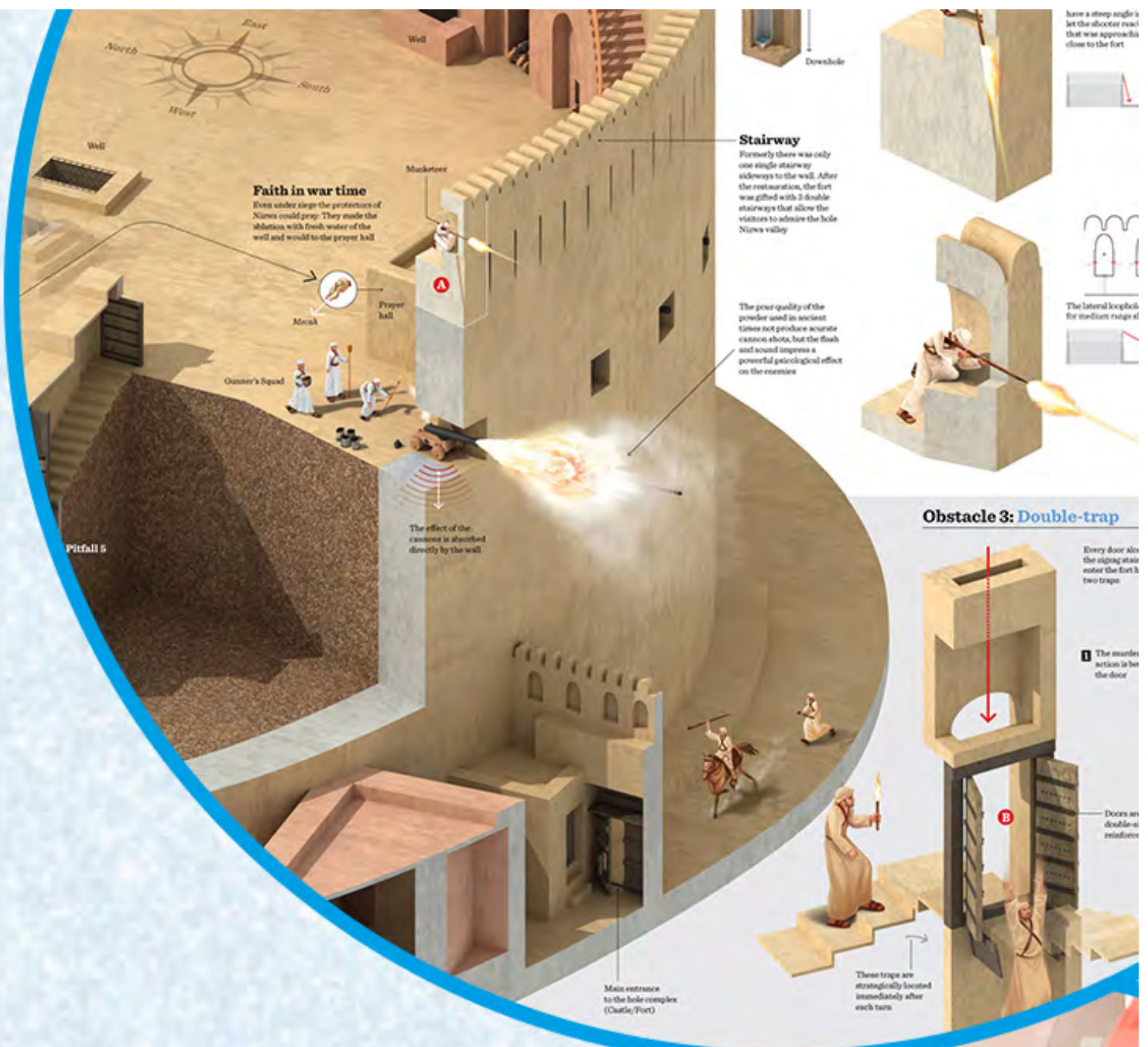
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